Rubicon Technology, Inc. Form 424B5 June 16, 2010 <u>Table of Contents</u>

> Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5) Registration No. 333-167272

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To prospectus dated June 3, 2010)

2,634,000 Shares

Common Stock

We are offering 1,800,000 shares of our common stock and the selling stockholders identified in this prospectus supplement are offering 834,000 shares of our common stock. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the shares by the selling stockholders.

Our common stock is listed on NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol RBCN. On June 15, 2010, the last reported sale price of our common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Market was \$31.50 per share.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. Before buying any shares, you should read carefully the discussion of material risks of investing in our common stock under the heading <u>Risk factors</u> beginning on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Per share	Total
Public offering price	\$30.00	\$79,020,000
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$ 1.59	\$ 4,188,060
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	\$28.41	\$51,138,000
Proceeds, before expenses, to the selling stockholders	\$28.41	\$23,693,940

The underwriters may also purchase up to an additional 395,100 shares of our common stock from us at the public offering price, less the underwriting discounts and commissions payable by us, to cover overallotments, if any, within 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement. If the underwriters exercise the option in full, the total underwriting discounts and commissions payable by us will be \$3,490,209, and the total proceeds, before expenses, to us will be \$62,362,791.

The underwriters are offering the common stock as set forth under Underwriting. Delivery of the shares will be made on or about June 21, 2010.

UBS Investment Bank

Canaccord Genuity

The date of this prospectus supplement is June 15, 2010.

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus. We have not, and the selling stockholders and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with additional information or information different from that contained in this prospectus. We are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, shares of our common stock only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The information contained in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or of any sale of shares of our common stock.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

	Page
About this prospectus supplement	S-ii
Prospectus supplement summary	S-1
<u>Risk factors</u>	S-4
Special note regarding forward-looking statements	S-15
<u>Use of proceeds</u>	S-16
Price range of our common stock	S-16
Dividend policy	S-16
Selected consolidated financial data	S-17
	Page
Management s discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations	S-19
Business	S-31
Principal and selling stockholders	S-42
Certain material US federal tax considerations for non-US holders	S-45
Underwriting	S-48
Legal matters	S-54
Experts	S-54
Incorporation by reference	S-54
Where you can find additional information	S-55

About this prospectus supplement

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which contains the terms of this offering of shares. The second part is the accompanying prospectus dated June 3, 2010, which is part of our Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-167272).

This prospectus supplement and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement may add to, update or change the information in the accompanying prospectus. If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with information in the accompanying prospectus, this prospectus supplement will apply and will supersede that information in the accompanying prospectus.

It is important for you to read and consider all information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the information described under the headings Incorporation by reference and Where you can find additional information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

No person is authorized to give any information or to make any representations other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the securities described in this prospectus supplement or an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy such securities in any circumstances in which such offer or solicitation is unlawful. Neither the delivery of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, nor any sale made hereunder, shall under any circumstances create any implication that there has been no change in our affairs since the date of this prospectus supplement, or that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is correct as of any time subsequent to the date of such information.

The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the offering of the shares in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute an offer, or an invitation on our behalf or by the selling stockholders or the underwriters or any of them, to subscribe to or purchase any of the shares of common stock, and may not be used for or in connection with an offer or solicitation by anyone, in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation is not authorized or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such an offer or solicitation. See Underwriting.

In this prospectus supplement, unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, references to we, us, our, Company and Rubicon re to Rubicon Technology, Inc. If we use a capitalized term in this prospectus supplement and do not define the term in this prospectus supplement, it is defined in the accompanying prospectus.

Some of the market and industry data and forecasts included in this prospectus supplement are based on independent industry sources. Although we believe that these independent sources are reliable, we have not independently verified the accuracy and completeness of this information, nor have we independently verified the underlying economic assumptions relied upon in preparing any data or forecasts.

S-ii

Prospectus supplement summary

This summary provides an overview of our business and the key aspects of the offering. This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information you should consider before purchasing our securities. You should carefully read all of the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the Risk Factors and our financial statements and related notes contained herein and therein, before making an investment decision.

OUR BUSINESS

We are an advanced electronic materials provider that develops, manufactures and sells monocrystalline sapphire and other innovative crystalline products for Light-Emitting Diodes (LEDs), radio frequency integrated circuits (RFICs), blue laser diodes, optoelectronics and other optical applications. The emergence of sapphire in commercial volumes at competitive prices has enabled the development of new technologies such as high brightness (HB) white, blue and green LEDs and highly-integrated RFICs. We apply our proprietary crystal growth technology to produce high-quality sapphire products efficiently to supply a large and growing end-market demand, and we work closely with our customers to meet their quality and delivery needs. We believe we are the leading supplier of sapphire products to the LED industry.

We are a vertically integrated manufacturer of high-quality sapphire substrates and optical windows that are used in a variety of high-growth, high-volume end-market applications. Our largest product line is two to four inch sapphire cores and wafers for use in LEDs and blue laser diodes for solid state lighting and electronic applications. In addition, we sell six inch sapphire wafers that are used for Silicon-on-Sapphire (SOS) RFICs, as well as products for military, aerospace, sensor and other applications. We have also extended our technology to manufacture six and eight inch products to support next-generation LED, eight inch products to support next generation RFIC and twelve plus inch products for optical window applications. We believe that LED and SOS RFIC production will follow a similar path to that of production of integrated circuits on silicon substrates, which gradually migrated to production on larger and larger substrates in order to reduce manufacturing costs. We feel that our ability to produce large diameter sapphire substrates in high volume will enable the continued advancement of the LED and RFIC markets by enabling our customers to reduce costs.

Advancements in solid state lighting utilizing HB white, blue and green LEDs over the past decade represent a disruptive technology in the lighting industry, providing significant performance, environmental and economic improvements compared to traditional incandescent or fluorescent lighting. These factors, along with LEDs durability, small form factor, excellent color performance and decreasing costs, have led to a rapidly growing demand for LEDs in consumer electronic and general and specialty lighting applications. Applications using LEDs have unit volumes in the billions and are expected to grow significantly. The majority of HB LEDs are produced on sapphire substrates. Therefore, as the HB LED market grows, we believe the sapphire substrate market will grow as well.

As a leading producer of sapphire and other crystals, we believe that the following are our principal competitive advantages:

Ø **Proprietary technology for crystal growth**. Due to our in-depth understanding of sapphire crystal growth seeding and crystal growth furnace operational parameters, we have developed a full in-house capability to design, build and maintain crystal growth furnaces with proprietary features. We believe that our enhanced proprietary methodology significantly outperforms other methods of sapphire production with respect to capital costs, operating costs, throughput, quality and diameter size.

- Ø *High quality sapphire products*. Through our operational expertise in crystal growth, post-growth processing and in-process manufacturing controls of sapphire wafer production, we are able to meet or exceed our customers key product specifications, such as crystalline quality, dimensional tolerances and crystal orientation, while maintaining high production yields.
- Ø *Vertical integration*. We grow sapphire crystals and have extensive capabilities to process sapphire into products that meet our customers needs from cores to wafer and window blanks to large diameter epi-polished wafers. By vertically integrating, we are able to achieve significant operating efficiencies and produce high-quality, high-precision products that offer cost and quality benefits to our customers.
- Ø *High volume and flexible manufacturing capability*. We have developed automated manufacturing and metrology platforms at each stage of our production process that enable us to readily increase capacity and to switch products in manufacturing so that we can meet our customers specific product demands.
- Ø Lowest total cost for customers. We believe our high sustained yields, our dedication to consistent production and performance and our commitment to lasting customer relationships help assure our customers of a reliable source of high-quality sapphire products at stable prices. Our in-process quality control practices lead to predictable customer process yields, reduced inspection costs and overall high customer satisfaction.

OUR STRATEGY

Our goal is to be the leading global provider of advanced monocrystalline substrate and window materials to the solid state lighting, SOS RFIC, aerospace and optical markets. Our strategy includes the following key elements:

- Ø *Extend our technology and manufacturing leadership position*. We intend to continue to develop advanced technology platforms to further increase the size of crystals produced and offer market-leading product specifications, while maintaining product quality and manufacturing efficiencies.
- Ø *Capitalize on opportunities in high-growth markets*. We intend to continue to expand our opportunities by adding new categories and sizes of products with the goal of providing our customers in multiple high-growth end markets with a robust set of sapphire solutions.
- Ø *Enhance operational excellence*. We plan to further refine our proprietary crystal growth techniques, sapphire processing platforms and process controls to produce even higher throughput capabilities. Our objective is to continue to achieve operational excellence through lowering cycle times, raising yields and reducing overhead costs.
- Ø *Expand our sales and marketing efforts*. We intend to increase the scale and geographical coverage of our sales efforts globally. In addition, we plan to enhance our brand recognition by increasing our marketing and communications programs and resources.

Ø Penetrate new market segments. We intend to use our proprietary manufacturing technology to produce additional single-crystal materials that can be used in optical applications as well as alternative substrates for certain electronic materials applications.
OUR CORPORATE INFORMATION

We were incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware in 2001. Our principal executive offices are located at 9931 Franklin Avenue, Franklin Park, Illinois 60131. The telephone number at our principal executive offices is (847) 295-7000. Our website address is www.rubicon-es2.com. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and you should not consider information contained on our website to form any part of this prospectus.

The offering

Common stock we are offering	1,800,000 shares	
Common stock offered by the selling stockholders	834,000	
Total common stock offered	2,634,000	
Common stock to be outstanding after this offering	22,156,031 shares	
NASDAQ Global Market symbol	RBCN	
Use of Proceeds	We estimate that the net proceeds to us from this offering will be approximately \$50.2 million. We expect to use the net proceeds from this offering to expand our crystal growth and post crystal growth manufacturing facilities and for working capital and other general corporate purposes. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of shares of our common stock by the selling stockholders.	
Dividends	We have no plans to pay cash dividends on the common stock.	
Transfer Agent	The transfer agent for the common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company.	
Risk Factors	See Risk Factors and other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of factors you should consider carefully before investing in our common stock.	
The number of shares of common stock to be outstanding after this offering is based on 20,356,031 shares outstanding as of May 31, 2010, and excludes:		

Ø 281,561 shares of common stock subject to outstanding warrants as of May 31, 2010, with a weighted average exercise price of \$3.82 per share;

- Ø 2,128,112 shares of common stock subject to outstanding options as of May 31, 2010, with a weighted average exercise price of \$9.85 per share;
- Ø 139,911 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under our 2001 Equity Plan as of May 31, 2010; and

Table of Contents

 \emptyset 677,090 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under our 2007 Stock Incentive Plan as of May 31, 2010. Unless otherwise noted, all information in this prospectus supplement assumes no exercise by the underwriters of their overallotment option.

Risk factors

Investing in our common stock involves risk. Before making any investment decision, please carefully consider the risk factors described below and in our periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. These risks could materially affect our business, results of operation or financial condition and affect the value of our common stock. You could lose all or part of your investment. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also affect our business, results of operation or financial condition.

We have incurred significant losses in prior periods and may incur losses in the future.

We have incurred significant losses in prior periods. We had an accumulated deficit at March 31, 2010 of \$157.3 million. Although we had net income of \$1.6 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2010, we had a net loss of \$9.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2009. We also incurred net losses of \$2.9 million and \$7.6 million in 2007 and 2006, respectively. Our expansion plans will likely cause an increase in operating expenses, and there can be no assurance that we will have sufficient revenue growth to offset our expenses or to achieve or sustain profitability in future quarters.

Our results of operations, financial condition and business will be harmed if we are unable to effectively match our capacity with customer demand.

The global economic crisis resulted in weak demand for LED and SOS products in late 2008 and most of 2009, causing a significant reduction in orders for our sapphire substrates. As a result, our manufacturing facilities were underutilized, which negatively impacted our gross margins. While demand has increased significantly in recent months and nearly all our manufacturing facilities are currently utilized, there can be no assurance that such sudden market changes will not occur again in the future adversely affecting our profitability.

Demand for our products has resumed in the fourth quarter of 2009 requiring expansion of our production capacity. Our capacity expansion involves significant risks, including the availability of capital equipment and the timing of its installation, availability and timing of required electric power, management of expansion costs, timing of production ramp, qualification of our new equipment and demands on management s time. If our business does not grow fast enough to utilize this new capacity effectively, our business and financial results could be adversely affected. Conversely, delays in expanding our manufacturing capacity could impact our ability to meet future demand for our products. As a result, we might not be able to fulfill customer orders in a timely manner, which could adversely affect our customer relationships and operating results. Moreover, our efforts to increase our production capacity may not succeed in enabling us to manufacture the required quantities of our products in a timely manner or at the gross margins that we achieved in the past. There can be no assurance that we will be able to successfully reach our production, timing and cost goals for our expansion.

If LED lighting does not achieve greater market acceptance, or if alternative technologies are developed and gain market traction, prospects for our growth and profitability would be limited.

Our future success depends on increased market acceptance of LED lighting. Approximately 83% of our revenue for the first quarter of 2010 was from sales of our products for use in the manufacture of LED products. Approximately 77% and 62% of our revenue during 2009 and 2008, respectively, was from sales of our products for use in the manufacture of LED products. Potential customers for LED lighting

S-4

systems may be reluctant to adopt LED lighting as an alternative to traditional lighting technology because of its higher initial cost and relatively low light output per unit in comparison with the most powerful traditional lighting devices. In addition, our potential customers may have substantial investments and know-how related to their existing lighting technologies, and may perceive risks relating to the novelty, complexity, reliability, quality, usefulness and cost-effectiveness of LED products compared to other lighting sources available in the market. If acceptance of LED lighting does not increase significantly, then opportunities to increase our revenues and operate profitably would be limited.

Moreover, if effective new sources of light other than LED devices are developed, our current products and technologies could become less competitive or obsolete. Any of these factors could have a material and adverse impact on our growth and profitability.

The technology used in the LED industry continues to change rapidly, and if we are unable to modify our products to adapt to future changes in the LED industry we will be unable to attract or retain customers.

We do not design or manufacture LEDs. Our ability to expand into new applications in the LED market depends on continued advancement in the design and manufacture of LEDs by others. The LED industry has been characterized by a rapid rate of development of new technologies and manufacturing processes, rapid changes in customer requirements, frequent product introductions and ongoing demands for greater functionality. Our future success will depend on our ability to develop new products for use in LED applications and to adjust our product specifications, such as our previous development of larger diameter wafers, in response to these developments in a timely manner. If our development efforts are not successful or are delayed, or if our newly developed products do not achieve market acceptance, we may be unable to attract or retain customers and our operating results could be harmed. In addition, although sapphire is currently the preferred substrate material for HB white, blue and green LED applications, we cannot assure you that the LED market will continue to demand the performance attributes of sapphire. Silicon carbide is another substrate material currently used for certain LED applications, including some that also use sapphire substrates. Other substrates being investigated and used in research and development for certain LED applications. If sapphire is displaced as the substrate of choice for certain LED applications, our financial condition and results of operations would be materially and adversely affected unless we were able to successfully offer the competing substrate material.

Our continuing efforts to enhance our current products and to develop new products involve several risks, including:

- Ø our ability to anticipate and respond in a timely manner to changes in customer requirements;
- Ø the possibility that sapphire may in the future be replaced as a preferred substrate in certain LED applications;
- Ø the significant research and development investment that we may be required to make before market acceptance of a particular new or enhanced product;
- Ø the possibility that the LED industry may not accept our new or enhanced products after we have invested a significant amount of resources in development; and
- Ø competition from new technologies, processes and products introduced by our current and/or future competitors.

If the development and acceptance of our products for the SOS RFIC market do not meet our expectations, our future operating results may be harmed.

The level of market acceptance of our SOS RFIC products will impact our future operating results. Our success in the SOS RFIC market depends on a number of factors, including:

Ø the success of our customers products in current applications; and

Ø the acceptance of SOS RFIC products for newly targeted applications.

In addition, it is possible that other solutions, such as silicon-on-insulator, may become preferred over SOS. We cannot assure you that the RFIC market will continue to require the performance attributes of SOS solutions. If our products are not accepted more broadly in the RFIC market, our results of operations and business may be harmed.

The average selling prices of sapphire products have historically been volatile.

Historically, our industry has experienced volatility in product demand and pricing. Changes in average selling prices of our products as a result of competitive pricing pressures, increased sales discounts and new product introductions by our competitors could have a significant impact on our profitability. Although we attempt to optimize our product mix, introduce new products, reduce manufacturing costs and pass along certain increases in costs to our customers in order to lessen the effect of decreases in selling prices, we may not be able to successfully do so in a timely manner and our results of operations and business may be harmed.

We depend on a few customers for a major portion of our sales and our results of operations would be adversely impacted if they reduced their order volumes.

Historically, we have earned, and believe that in the future we will continue to earn, a substantial portion of our revenue from a small number of customers. For the quarter ended March 31, 2010, we had three customers that accounted for approximately 25%, 15% and 12% of our revenue. In 2009, we had three customers that accounted for approximately 20%, 17% and 11% of our revenue. In 2008, four customers each accounted for 10% or more of our revenues. In 2009, sales to Crystalwise Technology, Inc., Tera Xtal Technology Corp. and Iljin Display Co, Ltd. represented approximately 20%, 17% and 11% of our revenues, respectively. In 2008, sales to Peregrine Semiconductor Corp., Shinkosha Co. Ltd., Crystalwise Technology, Inc., and a fourth customer represented approximately 29%, 17%, 12% and 10% of our revenues, respectively. If we were to lose one of our major customers or have a major customer significantly reduce its volume of business with us, our revenues and profitability would be materially reduced unless we are able to replace such demand with other orders promptly. We expect to continue to be dependent on our significant customers, the number and identity of which may change from period to period.

We generally sell our products on the basis of purchase orders. Delays in product orders could cause our quarterly revenue to vary significantly. A number of factors could cause our customers to cancel or defer orders, including interruptions to their operations due to a downturn in their industries, natural disasters, delays in manufacturing their own product offerings into which our products are incorporated, securing other sources for the products that we manufacture or developing such products internally.

Our manufacturing processes may be interrupted or our production may be delayed if we cannot maintain sufficient electrical supply, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition and operating results.

Our manufacturing process requires a stable source of electricity. From time to time, we have experienced limited disruptions in our supply of electricity. Such disruptions, depending upon their duration, could result in a significant drop in throughput and yield of in-process crystal boules and create delays in our production. Although we use generators and other back-up sources of electricity, these replacement sources of electricity are only capable of providing effective back-up for limited periods of time. We cannot assure you that we will be successful in avoiding future disruptions in power or in mitigating the effects of such disruptions. Any material disruption in electrical supply could delay our production and could adversely affect our business, financial condition and operating results.

Our gross margins and profitability may be adversely affected by rising energy costs.

Our existing manufacturing facilities are covered under an agreement that locks our electricity prices in at current levels through December 31, 2011. Electricity prices could increase due to overall changes to the price of energy due to conditions in the Middle East, natural gas shortages in the US, governmental policy and other economic conditions and uncertainties regarding the outcome and implications of such events. Once our current agreement expires, if electricity prices increase significantly, we may not be able to pass these price increases through to our customers on a timely basis, if at all, which could adversely affect our gross margins and results of operations. In addition, there can be no guarantee that the electricity rates that we negotiate for our new manufacturing facilities will be comparable in cost to our existing agreement.

Our future operating results may fluctuate significantly, which makes our future results difficult to predict and could cause our operating results for particular periods to fall below expectations.

Our revenues and operating results have fluctuated in the past and are likely to fluctuate in the future. These fluctuations are due to a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control. These factors include, among others:

- Ø timing of orders from and shipments to major customers;
- Ø the gain or loss of significant customers;
- Ø fluctuations in gross margins as a result of changes in product mix or other factors;
- Ø market acceptance of our products and our customers products;
- Ø our ability to develop, introduce and market new products and technologies on a timely basis;
- Ø the need to pay higher labor costs as we continue to grow;
- Ø announcements of technological innovations, new products or upgrades to existing products by us or our competitors;

Edgar Filing: Rubicon Technology, Inc. - Form 424B5

- Ø competitive market conditions, including pricing actions by our competitors and our customers competitors;
- Ø developments in trade secrets, patent or other proprietary rights by us or our competitors;
- Ø announcements by us or our competitors of significant acquisitions, strategic partnerships or divestitures;

- Ø interruption of operations at our manufacturing facilities or the facilities of our suppliers;
- Ø the level and timing of capital spending of our customers;
- Ø additions or departures of key personnel;
- Ø potential seasonal fluctuations in our customers business activities; and
- Ø natural disasters, such as floods, hurricanes and earthquakes, as well as interruptions in power supply resulting from such events or due to other causes.

The foregoing factors are difficult to forecast, and these, as well as other factors, could materially adversely affect our quarterly or annual operating results. If our revenues or operating results fall below the expectations of investors or any securities analysts that may publish research on our company, the price of our common stock would likely decline.

Our gross margins could decline as a result of changes in our product mix and other factors, which may adversely impact our operating results.

We anticipate that our gross margins will fluctuate from period to period as a result of the mix of products that we sell in any given period, with our larger diameter sapphire products generally yielding higher gross margins than our smaller diameter products. If our sales mix shifts to lower margin products in future periods, our overall gross margin levels and operating results would be adversely impacted. Increased competition and the adoption of alternatives to our products, more complex engineering requirements, lower demand and other factors may lead to a further downward shift in our product margins, leading to price erosion and lower revenues for us in the future.

Our proprietary intellectual property rights may not adequately protect our products and technologies, and the failure to protect such rights could harm our competitive position and adversely affect our operating results.

To protect our technology, we have chosen to rely primarily on trade secrets rather than seeking protection through publicly filed patents. Trade secrets are inherently difficult to protect. While we believe we use reasonable efforts to protect our trade secrets, our directors, employees, consultants or contractors may unintentionally or willfully disclose our information to competitors, whether during or after the termination of their services to our company. If we were to seek to enforce a claim that a third party had illegally obtained and was using our trade secrets, it would be expensive and time consuming, and the outcome would be unpredictable. In addition, courts outside the United States are sometimes less willing to protect trade secrets than US courts. Moreover, if our competitors independently develop equivalent knowledge, methods and know-how, it will be more difficult for us to protect our intellectual property and our business could be harmed.

We have no issued patents covering our products and technologies. Although we have filed applications for three patents, there can be no assurance that these patents will be issued or that any patents issued will be of significant value to our business. Our commercial success will depend on obtaining and maintaining trade secret, patent and other intellectual property protection of our products and technologies. We will only be able to protect products and technologies from unauthorized use by third parties to the extent that valid, protectable and enforceable trade secrets, patents or other intellectual property rights cover them.

If we are not able to defend the trade secret or patent protection positions of our products and technologies, then we may not be able to successfully compete with competitors developing or marketing competing products and we may not generate enough revenue from product sales to justify the cost of development of our products and to achieve or maintain profitability.

The protection of our intellectual property rights and the defense of claims of infringement against us by third parties may subject us to costly litigation.

Other companies might allege that we are infringing certain of their patents or other rights. If we are unable to resolve these matters satisfactorily, or to obtain licenses on acceptable terms, we may face litigation. Any litigation to enforce patents issued to us, to protect trade secrets or know-how possessed by us or to defend us or indemnify others against claimed infringement of the rights of others could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and operating results. Regardless of the validity or successful outcome of any such intellectual property claims, we may need to expend significant time and expense to protect our intellectual property rights or to defend against claims of infringement by third parties, which could have a material adverse effect on us. If we lose any such litigation where we are alleged to infringe the rights of others, we may be required to:

- Ø pay substantial damages;
- Ø seek licenses from others; or

Ø change, or stop manufacturing or selling, some or all of our products. Any of these outcomes could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

The markets in which we operate are very competitive, and many of our competitors and potential competitors are larger, more established and better capitalized than we are.

The markets for selling high-quality sapphire products are very competitive and have been characterized by rapid technological change. This competition could result in increased pricing pressure, reduced profit margins, increased sales and marketing expenses, and failure to increase, or the loss of, market share or expected market share, any of which would likely seriously harm our business, operating results and financial condition.

Some of our competitors and potential competitors are substantially larger and have greater financial, technical, marketing and other resources than we do. Given their capital resources, the large companies with which we compete, or may compete in the future, are in a better position to substantially increase their manufacturing capacity and research and development efforts or to withstand any significant reduction in orders by customers in our markets. Such larger companies typically have broader product lines and market focus and thus are not as susceptible to downturns in a particular market. In addition, some of our competitors have been in operation much longer than we have and therefore may have more long-standing and established relationships with our current and potential domestic and foreign customers.

We would be at a competitive disadvantage if our competitors bring their products to market earlier, if their products are more technologically capable than ours, or if any of our competitors products or technologies were to become preferred in the industry. Moreover, we cannot assure you that existing or potential customers will not develop their own products, or acquire companies with products, that are competitive with our products. Any of these competitive threats could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results or financial condition.

We are subject to risks from international sales that may harm our operating results.

For the quarter ended March 31, 2010 and the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, revenue from international sales was approximately 82%, 75% and 56%, respectively, of our total revenue. We expect that revenue from international sales will continue to constitute a significant portion of our total revenue for the foreseeable future. Our international sales are subject to a variety of risks, including risks arising from:

- Ø trading restrictions, tariffs, trade barriers and potentially adverse tax consequences;
- Ø economic and political risks, wars, acts of terrorism, political unrest, pandemics, such as a recurrence of the SARS outbreak or avian flu, boycotts, curtailments of trade and other business restrictions;
- \emptyset the difficulty of enforcing contracts and collecting receivables through some foreign legal systems;
- Ø unexpected changes in regulatory requirements and other governmental approvals, permits and licenses;
- Ø inadequate protection or enforcement of our intellectual property and other legal rights in foreign jurisdictions;
- Ø sales variability as a result of transacting our foreign sales in US dollars as prices for our products become less competitive in countries with currencies that are low or are declining in value against the US dollar and more competitive in countries with currencies that are high or increasing in value against the US dollar;
- Ø difficulties in staffing and managing foreign operations; and
- Ø periodic foreign economic downturns.

In addition, with our expansion efforts in Malaysia, we may have increased exposure to foreign currency exchange rates as we incur obligations denominated in the Malaysian Ringgit.

Our future success will depend on our ability to anticipate and effectively manage these and other risks associated with our international sales. Our failure to manage any of these risks could harm our operating results.

We are dependent on the continued services and performance of our senior management, the loss of any of whom could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition.

Our future success is dependent on the continued services and continuing contributions of our senior management who must work together effectively in order to design our products, expand our business, increase our revenues and improve our operating results. The loss of services of senior management, particularly Raja M. Parvez, our president and chief executive officer, and William F. Weissman, our chief financial officer, could significantly delay or prevent the achievement of our development and strategic objectives. In addition, key personnel may be distracted by activities unrelated to our business. The loss of the services, or distraction, of our senior management for any reason could adversely affect

Edgar Filing: Rubicon Technology, Inc. - Form 424B5

our business, operating results and financial condition.

If we are unable to attract or retain qualified personnel, our business and product development efforts could be harmed.

Our success depends on our continued ability to identify, attract, hire, train, retain and motivate highly skilled technical, managerial, manufacturing, administrative and sales and marketing personnel.

S-10

Competition for these individuals is intense, and we may not be able to successfully recruit, assimilate or retain sufficiently qualified personnel. In particular, we may encounter difficulties in recruiting and retaining a sufficient number of qualified technical personnel. The inability to attract and retain necessary technical, manufacturing, administrative and sales and marketing personnel could harm our ability to obtain new customers and develop new products and could adversely affect our business and operating results.

We rely on a limited number of suppliers for raw materials and key components.

We depend on a small number of suppliers for certain raw materials, components, services and equipment used in manufacturing our products, including key materials such as aluminum oxide and certain furnace components. We generally purchase these items with purchase orders, and we have no guaranteed supply arrangements with such suppliers. We are subject to variations in the cost of raw materials and consumables from period to period. We do not control the time and resources that these suppliers devote to our business, and we cannot be sure that these suppliers will perform their obligations to us or do so on a timely basis. In addition, some of these suppliers are located in regions of the world that may experience periods of political or economic instability.

Any significant delay in product delivery or other interruption or variation in supply from our key suppliers could prevent us from meeting demand for our products and from obtaining future business. If we were to lose key suppliers or our key suppliers were unable to support our demand, our manufacturing operations could be interrupted and we could be required to attempt to establish supply arrangements with other suppliers. In addition, the inability of our suppliers to support our demand could be indicative of a marketwide scarcity of the materials, which could result in even longer interruptions. Any such delay or interruption would impair our ability to meet our customers needs and, therefore, could damage our customer relationships and have a material adverse effect on our business and operating results.

Our products must meet exacting specifications, and undetected defects may occur, which may cause customers to return or stop buying our products.

Our customers establish demanding specifications for quality, performance, and reliability that our products must meet. While we inspect our products before shipment, they still may contain undetected defects. If defects occur in our products, we could experience lost revenue, increased costs, delays in, or cancellations or rescheduling of orders or shipments, product returns or discounts or damage to our reputation, any of which would harm our operating results and our business.

We are subject to numerous environmental laws and regulations, which could expose us to environmental liabilities, increase our manufacturing and related compliance costs or otherwise adversely affect our business and operating results.

In our manufacturing process, we use water, oils, slurries, acids, adhesives and other industrial chemicals. We are subject to a variety of foreign, federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the protection of the environment. These environmental laws and regulations include those relating to the use, storage, handling, discharge, emission, disposal and reporting of toxic, volatile or otherwise hazardous materials used in our manufacturing processes. These materials may have been or could be released into the environment at properties currently or previously operated by us, at other locations during the transport of the materials, or at properties to which we send substances for treatment or disposal. If we were to violate or become liable under environmental laws and regulations or become non-compliant with permits required at some of our facilities, we could be held financially responsible and incur substantial costs, including investigation and cleanup costs, fines and civil or criminal

sanctions, third-party property damages or personal injury claims. In addition, new laws and regulations or stricter enforcement of existing laws and regulations could give rise to additional compliance costs and liabilities.

Our operations are concentrated in a small number of nearby facilities, and the unavailability of one or more of these facilities could harm our business.

Our manufacturing, research and development, sales and marketing, and administrative activities are concentrated in our facilities in the Chicago metropolitan area. If, for any reason, including as a result of natural disaster, act of terrorism, war, outbreak of disease or other similar event, any of these facilities should be damaged or destroyed or become inaccessible or inoperable, our ability to conduct our business could be adversely affected or interrupted entirely.

We may acquire other businesses, products or technologies; if we do, we may be unable to integrate them with our business effectively or at all, which may adversely affect our business, financial condition and operating results.

If we find appropriate opportunities, we may acquire complementary businesses, product lines or technologies. However, if we acquire a business, product line or technology, the process of integration may produce unforeseen operating difficulties and expenditures and may absorb significant attention of our management that would otherwise be available for the ongoing development of our business. Further, the acquisition of a business may result in the assumption of unknown liabilities or create risks with respect to our existing relationships with suppliers and customers. If we make acquisitions, we may issue shares of stock that dilute other stockholders, expend cash, incur debt, assume contingent liabilities or create additional expenses related to amortizing intangible assets, any of which may adversely affect our business, financial condition or operating results.

RISKS RELATED TO OWNERSHIP OF OUR COMMON STOCK AND THIS OFFERING

The price of our common stock has fluctuated substantially and may continue to do so.

Our common stock has only been publicly traded since November 16, 2007, and the trading price of our common stock has fluctuated substantially. From our initial public offering through June 15, 2010, the trading price of our common stock has ranged from a low of \$2.50 per share to a high of \$34.94 per share.

Factors related to our company and our business, as well as broad market and industry factors, may adversely affect the market price of our common stock, regardless of our actual operating performance. Factors that could cause fluctuations in our stock price include, among other things:

- Ø changes in market valuations of other companies in our industry;
- Ø changes in financial guidance or estimates by us, by investors or by any financial analysts who might cover our stock or our industry;
- Ø our ability to meet the performance expectations of financial analysts or investors;
- Ø announcements by us or our competitors of significant products, contracts, acquisitions or strategic partnerships;

Ø general market and economic conditions; and

Ø the size of the public float of our stock.

S-12

Fluctuations caused by factors such as these may negatively affect the market price of our common stock. In addition, the other risks described elsewhere in this prospectus supplement could adversely affect our stock price.

Our board of directors does not intend to declare or pay any dividends to our stockholders in the foreseeable future.

The declaration, payment and amount of any future dividends will be made at the discretion of our board of directors, and will depend upon, among other things, the results of our operations, cash flows and financial condition, operating and capital requirements, and other factors the board of directors considers relevant. There is no plan to pay dividends in the foreseeable future, and if dividends are paid, there can be no assurance with respect to the amount of any such dividend.

The concentration of our capital stock ownership with our directors and executive officers and their affiliates will limit your ability to influence corporate matters.

Our executive officers and directors and their affiliates together own more than 32% of our outstanding capital stock and voting power before the offering and will own approximately 26% of our common stock after the offering. For the foreseeable future, they will have significant influence over our management and affairs and over all matters requiring stockholder approval, including the election of directors and significant corporate transactions, such as a merger or other sale of our company or our assets. Their ownership may limit your ability to influence corporate matters and, as a result, the market price of our common stock could be adversely affected.

We could be the subject of securities class action litigation due to future stock price volatility.

The stock market in general, and market prices for the securities of companies like ours, recently have experienced extreme volatility that often has been unrelated to the operating performance of the underlying companies. These broad market and industry fluctuations may adversely affect the market price of our common stock, regardless of our operating performance. When the market price of a stock declines significantly, holders of that stock have sometimes instituted securities class action litigation against the company that issued the stock. If any of our stockholders brought a lawsuit against us, our defense of the lawsuit could be costly and divert the time and attention of our management.

Our certificate of incorporation, bylaws and Delaware law may discourage takeovers and business combinations that our stockholders might consider in their best interests.

A number of provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, as well as anti-takeover provisions of Delaware law, may have the effect of delaying, deterring, preventing or rendering more difficult a change in control of Rubicon that our stockholders might consider in their best interests. These provisions include:

- Ø establishment of a classified board of directors;
- Ø granting to the board of directors sole power to set the number of directors and to fill any vacancy on the board of directors, whether such vacancy occurs as a result of an increase in the number of directors or otherwise;
- Ø limitations on the ability of stockholders to remove directors;
- Ø the ability of our board of directors to designate and issue one or more series of preferred stock without stockholder approval, the terms of which may be determined at the sole discretion of the board of directors;

Table of Contents

- Ø prohibition on stockholders from calling special meetings of stockholders;
- Ø prohibition on stockholders from acting by written consent; and
- Ø establishment of advance notice requirements for stockholder proposals and nominations for election to the board of directors at stockholder meetings.

These provisions may prevent our stockholders from receiving the benefit from any premium to the market price of our common stock offered by a bidder in a takeover context. Even in the absence of a takeover attempt, the existence of these provisions may adversely affect the prevailing market price of our common stock if they are viewed as discouraging takeover attempts in the future.

The foregoing provisions of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws may also make it difficult for stockholders to replace or remove our management. These provisions may facilitate management entrenchment that may delay, deter, render more difficult or prevent a change in our control, which may not be in the best interests of our stockholders.

Management will have broad discretion for the use of proceeds to us from this offering, including the ability to apply the proceeds to uses that do not increase our operating results or market value.

We estimate that we will receive net proceeds of approximately \$50.2 million from this offering. We expect to use most of such net proceeds to expand our crystal growth and post crystal growth manufacturing facilities, including our facility under construction in Malaysia. Our management will have broad discretion in the use of the remaining net proceeds and may use these remaining net proceeds in ways that do not improve our operating results or market value or to which certain stockholders object. You will not have the opportunity, as part of your investment decision, to assess whether these remaining net proceeds are being used appropriately.

Future sales of substantial amounts of our common stock could adversely affect the price of our common stock.

If our stockholders sell substantial amounts of our common stock following this offering, the prevailing market price for our common stock could be adversely affected. Such sales by our stockholders might make it more difficult for us to issue new equity or equity-related securities in the future at a time and place we deem appropriate.

As of May 31, 2010, there were 20,356,031 shares of our common stock outstanding. Our executive officers and directors and the selling stockholders will hold in the aggregate approximately 6,057,239 shares of our outstanding common stock after giving effect to this offering and have agreed with the underwriters that they will not for a period of approximately 90 days from the date of this prospectus supplement offer, sell, contract to sell, encumber, grant any option for the sale of or otherwise dispose of any of our securities without the prior written consent of UBS Securities LLC. When these lock-up agreements expire or are terminated, the shares of our common stock subject to those agreements will be eligible for sale under Rule 144, Rule 144(d) or Rule 701 under the Securities Act of 1933.

There are no agreements between the underwriters and any of our stockholders or affiliates releasing them from these lock-up agreements as of the date hereof. After the completion of