

CHIRAL QUEST INC
Form 424B3
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OFFERING PROSPECTUS

Chiral Quest, Inc.

7,723,041 Shares

Common Stock

The selling shareholders identified on pages 35-38 of this prospectus are offering on a resale basis a total of 7,723,041 shares of our common stock, including 2,896,135 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding warrants. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of these shares by the selling shareholders.

Our common stock is quoted on the Over-the-Counter Bulletin Board under the symbol CQST. On April, 26, 2004, the last sale price for our common stock as reported on the OTC Bulletin Board was \$ 1.50 .

**The securities offered by this prospectus involve a high degree of risk.
See Risk Factors beginning on page 5.**

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved these securities or determined that this prospectus is truthful or complete. A representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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The date of this Prospectus is April 26, 2004.

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PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary provides a brief overview of the key aspects of this offering. Because it is only a summary, it does not contain all of the detailed information contained elsewhere in this prospectus or in the documents included as exhibits to the registration statement that contains this prospectus. Accordingly, you are urged to carefully review this prospectus in its entirety.

Our Company

We are a research-driven company engaged in the commercial development of asymmetric catalysis products and technology. We have the rights to certain chemical compounds known as chiral ligands which, with the introduction of a metal, serve as catalysts in facilitating the production of chiral molecules in such a manner that there is a preferential manufacture of the desired molecule versus the unwanted mirror-image molecule. We provide pharmaceutical and fine chemical manufacturers and other prospective customers with broad access to our technologies for testing purposes at a low upfront cost, coupled with the opportunity to gain exclusive access to such technologies for specific applications for fees, royalties and certain manufacturing and development rights. We also plan to provide specialized services to pharmaceutical, biotechnology and fine chemical companies relating to the development of chiral manufacturing processes for their products. We believe that our ligands may also be useful in producing fine chemicals other than pharmaceuticals. Chiral molecules are used in flavors, fragrances, agrochemicals, animal health, food and feed additives (including vitamins) and nutraceuticals.

Our proprietary technology was developed by Dr. Xumu Zhang, Ph.D., a professor at Pennsylvania State University (Penn State), and is owned by the Penn State Research Foundation (the PSRF), the technology development arm of Penn State. In October 2000, we obtained from PSRF an exclusive, worldwide license to certain patents based on Dr. Zhang's research relating to asymmetrical catalysis. This license gives us the right to, among other things, sub-license technology rights on a non-exclusive basis to customers, or sell molecule groups, known as ligands, to pharmaceutical and fine chemical company customers for both research and commercial applications.

Chiral Quest, Inc., a Minnesota corporation, resulted from the reverse merger of Chiral Quest, LLC, a Pennsylvania limited liability company that commenced operations in October 2000, and Surg II, Inc., a Minnesota corporation, on February 18, 2003. Our executive offices are located at Princeton Corporate Plaza, 7 Deer Park Drive, Suite E, Monmouth Junction, New Jersey 08852 and our telephone number is (732) 274-0399. Our Internet site is www.chiralquest.com.

Recent Developments

Management Changes

On April 16, 2004, we announced that Alan D. Roth, Ph.D., our President, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, had resigned from those positions. Dr. Roth also resigned from our board of directors. Dr. Roth will continue to be employed by us until June 30, 2004, or such earlier date as Dr. Roth determines, in order to assist us as we transition to a new chief executive officer. During this transition period, Dr. Roth will continue to receive his annualized base salary of \$240,000. In connection with his separation, we have agreed to pay Dr. Roth a severance fee of \$375,000, less the amount of salary paid to him during the remaining period of his employment. Dr. Roth has also agreed to terminate all of his outstanding stock options.

We have begun searching for Dr. Roth's replacement. Ronald Brandt has been appointed to serve as interim chief executive officer until we have found Dr. Roth's successor. Mr. Brandt has been our vice president of business development since joining us in October 2003. Additionally, Yaping Hong, Ph.D. has been appointed to serve as our interim chief operating officer and Brian Lenz has been appointed interim chief financial officer. Dr. Hong has been with our company since June 2003 serving as our Director of Process Research and Development. Brian Lenz has been our controller since October 2003 and our secretary since January 2004. In connection with their appointments, Mr. Brandt and Mr. Lenz each were granted an option under our 2003 Stock Option Plan to purchase 25,000 shares of our common stock at a price of \$1.40 per share. Dr. Hong also received an option to purchase 50,000 shares at a price of \$1.40 per share. All of the options granted vest in three equal annual installments beginning April 2005.

Private Placement

In February 2004, we completed a private placement of 4,826,906 shares of our common stock at a per share price of \$1.50. Each investor in the offering was also entitled to a five-year warrant to purchase one-half of the number of common shares purchased by the investor at a price of \$1.65 per share. Accordingly, in connection with the private placement, we issued warrants to purchase an aggregate of 2,413,444 shares of common stock. After deducting commissions and other expenses relating to the private placement, we received aggregate net proceeds of approximately \$6.67 million. We also issued to the placement agents engaged in connection with the private placement 5-year warrants to

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purchase an aggregate of 482,691 shares of our common stock at a price of \$1.65 per share.

Risk Factors

For a discussion of some of the risks you should consider before purchasing shares of our common stock, you are urged to carefully review and consider the section entitled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 5 of this prospectus.

The Offering

The selling shareholders identified on pages 35-38 of this prospectus are offering on a resale basis a total of 7,723,041 shares of the following shares of our common stock:

- 4,826,906 shares of our outstanding common stock issued in connection with our February 2004 private placement;
- 2,413,444 shares of our common stock issuable at a price of \$1.65 per share upon the exercise of warrants issued to the investors in our February 2004 private placement; and
- 482,691 shares of our common stock issuable at a price of \$1.65 per share upon the exercise of warrants issued to the placement agents in connection with our February 2004 private placement.

Common stock offered	7,723,041 shares
Common stock outstanding before the offering ⁽¹⁾	17,827,924 shares
Common stock outstanding after the offering ⁽²⁾	20,724,059 shares
Common Stock OTC Bulletin Board symbol	CQST.OB

- (1) Based on the number of shares outstanding as of April 26, 2004, not including 2,076,347 shares issuable upon exercise of various warrants and options to purchase common stock.
- (2) Assumes the issuance of all shares offered hereby that are issuable upon exercise of warrants.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common stock is very risky. You may lose the entire amount of your investment. Prior to making an investment decision, you should carefully review this entire prospectus and consider the following risk factors:

Risks Related to Our Securities

Trading of our common stock is limited.

Trading of our common stock is conducted on the National Association of Securities Dealers Over-the-Counter Bulletin Board, or OTC Bulletin Board. This adversely affects the liquidity of our common stock, not only in terms of the number of shares that can be bought and sold at a given price, but also through delays in the timing of transactions and reduction in security analysts' and the media's coverage of us. This may result in lower prices for our common stock than might otherwise be obtained and could also result in a larger spread between the bid and asked prices for our common stock.

Because it is a penny stock, it will be more difficult for you to sell shares of our common stock.

In addition, because our common stock trades on the OTC Bulletin Board and at a price lower than \$5.00, it is considered a penny stock. Broker-dealers who sell penny stocks must provide purchasers of these stocks with a standardized risk-disclosure document prepared by the SEC. This document provides information about penny stocks and the nature and level of risks involved in investing in the penny-stock market. A broker must also give a purchaser, orally or in writing, bid and offer quotations and information regarding broker and salesperson compensation, make a written determination that the penny stock is a suitable investment for the purchaser, and obtain the purchaser's written agreement to the purchase. The penny stock rules may make it difficult for you to sell your shares of our stock. Because of the rules, there is less trading in penny stocks. Also, many brokers choose not to participate in penny-stock transactions. Accordingly, you may not always be able to resell shares of our common stock publicly at times and prices that you feel are appropriate.

A significant number of shares of our common stock are or will become available for sale and their sale could depress the price of our common stock.

A substantial number of shares of our common stock are being offered by this prospectus. We may also issue additional shares in connection with our business and may grant additional stock options to our employees, officers, directors and consultants or warrants to third parties. Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock in the public market after this offering could adversely affect the market price for our common stock and make it more difficult for you to sell our shares at times and prices that you feel are appropriate.

Our stock price is, and we expect it to remain, volatile, which could limit investors' ability to sell stock at a profit.

The volatile price of our stock makes it difficult for investors to predict the value of their investment, to sell shares at a profit at any given time, or to plan purchases and sales in advance. A variety of factors may affect the market price of our common stock. These include, but are not limited to:

- announcements of technological innovations or new commercial products by our competitors or us;
- developments concerning proprietary rights, including patents;
- regulatory developments in the United States and foreign countries;
- economic or other crises and other external factors;
- period-to-period fluctuations in our revenues and other results of operations;
- changes in financial estimates by securities analysts; and
- sales of our common stock.

We will not be able to control many of these factors, and we believe that period-to-period comparisons of our financial results will not necessarily be indicative of our future performance.

In addition, the stock market in general, and the market for biotechnology companies in particular, has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that may have been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of individual companies. These broad market and industry factors may seriously harm the market price of our common stock, regardless of our operating performance.

We do not expect to pay dividends.

We have never paid dividends on our capital stock and do not anticipate paying any dividends for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the only time that you will realize a return, if any, on your investment in our common stock is when you sell your shares.

Risks Relating to our Business

Our future success is highly dependent on the continued availability of Dr. Xumu Zhang and other key employees and consultants.

In connection with the continued development of our products and services, we are substantially dependent upon on the continued service of its existing research personnel, including in particular, Xumu Zhang, Ph.D. Dr. Zhang, an associate professor at Penn State, who serves as our Chief Technology Officer and provides essential services to us pursuant to a consulting agreement. Although we maintain a \$2 million key-man insurance policy with respect to Dr. Zhang and he has entered into a non-compete agreement with us, the loss of his services would have a material adverse effect on our business. In addition to Dr. Zhang, we employ other research scientists who are also critical to our success. Although these research scientists have entered into confidentiality agreements, most have not entered into noncompete agreements with us. The loss of one or more of our research personnel could prevent or delay the ongoing development of our products and services, which would materially and adversely affect our business.

We have no meaningful operating history on which to evaluate our business or prospects.

We commenced operations in October 2000 and, therefore, have only a limited operating history on which you can base an evaluation of our business and prospects. Accordingly, our business prospects must be considered in light of the risks, uncertainties, expenses and difficulties frequently encountered by companies in their early stages of development, particularly companies in new and rapidly evolving markets, such as the fine chemical, pharmaceutical and biotechnology markets.

A small group of persons is able to exert significant control over our company.

Our current officers and directors beneficially own or control approximately 21% of our common stock. Individually and in the aggregate, these persons will have significant influence over the management of our business, the election of directors and all matters requiring shareholder approval. In particular, this concentration of ownership may have the effect of facilitating, delaying, deferring or preventing a potential acquisition of our company and may adversely affect the market price of our common stock. Additionally, three members of our Board of Directors are employees of Paramount BioCapital, Inc., or one of its affiliates. Dr. Lindsay A. Rosenwald is the chairman and sole owner of Paramount BioCapital, Inc. and such affiliates. Dr. Rosenwald beneficially owns 3.6% of our outstanding common stock, and several trusts for the benefit of Dr. Rosenwald and his family beneficially own 10.7% of our outstanding common stock. Although Dr. Rosenwald does not have the legal authority to exercise voting power or investment discretion over the shares held by those trusts, he nevertheless may have the ability to exert significant influence over the Company.

Our management anticipates incurring losses for the foreseeable future.

For the year ending December 31, 2003, we had a net loss of \$2,018,400 and since our inception in October 2000 through December 31, 2003, we have incurred an aggregate net loss of \$3,411,205. As of December 31, 2003, we had total assets of \$1,585,857, of which \$659,117 was cash or cash equivalents. We expect operating losses to continue for the foreseeable future and there can be no assurance that we will ever be able to operate profitably.

We will require additional financing in order to complete the development of our products and services and otherwise develop our business operations. Such financing may not be available on acceptable terms, if at all.

Following the completion of our February 2004 private placement, we anticipate that our current capital will be adequate to fund our operations at least through December 31, 2004. However, changes may occur that would consume available capital resources before that time. Our combined capital requirements will depend on numerous factors, including competing technological and market developments; changes in our existing collaborative relationships; the cost of filing, prosecuting, defending and enforcing patent claims and other intellectual property rights and the outcome of any potentially related litigation or other dispute; the purchase of additional capital equipment; acquisition of technologies; and the development and regulatory approval progress of our customers' product candidates into which our technology will be incorporated.

Additional capital that may be needed by us in the future may not be available on reasonable terms, or at all. If adequate financing is not available, we may be required to terminate or significantly curtail our operations, or enter into arrangements with collaborative partners or others that may require us to relinquish rights to certain of our technologies, or potential markets that we would not otherwise relinquish.

Our operating results will fluctuate, making it difficult to predict our results of operations in any future period.

As we develop our business, we expect our revenues and operating results to vary significantly from quarter-to-quarter. As a result, quarter-to-quarter comparisons of our revenues and operating results may not be meaningful. In addition, due to the fact that we have little or no significant operating history with our new technology, we cannot predict our future revenues or results of operations accurately. Our current and future expense levels are based largely on our planned expenditures and estimates of future revenues. Accordingly, we may be unable to adjust spending in a timely manner to compensate for any unexpected revenue shortfall, and any significant shortfall in revenues relative to our planned expenditures could have an immediate adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

We may be unable to develop successful customer relationships.

We intend to establish relationships with various types of customers and partners, such as pharmaceutical and fine chemical manufacturers. Each of these relationships will involve negotiation of terms and fees. We cannot be certain that we will be able to negotiate profitable relationships or that we can successfully fulfill our obligations under development agreements that will allow us to continue these relationships.

Our license agreement with Penn State Research Foundation may be terminated if we do not achieve certain milestones.

Our business is based on technically complex products and services. We do not directly own our proprietary technology, but rather we have the exclusive, worldwide right to use it pursuant to a license agreement with the Penn State Research Foundation. Currently, our commercial success depends entirely on this licensed technology. Pursuant to the license agreement, we are required to use our best efforts to achieve gross revenue (as defined in the license agreement) of at least \$250,000 in 2004, at least \$350,000 in 2005 and at least \$500,000 in 2006. In the event we fail to achieve these milestones, or otherwise materially breach the license agreement, the Penn State Research Foundation may have the right, but not the obligation, to terminate the license. Unless we subsequently develop our own technology independent of the Penn State Research Foundation, termination of this license would preclude us from implementing our business plan.

We may rely heavily on third parties to formulate and manufacture our products.

We currently lack the resources to formulate or manufacture the overwhelming majority of our own products on a commercial scale. If any of our customers require our ligands in commercial quantities in the near term, we may have to rely on one or more third-party contractors to manufacture the ligands to satisfy the needs of such customers. Reliance on one or more third-party manufacturers exposes us to certain risks, including the following:

- We may be unable to replace manufacturers on commercially reasonable terms or at all because the number of potential manufacturers is limited, and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or such similar regulatory authorities, may have to approve any replacement contractor;
- Third-party manufacturers might be unable to formulate and manufacture our ligands in the volume and of the quality required to meet customers' clinical and commercial needs;
- Our existing and future contract manufacturers may not perform as agreed or may not remain in the contract manufacturing business for the time required to supply our customers to complete their clinical trials or to successfully produce, store and distribute our products;
- Drug manufacturers are subject to ongoing periodic unannounced inspections by the FDA and corresponding state agencies to ensure strict compliance with good manufacturing practice and other government regulations and corresponding foreign standards, which we would be unable to control; and
- If any third-party manufacturer makes improvements in the manufacturing process for our products, we may not own, or may have to share, the intellectual property rights to the innovation.

Each of these risks could delay the clinical trials conducted by our customers, approvals required by regulatory authorities, and the commercialization of some of our customers' product candidates. These risks could also result in higher costs to the customer or could deprive us of potential product revenues.

We will need to create and grow our scientific, sales and support operations.

We will need to create and substantially grow our direct and indirect sales operations, both domestically and internationally, in order to create and increase market awareness and sales of our products and services. The sale of our products and services will require the engagement of sophisticated and highly knowledgeable sales personnel. Similarly, the anticipated complexity of our products and services and the difficulty of customizing them will require us to hire research and development personnel and support personnel, highly trained in chiral chemistry and chemical engineering. Competition among our company and others to retain qualified sales personnel, chemists and chemical engineers is intense due to the limited number of available qualified candidates for such positions. Many of our competitors are in a financial position to offer potential employees greater compensation and benefits than those which may be offered by us. Failure to recruit and retain such persons will have a material adverse effect on our business operations.

Our future success is dependent on the management of our potential growth.

Our future success depends upon our ability to grow our business. Such growth, if it occurs, will require us to establish management and operating systems, hire additional technical support and sales personnel, and establish and maintain our own independent office, research and production facilities. Failure to manage that growth efficiently could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We currently have no capabilities and no experience in manufacturing our products on a commercial scale.

We do not currently have the experience or ability to directly manufacture or market most chemical or pharmaceutical products in commercial quantities that may be developed under our collaborative arrangements. Even though, with the opening of our Princeton, New Jersey facility, we have the capacity to develop certain of our products on a commercial scale, we most likely will not be able to produce all of our ligands on a commercial scale at the Princeton facility. In addition, we have not yet developed a cost effective and efficient commercial manufacturing process for some of our ligands, and may never be able to do so. To the extent we are unable to produce, directly or indirectly, our ligands in quantities required for commercial use, we will not realize any benefits from our technology. Further, in the event we decide to establish a manufacturing facility in the future, we may require substantial additional funds, and will be required to hire and train a significant number of additional personnel, and, in certain circumstances, may need to comply with the extensive FDA good manufacturing practice regulations applicable to such a facility.

Risks Relating to Our Industry

We face intense competition.

We compete directly with the in-house research departments of fine chemical, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, as well as contract research companies, and research and academic institutions. Many of our competitors have greater financial and other resources than us. As new companies enter the market and as more advanced technologies become available, we expect to face increased competition. In the future, any one of our competitors may develop technological advances that render obsolete the products or services that we provide or may provide in the future. While we plan to develop new and better technologies, which will give us competitive advantages, our competitors plan to do the same. We may not be able to develop the technologies we need to successfully compete in the future, and our competitors may be able to develop such technologies before we do. Consequently, we may not be able to successfully compete in the future.

The fine chemical, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries involve rapidly changing technologies.

Rapid technological change and uncertainty due to new and emerging technologies characterize the drug and fine chemical development industries. We may not be able to develop, integrate and market, on a timely basis, the new and enhanced products and services necessary to keep pace with competitors. Failure to anticipate or to respond to changing technologies, or significant delays in product development or introduction, could cause our customers to delay or decide against purchases of our products or services.

Since many of our customers and potential customers are pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, we are and will be subject to risks, uncertainties and trends that affect companies in these industries.

For the foreseeable future, we will derive a substantial portion of our revenue from pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. As a result, we will be subject to risks and uncertainties that affect the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries and possible reduction and delays in research and development expenditures by companies in these industries. Our future revenues may also be adversely affected by mergers and consolidation in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, which will reduce the number of potential customers.

In particular, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies face significant regulation by governmental entities in the United States and other countries. The nature and the extent to which such regulation may apply to our customers will vary depending on the nature of any such customer's products. Most of the pharmaceutical products developed by our customers will require regulatory approval by governmental agencies prior to commercialization. In particular, human pharmaceutical therapeutic products are subject to rigorous preclinical and clinical testing and other approval procedures by the FDA and by foreign regulatory authorities. Various federal and, in some cases, state laws also govern or influence the manufacturing, safety, labeling, storage, record keeping and marketing of such pharmaceutical products. The process of obtaining these approvals and the subsequent compliance with appropriate federal and foreign statutes and regulations are time consuming, can cause significant delays in the commercialization of a drug, and often require the expenditure of substantial resources. To the extent our customers experience significant delays in obtaining the necessary regulatory approvals to market their pharmaceutical products, or are unable to obtain such approvals at all, these customers will not purchase our proprietary ligands and other services used in the manufacture of the ultimate pharmaceutical product.

We may be held liable for harm caused by drugs that our customers develop and test.

Often times, our ligands will be used by our customers to produce drugs for human use. If any of the drugs cause injuries or illness to people, we may be required to incur substantial costs in defending against claims and may be required to pay damages arising therefrom. Although we have liability insurance and will use commercially reasonable efforts to obtain indemnification covenants from our customers for their use of our products, such protections may not be sufficient to protect us from the cost of such claims. Damages awarded in a product liability action could be substantial and could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition.

We may be held liable for contamination or other harm caused by hazardous materials that we use.

Some of our research and development processes involve the use of hazardous materials and, therefore, we are subject to federal, state and local regulation governing the use, manufacture, handling, storage and disposal of hazardous materials. We cannot completely eliminate the risk of contamination or injury resulting from hazardous materials and we may incur liability as a result of any contamination or injury. We may also incur expenses relating to compliance with environmental laws. Such expenses or liability may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition.

Risks Relating to Our Technology

We may not be able to license technologies that we need to conduct our business.

In addition to the technologies that we develop, we will rely heavily on technologies that we license from other companies or institutions. We may not be able to license technologies that we need in the future or we may be unable to license such technologies on a commercially reasonable basis. Although our license agreement with the Penn State Research Foundation provides that we are entitled to use any improvements subsequently made to the technologies we currently license, the Penn State Research Foundation has no obligation to license any new technologies discovered by Dr. Zhang and researchers at Penn State. If we are unable to license the technologies we need in the future, or to license or otherwise acquire such technologies on commercially reasonable terms, we may experience increased costs (and, therefore, reduced profits) or be unable to engage in certain activities that require those technologies. Accordingly, failure to license the technologies we need in the future or otherwise acquire such technologies on commercially reasonable terms could have a material adverse effect on our business operations.

Our success will depend on our ability to protect our proprietary technology.

Our rights to a substantial portion of our technology are as the exclusive licensee to several United States patents and a number of United States and foreign pending patent applications held by the Penn State Research Foundation, including the ligands that comprise our Chiral ToolKit. These patents and patent applications are based primarily upon the work of Dr. Zhang, our chief technology officer, who is also an associate professor at the Pennsylvania State University. Our success will depend largely on our ability, and the ability of our licensors and licensees, to obtain patents for their technologies and products, if any, resulting from the application of such technologies, defend patents once obtained, and maintain trade secrets.

If we are unable to protect our intellectual property, or incur significant expense in doing so, our business, operating results and financial condition may be materially adversely affected. Any steps we take to protect our intellectual property may be inadequate, time consuming and expensive.

Our success and ability to compete are substantially dependent upon our internally developed products and services, which we currently protect through the use of United States and foreign patents. To the extent such products and services are not patentable, we will rely on trade secret protection. As with other knowledge-based products, however, our patent positions rest on complex factual and legal issues that are not entirely resolved and there can be no assurance that the patents utilized by us will adequately protect our proprietary products and services. Although we have taken steps to protect our unpatented trade secrets and know-how, in part through the control of access to such information and through the use of confidentiality agreements with our employees, consultants and certain of our contractors, customers and potential customers, there can be no assurance that these agreements will not be breached, that we would have adequate remedies for any breach, or that our trade secrets will not otherwise become known or be independently developed or discovered by competitors. Despite our efforts to protect our proprietary rights, unauthorized parties may attempt to copy or otherwise obtain and use our products or technology. We anticipate that policing unauthorized use of our products will be difficult, and we cannot be certain that the steps we intend to take to prevent misappropriation of our technology, particularly in foreign countries where the laws may not protect our proprietary rights as fully as in the United States, will be successful. Other companies may also independently develop substantially equivalent information.

Foreign laws may not afford us sufficient protection for our intellectual property rights and, in certain cases, we may not seek patent protection outside the United States.

We believe that our success will depend, in part, upon our ability to obtain international protection for our intellectual property. We have existing foreign customers and believe we will have access to large markets overseas. The laws of some foreign countries, however, may not be as comprehensive as those of the United States and may not be sufficient to protect our proprietary rights abroad. In addition, in certain cases, we may decide not to pursue patent protection outside the United States, because of cost and confidentiality concerns. Accordingly, our international competitors could obtain foreign patent protection for, and market overseas, technology for which we are seeking United States patent protection, though such competitors' patent protection generally requires such competitors to make their patent filings prior to information on our relevant inventions becoming sufficiently available under local law as to block the availability of such competitors' patent protection.

Our technology may infringe on the proprietary rights of others.

We anticipate that other patents that we license or may license in the future will be increasingly subject to infringement claims due to the rapid development of chiral chemistry and competitors in our industry. In fact, one potential competitor, Solvias, AG, based in Basel, Switzerland, notified us in July 2002 of its claim that one of the patented ligands we license from the Penn State Research Foundation infringes on a patent that Solvias licenses from BASF Group, AG. Some of our other competitors or our potential competitors may have filed or intend to file patent applications that may make claims that conflict with the claims of the patents that we license. We cannot be certain that these competitors or other third parties will not assert infringement claims against us with respect to our products and technology. Any infringement claim, regardless of its merit, could be time-consuming and expensive to defend. Such claims may also require us to enter into royalty or licensing agreements in order to continue using the disputed technology. In the event we could not afford to defend our company against an infringement claim or are not able to enter into a license or royalty agreement on commercially favorable terms, or at all, we may be required to abandon the technology that is subject to such claims.

NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements contained in this prospectus that are forward-looking in nature are based on the current beliefs of our management as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to management, including statements related to the markets for our products, general trends in our operations or financial results, plans, expectations, estimates and beliefs. In addition, when used in this prospectus, the words may, could, should, anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, intend, plan, predict and similar expressions and their variants, as they relate to management, may identify forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our judgment as of the date of this prospectus with respect to future events, the outcome of which are subject to risks, which may have a significant impact on our business, operating results or financial condition. You are cautioned that these forward-looking statements are inherently uncertain. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results or outcomes may vary materially from those described herein. We undertake no obligation to update forward-looking statements. The risks identified under the heading Risk Factors in this prospectus, among others, may impact forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus.

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

You should read the following discussion of our results of operations and financial condition in conjunction with the financial statements contained in this prospectus beginning at page F-1. This discussion includes forward-looking statements that reflect our current views with respect to future events and financial performance. We use words such as we expect, anticipate, believe, and intend and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements. Investors should be aware that actual results may differ materially from our expressed expectations because of risks and uncertainties inherent in future events, particularly those risks identified in the Risk Factors section of this prospectus, and should not unduly rely on these forward looking statements.

Overview

Since our inception in October 2000, we have focused our efforts and resources on the development of asymmetric catalysis technology, our primary intellectual property to which we hold an exclusive worldwide license from the Pennsylvania State Research Foundation (PSRF), the technology development arm of the Pennsylvania State University (Penn State). Our license from PSRF covers certain inventions discovered by our Chief Technology Officer (CTO) prior to November 8, 2002.

Since inception we have incurred a cumulative deficit of \$3,411,205 through December 31, 2003. We expect our operating losses to increase significantly over the next several years, primarily due to expansion of our research and development programs, the hiring of additional chemists, and the expansion of our manufacturing capabilities.

Our ability to achieve profitability depends upon, among other things, our ability to discover and develop products (specifically new ligands), and to develop our products on a commercial scale through a cost effective and efficient process. To the extent that we are unable to produce, directly or indirectly, ligands in quantities required for commercial use, we will not realize any significant revenues from our technology. Moreover, there can be no assurance that we will ever achieve significant revenues or profitable operations from the sale of any of our products or technologies. Risks associated with our business are more thoroughly addressed in the section entitled Risk Factors.

Since our inception, we have generated sales revenue but not yet generated any net profits. Our management believes that our research and development (R&D) and manufacturing capacity will need to grow in order for us to be able to obtain significant licensing and manufacturing agreements with large fine chemical and pharmaceutical companies. We believe that our manufacturing capacity will be enhanced with our new office and laboratory space located in Monmouth Junction, New Jersey that was leased in June 2003.

On February 18, 2003, we acquired Surg II, Inc., a Minnesota corporation (Surg), in a reverse merger transaction (the Merger). Pursuant to the terms of the Merger, Chiral Quest, LLC merged with and into a wholly-owned subsidiary of Surg. In exchange for all of the outstanding membership interests of Chiral Quest, LLC, Surg issued to the former members of Chiral Quest, LLC a number of shares of Surg's common stock that resulted in the members of Chiral Quest, LLC owning two-thirds of Surg's outstanding shares following the Merger. In connection with the Merger, Surg changed its name to Chiral Quest, Inc., a Minnesota corporation, and adopted the business plan of Chiral Quest, LLC. Accordingly, when we refer to our business or financial information relating to periods prior to the Merger, we are referring to the business and financial information of Chiral Quest, LLC, unless the context indicates otherwise.

Results of Operations Years Ended December 31, 2003 vs. 2002

Our revenues for the year ended December 31, 2003 were \$669,036 as compared to \$191,613 for the year ended December 31, 2002. For the year ended December 31, 2003, approximately 20% of total revenue was derived from the amortization of option fee income pertaining to the licensing of our intellectual property and 80% of total revenue was derived from sales of our ligands, feasibility screening and customized process development services sold to third parties. For the year ended December 31, 2002, approximately 86% of total revenue was derived from the amortization of option fee income and 14% of total revenue was comprised of sales of our ligands. It is anticipated that sales of our ligands, molecular building blocks and customized chiral services will continue to comprise a greater percentage of our revenues in the future as we expand our manufacturing capabilities.

Cost of goods sold for the year ended December 31, 2003 was \$196,045 as compared to \$6,763 during the year ended December 31, 2002. The increase of Cost of goods sold is attributed to the allocation of direct labor, and overhead expenses to finished goods. These expenses were allocated from compensation and rent expenses as part of overall general operating expenses.

Management and consulting expenses for the year ended December 31, 2003 were \$361,622 as compared to \$231,424 during the year ended December 31, 2002. The overall change for the year ended December 2003 vs. 2002 was primarily caused by an increase in consulting expense. Consulting expense increased due to the new consultant agreement entered with our CTO at a rate of \$10,000 per month effective May 15, 2003. In addition, consulting expense increased from the amortization of stock options issued to consultants, scientific advisory board members, during the second, third and fourth quarters of 2003.

Our R&D expenses for the year ended December 31, 2003 were \$440,646 as compared to \$63,728 during the year ended December 31, 2002. This increase was primarily caused by increased utilization of the Penn State research resources in connection with the development of new ligands. The agreement with Penn State requires us to fund services of four post-doctorate fellows who, under the supervision of the CTO, conducted research and provided research quantities of chiral ligands to us. This agreement has been extended to April 14, 2004. The approximate obligation payable by us through the end of the agreement dated April 14, 2004, is approximately \$96,000. This amount consists principally of four post-doctorate salaries, fringe benefits, materials and supplies for the stated period. In addition, during the second quarter of 2003, we opened an additional laboratory facility that enabled us to produce both research and commercial quantities of our ligands. In connection with the new facility, numerous lab supplies and chemicals were purchased. Accordingly, we incurred significant R&D expenses in the fourth quarter due to the opening of the New Jersey facility, along with the increased costs of using the facility and chemists at Penn State.

Selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses for the year ended December 31, 2003 were \$1,012,182 as compared to \$193,449 during the year ended December 31, 2002. This increase in SG&A expenses was due in part to higher legal and accounting fees associated with our reporting obligations as a public company, increased rent expense for the New Jersey facility, additional spending on advertising and promotion expenses, increased travel expenses for new business development opportunities and higher administrative expenses associated with having more employees such as insurance and employer payroll taxes.

Compensation expense was \$601,780 for the year ended December 31, 2003 as compared to \$197,596 for the year ended December 31, 2002. This increase was caused primarily by the new CEO (hired in November 2002) receiving an annual base salary of \$205,000 effective at the date of the Merger with Surg II, Inc., as provided for in his employment agreement. In addition, compensation expense increased due to the hiring of a vice president of business development, a controller, and several chemists to work at the new laboratory facility in New Jersey. Compensation expense as it relates to direct labor for ongoing and completed projects, has been capitalized as part of inventory work in process and finished goods as these cost components relate directly to cost of goods sold.

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Depreciation and amortization expenses for the year ended December 31, 2003 were \$86,325 as compared to \$36,631 during the year ended December 31, 2002. This increase was primarily related to fixed asset purchases for office equipment, computer equipment, laboratory equipment and leasehold improvements for the newly leased facility in New Jersey.

Interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2003 was \$2,809 as compared to \$0 during the year ended December 31, 2002. The interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2003 is attributed to the promissory notes issued between July 2002 through February 2003 owed to a related party, which were fully paid and discharged in February 2003.

Interest income for the year ended December 31, 2003 was \$13,973 as compared to \$0 during the year ended December 31, 2002. The increase in interest income was caused by significantly higher cash reserves obtained after the Merger on February 18, 2003.

Our net loss for the year ended December 31, 2003 was \$2,018,400 as compared to \$537,978 for the year ended December 31, 2002. The increased net loss for the year ended December 31, 2003 as compared to December 31, 2002 was primarily due to higher R&D expenses incurred with Penn State, increased legal and accounting expenses in reporting as a public company, along with other SG&A expenses such as higher payroll expenses associated with having more employees. We expect losses to continue and increase in the next year as we attempt to expand our laboratory space, purchase more chemicals and raw material compounds, and hire additional employees.

Results of Operations Years Ended December 31, 2002 vs. 2001

Our revenues for the year ended December 31, 2002 were \$191,613 as compared to \$167,683 for the year ended December 31, 2001. The revenues are comprised primarily of the licensing of PSRF's technology. We assume the financial risks related to these revenues by financing the research and development of PSRF's technology as well as the defense of PSRF's patents. The increase of approximately 14% from December 31, 2001 can be attributed to our January 2002 agreement with a pharmaceutical product development customer, granting the customer a worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty free license to certain of our intellectual property rights for research purposes only in connection with certain of the customer's compounds. The customer paid us a nonrefundable license fee of \$400,000 in 2002. The fee is being amortized to revenue through September 2005. For the year ended December 31, 2002 approximately 86% of total revenue was derived from the amortization of option fee income pertaining to the licensing of our intellectual property and 14% of total revenue was derived from sales of our ligands, feasibility screening and customized process development services sold to third parties. For the year ended December 31, 2001, approximately 25% of total revenue was derived from the amortization of option fee income and 75% of total revenue was comprised of sales of our ligands. It is anticipated that sales of our ligands, molecular building blocks and customized chiral services will continue to comprise a greater percentage of our revenues in the future as we expand our manufacturing capabilities.

Cost of goods sold for the year ended December 31, 2002 was \$6,763 as compared to \$0 during the year ended December 31, 2001. The increase of cost of goods sold is attributed to allocating material costs to specific projects as part of finished goods during the year ended December 31, 2002, as compared to expensing materials, laboratory chemicals and supplies as part of operating expenses during the year ended December 31, 2001.

Management and consulting expense fees for the year ended December 31, 2002 were \$231,424 as compared to \$261,600 during the year ended December 31, 2001. The overall change for the years ended December 2002 vs. 2001 was primarily caused a decrease in utilizing outside consulting services related to the business operations.

Our R&D expenses for the year ended December 31, 2002 were \$63,728 as compared to \$224,592 during the year ended December 31, 2001. This change was primarily caused by increased laboratory supplies and chemicals purchased during the year ended 2001 in connection with the development of new ligands.

SG&A expenses for the year ended December 31, 2002 were \$193,449 as compared to \$137,371 during the year ended December 31, 2001. SG&A expenses increased due to having more employees contributing to costs such as insurance, employer payroll taxes, office expenditures and travel.

Compensation expense was \$197,596 for the year ended December 31, 2002 as compared to \$111,706 for the year ended December 31, 2001. This increase was caused primarily in the hiring of additional chemists to work at our State College, Pennsylvania (at Penn State University) laboratory facility.

Bad debt expense was \$0 for the year ended December 31, 2002 as compared to \$50,000 for the year ended December 31, 2001. During the year ended December 31, 2001, we established a reserve for an international client who provided no assurance of collectibility.

Depreciation and amortization expenses for the year ended December 31, 2002 were \$36,631 as compared to \$24,611 during the year ended December 31, 2001. This increase was primarily related to fixed asset purchases for office equipment, computer equipment, and laboratory equipment, for our State College office.

Interest income for the year ended December 31, 2002 was \$0 as compared to \$1,804 during the year ended December 31, 2001. The decrease in interest income in 2002 was caused by lower cash reserves during the year ended December 31, 2002.

Our net loss for the year ended December 31, 2002 was \$537,978 as compared to \$640,393 for the year ended December 31, 2001. The higher loss for the year ended December 31, 2001 as compared to December 31, 2002 was primarily due to higher R&D expenses incurred with the purchases of laboratory supplies and chemicals, management and consulting fees, along with establishing the reserve for bad debt during the year ended December 31, 2001.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

As of December 31, 2003, we had working capital of \$116,359 and cash and cash equivalents of \$659,117. If we are unable to significantly increase our revenues, we will most likely require additional financing by the end of the first quarter of 2005 in order to continue operations. The most likely source of financing includes private placements of our equity or debt securities or bridge loans to the Company from third party lenders.

Our net cash used in operating activities for the year ended 2003 was \$1,636,934. Our net loss of \$2,018,400 was offset by an increase of accounts payable and accrued expenses of \$161,582 and \$112,481 respectively, along with depreciation and amortization of approximately \$324,000.

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Our net cash used in investing activities for the year ended 2003 was \$368,087. Investing activities expenditures consisted of purchases of property and equipment of \$237,222 and payments for intellectual property rights of \$130,865.

Our net cash provided by financing activities for the year ended 2003 was \$2,630,618. Financing activities included the repayment of a note payable to Paramount of \$376,625 along with cash received in the merger dated February 18, 2003 in the amount of \$3,017,243.

In February 2004, we completed the sale of our securities in a private placement to accredited investors for gross proceeds of approximately \$7.2 million. Management believes that the capital resulting from this financing will provide sufficient resources to fund our continued operational expansion and corporate development for more than the next twelve months. Our long term liquidity is contingent upon achieving sales and/or obtaining additional financing.

Our working capital requirements will depend upon numerous factors, including without limitation the progress of our R&D programs, the resources we devote to developing manufacturing and marketing capabilities, technological advances, the status of competitors, and our ability to establish sales arrangements with new customers