CYANOTECH CORP Form 10-K June 21, 2012 Table of Contents

# **UNITED STATES** SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D. C. 20549

## **FORM 10-K**

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

For the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2012

Commission File Number 0-14602

## CYANOTECH CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada

91-1206026 (I. R. S. Employer Identification No.)

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

73-4460 Queen Kaahumanu Highway, Suite 102, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

96740 (Zip Code)

(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (808) 326-1353

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act: **None** 

Name of each exchange on which registered:

NASDAQ Capital Market

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

### Common Stock, \$0.02 par value

(Title of Class)

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

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

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. x Yes o No

Indicate by checkmark 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 (§229.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). x Yes o No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) 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 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

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

The aggregate market value of the Registrant s Common Stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant on September 30, 2011 was approximately \$15,991,566 based on the closing sale price of the Common Stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market on that date.

Number of shares outstanding of Registrant s Common Stock at June 15, 2012 was 5,440,968.

### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Registrant s Definitive Proxy Statement for its 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on or prior to July 30, 2012 and to be used in connection with the Annual Meeting of Stockholders expected to be held on August 27, 2012, are incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K.

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#### FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Report and other presentations made by Cyanotech Corporation (CYAN) and its subsidiary contain—forward-looking statements, which include statements that are predictive in nature, depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, and usually include words such as expects, anticipates, intends, plan, believes, predicts, estimates or similar expressions. In addition, any statement concerning future financial perfoongoing business strategies or prospects and possible future actions are also forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are based upon current expectations and projections about future events and are subject to risks, uncertainties and the accuracy of assumptions concerning CYAN and its subsidiary (collectively, the Company), the performance of the industry in which CYAN does business, and economic and market factors, among other things. These forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of the Report, presentation or filing in which they are made. Except to the extent required by the Federal Securities Laws, we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Our forward-looking statements in this Report include, but are not limited to:

- Statements relating to our business strategy;
- Statements relating to our business objectives; and
- Expectations concerning future operations, profitability, liquidity and financial resources.

These forward-looking statements are subject to risk, uncertainties and assumptions about us and our operations that are subject to change based on various important factors, some of which are beyond our control. The following factors, among others, could cause our financial performance to differ significantly from the goals, plans, objectives, intentions and expectations expressed in our forward-looking statements:

- Environmental restrictions, soil and water conditions, levels of sunlight and seasonal weather patterns, particularly heavy rain, wind and other hazards;
- Consumer perception of our products due to adverse scientific research or findings, publicity regarding nutritional supplements, litigation, regulatory investigations or other national media attention;
- The effects of competition, including locations of competitors and operating and market competition;

• significant	Demand for our products, the quantities and qualities thereof available for sale and levels of customer satisfaction, including unforeseen fluctuations in global demand for products similar to our products;
•	Our dependence on the experience, continuity and competence of our executive officers and other key employees;
• crude oil p	The added risks associated with the current local, national and world economic crises, including but not limited to, the volatility of rices, inflation and currency fluctuations;
•	Changes in domestic and/or foreign laws, regulations or standards, affecting nutraceutical products or our methods of operation;
•	Access to available and reasonable financing on a timely basis;
• nutritional	Changes in laws, corporate governance requirements and tax rates, regulations, accounting standards and the application to us or the products industry of new decisions by courts, regulators or other government authorities;
•	The risk associated with the geographic concentration of our business;
•	Acts of war, terrorist incidents or natural disasters; and
• with the Se	Other risks or uncertainties described elsewhere in this Report and in other periodic reports previously and subsequently filed by us ecurities and Exchange Commission.
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#### Item 1. Business

Unless otherwise indicated, all references in this report to the Company, we, us, our, and Cyanotech refer to Cyanotech Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiary, Nutrex Hawaii, Inc. (Nutrex Hawaii or Nutrex), a Hawaii corporation.

#### General

We are a world leader in the production of high value natural products derived from microalgae. Incorporated in 1983, we are guided by the principle of providing beneficial, quality microalgal products for health and human nutrition in a sustainable, reliable and environmentally sensitive operation. We are ISO 9001:2008 compliant and GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) certified by the Natural Products Association , reinforcing our commitment to quality in our products, quality in our relationships (with our customers, suppliers, co-workers and the communities we live in), and quality of the environment in which we work. Our products include:

- Hawaiian *Spirulina Pacifica*® a nutrient-rich dietary supplement used for extra energy, a strengthened immune system, cardiovascular benefits and as a source of antioxidant carotenoids; and
- Hawaiian *BioAstin*® natural astaxanthin a powerful dietary antioxidant shown to support and maintain the body s natural inflammatory response, to enhance skin, and to support eye and joint health. It has expanding applications as a human nutraceutical and functional food ingredient

Microalgae are a diverse group of microscopic plants that have a wide range of physiological and biochemical characteristics and contain, among other things, high levels of natural protein, amino acids, vitamins, pigments and enzymes. Microalgae have the following properties that make commercial production attractive: (1) microalgae grow much faster than land grown plants, often up to 100 times faster; (2) microalgae have uniform cell structures with no bark, stems, branches or leaves, permitting easier extraction of products and higher utilization of the microalgae cells; and (3) the cellular uniformity of microalgae makes it practical to control the growing environment in order to optimize a particular cell characteristic. Efficient and effective cultivation of microalgae requires consistent light, warm temperatures, low rainfall and proper chemical balance in a very nutrient-rich environment, free of environmental contaminants and unwanted organisms. This is a challenge that has motivated us to design, develop and implement proprietary production and harvesting technologies, systems and processes in order to provide human nutritional products derived from microalgae.

Our production of these products at the 90-acre facility on the Kona Coast of the island of Hawaii provides several benefits. We selected the Keahole Point location in order to take advantage of relatively consistent warm temperatures, sunshine and low levels of rainfall needed for optimal cultivation of microalgae. This location also offers us access to cold deep ocean water, drawn from an offshore depth of 2,000 feet, which we use in our *Ocean-Chill Drying* system to eliminate the oxidative damage caused by standard drying techniques and as a source of trace

nutrients for microalgal cultures. The area is also designated a Biosecure Zone, free of pesticides and herbicides. We believe that our technology, systems, processes and favorable growing location generally permit year-round harvest of our microalgal products in a cost-effective manner.

### **Our Business**

We operate entirely in one operating segment, the cultivation and production of microalgae into high-value, high-quality natural health and nutrition products. We cultivate, on a large-scale basis, two microalgal species from which our two major product lines, spirulina products and natural astaxanthin products, are derived. We record revenue and cost of sales information by product category, but do not record operating expenses by such product category.

The following table sets forth, for the three years ended March 31, 2012, the net sales contributed by each of our product lines (in thousands):

	Net Sales						
	2012		2011		2010		
Spirulina products:							
Spirulina Pacifica®	\$ 8,701	\$	8,387	\$	7,744		
Natural astaxanthin products:							
BioAstin®	15,912		8,434		7,978		
Other	18		6		20		
Total	\$ 24,631	\$	16,827	\$	15,742		

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#### Spirulina Products

We have been producing a strain of spirulina microalgae marketed as Hawaiian *Spirulina Pacifica*® since 1984. *Spirulina Pacifica*® represents 35%, 50% and 49% of net sales for the years ended March 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. *Spirulina Pacifica*® provides a vegetable-based, highly absorbable source of protein, natural beta-carotene, mixed carotenoids, B vitamins, gamma linolenic acid, essential amino acids and other phytonutrients.

Spirulina Pacifica® is produced in two forms: powder and tablets. Powder is used as an ingredient in nutritional supplements and health beverages; tablets are consumed as a daily dietary supplement. Both forms are sold as raw material ingredients in bulk quantities, as packaged consumer products under the Nutrex Hawaii label and as private label consumer packaged products.

Spirulina Pacifica® is GRAS (generally recognized as safe) for addition to a variety of foods as determined by the United States Food and Drug Administration. Our all natural Spirulina Pacifica® is cultivated without the use of herbicides or pesticides, is not genetically modified (non GMO) and is certified Kosher by Organized Kashrus Laboratories of Brooklyn, New York and certified Halal by the Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America.

Our Spirulina Pacifica® is cultivated in a combination of fresh water and a metered amount of nutrient-rich deep ocean water (containing essential trace elements), drawn from a depth of 2,000 feet below sea level. This water mixture is supplemented with other major required nutrients. With the exception of deep ocean water, the raw materials and nutrients required in our spirulina production are available from multiple sources; however, there can be no assurance that the pricing from a new source will be comparable to current pricing. In the case of deep ocean water, although abundantly available at this location, the facility to pump and deliver the water to our location is owned by the State of Hawaii. The facility is constructed of two separately located pump stations providing redundancy should one station fail. The State of Hawaii sets the price for deep ocean water annually based on its cost to deliver the water. If the pricing for a critical raw material or nutrient significantly increases, this could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. The ability of our suppliers to meet performance and quality specifications and delivery schedules is also important to operations.

Continuing the production process, the spirulina crop in each pond is circulated by paddlewheels to keep an even blend of nutrients in suspension and a uniform exposure of the algae to sunlight. Our ponds are engineered to maintain the right media depth for sunlight to permeate each crop completely, facilitating rapid growth. The design of our cultivation ponds promotes efficient growing conditions, allowing the *Spirulina Pacifica*® algae to reproduce rapidly. Each pond can be harvested, on average, in six days. As sunlight is a major component of cultivation, production can be impacted by seasonal changes during the winter months, with shortened daylight hours, increased cloud cover and potential inclement weather.

Once ready for harvest, a majority of the spirulina algae are pumped from a pond to our processing building where the crop is separated from the culture media. The culture remaining in the ponds serves as an inoculum for the next growth cycle. Harvested spirulina is washed with fresh water and filtered before moving to the drying stage. Culture media separated from spirulina algae during processing are conserved and recycled. Our *Integrated Culture Biology Management* ( ICBM ) technology for microalgae cultivation has proven to be a reliable and stable operating environment, allowing us to grow and harvest spirulina without significant contamination by unwanted microorganisms and without associated loss of productivity.

Spirulina Pacifica® powder is dried via our low-oxygen Ocean-Chill Drying process, thereby preserving high levels of antioxidant carotenoids and other nutrients sensitive to heat and oxygen. The rapid drying process results in a dark green powder. Spirulina powder is difficult to form into tablets. Most tablet manufacturers either add high amounts (from 10% to 30%) of inert substances to glue the tablet together or use a heat granulation process that destroys nutrients. In contrast, our Spirulina Pacifica® tablets contain a maximum of 2% of such substances and are produced in cold press compression tablet-making machines.

Each production lot of *Spirulina Pacifica*® is sampled and subjected to thorough quality control analyses including testing for moisture, carotenoids, minerals, color and taste, among others. Further, each lot of our *Spirulina Pacifica*® undergoes a prescribed set of microbiological food product tests, including total aerobic bacteria, coliform bacteria and E. coli. The *Spirulina Pacifica*® powder and tablets are packaged to extend shelf life and ensure product freshness. Our packaged consumer products are bottled and labeled by third party contractors in California. These contractors are subject to regular government inspections and hold Drug Manufacturing Licenses & Processed Food Registrations with the State of California Department of Health. Such packaging services are readily available from multiple sources.

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The majority of our bulk spirulina sales are to health food manufacturers and formulators with their own spirulina product lines, many of whom identify and promote Cyanotech's Hawaiian *Spirulina Pacifica* in their products. Such customers purchase bulk powder or bulk tablets and package these products under their brand label for sale to the health and natural food markets. Some of the brands produced by these customers are marketed and sold domestically in direct competition with the packaged consumer products sold through our Nutrex Hawaii subsidiary. Nutrex Hawaii packaged consumer products are sold direct to consumers and through an established health food distribution network in the domestic market. In selected foreign markets, we have exclusive sales distributors for both our bulk and packaged consumer products.

Our Spirulina Pacifica® products compete with a variety of vitamins, dietary supplements, other algal products and similar nutritional products available to consumers. The nutritional products category is highly competitive and includes international, national, regional and local producers and distributors, many of whom have greater resources than Cyanotech and many of whom offer a greater variety of products. Our direct competition in the spirulina market is currently from Dainippon Ink and Chemical Company s Earthrise facility in California, Parry Nutraceuticals, a division of Murugappa Group of India and several farms in China. Other competitors include numerous smaller farms in China, India, Thailand, Taiwan, Cuba, South Africa and South America. We have experienced increased price competition due to the large number of spirulina suppliers as well as customers who generally treat these products as commodities with price being the major determining factor driving their purchasing decision. As one of the largest producers of spirulina, our challenge is to increase our market share among customers who seek the high-quality products we produce while concurrently adjusting our product mix to meet our revenue and profitability targets.

#### Natural Astaxanthin Products

We commenced commercial production of natural astaxanthin in 1997 and in 1999 introduced *BioAstin*®, our natural astaxanthin product for the human health and nutrition market. *BioAstin*® represents 65%, 50% and 51% of net sales for the years ended March 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Astaxanthin s antioxidant properties are believed to surpass many of the antioxidant properties of vitamin C, vitamin E, beta-carotene and other carotenoids. Independent scientific studies indicate that in certain models, natural astaxanthin has up to 550 times the antioxidant activity of vitamin E and 10 times the antioxidant activity of beta-carotene. In addition, a growing body of scientific literature suggests that natural astaxanthin has beneficial properties as an anti-inflammatory, with additional benefits for joint, skin and eye health.

BioAstin® is produced in three forms: a liquid lipid extract, gelcaps and microencapsulated beadlets with all three forms sold in bulk quantities. BioAstin® gelcaps are also sold in packaged consumer form under the Nutrex Hawaii label as well as private label consumer packaged product. Over time, we have shifted our focus and resources on producing and marketing natural astaxanthin for the higher value human nutrition market.

BioAstin® is GRAS (generally recognized as safe) as determined by the United States Food and Drug Administration. Our all natural BioAstin® is cultivated without the use of herbicides or pesticides and is not genetically modified (non GMO). In fiscal 2012 we applied for a new dietary ingredient (NDI), with the United States Food and Drug Administration, providing for a daily dosage of 12mg of astaxanthin which was reviewed without comment.

We produce natural astaxanthin from *Haematococcus pluvialis* microalgae grown in fresh water supplemented with nutrients. As these algae are extremely susceptible to contamination by unwanted algae, protozoa and amoebae, we developed a proprietary system known as the *PhytoDome Closed Culture System* or *PhytoDome CCS* to overcome this problem. Using these large-scale photobioreactors, we have generally been able to grow consistently large volumes of contaminant-free *Haematococcus* culture, although quarterly production levels are subject to seasonality. Raw materials and nutrients for our natural astaxanthin production share the same sourcing constraints and pricing risks as those existing in our spirulina production. Fresh water is critical to the production of our natural astaxanthin and is supplied by the County of Hawaii. While we have

not experienced any constraint on fresh water availability to date, availability could be impacted by a significant population growth in the region as well as throughput constraints on the water delivery infrastructure. We have met with officials of the County of Hawaii to assess the fresh water situation and evaluate the probability of future risks. We recycle fresh water in our production process where possible and continue to explore further recycling opportunities. However, there is no guarantee that these efforts will result in significant changes to our fresh water utilization.

For the final stage of cultivation, the *Haematococcus* algae is transferred to open ponds where an environmental stress is applied causing the algae to form spores which accumulate high levels of astaxanthin. Once ready for harvest, the media containing these spores is transported through underground pipes to our astaxanthin processing building where the culture media and algal spores are separated. Fresh water recovered from this stage of processing may be recycled for further use in cultivation. Unlike spirulina, astaxanthin is produced in a batch-mode and each cultivation pond must be completely drained and thoroughly cleaned between cycles. Pond cultivation can be negatively impacted seasonally with shortened daylight hours and potential inclement weather and increased cloud cover in winter months.

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The harvested algal spores are dried to flakes or a fine powder. During processing, the spores are cracked in a proprietary system to assure high bioavailability of astaxanthin. Each production lot of astaxanthin is sampled and tested for astaxanthin concentration. Finally, the bulk powder is vacuum-packed. Natural astaxanthin for human consumption is processed further utilizing a high-pressure extraction process. The resulting product is a lipid extract insoluble in water used in the production of gelcaps. This product can also be micro-encapsulated into beadlets which our customers use in other formulations.

All natural astaxanthin products undergo a prescribed set of microbiological food product tests to ensure safety and quality. We use third party contract manufacturers for the extraction services, the production of gelcaps and the production of beadlets. All third party contract manufacturers are audit inspected by our Quality Control Department and are required to comply with FDA Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) regulations. The majority of these contract manufacturers hold independent third party GMP certifications. Although these services are available only from a limited number of sources, we believe we have the ability to use other parties if any of the current contract manufacturers become unavailable; however, there is no assurance that the pricing from a new contract manufacturer will be comparable to current negotiated pricing. In addition, a new contract manufacturer would have to pass our qualification process ensuring quality standards can be met or exceeded. Significant price increases for any of these services could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

BioAstin® is sold in liquid lipid form as a raw ingredient to dietary supplement manufacturers, health food formulators and cosmetic manufacturers, and BioAstin® gelcaps and beadlets are sold in bulk quantities to distributors. BioAstin® gelcaps are also sold as a packaged consumer product through Nutrex Hawaii directly to natural product distributors, retailers and consumers. In 2007, we also introduced a line of BioAstin® based nutritional supplements, MDFormulas. MDFormulas combined the health benefits of BioAstin® with other proven nutrients with benefits for targeted applications such as skin, heart and joint health.

BioAstin® and MDFormulas compete directly with similar products marketed by other manufacturers including Fuji Chemical of Japan, Algatechnologies of Israel, and Valensa (formally U.S. Nutraceuticals, LLC) in the United States. In the general category of nutritional supplements, BioAstin® also competes with a variety of vitamins, dietary supplements and other antioxidant products available to consumers. The nutritional products market is highly competitive and includes international, national, regional and local producers and distributors, many of whom have greater resources than we have, and many of whom offer a greater variety of products.

The potential benefits of astaxanthin to human health are continuing to emerge. As one of the most potent and bioactive biological antioxidants found in nature, the number of potential roles of natural astaxanthin for human health is growing. Much research has been published in recent years on the beneficial roles of antioxidants in our health, in the aging process and on specific health conditions. The full efficacy of BioAstin® as a human nutraceutical supplement requires further significant clinical study. We have spent limited amounts on clinical trials over the past few fiscal years. Independent antioxidant research and prior clinical trials show promising human applications. We hold three United States patents relating to the usage of BioAstin® in the treatment of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, the treatment of canker/cold sores and for its use as a topical and oral sunscreen.

#### **Major Customers**

We have one major U.S. customer. Sales to this customer for the year ended March 31, 2012 were approximately \$1,577,000 or 6% of our total net sales, compared to approximately \$780,000 (5% of net sales) and \$1,653,000 (10% of net sales), for the fiscal years 2011 and 2010, respectively.

### **Research and Development**

Our expertise for many years has been in the development of efficient, stable and cost-effective production systems for microalgal products. We have learned production levels from our systems may not be sustainable across periods of days, weeks, or even months. Accordingly, we typically investigate each specific microalgae identified in the scientific literature for potentially marketable products and for solutions to production stability and efficiency challenges, and then strive to develop the technology to grow such microalgae on a commercial scale or to incorporate procedures or technology to improve production stability and efficiency. Successful microalgal product developments and technical solutions are highly uncertain and dependent on numerous factors, many beyond our control. Products and solutions or improvements that appear promising in early phases of development may be found to be ineffective, may be uneconomical because of manufacturing costs or other factors, may be precluded from commercialization due to the proprietary rights of other companies, or may fail to receive necessary regulatory approvals. We had research and development expenditures of \$320,000, \$282,000 and \$264,000 in fiscal years 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. No investment was made in scientific clinical trials during fiscal 2012. We invested \$66,000 and \$68,000 in scientific clinical trials during fiscal years 2011 and 2010, respectively.

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#### Patents, Trademarks and Licenses

We have been granted four United States patents: one on aspects of our production methods and three relating to usage of our *BioAstin*® products.

Our production method patent is directed to microalgae production technology, and will expire April 2016. Our patents relating to usage of our *BioAstin*® products are three utility patents on the use of astaxanthin, which will expire in December 2019, February 2020 and April 2020.

Although we view our proprietary rights as important, we currently believe that a loss of patent rights is not likely to have a material adverse effect on our present business as a whole. Instead, our commercial results mainly depend upon our trade secrets, know-how, other non-patent proprietary rights, relationships, our climate and our location. As a result, we feel that our competitors in the U.S. would not be able to implement competing technology covered by our patents now, after their expirations or otherwise, without our same combination of non-patented attributes.

We have registered trademarks in the U.S. and in some foreign markets, such as the European Union. Our operations are not dependent upon any single trademark, although some trademarks are identified with a number of our products and are important in the sale and marketing of such products.

### Regulations

Several governmental agencies regulate various aspects of our business and our products in the United States, including the Food and Drug Administration, the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the State of Hawaii Department of Health, the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Postal Service, state attorney general offices and various agencies of the states and localities in which our products are sold. We believe we are in compliance the all material government regulations which apply to our products and operations. However, we are not able to predict the nature of any future laws, regulations, interpretations or applications, nor can we predict what effect future changes would have on our business.

Our international customers are subject to similar governmental agency regulations in their various geographic regions. Compliance by our customers with such local regulations is beyond our control and we cannot predict their ability to maintain such compliance. However, we strive to assist our customers in meeting local regulations pertaining to the use and sale of our products whenever possible.

#### **Environmental Matters**

In 2002, we were issued under the Endangered Species Act ( ESA ) an Incidental Take Permit ( ITP ) by the United States Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service ( FWS ). The ESA defines incidental take as incidental to, and not for the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. This permit authorizes incidental take of the endangered Hawaiian stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*) that is anticipated to occur as a result of ongoing operations and maintenance at our Kona facility. As a mandatory component for the issuance of such permit, we submitted and maintain a Habitat Conservation Plan ( HCP ) to ensure that the effects of the permitted action on listed species are adequately minimized and mitigated.

The HCP called for the creation of a nesting and breeding ground for the Hawaiian stilt to offset any take activity. We have complied with these requirements since 2002. The breeding program was so successful that the increase in the Hawaiian stilt population in the area became a potential hazard for the adjacent State airport facility. We disassembled the stilt habitat and are mitigating take by using standard non-lethal hazing devices to discourage nesting and breeding.

A requirement of the ITP is to provide insurance coverage for funding the project for the term of the ITP. Our insurance broker was unable to locate an underwriter who would provide such a bond. As permitted by law, the FWS waived this requirement recognizing that this HCP did not involve a significant capital expenditure. However, under Hawaii state law, no waiver provision is available. A new ITP was issued by the FWS on September 29, 2006 and by the State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) on October 13, 2006, both which expire on March 17, 2016. In October, 2005, we submitted a new ten-year HCP to the FWS and the DOFAW.

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### **Employees**

As of March 31, 2012, we employed 76 people on a full-time basis and 4 people on a part-time basis. Of the total, 33 are involved in harvesting, production and quality, with the remainder in maintenance, shipping, sales, administration and support. Management believes that its relations with employees are good. Attracting permanent entry level and skilled employees can be difficult due to the limited local population. None of our employees are subject to collective bargaining agreements.

#### **Internet Information**

Our Internet address is www.cyanotech.com. There we make available, free of charge, copies of Cyanotech documents, news releases and financial statements issued in the last 12 months. Included are copies of the Company s Code of Conduct and Ethics, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter, the Compensation Committee Charter and the Charter and Powers of the Audit Committee. The information found on our Web site, unless otherwise indicated, is not part of this or any other report we file or furnish to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Spirulina Pacifica® and BioAstin® are sold directly online through our wholly owned subsidiary website, www.nutrex-hawaii.com, as well as through resellers in over 40 countries worldwide. Corporate data and product information are also available at www.cyanotech.com.

#### Item 1A. Risk Factors

You should carefully consider the risks described below which we believe are significant but not the only ones we face. Any of the following risks could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and operating results. You should also refer to the other information contained in this report, including our financial statements and the related notes.

Our production of algae involves an agricultural process, subject to such risks as weather, disease and contamination.

The production of our algae products involves complex agricultural systems with inherent risks including weather, disease, and contamination. These risks are unpredictable and also include such elements as the control and balance of necessary nutrients and other factors. The efficient and effective cultivation of microalgae requires consistent light, warm temperatures, low rainfall and proper chemical balance in a very nutrient-rich environment. If the chemical composition of a pond changes from its required balance, unusually high levels of contamination due to the growth of unwanted organisms or other biological problems may occur and would result in a loss of harvestable output. These often arise without warning and sometimes there are few or no clear indicators as to appropriate remediation or corrective measures. We believe that our technology, systems, processes and favorable growing location generally permit year-round harvest of our microalgal products in a cost-effective manner. However, environmental factors cannot be controlled in an open air environment, therefore, we cannot, and do not attempt to, provide any form of assurance with regard to our systems, processes, location, or cost-effectiveness.

There is risk in operating entirely in one business segment such as the cultivation and production of microalgae at a single production facility.

Single location agricultural and production facilities do not provide the protections and assurances afforded by operations in two or more widely separated locations. Our single location in Hawaii is susceptible to catastrophic natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes and volcanic eruptions. In the event of a natural disaster or localized extended outages of critical utilities or transportation systems, we could experience a significant business interruption. In addition, Hawaii from time to time has experienced shortages of water, electric power and fuels. Future shortages could disrupt our operations and could result in additional expense. Also, a single agricultural facility provides limited biologic diversity protection against invasive, mutant, or harmful organisms.

Our facilities in Hawaii are located adjacent to a major airport, and an aircraft disaster could disrupt our operations.

Our production facility and corporate headquarters in Hawaii are located adjacent to the Keahole International airport. In the event of an aircraft disaster, we could experience a significant business interruption, including loss of water, electrical and communication services as well as inability to access our facilities.

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Unfavorable publicity or consumer perception of our products and any similar products distributed by other companies could have a material adverse effect on our business.

The nutritional supplements market is highly dependent upon consumer perception regarding the safety, efficacy and quality of nutritional supplements. Consumer perception of our products can be significantly influenced by scientific research and findings, as well as by national media attention and other publicity regarding the consumption of nutritional supplements. There can be no assurance that future research or publicity will be favorable to the nutritional supplements market or any product in particular, or consistent with earlier publicity. Our dependence on consumer perception means that any adverse reports, findings or publicity, whether or not accurate or with merit, could have a material adverse effect on the demand for our products and on our results of operations, cash flow and financial condition.

The nutritional products industry is extremely competitive. Many of our significant competitors have greater financial and other resources than we do, and one or more of these competitors could use their greater resources to gain market share at our expense.

The nutritional products market includes international, national, regional and local producers and distributors, many of whom have substantially greater production, financial, research and development, personnel and marketing resources than we do, and many of whom offer a greater variety of products. As a result, each of these companies could compete more aggressively and sustain that competition over a longer period of time than we could. Our lack of resources relative to our significant competitors may cause us to fail to anticipate or respond adequately to development of new products and changing consumer demands and preferences, or may cause us to experience significant delays in obtaining or introducing new or enhanced products. These failures or delays could reduce our competitiveness and cause a decline in our market share and sales. Increased competition in our industry could result in price reductions, reduced gross profit margin or loss of market share, any of which could have a material effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We depend heavily on the unique abilities and knowledge of our officers and key personnel. Our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Scientific Officer have knowledge and experience critical to our ongoing operations of the Company. We also depend on the unique knowledge of our Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Finance and Administration, Vice President of Operations, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, and Vice President of Quality & Regulatory Affairs. We are a small company and the loss of any such personnel or the delay in the replacement of one could significantly delay the achievement of our business objectives and could adversely affect our ability to do business or could hinder our ability to provide needed management.

The Chief Scientific Officer and founder of our company is our primary scientific resource, continuing to improve production and cultivation technology and to investigate new microalgal products. Our Chief Financial Officer has a unique understanding of our financial systems and needs. Our Vice President Operations has years of experience with the mechanical operation of the production facility and continues to improve our production process. Our Vice President Sales and Marketing has developed valuable personal relationships with domestic and foreign customers. Our Vice President of Quality and Regulatory Affairs has experience and knowledge of federal and state regulations governing our production processes and product representation essential to continuing compliance. Attracting permanent skilled employees in Hawaii can be difficult due to limited local qualified applicants.

Our operations are vulnerable because we have limited personnel and redundancy and backup systems in our data management function.

Our internal order, inventory and product data management system is an electronic system through which orders are placed for our products and through which we manage product pricing, shipment, returns and other matters. This system s continued and uninterrupted performance is critical to our day-to-day business operations. Despite our precautions, unanticipated interruptions in our computer and telecommunications systems have, in the past, caused problems or stoppages in this electronic system. These interruptions, and resulting problems, could occur again in the future. We also have limited personnel available to process purchase orders and to manage product pricing and other matters in any manner other than through this electronic system. Any significant interruption or delay in the operation of this electronic management system could cause a decline in our sales and profitability.

A significant or prolonged economic downturn could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Our results of operations are affected by the business activity of our customers who in turn are affected by the level of economic activity in the industries and markets that they serve. A decline in the level of business activity of our clients or the economy as a whole could have a material adverse effect on our revenues and profit margin.

The global cost of oil derived energy impacts us in several ways, and it may hinder our efforts to achieve profitability. Oil prices primarily impact us through the costs of electricity, transportation, materials and supplies which are tied to the cost of oil either directly or indirectly. The return of a high cost of oil on a global basis may signal a prolonged economic downturn resulting in a material adverse effect on our business.

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Our quarterly	operating results may vary from quarter to quarter, which may result in increased volatility of our share price.
	ienced, and may in the future continue to experience, fluctuations in our quarterly operating results. These fluctuations could ket price of our Common Stock. Factors that may cause our quarterly operating results to vary include, but are not limited to
• wea	ther-related cultivation difficulties;
• fluc	tuations in customer demand;
• busi	iness decisions of our customers regarding orders for our products;
• chai	nges in energy costs;
• chai	nges in raw material costs;
• proc	duction problems which we cannot solve technically or economically;
• conf	tamination of our cultivation and production facilities;
• effe	cts of weather on our ability to meet customer demand;
• timi	ng of promotional activities;

the introduction of new products by us or our competitors;

•	changes in our pricing policies or those of our competitors;
•	changes in seasonal and other trends in our customers buying patterns;
•	changes in government regulation, both domestic and foreign;
•	fluctuation in foreign currency exchange rates;
•	global economic and political conditions and related risks, including acts of terrorism; and
•	other factors beyond our control.
	ant portion of our expense levels are relatively fixed. If net sales are below expectations in any given period, the adverse impact on operations may be magnified by our inability to reduce expenses quickly enough to compensate for the sales shortfall.
	al operations expose us to complex management, foreign currency, legal, tax and economic risks, which we may not be able to uickly and adequately.
	acts are marketed in a number of countries around the world. For the year ended March 31, 2012, approximately 33% of our net sales a sales to foreign customers. As a result, we are subject to a number of risks which include, but are not limited to:
•	the burden of complying with a wide variety of national and local laws;
•	potentially longer payment cycles for foreign sales;
•	restrictions (government and otherwise) on the movement of cash;
• such laws	the absence in some jurisdictions of effective laws protecting our intellectual and proprietary property rights, or of enforcement of where they do exist;

•	changes in government regulations, both domestic and foreign;
•	global economic and political conditions and related risks, including acts of terrorism; and
	8 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
•	fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates.
	includitions in foreign currency exchange rates.
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If we are unable to protect our intellectual property rights or if we infringe upon the intellectual property rights of others our business may be harmed.

We currently have four United States patents in force: one on aspects of our production methods and three for use of our *BioAstin®* products. We regard our proprietary technology, trade secrets, trademarks and similar intellectual property as important and we rely on a combination of trade secret, contract, patent, copyright and trademark law to establish and protect our rights in our products and technology. However, there can be no assurance that we will be able to protect our technology adequately or that competitors will not be able to develop similar technology independently. In addition, the laws of certain foreign countries may not protect our intellectual property rights to the same extent as the laws of the United States. Litigation in the United States or abroad may be necessary to enforce our patent or other intellectual property rights, to protect our trade secrets, to determine the validity and scope of the proprietary rights of others or to defend against claims of infringement. Such litigation, even if successful, could result in substantial costs and diversion of resources and could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. Additionally, if any such claims are asserted against us, we may seek to obtain a license under the third party s intellectual property rights. There can be no assurance, however, that a license would be available on terms acceptable or favorable to us, if at all.

Our insurance liability coverage is limited and may not be adequate to cover potential losses.

In the ordinary course of business, we purchase insurance coverage (e.g., property and liability coverage) to protect us against loss of or damage to our properties and claims made by third parties and employees for property damage or personal injuries. However, the protection provided by such insurance is limited in significant respects and, in some instances, we have no coverage and certain of our insurance has substantial deductibles or has limits on the maximum amounts that may be recovered. For example, if a tsunami, earthquake or other catastrophic natural disaster should occur, we may not be able to recover all facility restoration costs and revenues lost from business interruption. In addition, we maintain product liability insurance in limited amounts for all of our products involving human consumption; however, broader product liability coverage is prohibitively expensive. Insurers have also introduced new exclusions or limitations of coverage for claims related to certain perils including, but not limited to, mold and terrorism. If a series of losses occurred, such as from a series of lawsuits in the ordinary course of business each of which were subject to the deductible amount, or if the maximum limit of the available insurance were substantially exceeded, we could incur losses in amounts that would have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our ability to develop and market new products or modify existing products and production methods may be adversely affected if we lose the services of or cannot replace certain employees knowledgeable in advanced scientific and other fields.

Our products are derived from and depend on proprietary and non-proprietary processes and methods founded on advanced scientific knowledge, skills, and expertise. If the services of employees knowledgeable in these fields are lost and cannot be replaced in a reasonable time frame at reasonable costs, our ability to develop and market new products or modify existing products and production methods would be adversely impacted. At the same time, regulatory compliance surrounding our products and financial matters generally requires a basic knowledge and level of expertise related to production, quality assurance, and financial control. If we lose the services or cannot reasonably replace employees who have the necessary knowledge and expertise our ability to remain in regulatory compliance could be adversely affected.

We may need to raise additional capital in the future which may not be available.

We believe our cash and cash equivalents to be provided from operations will be sufficient to meet our working capital and operating requirements for at least the next 12 months, but we may need to raise additional funds and we may not be able to secure funding on acceptable terms, if at all. If we raise additional funds through the issuance of equity or convertible debt securities, the percentage ownership of our then current stockholders may be reduced. If we raise additional funds through the issuance of convertible debt securities, or through additional debt or similar instruments, such securities, debt, or similar instruments could have rights senior to those of our common stockholders and such instruments could contain provisions restricting our operations. If adequate funds are not available to satisfy either short-term or long-term capital requirements, we may be required to limit operations with adverse results.

We have incurred significant losses in the past. If we incur significant losses in the future, we will experience negative cash flow which may hamper current operations and prevent us from sustaining or expanding our business.

We have incurred net losses in two of the last six fiscal years. As of March 31, 2012, we had an accumulated deficit of approximately \$13,168,000. The Company had net income of \$3,632,000, \$1,730,000, \$1,391,000 and \$1,142,000 for the fiscal years ended March 31, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. However, in fiscal years ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, we incurred net losses in the amounts of \$1,139,000 and \$7,425,000, respectively. The 2007 loss included a non-cash impairment loss on equipment

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and leasehold improvements of \$4,487,000. These account for approximately 65% of our accumulated deficit since our inception. Historically, we have relied upon cash from operations and financing activities to fund all of the cash requirements of our business. However, extended periods of net income do not assure positive cash flows. Future periods of net losses from operations could result in negative cash flow, and may hamper ongoing operations and prevent us from sustaining or expanding our business. We cannot assure you that we will sustain or increase profitability on a quarterly or annual basis in the future. If we do not achieve, sustain or increase profitability, our business will be adversely affected and our stock price may decline.

Our stock price is volatile, which could result in substantial losses for investors purchasing shares of our common stock.

Stock markets have experienced extreme volatility that has often been unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies. These broad market fluctuations may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock. In addition, the average daily trading volume of the securities of small companies can be very low. Limited trading volume of our stock may contribute to its future volatility. Price declines in our common stock could result from general market and economic conditions and a variety of other factors, including any of the following:

- volatility resulting from minimal trading activity;
   changes in market valuations of similar companies;
   stock market price and volume fluctuations generally;
   economic conditions specific to the nutritional products industry;
   economic conditions tied to global resource markets, such as fuel costs;
   announcements by us or our competitors of new or enhanced products or of significant contracts, acquisitions, strategic relationships, joint ventures or capital commitments;
- changes in our pricing policies or the pricing policies of our competitors;

fluctuations in our quarterly or annual operating results;

changes in foreign currency exchange rates affecting our product costs, pricing or our customers markets;

•	regulatory developments effecting our specific products or industry; and
•	additions or departures of key personnel.
may be un March 31, sales of sh common s	at which you purchase shares of our common stock may not be indicative of the price that will prevail later in the trading market. You table to sell your shares of common stock at or above your purchase price, which may result in substantial losses to you. As of 2012, there were approximately 5.4 million shares of our common stock outstanding. We cannot predict the effect, if any, that future larges of our common stock into the public market will have on the market price of our common stock. Sales of substantial amounts of tock, including shares issued upon the exercise of stock options, or in anticipation of such sales, may materially and adversely affect market prices for our common stock.
Recent E	uropean Union regulations include stringent requirements for health claims on food and supplement labels.
assessmen European claims. Or products n We have i	been Union has harmonized standards among Member States for health claims on food and supplement labels. The scientific at of health claims is performed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), an advisory panel to the European Commission. The Commission will consider the opinions of EFSA in determining whether to include a health claim on a Positive List of permissible nee the list is published, only health claims for ingredients and products included on the list may be used in promotional materials for narketed and sold in the European Union. This could severely decrease or limit the marketability for our products in this market area. Implemented strategies that we believe will allow for continued and increasing sales of our products in the European Union. However be no guarantee that such strategies will be successful.
Item 2. P	roperties

Our principal facility and corporate headquarters is located at the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) at Keahole Point in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. It encompasses approximately 90 fully developed acres containing microalgal cultivation ponds, processing facilities, research and quality control laboratories, and sales and administrative offices. The property is leased from the State of Hawaii under a 40-year commercial lease expiring in 2035. We believe that there is sufficient available land at NELHA to meet anticipated needs if a revised NELHA lease can be negotiated with acceptable terms. Under the terms of the existing NELHA lease, we could be required to remove improvements at the end of the lease term. Based upon our analysis, we do not believe the projected cost for such removal to be material to the consolidated financial statements, or likely, given historical practices. However, conditions could change in the future. It is not possible to predict such changes or estimate any impact thereof. We also rent warehouse space near NELHA and in Ontario, California, and office space in Los Angeles,

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California.

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### Item 3. Legal Proceedings

Currently there is no legal proceeding involving the Company which is considered to be material. From time to time the Company may become a party to lawsuits or claims that arise in the ordinary course of business relating to employment, intellectual property, contracts and other matters.

#### **PART II**

### Item 5. Market for Registrant s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

Our common stock is listed and traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol CYAN . The closing price of our common stock was \$7.29 as of June 15, 2012. The approximate number of holders of record of our common stock was 1,500. The high and low selling prices as reported by NASDAQ were as follows:

Quarter Ended:	June 30	September 30	December 31	March 31
Fiscal 2012				
Common stock price per				
share:				
High	\$ 3.69	\$ 4.38	\$ 9.09	\$ 11.35
Low	\$ 2.93	\$ 3.27	\$ 3.61	\$ 6.10
Fiscal 2011				
Common stock price per				
share:				
High	\$ 3.38	\$ 2.83	\$ 3.78	\$ 3.90
Low	\$ 1.88	\$ 1.55	\$ 2.01	\$ 2.60

We are prohibited from declaring any common stock dividends without the prior written consent of a lender per the conditions of an existing term loan agreement with such lender. We have never declared or paid cash dividends on our common stock. We currently do not anticipate paying any cash dividends on common stock.

The following table sets forth the Company s common shares authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans:

	Common shares to be issued upon exercise of options outstanding	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options		Common shares available for future grant under equity compensation plans
Equity compensation, plans approved	The state of the s			
by security holders	1,251,166 shares	\$	3.54	809,261 shares

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### Item 7. Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (MD&A) is intended to provide a reader of our financial statements with a narrative of our financial condition, results of operations, liquidity and certain other factors that may affect our future results from the perspective of management.

Our MD&A should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-K. A more comprehensive description of our products and markets for such products is provided in Part I. Item 1. Business.

#### Overview

We are a world leader in the production of natural products derived from microalgae, with a core competency in cultivating and processing microalgae into high-value, high-quality natural products for the human nutrition market. We produce our algae in Hawaii and manufacture the finished products in Hawaii and California. Our products are marketed worldwide and are sold in bulk quantities to manufacturers, formulators and distributors in the health foods and nutritional supplements markets and as packaged consumer products to distributors, retailers and direct consumers. We generated 33%, 42% and 43% of our revenues outside of the United States during the years ended March 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Competing in a global marketplace, we are influenced by the general economic conditions of the countries in which our customers operate, including adherence to our customers local governmental regulations and requirements. Since all sales are made in U.S. currency, we have no material foreign exchange exposure.

Our production levels have a significant impact on our gross profit margin, as well as our ability to meet customer demand. Because our processes are agricultural, it is important to maintain production volumes in order to support the minimal resource levels required to sustain a large-scale open culture agricultural facility. Our production costs include customary variables such as availability and costs of personnel, raw materials, energy, water and freight. These variables fluctuate based on changes in the local, national and world economies. More complex variables include cultivation methods, feeding formulations and harvesting processes, all of which include efforts to anticipate the extent of weather and environmental events and make timely and sufficient adjustments. Although the variability of such costs cannot be fully anticipated, we have focused increased effort in this area in order to produce both spirulina and astaxanthin at levels sufficient to fully absorb production costs into inventory.

Fresh water is critical for our natural astaxanthin production and, while we have not experienced any constraint on fresh water availability, future availability could be negatively impacted by significant growth in the local population as well as by throughput constraints on the water delivery infrastructure owned by the County of Hawaii. Given the criticality of fresh water to our operations and the community, we recycle fresh water where possible and have developed additional water recycling systems in our efforts to utilize fresh water efficiently. Both fresh and sea water require electricity for pumping; and electricity, our single largest expenditure, depends on the cost of fuel oil which is, in turn, tied to the global price of crude oil.

In our discussion of operating results, we refer to abnormal costs. Complex biological processes in the cultivation and processing of our microalgae are influenced by factors beyond our control the weather, for example. As a result, we cannot assure that adequate production levels will be consistent period over period. To the extent that our production levels are not sufficient to absorb these costs on a period basis, we

recognize abnormal production costs, including fixed cost variances from normal production capacity, as an expense in the period incurred. Abnormal amounts of freight, handling costs and wasted material (spoilage) are recognized as current-period charges and fixed production overhead costs are allocated to inventory based on the normal capacity of production facilities. Normal capacity is defined as the production expected to be achieved over a number of periods or seasons under normal circumstances, taking into account the loss of capacity resulting from planned maintenance.

To offset increased production costs, we seek ways to increase production efficiencies in volume yield, potency, and quality consistent with our commitment to produce high-value, high-quality products. However, these efforts cannot be guaranteed to achieve the desired results.

We utilize two third-party contractors for the process of extraction for our natural astaxanthin product for the human nutrition market, and several third-party contractors are utilized for both encapsulation (for gelcaps) and micro-encapsulation (for beadlets). Although these services are available from a limited number of sources, we believe that we have the ability to use other parties if any of the current contractors become unavailable. If pricing for any of these services significantly increases, there could be a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. There have not been any significant changes in the cost of extraction or encapsulation services, although we continue to investigate cost effective alternatives to outsourcing.

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### Fiscal 2012 summary:

- Net sales for the year were \$24.6 million, an increase of \$7.8 million or 46.4% over the prior year, driven primarily by an increase in demand for astaxanthin products
- Net income was \$3.6 million, an increase of \$1.9 million or 110%, driven by the volume increase and the reversal of a portion of the valuation allowance on our deferred tax asset. Earnings per diluted share were \$0.66 for fiscal 2012 compared to \$0.32 per diluted share for fiscal year 2011.
- Cash from operating activities was \$5.1 million, an increase of \$3.3 million over the prior year, resulting from the increased volume and non-cash items such as stock option compensation and increases in accounts payable and accrued expenses. Cash and cash equivalents at March 31, 2012 were \$5.1 million, up \$3.0 million from a year ago. As a result, working capital increased 29% to \$8.1 million at March 31, 2012 from \$6.3 million a year ago.

### Results of Operations for the 2012, 2011 and 2010 Fiscal Years

The following tables present selected consolidated financial data for each of the past three fiscal years (\$ in thousands):

Consolidated Performance Summary	2012	2011	2010
Net sales	\$ 24,631 \$	16,827 \$	15,742
Net sales increase	46.4%	6.9%	12.8%
Gross profit	\$ 9,774 \$	6,341 \$	6,633
Gross profit as % of net sales	39.7%	37.7%	42.1%
SG&A	\$ 6,871 \$	5,112 \$	5,132
SG&A as % of net sales	27.9%	30.4%	32.6%
Operating income	\$ 2,903 \$	1,229 \$	1,501
Operating income as % of net sales	11.8%	7.3%	9.5%
Income tax benefit (expense)	\$ 779 \$	567 \$	(24)
Net income	\$ 3,632 \$	1,730 \$	1,391

Net sales by product	2012	2011	2010
Spirulina	\$ 8,701 \$	8,387 \$	7,744
Net sales increase - Spirulina	3.7%	8.3%	13.3%
Astaxanthin	\$ 15,912 \$	8,434 \$	7,978

Net sales increase - Astaxanthin