

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15 (D) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER: 0-31553

XCEL BRANDS, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

76-0307819
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

475 Tenth Ave, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10018
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)
(347)-727-2474

(Issuer's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Check whether the issuer (1) filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15 (d) of the Exchange Act during the past 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its Website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files) Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a small reporting company.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Small reporting company

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

As of November 14, 2014, there were 11,999,454 shares of common stock, \$.001 par value per share, of the issuer outstanding.

XCEL BRANDS, INC.

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Xcel Brands, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

	September 30, 2014 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2013 (See Note 1)
Assets		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,532,000	\$ 7,461,000
Accounts receivable, net	5,369,000	3,541,000
Inventory	409,000	70,000
Prepaid expenses	495,000	477,000
Total current assets	<u>11,805,000</u>	<u>11,549,000</u>
Property and Equipment:		
Leasehold improvements, furniture and equipment	2,566,000	1,922,000
Less: accumulated depreciation	1,117,000	769,000
Total property and equipment	<u>1,449,000</u>	<u>1,153,000</u>
Other Assets:		
Trademarks and other intangibles, net	69,692,000	45,308,000
Goodwill	12,371,000	12,371,000
Deferred finance costs, net	381,000	199,000
Other assets	289,000	344,000
Total other assets	<u>82,733,000</u>	<u>58,222,000</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 95,987,000</u>	<u>\$ 70,924,000</u>
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 2,892,000	\$ 1,289,000
Deferred revenue	422,000	491,000
Other current liabilities	2,277,000	66,000
Current portion of long-term debt	2,500,000	565,000
Total current liabilities	<u>8,091,000</u>	<u>2,411,000</u>
Long-Term Liabilities:		
Long-term debt, less current portion	38,652,000	24,161,000
Deferred tax liabilities	7,678,000	8,918,000
Other long-term liabilities	120,000	57,000
Total long-term liabilities	<u>46,450,000</u>	<u>33,136,000</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>54,541,000</u>	<u>35,547,000</u>
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' Equity:		
Preferred stock, \$.001 par value, 1,000,000 shares authorized, none issued and outstanding	-	-
Common stock, \$.001 par value, 25,000,000 shares authorized, 11,999,454 and 10,005,509 issued and outstanding at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively	12,000	10,000
Paid-in capital	37,390,000	30,843,000
Retained earnings	4,044,000	4,524,000
Total stockholders' equity	<u>41,446,000</u>	<u>35,377,000</u>
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	<u>\$ 95,987,000</u>	<u>\$ 70,924,000</u>

See Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Xcel Brands, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations

	For the Three Months Ended September 30,		For the Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Revenues				
Net licensing revenue	\$ 5,092,000	\$ 3,075,000	\$ 13,821,000	\$ 8,863,000
Design and service fee revenue	286,000	714,000	1,161,000	1,288,000
Net retail sales	235,000	130,000	381,000	162,000
Total revenues	5,613,000	3,919,000	15,363,000	10,313,000
Cost of goods sold	242,000	61,000	354,000	74,000
Gross profit	5,371,000	3,858,000	15,009,000	10,239,000
Operating expenses				
Salaries, benefits and employment taxes	2,603,000	1,646,000	7,325,000	4,713,000
Other design and marketing costs	411,000	39,000	767,000	325,000
Other selling, general and administrative expenses	846,000	748,000	2,445,000	1,902,000
Stock-based compensation	932,000	2,295,000	4,319,000	4,652,000
Depreciation and amortization	265,000	222,000	756,000	663,000
Total operating expenses	5,057,000	4,950,000	15,612,000	12,255,000
Other expenses (income)				
Loss on extinguishment of debt	-	1,351,000	-	1,351,000
Gain on reduction of contingent obligation	-	(5,100,000)	(600,000)	(5,100,000)
Total other expenses (income)	-	(3,749,000)	(600,000)	(3,749,000)
Operating income (loss)	314,000	2,657,000	(3,000)	1,733,000
Interest and finance expense				
Interest expense - term debt	227,000	189,000	597,000	738,000
Other interest and finance charges	187,000	196,000	464,000	685,000
Total interest and finance expense	414,000	385,000	1,061,000	1,423,000
Income (loss) before income taxes	(100,000)	2,272,000	(1,064,000)	310,000
Income tax benefit	(166,000)	(847,000)	(584,000)	(1,626,000)
Net income (loss)	\$ 66,000	\$ 3,119,000	\$ (480,000)	\$ 1,936,000
Net income (loss) per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.31	\$ (0.04)	\$ 0.22
Diluted	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.29	\$ (0.04)	\$ 0.20
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:				
Basic	12,021,614	10,167,769	11,526,277	8,892,303
Diluted	13,034,169	10,753,850	11,526,277	9,478,787

See Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Xcel Brands, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Equity

	Common Stock			Retained Earnings	Total
	<u>Share</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Paid-in-Capital</u>		
Balances, January 1, 2014	10,005,509	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,843,000	\$ 4,524,000	\$ 35,377,000
Shares issued to employees and directors in connection with restricted stock grants, net of forfeitures	1,453,850	1,000	-	-	1,000
Issuance of Common Stock in connection with asset acquisition	571,429	1,000	2,285,000	-	2,286,000
Compensation expense in connection with stock options, warrants and restricted stock	-	-	4,319,000	-	4,319,000
Shares repurchased on vesting of restricted stock	(42,000)	-	(63,000)	-	(63,000)
Shares issued on exercise of stock options	10,666	-	6,000	-	6,000
Net loss for the nine months ended September 30, 2014	-	-	-	(480,000)	(480,000)
Balances, September 30, 2014	<u>11,999,454</u>	<u>\$ 12,000</u>	<u>\$ 37,390,000</u>	<u>\$ 4,044,000</u>	<u>\$ 41,446,000</u>

See Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Xcel Brands, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

For the Nine Months Ended September 30
2014 **2013**

	2014	2013
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income (loss)	\$ (480,000)	\$ 1,936,000
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization expense	756,000	663,000
Amortization of deferred finance costs	56,000	77,000
Stock-based compensation	4,319,000	4,652,000
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(2,000)	45,000
Amortization of seller note discount	392,000	438,000
Amortization of senior note discount	-	139,000
Deferred income tax benefit	(1,239,000)	(1,515,000)
Loss on extinguishment of debt	-	1,351,000
Gain on reduction of contingent obligations	(600,000)	(5,100,000)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(1,826,000)	(1,305,000)
Inventory	(339,000)	(90,000)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	37,000	23,000
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,666,000	(325,000)
Deferred revenue	(69,000)	(3,000)
Other liabilities	21,000	(53,000)
Net cash provided by operating activities	2,692,000	933,000
Cash flows used in investing activities		
Cash consideration for the acquisition of the Ripka Brand	(12,365,000)	-
Purchase of property and equipment	(645,000)	(268,000)
Increase in long-term security deposit	-	(8,000)
Net cash used in investing activities	(13,010,000)	(276,000)
Cash flows provided by financing activities		
Proceeds from term debt related to the Ripka Brand	9,000,000	-
Proceeds from term debt related to the Isaac Mizrahi Brand	-	13,000,000
Proceeds from issuance of Common Stock and warrants	-	5,000,000
Proceeds from issuance on exercise of stock options	6,000	-
Shares repurchased on vesting of restricted stock	(63,000)	-
Payment of contingent obligation	(315,000)	-
Payment of deferred finance costs	(239,000)	(217,000)
Payment of seller note	-	(500,000)
Prepayment fee on extinguishment of debt	-	(189,000)
Payment of expenses related to issuance of Common Stock	-	(310,000)
Repayment of long-term debt	-	(13,500,000)
Repayment of lease obligation	-	(3,000)
Net cash provided by financing activities	8,389,000	3,281,000
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(1,929,000)	3,938,000
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	7,461,000	3,929,000
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 5,532,000	\$ 7,867,000
Supplemental disclosure of non-cash activities:		
Issuance of notes payable as partial consideration in the acquisition of the Ripka Brand (net of debt discount - see Note 6)	\$ 4,165,000	\$ -
Issuance of Common Stock in connection with the acquisition of the Ripka Brand	\$ 2,286,000	\$ -
Contingent obligations relating to the acquisition of the Ripka Brand	\$ 3,784,000	\$ -
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Cash paid during the period for income taxes	\$ 93,000	\$ 240,000
Cash paid during the period for interest	\$ 571,000	\$ 928,000

See Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

XCEL BRANDS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
September 30, 2014
(Unaudited)

1. Nature of Operations, Background and Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10-01 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management of Xcel Brands, Inc., (“Xcel”, the “Company”, “we”, “us”, or “our”), all adjustments (consisting primarily of normal recurring adjustments) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. The Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2013 has been derived from audited consolidated financial statements. Operating results for the three months (the “Current Quarter”) and nine months (the “Current Nine Months”) ended September 30, 2014 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for a full fiscal year.

The Company is a brand management company engaged in the design, licensing, marketing and retail sales of consumer brands, including the Isaac Mizrahi Brand, the Judith Ripka Brand (the “Ripka Brand”) and certain rights of the Liz Claiborne New York Brand (“LCNY”). The Company operates in two segments – (1) our Design and Licensing Business and (2) our Retail Business.

Our Design and Licensing Business operates in a “working capital light” business model, wherein we license our brands to third parties, provide certain design services, and generate royalty and design and service fee revenues through licensing and other agreements with wholesale manufacturers, sourcing and design companies and retailers. This includes licensing our own brands for promotion and distribution through an omni-channel retail sales strategy including distribution through direct-response television (i.e. QVC, Inc. (“QVC”) and The Shopping Channel), the internet and traditional brick-and-mortar retail channels. The Isaac Mizrahi Brand and LCNY brand are licensed through our wholly-owned subsidiary IM Brands, LLC (“IM Brands”) (the “Isaac Mizrahi Business”) and the Ripka Brand is licensed through our wholly-owned subsidiary, JR Licensing, LLC (“JR Licensing”).

The Company’s Retail Business operates through its wholly-owned subsidiary, IMNY Retail Management, LLC (“Retail Management”). Retail Management launched an e-commerce platform under our Isaac Mizrahi Brand in May 2014. With the Ripka Brand acquisition, we also acquired the rights to the Ripka e-commerce site. We opened our first retail store in June 2013 in Southampton, New York (the “Southampton Store”) and opened our second retail store, an outlet store located near Atlanta, GA (the “Georgia Store”), in March 2014.

For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and footnotes thereto included in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior period condensed consolidated financial statements to conform to the current period presentation.

Subsequent events

The Company evaluates subsequent events and transactions that occur after the balance sheet date up to the date that the financial statements were issued for potential recognition or disclosure. Any material events that occur between the balance sheet date and the date that the financial statements were available for issuance are disclosed as subsequent events, while the financial statements are adjusted to reflect any conditions that existed at the balance sheet date. Based upon this review, the Company did not identify any recognized or non-recognized subsequent events that would have required adjustment or disclosure in the financial statements.

2. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) No. 2014-09, “Revenue from Contracts with Customers” (ASU 2014-09). ASU 2014-09 provides guidance for revenue recognition and affects any entity that either enters into contracts with customers to transfer goods or services or enters into contracts for the transfer of nonfinancial assets and supersedes the revenue recognition requirements in Topic 605, “Revenue Recognition,” and most industry-specific guidance. The core principle of ASU 2014-09 is the recognition of revenue when a company transfers promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the company expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. ASU 2014-09 defines a five-step process to achieve this core principle and, in doing so, companies will need to use more judgment and make more estimates than under the current guidance. These may include identifying performance obligations in the contract, estimating the amount of variable consideration to include in the transaction price and allocating the transaction price to each separate performance obligation. ASU 2014-09 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016 and interim periods therein, using either of the following transition methods: (i) a full retrospective approach reflecting the application of the standard in each prior reporting period with the option to elect certain practical expedients, or (ii) a retrospective approach with the cumulative effect of initially adopting ASU 2014-09 recognized at the date of adoption (which includes additional footnote disclosures). Early adoption is not permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the method and impact the adoption of ASU 2014-09 will have on the Company’s condensed consolidated financial statements and disclosures.

XCEL BRANDS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
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(Unaudited)

In June 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-12, "Compensation - Stock Compensation" (Topic 718): Accounting for Share-Based Payments When the Terms of an Award Provide That a Performance Target Could be Achieved after the Requisite Service Period ("ASU 2014-12"). ASU 2014-12 affects entities that grant their employees share-based payments in which terms of the award provide that a performance target that affects vesting could be achieved after the requisite service period. The amendments in ASU 2014-12 require that a performance target that affects vesting and that could be achieved after the requisite service period be treated as a performance condition. ASU 2014-12 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015. Early adoption is permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the method and impact the adoption of ASU 2014-12 will have on the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements and disclosures.

3. Acquisition of the Judith Ripka Trademarks

On April 3, 2014, JR Licensing entered into an asset purchase agreement dated April 1, 2014 (the "Purchase Agreement") with Judith Ripka Berk ("Ms. Ripka"), an individual, and certain companies owned by Ms. Ripka including Judith Ripka Creations (collectively "Ripka"), pursuant to which JR Licensing purchased from Ripka, the Ripka Brand, including the Judith Ripka and Judith Ripka Sterling trademarks and other intellectual property rights. On April 3, 2014, the closing date of the acquisition, the Company paid Ripka \$12.0 million in cash, \$6.0 million through the issuance of interest free notes payable (the "JR Seller Notes") (see Note 6) and the issuance of 571,429 shares of the Company's stock. The Company is also obligated to pay to Ripka \$1.0 million (the "First Installment") and \$1.2 million (the "Second Installment") in cash or shares of the Company's Common Stock on October 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015, respectively, subject to approval by the Company's senior lender, Bank of Hapoalim ("BHI"). The First Installment payment date was extended to January 8, 2015. The extension did not result in any penalty or cost to the Company. In addition, the Company agreed to pay Ripka additional contingent consideration of up to \$5 million in aggregate, payable in cash or shares of the Company's Common Stock (see Note 6).

Concurrent with the acquisition of the Ripka Brand, the Company entered into (i) a license agreement with QVC that provides for a royalty to be paid to the Company by QVC based on net sales of products under the Ripka Brand (the "QVC Ripka Agreement"), and (ii) a license with an affiliate of Ripka that will design, source, market, and promote products under the Ripka Brand to wholesale accounts, through an e-commerce site which Xcel will operate, and through Ripka owned retail stores (the "Wholesale Business"). The license with the Wholesale Business provides for a royalty payable to the Company based on its wholesale sale of products under the Ripka Brand. The Company issued to QVC a warrant (the "QVC Warrant") to purchase a number of shares of our Common Stock equal to (i) 4.75% of the number of shares of common stock of Xcel issued and outstanding on the date the QVC Warrant becomes exercisable less (ii) 571,429 shares of our Common Stock (subject to adjustment in the event of a stock split, combination, or stock dividend). The QVC Warrant is exercisable at a price of \$.001 per share and becomes exercisable only upon Ms. Ripka becoming obligated to make a specified payment to QVC under the QVC Ripka Agreement and remains exercisable until such obligation is satisfied in full. Management has determined that the probability of the warrants becoming exercisable is highly unlikely and, therefore, no value was assigned to them as of September 30, 2014.

Concurrent with the acquisition of the Ripka Brand, JR Licensing entered into a \$9 million, 5-year term loan with BHI and amended the existing IM Term Loan, as more fully described in Note 6.

On April 1, 2014, the Company entered into a three-year employment agreement with Ms. Ripka such that she will serve as the Chief Design Officer of the Judith Ripka brand and perform duties and obligations under agreements with the Company's licensees or any other third party pursuant to which Ms. Ripka has agreed to, and is obligated to, perform personal services. Thereafter, the agreement will renew automatically for one-year periods, unless either party gives written notice of intent to terminate at least 30 days prior to such termination. Ms. Ripka's base salary is \$750,000 per annum, and Ms. Ripka is entitled to other benefits including (a) non-accountable expenses of \$114,000 per year, (b) \$1,000 per month for rent for her Florida office, (c) the employment of a personal assistant, and (d) first class travel expenses.

Ms. Ripka is also eligible to receive an annual cash bonus for each calendar year during the term of her employment (or any partial fiscal year during the term), equal to ten percent (10%) of the direct response television royalty income during such calendar year in excess of \$6 million.

The Ripka Brand acquisition was accounted for as an asset purchase. The aggregate purchase price was allocated to the following assets based on the fair market value of the assets on the date of acquisition:

Allocated to:	
Trademarks	\$ 24,600,000
Copyrights & other intellectual property	190,000
Total acquisition price	<u>\$ 24,790,000</u>

XCEL BRANDS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
September 30, 2014
(Unaudited)

The following represents the aggregate purchase price of \$24.8 million, including legal and other fees of \$0.39 million:

Cash paid	\$ 11,975,000
Installment payment due October 1, 2014	1,000,000
Installment payment due April 1, 2015	1,190,000
JR Seller Notes (at fair value, see Note 6)	4,165,000
Fair value of common stock issued (571,429 shares)	2,286,000
Ripka Earn-Out obligation (at fair value, see Note 6)	3,784,000
Direct transaction expenses	390,000
Total consideration	<u>\$ 24,790,000</u>

4. Trademarks, Goodwill and Other Intangibles

Trademarks and other intangibles, net consist of the following:

	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013
Trademarks	\$ 69,100,000	\$ 44,500,000
Licensing agreements	2,000,000	2,000,000
Copyrights & other intellectual property	190,000	-
Accumulated amortization	(1,598,000)	(1,192,000)
Net carrying amount	<u>\$ 69,692,000</u>	<u>\$ 45,308,000</u>

Amortization expense for intangible assets for the Current Quarter and the quarter ended September 30, 2013 (the "Prior Year Quarter") was \$134,000 and \$132,000, respectively. Amortization expense for intangible assets for the Current Nine Months and the nine months ended September 30, 2013 (the "Prior Year Nine Months") was \$406,000 and \$395,000, respectively. The trademarks of the Ripka Brand and the Isaac Mizrahi Brand and related goodwill have been determined to have an indefinite useful life and accordingly, consistent with Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") Topic 350, no amortization has been recorded in the Company's unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations.

As of September 30, 2014, the Company had \$12,371,000 of goodwill relating to the acquisition of the Isaac Mizrahi Business. There was no change in goodwill during the Current Nine Months.

5. Significant Contracts

QVC Agreements

In connection with the Company's agreements with QVC, they are required to pay us fees based primarily on a percentage of its net sales of Isaac Mizrahi and Ripka branded merchandise. QVC royalty revenue represents a significant portion of the Company's total revenues. Royalties from QVC totaled \$4,049,000 and \$1,992,000 for the Current Quarter and the Prior Year Quarter, respectively, representing 72% and 51% of the Company's total revenues each quarter, respectively. Royalties from QVC totaled \$10,654,000 and \$5,976,000 for the Current Nine Months and the Prior Year Nine Months, respectively, representing 69% and 58% of the Company's total revenues, respectively. As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, the Company had receivables from QVC of \$3,839,000 and \$2,060,000, representing 72% and 58% of the Company's receivables, respectively. The December 31, 2013 QVC receivable includes \$152,000 of earned revenue that had been accrued but not billed as of December 31, 2013.

6. Debt

The Company's net carrying amount of debt is comprised of the following:

	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013
IM Term Loan	\$ 13,000,000	\$ 13,000,000
JR Term Loan	9,000,000	-
IM Seller Note	5,284,000	5,045,000
JR Seller Notes	4,318,000	-
Contingent obligation – IM Seller	5,766,000	6,681,000
Contingent obligation – JR Seller	3,784,000	-
Total	41,152,000	24,726,000
Current portion	2,500,000	565,000
Total long-term debt	<u>\$ 38,652,000</u>	<u>\$ 24,161,000</u>

XCEL BRANDS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
September 30, 2014
(Unaudited)

IM Term Loan

On August 1, 2013, IM Brands entered into a \$13.0 million 5-year term loan with BHI (the “IM Term Loan”). On April 3, 2014, in connection with entering into the JR Term Loan (as defined below) and the Ripka Brand acquisition, the Company amended the IM Term Loan. The IM Term Loan is secured by all of the assets of IM Brands and the Company’s membership interest in IM Brands and bears interest at an annual fixed rate of 4.44%, payable quarterly in arrears each calendar quarter. The obligations under the IM Term Loan are also guaranteed by the Company. Scheduled principal payments are as follows:

Date of Payment	Amount of Principal Payment
October 1, 2014, January 1, 2015, April 1, 2015 and July 1, 2015	\$ 250,000
October 1, 2015, January 1, 2016, April 1, 2016 and July 1, 2016	\$ 625,000
October 1, 2016, January 1, 2017, April 1, 2017 and July 1, 2017	\$ 750,000
October 1, 2017, January 1, 2018 and April 1, 2018	\$ 875,000
July 1, 2018	\$ 3,875,000

In addition, on and after January 1, 2015, IM Brands shall repay an amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of Cash Flow Recapture (as defined below) until such time as principal payments received by BHI for the IM Term Loan and the JR Term Loan (as defined below) are equal to or greater than \$1 million in the aggregate (other than a result of scheduled payments), thereafter IM Brands will begin to repay twenty percent (20%) of Cash Flow Recapture. “Cash Flow Recapture” shall mean for any fiscal period, cash provided by operating activities for such period less (a) capital expenditures not made through the incurrence of indebtedness less (b) all interest and principal (including indebtedness owed for the IM Term Loan) paid or payable during such period less (c) all income tax payments made during such period.

Financial Covenants. The Company is required to maintain minimum fixed charge ratio and liquidity covenants and other non-monetary covenants, including reporting requirements and trademark preservation in accordance with the terms and conditions of the IM Term Loan. In addition,:

- Minimum EBITDA (as defined in the BHI loan documents) of IM Brands shall not be less than \$6,000,000 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014, not less than \$9,000,000 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015, not less than \$11,000,000 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016 and not less than \$12,500,000 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017 and each fiscal year end thereafter. EBITDA for IM Brands shall exclude allocated corporate overhead;
- Minimum EBITDA of the Company shall not be less than \$5,500,000 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014, not less than \$7,500,000 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015, not less than \$11,000,000 for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2016 and not less than \$12,000,000 for fiscal year ending December 31, 2017 and each fiscal year end thereafter;
- Capital expenditures of the Company and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis in any fiscal year shall not exceed \$1.3 million;
- \$31 million of minimum net worth to be maintained by the Company at all times;
- \$3 million of minimum liquidity covenants to be maintained by the Company at all times.

As of September 30, 2014, the Company and IM Brands were in full compliance with all of the covenants under the IM Term Loan.

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JR Term Loan

On April 3, 2014, the Company entered into a \$9 million 5-year term loan with BHI (the “JR Term Loan”). The JR Term Loan is secured by all of the assets of JR Licensing and a guarantee from Xcel secured by a pledge of Xcel’s membership interest in JR Licensing and by a guarantee from IM Brands, secured by a pledge of all of IM Brands’ assets. The JR Term Loan bears interest at an annual variable rate of either, LIBOR plus 3.5% or Prime plus 0.50%, at JR Licensing’s option, payable, if the JR Term Loan is bearing interest based on LIBOR, on the last business day of the applicable interest period and, if the JR Term Loan is bearing interest based on Prime, quarterly in arrears on the first day of each calendar quarter. Scheduled quarterly principal payments are as follows:

Date of Payment	Amount of Principal Payment
April 1, 2015, July 1, 2015, October 1, 2015 and January 1, 2016	\$ 375,000
April 1, 2016, July 1, 2016, October 1, 2016 and January 1, 2017	\$ 625,000
April 1, 2017, July 1, 2017, October 1, 2017 and January 1, 2018	\$ 750,000
April 1, 2018, July 1, 2018, October 1, 2018 and January 1, 2019	\$ 500,000

In addition, JR Licensing shall prepay the outstanding amount of the JR Term Loan from excess cash flow (the “JR Cash Flow Recapture”) for each fiscal year commencing with the year ending December 31, 2015 in arrears in an amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of such JR Cash Flow Recapture. JR Cash Flow Recapture shall mean for any fiscal period, cash provided by operating activities for such period less (a) capital expenditures not made through the incurrence of indebtedness less (b) all interest and principal (including indebtedness owed for the JR Loan) paid or payable during such period less (c) the portion of the holdback amount paid or payable pursuant to the Purchase Agreement during such period less (d) payments made during such period by JR Licensing to Xcel equal to the estimated tax liability of Xcel resulting from any taxable income (net of losses, including for prior years to the extent permitted to be deducted) of JR Licensing. JR Licensing also executed a guaranty of the IM Term Loan, secured by a pledge of all of JR Licensing’s assets.

Financial Covenants. The Company is required to maintain;

- Minimum fixed charge ratio (as defined in the BHI loan documents), of 1.20 to 1.00 for the periods ending on or prior to December 31, 2015 and not less than 1.10 to 1.00 for periods commencing on and after March 31, 2016;
- Minimum EBITDA (as defined in the BHI loan documents), not less than \$5,500,000 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014, not less than \$7,500,000 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015, not less than \$11,000,000 for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2016 and not less than \$12,000,000 for fiscal year ending December 31, 2017 and each fiscal year end thereafter;
- Capital expenditures on a consolidated basis in any fiscal year shall not exceed \$1.3 million;
- \$31 million of minimum net worth to be maintained at all times;
- \$3 million of minimum liquidity covenants to be maintained at all times; and
- other non-monetary covenants, including reporting requirements and trademark preservation in accordance with the terms and conditions of the JR Term Loan.

In addition, JR Licensing is required to maintain minimum EBITDA of \$3 million for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014, not less than \$4 million for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015 and not less than \$5 million for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016 and each fiscal year end thereafter. EBITDA for JR licensing shall exclude allocated corporate overhead. As of September 30, 2014, the Company and JR Licensing were in full compliance with all of the covenants under the JR Term Loan.

IM Seller Note

On September 29, 2011, as part of the consideration for the purchase of the Isaac Mizrahi Business, the Company issued to IM Ready-Made, LLC (“IM Ready”) a promissory note (the “IM Seller Note”) in the principal amount of \$7,377,000. The stated interest rate of the IM Seller Note is 0.25%. Management determined that this rate was below the Company’s expected borrowing rate, which was then estimated at 9.25%. Therefore, the Company discounted the IM Seller Note by \$1,740,000 using a 9.0% imputed annual interest rate, resulting in an initial value of \$5,637,000. Also, on September 29, 2011, the Company prepaid \$123,000 of interest on the IM Seller Note. The imputed interest amount is being amortized over the term of the IM Seller Note and recorded as other interest and finance expense on the Company’s unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations.

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On December 24, 2013, the IM Seller Note was amended (1) revising the Maturity Date to September 30, 2016 (the “Amended Maturity Date”), (2) revising the Subsequent Maturity Date to September 30, 2018 (the “Amended Subsequent Maturity Date”), (3) providing the Company with a prepayment right with its Common Stock, subject to remitting in cash the required cash payments set forth below and a minimum Common Stock price of \$4.50 per share and (4) requiring interim scheduled payments. Scheduled principal payments (including amortization of imputed interest) are as follows:

Payment Date	Payment Amount	Amount Payable in Cash (i)	Amount Payable in Cash with Restrictions (ii)	Amount Payable in Stock (iii)
December 24, 2013	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ –	\$ –
January 31, 2015	\$ 750,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
January 31, 2016	\$ 750,000	\$ –	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000
September 30, 2016	\$ 4,377,432	\$ –	\$ –	\$ 4,377,432

- (i) \$1,500,000 was paid prior to December 31, 2013.
- (ii) Amounts payable in cash with restrictions are subject to BHI approving the cash payment. If BHI does not approve the cash payment, the amount shall be payable in shares of Common Stock subject to the provisions described above.
- (iii) This includes the last payment on the Amended Maturity Date and may include amounts payable in cash with restrictions whereby BHI provides approval and the amount would be paid with the Company’s Common Stock. Amounts payable with the Company’s Common Stock shall be subject to the provisions described above.

The stated interest rate of the IM Seller Note remains at 0.25%. Management has determined that the Company’s expected borrowing rate as of the date of the amendment was 6.44%. Based on the revised payment schedule and the change in the Company’s expected borrowing rate, the Company has increased the IM Seller Note discount by \$337,000, and accordingly reduced the carrying value of the IM Seller Note. Management has determined that the amendment to the IM Seller Note was in conjunction with an amendment to the contingent obligation to IM Ready (the “Earn-out Obligation”) and the reduction to the carrying value of the Seller Note was recorded as part of the gain on reduction of contingent obligations in the Company’s December 31, 2013 consolidated statement of operations.

For the Current Quarter and the Prior Year Quarter, the Company incurred interest expense of \$86,000 and \$159,000, respectively, which includes amortization of the discount on the IM Seller Note of \$81,000 and \$149,000, respectively. For the Current Nine Months and the Prior Year Nine Months, the Company incurred interest expense of \$254,000 and \$469,000, respectively, which includes amortization of the discount on the IM Seller Note of \$239,000 and \$438,000, respectively. The IM Seller Note balance, net of discount, at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013 was \$5,284,000 and \$5,045,000, respectively.

JR Seller Notes

On April 3, 2014, as part of the consideration for the purchase of the Ripka Brand, JR Licensing issued to Ripka \$6.0 million principal amount JR Seller Notes. The JR Seller Notes have a term of five years from the date of issuance, are payable in cash or shares of Xcel Common Stock valued at the time of payment, at the Company’s option, and with a floor price of \$7.00 per share if paid in stock, with Ripka having certain rights to extend the maturity of the JR Seller Notes in the event the Company’s stock is trading at a price of less than \$7.00 per share.

Management determined that its expected borrowing rate is estimated to be 7.33% and has, therefore, discounted the JR Seller Notes by \$1,835,000 using a 7.33% imputed annual interest rate, resulting in an initial value of \$4,165,000. The imputed interest amount is being amortized over the term of the JR Seller Notes and recorded as other interest and finance expense on the Company’s unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations.

For the Current Quarter and the Current Nine Months, the Company incurred interest expense of \$78,000 and \$153,000, respectively, which consists solely of amortization of the discount on the JR Seller Notes. The JR Seller Notes balance, net of discount, at September 30, 2014 was \$4,318,000.

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Contingent Obligations

IM Earn-out obligation

IM Ready may earn additional shares of Common Stock with a value of up to \$7,500,000 (the "Earn-Out Value") for the 12-month period ending September 30, 2015, with the number of shares to be issued based upon the greater of (i) \$4.50 per share and (ii) the average stock price for the last twenty days in such period, and with such earn-out payment contingent upon the Isaac Mizrahi Business achieving the net royalty income target set forth below (the "Earn-Out Obligation"). On December 24, 2013, the Company and IM Ready amended the terms of the Earn-Out Obligation and eliminated the additional consideration for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014 and the Company made a one-time cash payment of \$315,000 to IM Ready in March 2014. The Earn-Out Obligation is recorded as \$3.0 million and \$3.6 million long-term debt at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively, and \$0.3 million as a current liability at December 31, 2013, on the condensed consolidated balance sheets.

The additional \$0.6 million reduction was recorded as a gain on reduction of contingent obligations in the Company's unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations in the Current Nine Months. The reduction in the Earn-Out Obligation was based primarily on a revision of projected future net royalty income related to the Isaac Mizrahi Brand within the earn-out period. The recorded earn-out obligation was reduced as a result of the timing of projected future net royalty income of the Isaac Mizrahi Business, therefore diminishing the probability of achieving the remaining royalty target. This adjustment resulted from the Company having better visibility in its 2015 royalties given current Isaac Mizrahi Brand product sales information.

Any future change in the Earn-Out Obligation will result in an expense or income in the period in which it is determined the fair market value of the carrying value has changed. The royalty targets and percentage of the potential earn-out value are as follows:

ROYALTY TARGET PERIOD	ROYALTY TARGET	EARN-OUT VALUE
Royalty Target Period (October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015)	\$ 24,000,000	\$ 7,500,000

IM Ready will receive a percentage of the Earn-Out Value based upon the percentage of the actual net royalty income of the Isaac Mizrahi Business to the royalty target as set forth below.

APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE	% OF EARN-OUT VALUE EARNED
Less than 76%	0%
76% up to 80%	40%
80% up to 90%	70%
90% up to 95%	80%
95% up to 100%	90%
100% or greater	100%

The Earn-Out Value is payable solely in stock. In accordance with ASC Topic 480, "Distinguishing Liabilities from Equity" ("ASC Topic 480"), the earn-out obligation is treated as a liability in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheets because of the variable number of shares payable under the agreement.

IM QVC Earn-Out

The Company is obligated to pay IM Ready \$2.8 million, payable in cash or Common Stock, at the Company's option, contingent upon IM Brands receiving aggregate net royalty income of at least \$2.5 million from QVC in the twelve-month period ending September 30, 2015 with such stock based upon the greater of (x) \$4.50 per share, and (y) the average stock price for the last twenty days prior to the time of such issuance (the "QVC Earn-Out"). Management has determined that it is probable that the \$2.5 million in net royalty income from QVC will be met. In accordance with ASC Topic 480 "Distinguishing Liabilities from Equity", the QVC Earn-Out obligation is treated as a liability in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheets because of the variable number of shares payable under the agreement. Management will assess no less frequently than each reporting period the status of this contingent obligation. Any change in the expected obligation will result in an expense or income in the period in which it is determined fair market value has changed.

Ripka Earn-Out

In connection with the purchase of the Ripka Brand, the Company agreed to pay Ripka additional consideration of up to \$5 million in aggregate (the "Ripka Earn-Out"), payable in cash or shares of the Company's Common Stock based on the fair market value of our Common Stock at the time of payment, and with a floor of \$7.00 per share, based on the Ripka Brand achieving in excess of \$1 million of net royalty income during each of the 12-month periods beginning on October 1, 2015 and ending on October 1, 2018, less the sum of all earn out payments for any prior earn-out period. Net royalty income shall not include any revenues generated by direct-response television sales or any revenue accelerated as a result of termination. The Ripka Earn-Out of \$3.78 million is recorded as long-term debt at September 30, 2014 on the condensed consolidated balance sheets based on the difference between the fair value of the assets of the Ripka Brand acquired and the total consideration paid.

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In accordance with ASC Topic 480, the earn-out obligation is treated as a liability in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheets because of the variable number of shares payable under the agreement.

As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, total contingent obligations were \$9.6 million and \$6.7 million, respectively.

7. Stockholders' Equity

2011 Equity Incentive Plan

The Company's 2011 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended and restated (the "Plan") is designed and utilized to enable the Company to offer its employees, officers, directors, consultants and others whose past, present and/or potential contributions to the Company have been, are or will be important to the success of the Company, an opportunity to acquire a proprietary interest in the Company. A total of 5,000,000 shares of common stock are eligible for issuance under the Plan. The Plan provides for the grant of any or all of the following types of awards: stock options, restricted stock, deferred stock, stock appreciation rights and other stock-based awards. The Plan is administered by the Board, or, at the Board's discretion, a committee of the Board. (See Note 12 Subsequent Events)

On April 1, 2013, the Company issued to management 1,270,000 shares of restricted stock. The vesting date of 1,075,000 shares of restricted stock was September 20, 2014, provided, however, that each such grantee has the right to extend the vesting date by six-month increments in his sole discretion, prior to the date the restrictions would lapse. The vesting date of 97,500 shares of restricted stock was September 30, 2014 and the vesting date of 97,500 shares of restricted stock is March 31, 2015. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each grantee may extend the first anniversary of all or a portion of the Restricted Shares by six months and, thereafter one or more times may further extend such date with respect to all or a portion of the Restricted Shares until the next following September 30th or March 31st, as the case may be, by providing written notice of such election to extend such date with respect to all or a portion of the Restricted Shares prior to such date. As of September 30, 2014, restrictions on 85,000 shares have lapsed and the remaining 1,185,000 shares are scheduled to vest on March 31, 2015. The Company repurchased 40,750 shares of restricted stock upon vesting to satisfy the grantees' tax withholding obligation.

On April 1, 2013, the Company issued to non-management directors 100,000 shares of restricted stock. The vesting date of 50,000 shares of restricted stock was September 30, 2014 and the vesting date of 50,000 shares of restricted stock is March 31, 2015. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each grantee may extend the first anniversary of all or a portion of the Restricted Shares by six months and, thereafter one or more times may further extend such date with respect to all or a portion of the Restricted Shares until the next following September 30th or March 31st, as the case may be, by providing written notice of such election to extend such date with respect to all or a portion of the Restricted Shares prior to such date. As of September 30, 2014, restrictions on 10,000 shares have lapsed and 90,000 shares are scheduled to vest on March 31, 2015.

On May 1, 2013, the Company issued to non-executive employees 29,750 shares of restricted stock. The shares of restricted stock will vest evenly over 2 years, whereby 50% shall vest on April 30, 2014 and 50% shall vest on April 30, 2015.

On January 1, 2014, the Company issued to a member of management and a key employee an aggregate of 825,000 shares of restricted stock. The vesting date for 550,000 shares of restricted stock is July 1, 2014, and the remaining 275,000 shall vest evenly over the periods ending September 30, 2014, 2015 and 2016, provided, however, that each such grantee has the right to extend the vesting dates by six-month increments in their sole discretion, prior to the date the restrictions would lapse. As of September 30, 2014, restrictions on 2,500 shares have lapsed and 550,000 shares, 89,500 shares, 92,000 shares and 91,000 shares are scheduled to vest on January 1, 2015, March 31, 2015, September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2016, respectively. The Company repurchased 1,250 shares of restricted stock upon vesting to satisfy the grantee's tax withholding obligation.

On January 1, 2014, the Company granted options to purchase an aggregate of 50,000 shares of Common Stock to a non-executive employee of the Company. The exercise price per share of the options is \$5.00 per share, and 50% of the options will vest on each of the first and second anniversaries of the grant date. As of September 30, 2014, all of these options have been forfeited.

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On April 1, 2014, the Company issued to non-management directors 50,000 shares of restricted stock. The shares of restricted stock will vest evenly over two years, whereby 50% shall vest on March 31, 2015 and 50% shall vest on March 31, 2016. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each grantee may extend the first anniversary of all or a portion of the Restricted Shares by six months and, thereafter one or more times may further extend such date with respect to all or a portion of the Restricted Shares until the next following September 30th or March 31st, as the case may be, by providing written notice of such election to extend such date with respect to all or a portion of the Restricted Shares prior to such date.

On May 15, 2014, the Company issued to certain executives and employees 557,475 shares of restricted stock. The shares of restricted stock will vest evenly over two years, whereby 50% shall vest on May 31, 2015 and 50% shall vest on May 31, 2016. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each grantee may extend the first anniversary of all or a portion of the Restricted Shares by six months and, thereafter one or more times may further extend such date with respect to all or a portion of the Restricted Shares until the next following September 30th or March 31st, as the case may be, by providing written notice of such election to extend such date with respect to all or a portion of the Restricted Shares prior to such date.

On May 15, 2014, the Company granted options to purchase an aggregate of 50,000 shares of Common Stock to a non-executive employee of the Company. The exercise price per share of the options is \$7.50 per share, and 50% of the options will vest on each of May 15, 2015 and 2016.

On July 15, 2014, the Company issued one of its directors 25,000 shares of restricted stock. The shares of restricted stock will vest evenly over two years, whereby 50% shall vest on March 31, 2015 and 50% shall vest on March 31, 2016. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the grantee may extend the first anniversary of all or a portion of the Restricted Shares by six months and, thereafter one or more times may further extend such date with respect to all or a portion of the Restricted Shares until the next following September 30th or March 31st, as the case may be, by providing written notice of such election to extend such date with respect to all or a portion of the Restricted Shares prior to such date.

On July 1, 2014, the Company granted options to purchase an aggregate of 35,000 shares of Common Stock to certain non-executive employees of the Company. The exercise price per share of the options is \$7.50 per share, and 50% of the options will vest on each of June 30, 2015 and 2016.

Stock Options and Warrants

The Black-Scholes option-pricing model was developed for use in estimating the fair value of traded options which have no vesting restrictions and are fully transferable. In addition, option valuation models require the input of highly subjective assumptions including the expected stock price volatility.

The fair value for all options was estimated at the dates of grant using a Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following weighted-average assumptions:

Expected Volatility (i)	24-30%
Expected Dividend Yield	0%
Expected Life (Term) (ii)	2 – 3 years
Risk-Free Interest Rate	0.58% - 0.69%

The options that the Company granted under the Plan expire at various times, either five, seven or ten years from the date of grant, depending on the particular grant.

- (i) Due to the Company's limited trading activity, the Company used the average volatility of similar companies in its industry.
- (ii) Due to the Company's limited history, the expected life of options was calculated using the 'simplified method' in accordance with Staff Accounting Bulletin ("SAB") Topic 14.02 in accordance with SAB 110.

Stock Options

A summary of the Company's stock options for the Current Nine Months is as follows:

	Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Outstanding at January 1, 2014	343,125	\$ 4.55
Granted	135,000	6.57
Canceled	–	–
Exercised	(19,000)	3.58
Expired/Forfeited	(65,125)	4.55
Outstanding at September 30, 2014 and expected to vest	394,000	\$ 5.29
Exercisable at September 30, 2014	309,000	\$ 4.70

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Compensation expense related to stock option grants for the Current Quarter and the Prior Year Quarter was \$15,000 and \$19,000, respectively. Compensation expense related to stock option grants for the Current Nine Months and the Prior Year Nine Months was \$37,000 and \$58,000, respectively. Compensation expense related to stock options is reported as stock-based compensation under operating expenses in the unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations. An additional amount of \$100,000 is expected to be expensed over a period of 21 months from October 1, 2014 through June 2016.

The preceding table does not include options to purchase 576 shares of Common Stock for \$728 per share issued under the Company's former equity plan. The Company does not expect to issue any equity awards under this plan.

Warrants

A summary of the Company's warrants for the Current Nine Months is as follows:

	Warrants	Weighted-Average Exercise Price
Outstanding at January 1, 2014	1,469,543	\$ 3.05
Granted	-	-
Canceled	-	-
Exercised	-	-
Expired/Forfeited	-	-
Outstanding at September 30, 2014 and expected to vest	1,469,543	\$ 3.05
Exercisable at September 30, 2014	1,457,043	\$ 3.03

Compensation expense related to warrants for the Current Quarter and the Prior Year Quarter was \$0 and \$11,000, respectively. Compensation expense related to warrants for the Current Nine Months and the Prior Year Nine Months was \$0 and \$33,000, respectively. Compensation expense related to warrants in the Prior Year Quarter and Prior Year Nine Months is reported as stock-based compensation under operating expenses in the unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations.

The Company values other warrants issued to non-employees at the commitment date at the fair market value of the instruments issued, a measure which is more readily available than the fair market value of services rendered, using the Black-Scholes model. The fair market value of the instruments issued is expensed over the vesting period.

Compensation expense related to warrants in connection with a licensing agreement is amortized over the 5-year initial term of the license agreement and is recorded as a discount to licensing revenues. The stock-based licensing revenue-discount for the Current Quarter and the Prior Year Quarter was \$10,000 and \$1,000, respectively. The stock-based licensing revenue-discount for the Current Nine Months and the Prior Year Nine Months was \$13,000 and \$3,000, respectively. The Company fully amortized the remaining value of warrants due to the termination of the related license agreement during the three months ended September 30, 2014.

In October 2013, the Company issued to Adam Dweck ("AD") who is an Executive Vice President of Earthbound, LLC ("Earthbound") and the son of Jack Dweck, who is a principal of Earthbound and was on the Company's board of directors through June 26, 2014 (see Note 11, Related Party Transactions), warrants to purchase 25,000 shares of common stock with an exercise price of \$5.00 per share and a term expiring August 2, 2016. 12,500 of the warrants are subject to AD generating \$0.5 million of accumulated royalties and additional Warrants to purchase 12,500 shares of Common Stock at an exercise price of \$5.00 per share, subject to AD generating \$1.0 million of accumulated royalties. To date, AD has reached the first milestone of \$0.5 million sourced royalties and the Company deems it likely that AD will reach the second milestone of \$1.0 million of AD sourced royalties by August 2, 2016. Compensation expense related to warrants in connection with the licensing agreement is amortized over the expected period in which the royalty targets will be met and is recorded as a royalty commission expense and netted with licensing revenues. The stock-based commission expense for the Current Quarter and the Prior Year Quarter was \$0. The stock-based commission expense for the Current Nine Months and the Prior Year Nine Months was \$1,000 and \$0, respectively. No additional amount is expected to be amortized after September 30, 2014.

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Restricted Stock

Compensation cost for restricted stock is measured using the fair value of the Company's Common Stock at the date the common stock is granted. The compensation cost, net of projected forfeitures, is recognized over the period between the grant date and the date any restrictions lapse, with compensation cost for grants with a graded vesting schedule recognized using the treasury method. The restrictions do not affect voting and dividend rights.

A summary of the Company's restricted stock for the Current Nine Months is as follows:

	Restricted Shares	Weighted- Average Grant Date Fair Value
Outstanding at January 1, 2014	2,026,554	\$ 3.59
Granted	1,457,475	5.28
Canceled	-	-
Vested	(110,000)	3.86
Expired/Forfeited	(3,625)	3.86
Outstanding at September 30, 2014	<u>3,370,404</u>	<u>\$ 4.39</u>

Compensation expense related to restricted stock grants for the Current Quarter and Prior Year Quarter was \$917,000 and \$2,266,000, respectively. Compensation expense related to restricted stock grants for the Current Nine Months and Prior Year Nine Months was \$4,282,000 and \$4,562,000, respectively. Compensation expense related to restricted stock grants is reported as stock-based compensation under operating expenses in the unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations. An additional amount of \$4,466,000 is expected to be amortized over a period of 24 months from October 1, 2014 through September 2016.

Shares Available Under the Company's 2011 Equity Incentive Plan

At September 30, 2014 there were 614,033 common shares available for issuance under the Company's 2011 Equity Incentive Plan.

Shares Reserved for Issuance

At September 30, 2014, there were 2,478,152 common shares reserved for issuance pursuant to warrants, stock options and availability for issuance under the Company's 2011 Equity Incentive Plan.

Dividends

The Company has not paid any dividends to date.

8. Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share ("EPS") is computed by dividing net income (loss) available to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted EPS gives effect to all potentially dilutive common shares outstanding during the period, including stock options and warrants, using the treasury stock method, and convertible debt, using the if-converted method. Diluted EPS excludes all potentially dilutive shares of common stock if their effect is anti-dilutive.

Shares used in calculating basic and diluted income (loss) per share are as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Basic	12,021,614	10,167,769	11,526,277	8,892,303
Effect of exercise of warrants	897,509	4,241	-	4,644
Effect of exercise of stock options	115,046	581,840	-	581,840
Diluted	<u>13,034,169</u>	<u>10,753,850</u>	<u>11,526,277</u>	<u>9,478,787</u>

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The computation of basic and diluted EPS excludes the common stock equivalents of the following potentially dilutive securities because their inclusion would be anti-dilutive:

	Three Months Ended September		Nine Months Ended September	
	30,		30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Stock options and warrants	-	1,126,925	-	949,498

9. Income Tax

The effective income tax rate for the Current Quarter and the Prior Year Quarter was approximately 166% and (37%), respectively, resulting in an income tax benefit of \$0.17 million and \$0.85 million, respectively. The effective income tax rate for the Current Nine Months and the Prior Year Nine Months was approximately 55% and (524%), respectively, resulting in a \$0.58 million and \$1.63 million income tax benefit, respectively. During the Current Nine Months and prior to the Current Quarter, the Company recorded a \$0.6 million gain on the reduction of contingent obligations related to the acquisition of the Isaac Mizrahi Brand. This gain is not subject to tax and was treated as a discrete item in the Current Nine Months (See Note 6, Debt). The disproportionate income (loss) before income taxes for the Current Quarter, compared to the Current Nine Months, has a disproportionate effect on the effective income tax rate for the Current Quarter. During the Prior Year Quarter, the Company recorded a \$5.1 million gain on the reduction of contingent obligations related to the acquisition of the Isaac Mizrahi business. This gain was not subject to tax and was treated as a discrete item. Additionally, there was an increase in the state income tax rate which was booked to deferred income tax expense and treated as a discrete item occurring in the Prior Year Quarter and Prior Year Nine Months.

10. Segment Information

Since the Company opened its first retail store in June 2013, it operates in two segments - (1) design and licensing and (2) retail, which are based on its business activities and organization. The operating segments are segments of the Company for which separate discrete financial information is available and for which operating results are evaluated regularly by the chief operating decision makers, made up of the Company's executive management team, in deciding how to allocate resources, as well as in assessing performance. The primary key performance indicators are net sales or revenue (in the case of licensing and design fees) and operating income for each segment. The design and licensing segment includes royalties earned on licensed products and use of the Company's trademarks, and rights granted to third parties for the right to sell the Company's products and related design and other service fees. The retail segment represents sales of the Company's branded products through its retail stores. All intercompany revenues are eliminated in consolidation and are not reviewed when evaluating segment performance. Corporate overhead expenses are allocated to the segments based upon specific usage or other allocation methods.

The following table presents the key performance information of the Company's reportable segments:

	Three Months Ended Sept. 30,		Nine Months Ended Sept. 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Revenues:				
Net licensing revenue	\$ 5,092,000	\$ 3,075,000	\$ 13,821,000	\$ 8,863,000
Design and service fee revenue	286,000	714,000	1,161,000	1,288,000
Design and licensing revenues	5,378,000	3,789,000	14,982,000	10,151,000
Net retail sales	235,000	130,000	381,000	162,000
Total revenues	\$ 5,613,000	\$ 3,919,000	\$ 15,363,000	\$ 10,313,000
Operating income (loss):				
Design and licensing	\$ 860,000	\$ 2,797,000	\$ 1,465,000	\$ 1,966,000
Retail	(546,000)	(140,000)	(1,468,000)	(233,000)
Total operating income (loss)	\$ 314,000	\$ 2,657,000	\$ (3,000)	\$ 1,733,000
Depreciation and amortization:				
Design and licensing	\$ 225,000	\$ 214,000	\$ 667,000	\$ 653,000
Retail	40,000	8,000	89,000	10,000
Total depreciation and amortization	\$ 265,000	\$ 222,000	\$ 756,000	\$ 663,000
Capital expenditures:				
Design and licensing	\$ 90,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 189,000	\$ 127,000
Retail	107,000	23,000	456,000	141,000
Total capital expenditures	\$ 197,000	\$ 53,000	\$ 645,000	\$ 268,000

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	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013
Long Lived Assets:		
Trademarks and other intangibles, net		
Design and licensing	\$ 69,692,000	\$ 45,308,000
Retail	-	-
Total trademarks and intangibles, net	<u>\$ 69,692,000</u>	<u>\$ 45,308,000</u>
Property and equipment		
Design and licensing	\$ 845,000	\$ 939,000
Retail	604,000	214,000
Total property and equipment	<u>\$ 1,449,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,153,000</u>

11. Related Party Transactions

Todd Slater

On September 29, 2011, the Company adopted a one-year agreement which was amended on October 4, 2011, with Todd Slater, who was appointed as a director of the Company commencing on October 17, 2011, for services related to the Company's licensing strategy and introduction of potential licensees. During the term of the agreement or during the year following the expiration of the term of the agreement, if the Company enters into a license or distribution agreement with a licensee introduced by Mr. Slater, Mr. Slater was entitled to receive a commission equal to fifteen percent (15%) of all net royalties received by the Company during the first term of such agreement, payable within thirty days of receipt of the net royalties.

On July 10, 2012, the Company and Mr. Slater entered into an amendment (the "Amendment") to the agreement. Pursuant to the Amendment, the Company paid to Mr. Slater \$163,000 as payment in full for (i) the cancellation of all amounts which are or may otherwise become due or payable to Mr. Slater under the terms of the agreement for licensees already introduced to the Company by Mr. Slater and which Mr. Slater was entitled to fifteen percent (15%) of the revenues from such licensees under the agreement, and (ii) the assignment to the Company of all such amounts payable directly to Mr. Slater pursuant to such license agreements. The Company has capitalized this payment and amortizes the expense in accordance with the revenue earned from the respective licensing agreements on which this payment was based.

The Company incurred direct licensing costs with Mr. Slater, who serves as a director for the Company, from amortization of a prepaid licensing commission payment in 2012 for the Current Quarter and the Prior Year Quarter of \$21,000 and \$12,000, respectively, and for the Current Nine Months and Prior Year Nine Months of \$63,000 and \$35,000, respectively.

On June 5, 2013, the Company paid Threadstone Advisors, LLC ("Threadstone") a fee of \$280,000 for the placement of \$4,000,000 of proceeds from a private stock offering. This placement fee was recorded as a reduction in paid-in capital and reflected in the stockholders' equity section of the condensed consolidated balance sheet. Mr. Slater is an officer and a 5% owner of Threadstone.

Licensing Agent Agreement

On August 2, 2011, the Company entered into a licensing agent agreement with AD, pursuant to which he is entitled to a five percent (5%) commission on any royalties we receive under any new license agreements that he procures for us during the initial term of such license agreements. AD earned \$5,000 and \$4,000 in fees for the Current Quarter and Prior Year Quarter and earned \$17,000 and \$14,000 in fees for the Current Nine Months and Prior Year Nine Months, respectively.

We granted to AD warrants to purchase 12,500 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$5.00 per share, subject to AD generating \$0.5 million of accumulated royalties and additional warrants to purchase 12,500 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$5.00 per share, subject to AD generating \$1.0 million of accumulated royalties. Additionally, AD shall be entitled to receive warrants to purchase 25,000 shares of common stock priced at the fair market value at the time of issuance, subject to AD generating \$2.0 million of accumulated royalties. These warrants all expire on August 2, 2016. AD has reached the first milestone of \$500,000 sourced royalties and it is likely AD will reach the second milestone of \$1,000,000 of AD sourced royalties by August 2, 2016. The Company subsequently issued warrants to AD to purchase 25,000 shares of common stock of which 12,500 vested in 2013 and 12,500 will vest upon achieving the second milestone.

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Mark DiSanto

On June 5, 2013 Mark X. DiSanto Investment Trust (the "DiSanto Trust") purchased 285,715 shares of its Common Stock and Warrants to purchase an aggregate of 62,500 of the Company's Common Stock for aggregate gross proceeds of \$1,000,003 through the Offering (See Note 7, Stockholders' Equity). Mark DiSanto, a director of the Company, is the trustee and has sole voting and dispositive power for the DiSanto Trust.

12. Subsequent Events

Effective November 6, 2014, we amended our Certificate of Incorporation to increase the total number of authorized shares of capital stock which the Company shall have authority to issue from 26,000,000 shares, consisting of 25,000,000 shares of common stock and 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, to 36,000,000 shares, consisting of 35,000,000 shares of common stock and 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock.

Effective November 6, 2014, we amended our 2011 Equity Incentive Plan, to (a) increase the number of shares of common stock reserved and available for distribution under the Plan from 5,000,000 to 8,000,000, (b) increase the maximum number of shares with respect to Incentive Stock Options (as defined in the Plan) which may be granted under the Plan from 2,000,000 to 5,000,000, (c) increase the maximum number of shares of common stock with respect to which Options or Restricted Stock (as both terms are defined in the Plan) may be granted to any Participant (as defined in the Plan) from 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 and (d) provide for the award of cash bonuses to Participants.

ITEM 2.

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

Safe Harbor Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The statements that are not historical facts contained in this report are forward-looking statements that involve a number of known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, all of which are difficult or impossible to predict and many of which are beyond our control, which may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These risks are detailed in the Risk Section of our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013. The words “believe,” “anticipate,” “expect,” “confident,” “project,” “provide,” “plan,” “likely,” “future,” “ongoing,” “intend,” “may,” “should,” “would,” “could,” “guidance” and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements.

Overview

Xcel Brands, Inc. (“Xcel”, the “Company”, “we”, “us”, or “our”) is a brand management company engaged in the design, licensing, marketing and retail sales of consumer brands, including the Isaac Mizrahi Brand, certain rights of LCNy and the Ripka Brand, which we acquired on April 3, 2014. The Company operates in two segments: (i) the Design and Licensing business and (2) and our Retail Business.

Our objective is to build a diversified portfolio of lifestyle consumer brands through organic growth and acquisition of new brands. To achieve this objective, we intend to:

- grow organically by licensing our existing brands into additional product categories and distribution channels; expanding the brands’ retail penetration, customer awareness and brand loyalty by optimizing sales through cross-channel and social marketing;
- develop international expansion through licenses, partnerships, joint ventures and other arrangements with leading retailers and wholesalers outside the United States;
- acquire consumer brands or the rights to brands which we believe are strategic to our omni-channel sales strategy. We focus on dynamic brands that we believe are synergistic to our existing portfolio of brands, that are leverageable onto our proprietary product development and brand management platform, that exhibit meaningful organic global growth potential and will be accretive to our earnings; and
- expand our e-commerce and retail presence in the United States and internationally to support our design, marketing and licensing business.

We believe that Xcel offers a unique value proposition to its licensors and customers for the following reasons:

- our management team, including our officers’ and directors’ historical track records and relationships within the industry;
- our brand management platform, which has a strong focus on design and marketing; and
- our operating strategy of licensing brands with significant media presence and driving sales through our omni-channel retail sales strategy across direct-response television, brick-and-mortar, internet and retail channels.

The Company seeks to maximize the value of its brands by entering into strategic licenses with licensees who it assists in designing, manufacturing and distributing the licensed products. The Company selects licensees that it believes will be able to produce and sell high quality products in the categories in which they specialize in amounts that are capable of exceeding minimum sales targets and royalties that are included in the Company’s licensing agreements for each of its brands.

Our Design and Licensing business operates in a “working capital light” business model, wherein we license our brands to third parties, provide certain design services, and generate royalty and design and service fee revenues through licensing and other agreements with wholesale manufacturers, sourcing and design companies, and retailers. This includes licensing our own brands for promotion and distribution through an omni-channel retail sales strategy including distribution through direct response television, the internet, and traditional brick-and-mortar retail channels. The Company believes that this strategy distinguishes it from other brand management companies that rely solely on their licensees for design and distribution and enables the Company to leverage the media reach of its direct-response television partners, including through television and social media, to drive sales of products under the Company’s brands across all distribution channels. In our licensing agreements, our partners are responsible for manufacturing and distributing our licensed products, subject to our continued oversight and marketing support. Our business model allows us to focus on our core competencies of designing, marketing and managing brands without much of the risk and investment requirements associated with traditional apparel companies. The Isaac Mizrahi brand and LCNy brand are licensed through our wholly-owned subsidiary IM Brands, LLC (“IM Brands”) (the “Isaac Mizrahi Business”) and the Ripka Brand is licensed through our wholly-owned subsidiary, JR Licensing, LLC (“JR Licensing”).

The Company’s Retail Business operates through its wholly-owned subsidiary, IMNY Retail Management, LLC (“Retail Management”). Retail Management launched an e-commerce platform under our Isaac Mizrahi Brand in May 2014. With the Ripka Brand acquisition, we also acquired the rights to the Ripka e-commerce site. We opened our first retail store in June 2013 in Southampton, New York (the “Southampton Store”) and opened our second retail store, an outlet store located near Atlanta, GA (the “Georgia Store”), in March 2014.

Summary of Operating Results

The three months ended September 30, 2014 (the “Current Quarter”) compared to the three months ended September 30, 2013 (the “Prior Year Quarter”).

The Company had net income of \$0.07 million for the Current Quarter, compared to net income of \$3.12 million for the Prior Year Quarter. Net income for the Current Quarter and the Prior Year Quarter include certain non-cash components as described in the following paragraph and detailed later in this section.

The Company had Adjusted EBITDA of \$1.56 million for the Current Quarter, compared to Adjusted EBITDA of \$1.39 million for the Prior Year Quarter. Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles) unaudited term, defined as net income before interest expense and other financing costs (including gain (loss) on extinguishment of debt), income taxes, other state and local franchise taxes, depreciation and amortization, non-cash compensation and other non-cash income and (expenses) (including gain on reduction of contingent obligations). Management uses Adjusted EBITDA as a measure of operating performance to assist in comparing performance from period to period on a consistent basis and to identify business trends relating to the Company's results of operations. Adjusted EBITDA is also useful because it provides supplemental information to assist investors in evaluating the Company's financial results. A reconciliation of net income to Adjusted EBITDA is provided later in this section.

The Company's operating income was \$0.31 million in the Current Quarter, compared to \$2.66 million in the Prior Year Quarter.

Total Revenues.

Current Quarter total revenues increased approximately \$1.69 million to \$5.61 million from \$3.92 million in the Prior Year Quarter. This was primarily related to increases in net licensing fee revenues of \$2.01 million and net retail sales of \$0.11 million, offset by a decrease in design and service fee revenue of \$0.43 million.

Design and Licensing Segment – Current Quarter net licensing and design and service fee revenues increased approximately \$1.59 million to \$5.38 million from \$3.79 million for the Prior Year Quarter. Net licensing revenues for the Current Quarter increased by \$2.02 million, compared to the Prior Year Quarter, primarily due to an increase in direct response television (“DRT”) revenues of \$2.20 million. Revenues related to our Ripka branded merchandise, which commenced in April 2014, and the continuing growth of our Isaac Mizrahi branded merchandise were the main contributing factors. We are also focusing on our international expansion. In September 2013, we commenced marketing our Isaac Mizrahi brand through DRT in Canada on The Shopping Channel (“TSC”). In April 2014, upon our acquisition of the Ripka Brand, we launched the Ripka Brand on TSC in Canada. In May 2014 we brought the IsaacMizrahiLIVE brand to the United Kingdom through QVC. Wholesale licensing increased by \$0.36 million in the Current Quarter compared with the Prior Year Quarter. Current Quarter design and service fee revenue decreased by \$0.43 million compared with the Prior Year Quarter primarily due to a non-recurring service fees recognized in the Prior Year Quarter.

Retail Segment - The Company reported net retail sales of \$0.24 million in the Current Quarter, which included sales from our Georgia Store that opened in March 2014, the Southampton Store which re-opened in May 2014 and our e-commerce platform launched in May 2014. Net retail sales for the Prior Year Quarter were \$0.13 million, all of which was attributable to the Southampton Store, which opened in June 2013.

Gross Profit.

Retail Segment – The Retail Segment reported no gross profit for the Current Quarter, compared to a gross profit of \$0.07 million for the Prior Year Quarter. During the Current Quarter, we wrote-down our inventory by \$0.08 million for product that is expected to be liquidated in the fourth quarter of this year.

Operating Expenses.

Operating expenses totaled \$5.06 million for the Current Quarter, compared to \$4.95 million for the Prior Year Quarter, an increase of \$0.11 million.

Design and Licensing Segment - Operating expenses totaled \$4.51 million for the Current Quarter, compared to \$4.74 million for the Prior Year Quarter. The decrease of approximately \$0.23 million was primarily related to a decrease in stock-based compensation of \$1.36 million, offset by an increase in compensation expense of \$0.76 million and an increase in other design and marketing costs and general and administrative expenses of \$0.37 million. The increase in compensation expense was primarily due to the staffing needs and performance based compensation attributable to the growth of the Company, and staffing for the Ripka brand acquired in April 2014.

Retail Segment – Operating expenses were \$0.54 million for the Current Quarter, compared to \$0.21 million in the Prior Year Quarter. Operating expenses for the Current Quarter include costs associated with the Georgia Store, the Southampton Store and the e-commerce platform. The Prior Year Quarter only included operating expenses associated with the Southampton Store, which began operations in early May 2013 and incurred store preparation and merchandising costs prior to its opening in mid-June 2013.

Other Expenses (Income).

Other expenses (income) netted to (\$3.75) million for the Prior Year Quarter. The other expenses (income) for the Prior Year Quarter consisted of a \$1.35 million loss on extinguishment of debt offset by a (\$5.1) million gain on reduction of contingent obligations. The loss on extinguishment of debt was the result of the Company refinancing its long-term term debt (“Old Loan”) with a new term debt (“New Loan”) facility, with more favorable terms. The extinguishment of the Old Loan included a prepayment fee of \$0.19 million and an acceleration of deferred finance costs and loan discount of \$1.16 million resulting in a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$1.35 million. The Company reduced the fair value of its contingent obligation by \$5.1 million in the Prior Year Quarter, resulting in a gain on reduction of contingent obligations.

Interest and Finance Expense.

Interest and finance expense for the Current Quarter increased slightly by approximately \$0.03 million to \$0.41 million, compared to \$0.38 million in the Prior Year Quarter. This is primarily due to the \$0.04 million net increase attributable to a higher term debt principal balance from financing a portion of the Ripka Brand acquisition, and a decrease of \$0.01 million in the Current Quarter of interest expense and finance charges from the amortization of debt discounts and deferred finance costs compared with the Prior Year Quarter.

Provision for Income Taxes.

The effective income tax rate for the Current Quarter was approximately 166% resulting in a \$0.16 million income tax benefit. During the Current Quarter, the effective tax rate of 166% is the result of a \$0.6 million gain on the reduction of contingent obligations related to the acquisition of the Isaac Mizrahi Brand treated as a discrete item in the Current Nine Months that occurred prior to the Current Quarter. The disproportionate income (loss) before income taxes for the Current Quarter, compared to the Current Nine Months, has a disproportionate effect on the effective income tax rate for the Current Quarter. The effective income tax rate for the Prior Year Quarter was (37%) resulting in a \$0.85 million income tax benefit. During the third quarter of 2013, the Company recorded a \$5.1 million gain on the reduction of contingent obligations related to the acquisition of the Isaac Mizrahi business. This gain is not subject to tax and was treated as a discrete item. Additionally, there was an increase in the state income tax rate which was booked to deferred income tax expense and treated as a discrete item occurring in the third quarter of 2013.

The nine months ended September 30, 2014 (the “Current Nine Months”) compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2013 (the “Prior Year Nine Months”).

The Company had a net loss of \$0.48 million for the Current Nine Months, compared to a \$1.94 million net income for the Prior Year Nine Months. Net income for the Current Nine Months and the Prior Year Nine Months include certain non-cash components as described in the following paragraph and detailed later in this section.

The Company had Adjusted EBITDA of \$4.56 million for the Current Quarter, compared to Adjusted EBITDA of \$3.30 million for the Prior Year Quarter. Management uses Adjusted EBITDA as a measure of operating performance to assist in comparing performance from period to period on a consistent basis and to identify business trends relating to the Company’s results of operations. Adjusted EBITDA is also useful because it provides supplemental information to assist investors in evaluating the Company’s financial results. A reconciliation of net income to Adjusted EBITDA is provided later in this section.

The Company’s operating loss was \$3,000 in the Current Nine Months, compared to a \$1.73 million operating income in the Prior Year Nine Months.

Total Revenues.

Current Nine Months total revenues increased approximately \$5.05 million to \$15.36 million from \$10.31 million for the Prior Year Nine Months. This was primarily related to increases in net licensing fee revenues of \$4.95 million and net retail sales of \$0.22 million, offset by a decrease in design and service fee revenue of \$0.12 million.

Design and Licensing Segment – Current Nine Months net licensing and design and service fee revenues increased approximately \$4.85 million to \$15.0 million from \$10.15 million for the Prior Year Nine Months. Net licensing revenues for the Current Nine Months increased by \$4.95 million, compared to the Prior Year Nine Months, primarily due to an increase in DRT revenues of \$4.92 million. Increased revenues from our Ripka branded merchandise, which commenced in April 2014, and the continuing growth of Isaac Mizrahi branded merchandise were the main contributing factors. We are also focusing on our international expansion. In September 2013, we commenced marketing our Isaac Mizrahi brand through DRT in Canada on TSC. In April 2014, upon our acquisition of the Ripka Brand, we launched the Ripka Brand on TSC in Canada. In May 2014 we brought the IsaacMizrahiLIVE brand to the United Kingdom through QVC. Wholesale licensing increased by \$0.03 million in the Current Nine Months compared with the Prior Year Nine Months. Current Nine Months design and service fee revenue decreased by \$0.12 million compared with the Prior Year Nine Months primarily due to a non-recurring service fees recognized in the Prior Year Nine Months.

Retail Segment - The Company reported net retail sales of \$0.38 million in the Current Nine Months, during which the Georgia Store was opened in March 2014, the Southampton Store reopened in May 2014, and our e-commerce platform was launched in May 2014. Net retail sales for the Prior Year Nine Months were \$0.16 million, all of which was attributable to the Southampton Store, which opened June 2013.

Gross Profit.

Retail Segment – Gross profit was \$0.03 million for the Current Nine Months, compared to \$0.08 million for the Prior Year Nine Months. Included in cost of goods sold for the Current Nine Months was a write-down of inventory, one-time shipping charge (transferring inventory from the Southampton Store to the Georgia Store) and shrink reserve totaling \$0.13 million.

Operating Expenses.

Operating expenses totaled \$15.61 million for the Current Nine Months, compared to \$12.26 million for the Prior Year Nine Months, an increase of \$3.35 million.

Design and Licensing Segment - Operating expenses totaled \$14.11 million for the Current Nine Months, compared to \$11.94 million for the Prior Year Nine Months. The increase of approximately \$2.17 million was primarily related to an increase in compensation expense of \$2.07 million and an increase in other design and marketing costs and general and administrative expenses of \$0.43 million, offset by a decrease in stock-based compensation of \$0.33 million. The increase in compensation expense was primarily due to the staffing needs and performance based compensation attributable to the growth of the Company, and staffing for the Ripka brand acquired in April 2014.

Retail Segment – Operating expenses were \$1.50 million for the Current Nine Months, compared to \$0.32 million in the Prior Year Nine Months. Operating expenses for the Current Nine Months include costs associated with the Georgia Store, the Southampton Store and the e-commerce platform. The Prior Year Nine Months only includes operating expenses associated with the Southampton Store, which began operations in early May 2013 and incurred store preparation and merchandising costs prior to its opening in mid-June 2013.

Other Expenses (Income).

Other income for the Current Nine Months consists of a (\$0.6) million gain on the reduction of contingent obligations, as a result of the Company reducing the fair value of its contingent obligation on its IM earn-out obligation. The reduction in the Earn-Out Obligation for the current year was based on a revision of the timing of projected future net royalty income related to the Isaac Mizrahi Business, therefore diminishing the probability of achieving the remaining royalty targets. This adjustment results from the Company having better visibility in its 2015 royalties given current Isaac Mizrahi Brand product sales information.

Other income, net for the Prior Year Nine Months consisted of a \$1.35 million loss on extinguishment of debt offset by a (\$5.1) million gain on reduction of contingent obligations. The loss on extinguishment of debt was the result of the Company refinancing its Old Loan with a New Loan facility, with more favorable terms. The extinguishment of the Old Loan included a prepayment fee of \$0.19 million and an acceleration of deferred finance costs and loan discount of \$1.16 million resulting in a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$1.35 million. The Company reduced the fair value of its contingent obligation by \$5.1 million in the Prior Year Nine Months, resulting in a gain on reduction of contingent obligations.

Interest and Finance Expense.

Interest and finance expense for the Current Nine Months decreased by approximately \$0.36 million to \$1.06 million, compared to \$1.42 million in the Prior Year Nine Months. This was primarily due to the net \$0.14 million decrease attributable to lower interest rates in the Company's term debt, partially offset by higher term debt principal balance from financing a portion of the Ripka Brand acquisition, and a decrease of \$0.22 million in the Current Nine Months of interest expense and finance charges from the amortization of debt discounts and deferred finance costs compared with the Prior Year Nine Months.

Provision for Income Taxes.

The effective income tax rate for the Current Nine Months was approximately 55% resulting in a \$0.58 million income tax benefit. The effective income tax rate for the Prior Year Nine Months was (524%) resulting in a \$1.63 million income tax benefit. During the Current Nine Months, the Company recorded a \$0.6 million gain on the reduction of contingent obligations related to the acquisition of the Isaac Mizrahi Brand. This gain is not subject to tax and was treated as a discrete item occurring in the Current Nine Months (See Note 6, Debt). During the third quarter of 2013, the Company recorded a \$5.1 million gain on the reduction of contingent obligations related to the acquisition of the Isaac Mizrahi business. This gain is not subject to tax and was treated as a discrete item. Additionally, there was an increase in the state income tax rate which was booked to deferred income tax expense and treated as a discrete item occurring in the third quarter of 2013.

Adjusted EBITDA.

Adjusted EBITDA for the Current Quarter increased approximately \$0.16 million to \$1.55 million from \$1.39 million for the Prior Year Quarter. The increase was primarily attributable to an increase in design and licensing segment operating income, exclusive of non-cash expenses, of \$0.47 million, compared with the Prior Year Quarter, partially offset by an increase in retail segment operating loss, exclusive of non-cash expenses, of \$0.31 million compared with the Prior Year Quarter.

Adjusted EBITDA for the Current Nine Months increased approximately \$1.26 million to \$4.56 million from \$3.30 million for the Prior Year Nine Months. The increase was primarily attributable to an increase in design and licensing segment operating income, exclusive of non-cash expenses, of \$2.33 million compared with the Prior Year Nine Months, partially offset by an increase in retail segment operating loss, exclusive of non-cash expenses, of \$1.07 million compared with the Prior Year Nine Months.

The following table is a reconciliation of net income (loss) to Adjusted EBITDA:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Net income (loss)	\$ 66,000	\$ 3,119,000	\$ (480,000)	\$ 1,936,000
Depreciation & amortization	265,000	222,000	756,000	663,000
Interest and finance expense	414,000	385,000	1,061,000	1,423,000
Income provision (benefit)	(166,000)	(847,000)	(584,000)	(1,626,000)
State and local franchise taxes	31,000	(39,000)	75,000	–
Stock-based compensation	932,000	2,295,000	4,319,000	4,652,000
Loss on extinguishment of debt	–	1,351,000	–	1,351,000
Gain on reduction of contingent obligations	–	(5,100,000)	(600,000)	(5,100,000)
Other non-cash adjustments	10,000	2,000	13,000	5,000
Adjusted EBITDA	<u>\$ 1,552,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,388,000</u>	<u>\$ 4,560,000</u>	<u>\$ 3,304,000</u>

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Liquidity

Our principal capital requirements have been to fund working capital needs, and to a lesser extent, capital expenditures. On April 3, 2014, the Company paid \$12.4 million of cash for the acquisition of the Ripka Brand, which includes \$9.0 million of JR Term Loan proceeds. At September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, our unrestricted cash and cash equivalents were \$5.53 million and \$7.46 million, respectively.

We expect that existing cash and operating cash flows will be adequate to meet our operating needs, debt service obligations and capital expenditure needs including the debt service under our term loan facilities for the next twelve months. We are dependent on our licensees for most of our revenues, and there is no assurance that the licensees will perform as projected.

Our design and licensing segment does not require significant capital expenditures. However, we opened the Southampton Store in June 2013 for which \$0.13 million and \$0.14 million of capital expenditures were incurred in the Current Nine Months and the year ended December 31, 2013, respectively. We opened the Georgia Store in March 2014, incurring approximately \$0.22 million and \$0.05 million of capital expenditures in the Current Nine Months and the year ended December 31, 2013, respectively. We currently have no commitments to open additional retail stores, but we are evaluating retail opportunities. We launched an e-commerce platform in May of this year, for which we incurred \$0.02 million of capital expenditures in each of the Current Nine Months and the year ended December 31, 2013. If we expand the retail business, we would be limited to the number of stores we could open without the consent of our lender. In accordance with the terms of the JR Term Loan, we are limited to annual capital expenditures of \$1.3 million in any fiscal year.

The Company's contingent obligations (See Note 6, Debt, in the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements) are payable in stock and/or cash, at the Company's discretion. Payment of these obligations in stock would not affect the Company's liquidity.

The IM Seller Note (See Note 6, Debt in the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements) is payable in cash up to \$1.5 million beginning in 2015, of which \$1.0 million of the cash payment is subject to BHI's approval. The principal portion of the IM Seller Note not required to be paid in cash is payable with stock and/or cash, at the Company's discretion. Payment of these obligations in stock would not affect the Company's liquidity.

The JR Seller Notes (See Note 6, Debt in the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements) have a term of five years and are payable in cash or stock, at the Company's discretion. The Company is also obligated to pay to Ripka \$1.0 million (the "First Installment") and \$1.2 million (the "Second Installment") in cash or shares of the Company's Common Stock on October 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015, respectively, subject to approval by the Company's senior lender, Bank of Hapoalim ("BHI"). The First Installment payment date was extended to January 8, 2015. The extension did not result in any penalty or cost to the Company.

Changes in Working Capital

At September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, the working capital ratio (current assets to current liabilities) was 1.45 to 1.00 and 4.79 to 1.00, respectively. Commentary on components of our cash flows for the Current Nine Months, compared to the Prior Year Nine Months is set forth below:

Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities was approximately \$2.69 million and \$0.93 million in the Current Nine Months and Prior Year Nine Months, respectively. The Current Nine Month's cash provided by operating activities was primarily due to a net loss of \$(0.48) million, adjusted for the net change in operating assets and liabilities of \$(0.51) million and offset by non-cash operating expenses of \$3.68 million. Non-cash operating expenses consist of \$4.32 million of stock-based compensation, \$0.76 million of depreciation and amortization, \$(1.24) million of deferred income tax benefit, \$(0.60) million of gain on the reduction of contingent obligations and \$0.45 million of amortization of debt discount and deferred finance charges. The Prior Year Nine Month's cash provided by operating activities was primarily due to net income of \$1.94 million and non-cash operating expenses of \$0.75 million, offset by a net change in operating assets and liabilities of \$(1.75) million. Non-cash operating expenses primarily consist of stock-based compensation of \$4.65 million, depreciation and amortization of \$0.66 million, non-cash interest and other finance costs of \$0.65 million, deferred income tax benefit of \$(1.52) million, a loss on the extinguishment of debt of \$1.35 million and a gain on the reduction of contingent obligations of \$(5.10) million.

Investing Activities

Net cash used in investing activities for the Current Nine Months was approximately \$13.01 million, compared to \$0.28 million in the Prior Year Nine Months. The Current Nine Months net cash used in investing activities was attributable to cash consideration paid for the acquisition of the Ripka Brand of \$12.36 million and capital expenditures of \$0.65 million. In the Prior Year Nine Months, \$0.27 million of capital expenditures was attributable to property and equipment and \$0.01 million was attributable to payment of a security deposit.

Financing Activities

Net cash provided by financing activities for the Current Nine Months was approximately \$8.39 million, primarily attributable to \$9.00 million of proceeds from the term debt related to the Ripka Brand, offset by \$0.31 million of contingent obligation payments, \$0.06 million of repurchased shares of restricted stock that had vested and \$0.24 million of deferred financing costs related to the Ripka Brand acquisition. Net cash provided by financing activities for the Prior Year Nine Months was approximately \$3.28 million, primarily attributable \$4.69 million of net proceeds (after expenses) from the issuance of common stock and \$0.10 million of net proceeds from refinancing the previous term debt with the IM Term Loan, partly offset by (i) \$0.5 million payment on the IM Seller Note and (ii) \$1.01 million in scheduled principal payments of previous term debt. IM Term Debt gross proceeds of \$13.0 million was used for (i) satisfying the previous term debt principal balance of \$12.49 million, (ii) a prepayment fee and costs of \$0.19 million and (iii) \$0.22 in deferred financing costs related to the IM Term Loan.

Other Factors

We continue to seek to expand and diversify the types of licensed products being produced under the Isaac Mizrahi Brand, and beginning in April 2014 the Ripka Brand. We will seek to continue to diversify the distribution channels within which licensed products are sold, in an effort to reduce dependence on any particular retailer, consumer or market sector. Our acquisition of the Ripka Brand, whose core products have been in fine jewelry, helps diversify our industry focus (the Isaac Mizrahi Brand and LCN Y Brand have a core business in fashion and accessories), while at the same time complementing, expanding and growing our overall business relationship with QVC. We also intend to seek new opportunities, including opening additional retail stores, international expansion through direct response television and licensing arrangements and acquiring additional brands. The success of our Company, however, will still remain largely dependent on our ability to build and maintain our brands' awareness and contract with and retain key licensees and on our licensees' ability to accurately predict upcoming fashion and design trends within their respective customer bases and fulfill the product requirements of their particular retail channels within the global marketplace. Unanticipated changes in consumer fashion preferences, slowdowns in the U.S. economy, changes in the prices of supplies, consolidation of retail establishments, and other factors noted in "Risk Factors," could adversely affect our licensees' ability to meet and/or exceed their contractual commitments to us and thereby adversely affect our future operating results.

Income taxes

Our income tax provision (benefit) is based on an effective income tax rate, which is comprised of the federal statutory rate and a state and local tax rate, net of federal effect. Our state and local tax rate is affected by the location of earned revenue and certain incurred expenses in determining state and local income tax allocations. Accordingly, our state and local tax rate, net of federal effect may vary and could have a material impact on the fair value of our deferred tax assets and liabilities.

Effects of Inflation

We do not believe that the relatively moderate rates of inflation experienced over the past two years in the United States, where we primarily compete, have had a significant effect on revenues or profitability. If there were an adverse change in the rate of inflation by less than 10%, the expected effect on net income would be immaterial.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements that have or are reasonably likely to have a current or future material effect on our financial condition, results of operations or liquidity.

Summary of Critical Accounting Policies

Several of our accounting policies involve management judgments and estimates that could be significant. The policies with the greatest potential effect on our consolidated results of operations and financial position include the estimate of the fair value of the contingent obligations, based on our licensing revenue performance. For our design and licensing segment, we can reasonably forecast revenues and plan expenditures based upon guaranteed royalty minimums and sales projections provided by our retail licensees.

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. We review all significant estimates affecting the financial statements on a recurring basis and record the effect of any adjustments when necessary.

Revenue Recognition

In connection with our licensing model, revenue is generated from licenses and is based on reported sales of licensed products bearing our trademarks, at royalty rates specified in the license agreements. These agreements are also subject to contractual minimum levels. Design and service fees are recorded and recognized in accordance with the terms and conditions of each service contract, including the Company meeting its obligations and providing the relevant services under each contract. Generally, we record on a straight-line basis, each base fee as stated in each service agreement for the covered period and, if applicable, we recognize additional payments received that relate to a future period as deferred revenue, until service is provided or revenue is otherwise earned. We recognize revenue from our retail stores upon sale of our products to retail consumers, net of estimated returns.

Trademarks, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

The Company follows Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standard Codification (“ASC”) Topic 350 - Intangibles, Goodwill and Other (“ASC Topic 350”). Under this standard, goodwill and indefinite lived assets are not amortized. The Company’s definite lived intangible assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives. ASC 350 requires that goodwill and other intangibles with indefinite lives be tested for impairment annually or on an interim basis if events or circumstances indicate that the fair value of an asset has decreased below its carrying value.

Under this standard, the Company annually has the option to first assess qualitatively whether it is more likely than not that there is an impairment. The Company completed its annual quantitative assessment of trademarks, goodwill and other intangibles at December 31, 2013 and determined that no impairment charges were required. Additionally, the Company did not identify any events or changes in circumstances during the nine months ended September 30, 2014 that would indicate that the carrying value of its trademarks, goodwill and other intangibles at September 30, 2014 may not be recoverable.

Stock-Based Compensation

The Company accounts for stock-based compensation in accordance with ASC Topic 718 “Compensation - Stock Compensation”, by recognizing the fair value of stock-based compensation as an operating expense in the Company’s condensed consolidated statements of operations. The fair value of the Company’s stock option awards are estimated using the Black-Scholes option valuation model and restricted stock awards are valued at the fair value of the Company’s stock at the time of grant. The Black-Scholes model requires the input of highly subjective assumptions and elections including expected stock price volatility and the estimated life of each award. Compensation cost for restricted stock is measured using the fair value of the Company’s Common Stock at the date the Common Stock is granted. The fair value of stock-based awards is amortized over the service period of the awards. Stock-based compensation that relates to contract performance is amortized over the term of the corresponding contract. For stock-based awards that vest based on performance conditions (e.g. achievement of certain milestones), expense is recognized when it is probable that the condition will be met. In addition, the calculation of compensation costs requires that the Company estimate the number of awards that will be forfeited during the vesting period.

Fair Value of Contingent Obligations

ASC Subtopic 820-10 “Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures” defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. ASC Subtopic 820-10 outlines a valuation framework, creates a fair value hierarchy in order to increase the consistency and comparability of fair value measurements, and details the disclosures that are required for items measured at fair value. We have contingent obligations that are required to be measured at fair value on a recurring basis. Our contingent obligations were measured using inputs from Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy, which states:

Level 3 – unobservable inputs that reflect our assumptions that market participants would use in pricing assets or liabilities based on the best information available. The Company’s earn-out obligations (See Note 6, Debt) are based upon certain projected net royalty revenues as defined in the terms and conditions of the acquisition of the Isaac Mizrahi Brand and Ripka Brand.

Income Taxes

Income tax expense is the tax payable for the period and the change during the period in deferred tax assets and liabilities. Deferred income taxes are determined based on the difference between the financial reporting and tax bases of assets and liabilities using enacted rates in effect during the year in which the differences are expected to reverse. Valuation allowances are established when necessary to reduce deferred tax assets to the amount expected to be realized. ASC Topic 740, “Accounting for Income Taxes”, clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an enterprise’s financial statements. Tax positions shall initially be recognized in the financial statements when it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained upon examination by the tax authorities. Such tax positions shall initially and subsequently be measured as the largest amount of tax benefit that has a probability of fifty percent (50%) or greater of being realized upon ultimate settlement with the tax authority, assuming full knowledge of the position and all relevant facts.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Not applicable to smaller reporting companies.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

A. EVALUATION OF DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES:

Our management, under the supervision and with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act")) as of September 30, 2014, the end of the period covered by this report. Based on, and as of the date of such evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of September 30, 2014 such that the information required to be disclosed in our SEC reports is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms, and is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

B. CHANGES IN INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING:

There have not been any significant changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2014 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting, other than as noted below.

During 2014, we undertook certain improvements related to our internal control over financial reporting. Specifically, the Company implemented new policies to segregate certain duties and enhance the overall internal control structure. In addition, we engaged a third party external financial reporting advisor with expertise in GAAP and SEC reporting regulations.

We anticipate that the actions described above and resulting improvements in controls will strengthen the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

None

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

We operate in a highly competitive industry that involves numerous known and unknown risks and uncertainties that could impact our operations. The risks described in Part 1, Item 1A, "Risk Factors" of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 are not the only risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our financial condition and/or operating results.

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

Not applicable

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

(a) Exhibits:

- 31.1 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification (CEO)
- 31.2 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification (CFO)
- 32.1 Section 1350 Certification (CEO)
- 32.2 Section 1350 Certification (CFO)
- 101.INS XBRL Instance Document
- 101.SCH XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
- 101.CAL XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
- 101.LAB XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
- 101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document
- 101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definitions Linkbase Document

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: November 14, 2014

By: /s/ Robert W. D'Loren
Name: Robert W. D'Loren
Title: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

By: /s/ James Haran
Name: James Haran
Title: Chief Financial Officer and Vice President

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Robert W. D'Loren certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2014 of Xcel Brands, Inc. (the "Company").
2. Based on my knowledge, this quarterly report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this quarterly report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this quarterly report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this quarterly report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal controls over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

November 14, 2014

By: /s/ Robert W. D'Loren
Name: Robert W. D'Loren
Title: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, James Haran certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2014 of Xcel Brands, Inc. (the "Company").
2. Based on my knowledge, this quarterly report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this quarterly report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this quarterly report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this quarterly report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the Company's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal controls over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

November 14, 2014

By: /s/ James Haran
Name: James Haran
Title: Chief Financial Officer and Vice President

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Quarterly Report of Xcel Brands, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2014 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Robert W. D'Loren certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that, to my knowledge:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and result of operations of the Company.

November 14, 2014

By: /s/ Robert W. D'Loren
Name: Robert W. D'Loren
Title: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Quarterly Report of Xcel Brands, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2014 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, James Haran, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that, to my knowledge:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and result of operations of the Company.

November 14, 2014

By: /s/ James Haran

Name: James Haran

Title: Chief Financial Officer and Vice President
