

Edgar Filing: AMTECH SYSTEMS INC - Form S-3

AMTECH SYSTEMS INC  
Form S-3  
February 08, 2011

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 8, 2011

Registration No. 333-\_\_\_\_

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

AMTECH SYSTEMS, INC.  
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Arizona  
(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)

86-0411215  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

131 South Clark Drive  
Tempe, AZ 85281  
(480) 967-5146

(Address, including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, including Area Code of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

Bradley C. Anderson  
Chief Financial Officer  
Amtech Systems, Inc  
131 South Clark Drive  
Tempe, AZ 85281  
(480) 967-5146

(Name, Address, including Zip Code and Telephone Number, including Area Code, of Agent For Service)

Copy to:  
Christopher D. Johnson, Esq.  
Ryan J. Kretchmer, Esq.  
Squire, Sanders & Dempsey (US) LLP  
1 East Washington  
Suite 2700  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
(602) 528-4000

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Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or reinvestment plans, please check the following box.



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If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

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

Large Accelerated Filer       Accelerated Filer       Non-accelerated Filer   
 (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)      Smaller Reporting Company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of each class of securities to be registered (1) | Amount to be registered (1)(2) | Proposed maximum offering price per share (2)(3) | Proposed maximum aggregate offering price (2)(3) | Amount of registration fee (2)(4) |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share                |                                |  |  |                                   |
| Preferred Stock  |                                |  |  |                                   |
| Debt Securities  |                                |  |  |                                   |
| Warrants   |                                |  |  |                                   |
| Units  |                                |  |  |                                   |
| Total:   |                                |  | \$60,000,000                                     | \$6,966                           |

(1) There are being registered under this registration statement such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock; such indeterminate principal amount of debt securities; such indeterminate number of warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities; and such indeterminate number of units as may be sold by the registrant from time to time, which together shall have an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$60,000,000. If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price of such debt securities shall be in such greater principal amount at maturity as shall result in an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$60,000,000, less the aggregate dollar amount of all securities previously issued hereunder. Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or as units with other securities registered hereunder. The securities registered hereunder also include such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock, amount of debt securities and warrants as may be issued upon conversion of or exchange for preferred stock or debt securities that provide for conversion or exchange; upon exercise of warrants; or pursuant to the anti-dilution provisions of any such securities. In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the shares being registered hereunder include such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock as may be issuable with respect to the shares being registered hereunder as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

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- (2) In United States dollars or the equivalent thereof in any other currency, currency unit or units or composite currency or currencies.
- (3) The proposed maximum per unit and aggregate offering prices per class of securities will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection with the issuance by the registrant of the securities registered under this registration statement and is not specified as to each class of security pursuant to General Instruction II.D of Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.
- (4) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED FEBRUARY 8, 2011

PROSPECTUS

Amtech Systems, Inc.

\$60,000,000

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Warrants

Units

We may offer and sell from time to time, in one or more series or issuances and on terms that we will determine at the time of the offering, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus, up to an aggregate amount of \$60,000,000.

We will provide specific terms of any securities that we actually offer for sale in supplements to this prospectus. Any prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. The names of any underwriters, dealers or agents involved in the sale of our securities and their compensation will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The net proceeds we expect to receive from such sales will be set forth in such prospectus supplement.

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement. You should carefully read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement as well as the documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus before you purchase any of the securities offered hereby. This prospectus also covers common stock or preferred stock issuable upon exercise, conversion or exchange of warrants, rights and/or debt securities.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Market ("NASDAQ") under the symbol "ASYS" and, on February 4, 2011, the reported last sale price of our common stock was \$27.16. We will make application to list any shares of common stock sold by us under this prospectus and any prospectus supplement on NASDAQ. We will provide information in any applicable prospectus supplement regarding any listing of securities other than shares of our common stock on any securities exchange.

Our principal offices are located at 131 South Clark Drive, Tempe, Arizona 85281 and our telephone number is (480) 967-5146.

YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THE RISKS THAT WE HAVE DESCRIBED IN THIS PROSPECTUS AND IN THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT BEFORE YOU INVEST. SEE "RISK FACTORS" ON PAGE 2.

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

The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

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## EXHIBITS

- 1.1\* Form of Underwriting Agreement
- 4.1 Articles of Incorporation, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Form S-1 Registration Statement No. 2-83934-LA
- 4.2 Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated April 27, 1983, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Form S-1 Registration Statement No. 2-83934-LA
- 4.3 Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated May 19, 1987, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 1987
- 4.4 Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated May 2, 1988, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 1988
- 4.5 Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated May 28, 1993, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Form S-1 Registration Statement (File No. 33-77368)
- 4.6 Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated March 14, 1999, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 1999
- 4.7 Certificate of Designations, Preferences and Privileges of the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock, dated April 21, 2005, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 28, 2005
- 4.8 Amended and Restated Bylaws, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 8, 2008
- 4.9 Amended and Restated Rights Agreement as of December 15, 2008, by and between Amtech Systems, Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., including the form of Certificate of Designation, the form of Rights Certificate and the Summary of Rights attached thereto as Exhibits A, B and C, respectively, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 15, 2008

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(continued)

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 4.10  | Form of Subscription Agreement for the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 28, 2005 |
| 4.11* | Specimen Certificate of Preferred Stock   |
| 4.12* | Form of Warrant Agreement and Certificate   |
| 4.13* | Form of Debt Security   |
| 4.14  | Form of Indenture   |
| 4.15* | Form of Unit Agreement and Unit Certificate   |
| 5.1   | Opinion of counsel regarding legality of securities   |
| 12.1* | Statement of Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges  |
| 23.1  | Consent of counsel (included in Exhibit 5.1 hereto)   |
| 23.2  | Consent of Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C.  |
| 24.1  | Power of attorney   |
| 25.1* | Statement of Eligibility on Form T-1 under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 of the Trustee under the Indenture   |

\* To be filed by amendment to this registration statement or by a report filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a “shelf” registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). By using a shelf registration statement, we may offer and sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus, in one or more offerings from time to time over the next three years, up to a total dollar amount of \$60,000,000. This prospectus provides you with general information. Each time we sell securities under this shelf registration statement, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement also may add, update or change information contained in the prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and the prospectus supplement related to any offering as well as additional information described under the headings “Incorporation By Reference” and “Where You Can Find More Information.”

You should rely only on the information that we have provided or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, any free writing prospectus or other written communication we may authorize to be delivered to you. We have not provided, and have not authorized anyone else to provide, you with different or additional information.

This prospectus, any prospectus supplement, any free writing prospectus and any other written communication do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which they specifically relate, nor does this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, any free writing prospectus or any other written communication constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus or in the documents incorporated by reference herein, any prospectus supplement, any free writing prospectus or other written communication is accurate as of any date other than the date noted therein or, in the case of documents incorporated by reference, the filing date thereof, regardless of its time of delivery, and you should not consider any information in this prospectus or in the documents incorporated by reference herein, any prospectus supplement, any free writing prospectus or other written communication to be investment, legal or tax advice. We encourage you to consult your own counsel, accountant and other advisors for legal, tax, business, financial and related advice regarding an investment in our securities.

For further information about our business and the securities, you should refer to the registration statement and its exhibits. The exhibits to our registration statement contain the full text of certain contracts and other important documents we have summarized in this prospectus. Since these summaries may not contain all the information that you may find important in deciding whether to purchase the securities we may offer, you should review the full text of these documents.

This prospectus does not contain all the information provided in the registration statement we filed with the SEC. For further information about us or our securities offered hereby, you should refer to that registration statement, which you can obtain from the SEC as described below under the caption “Where You Can Find More Information.”

We may sell securities through underwriters or dealers, through agents, directly to purchasers or through a combination of these methods. We and our agents reserve the sole right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of securities. The prospectus supplement, which we will provide to you each time we offer securities, will set forth the names of any underwriters, agents or others involved in the sale of securities and any applicable fee, commission or discount arrangements with them. See the information described below under the caption “Plan of Distribution.”

In this prospectus, the terms “we,” “our,” “us,” “Amtech” and the “Company” refer to Amtech Systems, Inc., unless otherwise specified.

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

The following summary does not contain all of the information that may be important to purchasers of our securities. Prospective purchasers of securities should carefully review the detailed information and financial statements, including the notes thereto, appearing elsewhere in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus.



## Our Company

Amtech was incorporated in Arizona in October 1981, under the name Quartz Engineering & Materials, Inc. We changed to our present name in 1987. We conduct operations through four wholly-owned subsidiaries: Tempres Systems, Inc., a Texas corporation with all of its operations in The Netherlands, acquired in 1994, also referred to herein as Tempres Systems or Tempres®; P.R. Hoffman Machine Products, Inc. (PR Hoffman), an Arizona corporation based in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, acquired in July 1997; Bruce Technologies, Inc. (Bruce Technologies®), a Massachusetts corporation based in Billerica, Massachusetts, acquired in July 2004, or Bruce Technologies; and R2D Automation SAS (R2D), a French corporation located near Montpellier, France, acquired in October 2007.

We are a leading supplier of horizontal diffusion furnace systems used for solar (photovoltaic) cell and semiconductor manufacturing, and are recognized in the markets we serve for our technology and our brands. We operate in two business segments: (i) solar and semiconductor equipment and (ii) polishing supplies. Our solar and semiconductor equipment is sold under the brand names of Tempres Systems and Bruce Technologies, which have customers in both the solar industry and the semiconductor industry. Within the solar industry, we provide diffusion and automation equipment to solar cell manufacturers. Within the semiconductor industry, we provide equipment to manufacturers of analog, power, automotive and microcontroller chips with geometries greater than 0.3 micron, a strategy we believe minimizes direct competition with significantly larger suppliers of semiconductor equipment. Under the PR Hoffman brand, we believe we are also a leading supplier of insert carriers to manufacturers of silicon wafers, and we provide lapping and polishing consumable products as well as equipment used in various industries.

We have been providing manufacturing solutions to the semiconductor industry for over 30 years and are leveraging our semiconductor technology and industry presence in an effort to capitalize on growth opportunities in the solar industry. Our customers use our furnaces to manufacture solar cells, semiconductors, silicon wafers and microelectromechanical systems (MEMS), which are used in end markets such as solar power, telecommunications, consumer electronics, computers, automotive and hand-held devices. To complement our research and development efforts, we also sell our furnaces to research institutes and universities.

For fiscal 2010, we recognized net revenue of \$120.0 million, which included \$99.0 million of solar revenue or approximately 83% of our total revenue.

## Our Offices

We maintain our principal executive offices at 131 South Clark Drive, Tempe, Arizona 85281. Our telephone number is (480) 967-5146. Our website is located at [www.amtechsystems.com](http://www.amtechsystems.com). Other than as described in "Where You Can Find More Information" below, the information on, or that can be accessed through, our web site is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, and you should not consider it to be a part of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. Our web site address is included as an inactive textual reference only.

## RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should review carefully the risks and uncertainties described under the heading "Risk Factors" contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, or any updates in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, together with all of the other information appearing in this prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, before deciding whether to purchase any of the securities being registered pursuant to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. Each of the risk factors could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition, as well as adversely affect the value of an investment in our securities, and the occurrence of any of these risks might cause you to lose all or a part of your investment.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). You may access our filings through our website at [www.amtechsystems.com](http://www.amtechsystems.com), free of charge, as soon as reasonably practical after we electronically file them with or furnish them to the SEC. Other information contained in our website is not incorporated by reference in, and should not be considered a part of, this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement. You also may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the SEC to register the securities offered hereby under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act). This prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement, including certain exhibits and schedules. You may obtain the registration statement and exhibits to the registration statement from the SEC at the address listed above or from the SEC's website – [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and each prospectus supplement include and incorporate forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included or incorporated in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement regarding our strategy, prospects, plans, objectives, future operations, future revenue and earnings, projected margins and expenses, technological innovations, future products or product development, product development strategies, potential acquisitions or strategic alliances, the success of particular product or marketing programs, the amount of revenue generated as a result of sales to significant customers, financial position, and liquidity and anticipated cash needs and availability are forward-looking statements. The words "anticipates," "believes," "could," "confident," "estimates," "expects," "forecasts," "hopes," "intends," "likely," "may," "plans," "possible," "potential," "should," "will," "would" and variations of such words and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

Actual results or events could differ materially from the forward-looking statements we make. Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially are the factors discussed under the "Risk Factors" heading in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010. We also will include or incorporate by reference in each prospectus supplement important factors that we believe could cause actual results or events to differ materially from the forward-looking statements that we make. Should one or more known or unknown risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove inaccurate, actual results could differ materially from past results and those anticipated, estimated, projected or implied by these forward-looking statements. You should consider these factors and the other cautionary statements made in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or the documents we incorporate by reference in this prospectus as being applicable to all related forward-looking statements wherever they appear in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or the documents incorporated by reference. While we may elect to update forward-looking statements wherever they appear in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or the documents incorporated by reference, we do not assume, and specifically disclaim, any obligation to do so, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Our forward-looking statements do not reflect the potential impact of any future acquisitions, mergers, dispositions, joint ventures or investments we may make.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

This prospectus constitutes a part of a registration statement on Form S-3 filed under the Securities Act. As permitted by the SEC's rules, this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, which form a part of the registration statement, do not contain all the information that is included in the registration statement. You will find additional information about us in the registration statement. Any statements made in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement concerning legal documents are not necessarily complete and you should read the documents that are filed as exhibits to the registration statement or otherwise filed with the SEC for a more complete understanding of the document or matter.

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The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information that we incorporate by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus. Information that we file with the SEC in the future and incorporate by reference in this prospectus automatically updates and supersedes previously filed information as applicable.

We incorporate by reference into this prospectus the following documents filed by us with the SEC, other than any portion of any such documents that are not deemed “filed” under the Exchange Act in accordance with the Exchange Act and applicable SEC rules:

- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010
- Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended December 31, 2010
- Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 18, 2010
- Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on December 23, 2010
- Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 26, 2011
- Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 1, 2011
- The information specifically incorporated by reference into our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010 from our definitive proxy statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on December 21, 2010.
- The description of our common stock contained in the Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference into this prospectus all documents (other than any portions of any such documents that are not deemed “filed” under the Exchange Act in accordance with the Exchange Act and applicable SEC rules) filed by us under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of the initial registration statement and before effectiveness of the registration statement, and after the date of this prospectus.

You may request a copy of these filings, which we shall deliver to you, together with all exhibits thereto, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us as follows:

Amtech Systems, Inc.  
Attention: Corporate Secretary  
131 South Clark Drive  
Tempe, Arizona 85281  
(480) 967-5146

Any statement contained in a document that is incorporated by reference will be modified or superseded for all purposes to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement, or in any other document that is subsequently filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference, modifies or is contrary to that previous statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed a part of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement, except as so modified or superseded. Since information that we later file with the SEC will update and supersede previously incorporated information, you should look at all of the SEC filings that we incorporate by reference to determine if any of the statements in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement or in any documents previously incorporated by reference have been modified or superseded.

## PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENTS

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the proposed offering of our securities. Each time that we sell securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may add to, update or change information contained in this prospectus and should be read as superseding this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the headings "Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference" and "Where You Can Find More Information."

The prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any offering of securities, including the offering price to the public in that offering, the purchase price and net proceeds of that offering, and the other specific terms related to that offering of securities.

## USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as may be otherwise set forth in any prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, we will use the net proceeds we receive from sales of securities offered hereby for general corporate purposes, which may include the repayment of indebtedness outstanding from time to time and for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and repurchases of our common stock or other securities. Pending these uses, the net proceeds may also be temporarily invested in short-term securities.

## SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER

The descriptions of the securities contained in this prospectus, together with the applicable prospectus supplements, summarize the material terms and provisions of the various types of securities that we may offer. We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to any securities the particular terms of the securities offered by that prospectus supplement. If we indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, the terms of the securities may differ from the terms we have summarized below. We will also include in the prospectus supplement information, when applicable, about material U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the securities and the securities exchange, if any, on which the securities will be listed.

We may sell from time to time, in one or more offerings, any one or more of the following:

- common stock, including the associated rights;
- preferred stock;
- debt securities;
- warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities;
- units consisting of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities and/or warrants in any combination; or
- any combination of the foregoing securities.

In this prospectus, we refer to the common stock (including the associated rights), preferred stock, debt securities, warrants and units collectively as "securities." The total dollar amount of all securities that we may issue under this prospectus will not exceed \$60,000,000.

If we issue debt securities at a discount from their original stated principal amount, then, for purposes of calculating the total dollar amount of all securities issued under this prospectus, we will treat the initial offering price of the debt securities as the total original principal amount of the debt securities.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

#### DESCRIPTION OF COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCK

This section describes the general terms of our common stock and preferred stock. A prospectus supplement may provide information that is different from this prospectus. If the information in a prospectus supplement with respect to our common stock or preferred stock being offered differs from this prospectus, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. A copy of our articles of incorporation, as amended, and certificate of designation, has been incorporated by reference from our filings with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement.

##### Common Stock

Our common stock and the rights of the holders of our common stock are subject to the applicable provisions of Arizona law, our articles of incorporation, our by-laws, as amended, and the rights of the holders of our preferred stock, if any. Certain provisions of Arizona law and our articles of incorporation and by-laws are described under the heading "Certain Provisions of Arizona Law and the Company's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws" below.

As of December 31, 2010, under our articles of incorporation, we had the authority to issue 100,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$.01 per share, of which 9,408,815 shares of our common stock were outstanding as of that date. As of December 31, 2010, we had outstanding (i) stock options to purchase 612,290 shares of our common stock, of which 205,068 shares of common stock were issuable upon exercise of vested stock options as of that date and (ii) 126,892 undelivered shares of restricted common stock.

**Voting Rights.** Each outstanding share of our common stock is entitled to one vote per share of record on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders and to vote together as a single class for the election of directors and in respect of other corporate matters. At a meeting of shareholders at which a quorum is present, all questions other than the contested election of directors shall be decided by determining if the votes cast by shareholders favoring the action exceed the votes cast by shareholders opposing the action, without regard to abstentions, unless the matter is one upon which a different vote is required by express provision of Arizona law, the NASDAQ or our articles of incorporation or by-laws. Directors, in a contested election, will be elected by a plurality of the votes of the shares present at a meeting. Holders of shares of common stock have cumulative voting rights with respect to the election of directors.

**Dividends.** Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends or other distributions when, as and if declared by our board of directors. The right of our board of directors to declare dividends, however, is subject to any rights of the holders of other classes of our capital stock and the availability of sufficient funds under Arizona law to pay dividends.

**Preemptive Rights.** Other than as described under the heading "Stockholders' Rights Plan" below, the holders of our common stock do not have preemptive rights to purchase or subscribe for any of our capital stock or other securities.

**Redemption.** The shares of our common stock are not subject to redemption by operation of a sinking fund or otherwise.

**Liquidation Rights.** In the event of any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, subject to the rights, if any, of the holders of other classes of our capital stock, the holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to receive any of our assets available for distribution to our shareholders ratably in proportion to the number of shares held by them.

**Listing.** Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ under the symbol "ASYS."

**Transfer Agent and Registrar.** The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Trust Company, 350 Indiana Street, Suite 800, Golden, Colorado 80401.

Preferred Stock

A certificate of designation or amendment to our articles of incorporation will specify the terms of the preferred stock being offered, and will be filed or incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement before the preferred stock is issued. The following description of our preferred stock, and any description of the preferred stock in a prospectus supplement, may not be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, Arizona law and the actual terms and provisions contained in our articles of incorporation and bylaws, each as amended from time to time.

As of December 31, 2010, under our articles of incorporation, we had the authority to issue 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock, which are issuable in series on terms to be determined by our board of directors. Accordingly, our board of directors is authorized, without action by the shareholders, to issue preferred stock from time to time with such dividend, liquidation, conversion, voting and other rights and restrictions as it may determine. As of December 31, 2010, our board of directors had designated 540,000 shares as Series A Convertible Preferred Stock (the "Series A Preferred Stock"), but no shares of the Series A Preferred Stock were outstanding. No Series A Preferred Stock will be issued in connection with this registration statement, rather new series of preferred stock with different rights from the Series A Preferred Stock may be issued.

The terms of any particular series of preferred stock will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to that particular series of preferred stock, including, where applicable:

- the title and stated value of the preferred stock;
- the number of shares of preferred stock to be issued and the offering price of the preferred stock;
- any dividend rights;
- any dividend rates, periods, or payment dates, or methods of calculation of dividends applicable to the preferred stock;
- the date from which distributions on the preferred stock shall accumulate, if applicable;
- the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which the preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock, including the conversion price (or manner of calculation thereof);
- any right to convert the preferred stock into a different type of security;
- any rights and preferences upon our liquidation or winding up of our affairs;
- any terms of redemption;
- the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any, for the preferred stock;
- the provisions for a sinking fund, if any, for the preferred stock;
- any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange;
- a discussion of federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;
- the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to distribution rights (including whether any liquidation preference as to the preferred stock will be treated as a liability for purposes of determining the availability of assets for distributions to holders of stock ranking junior to the shares of preferred stock as to distribution rights);

- any limitations on issuance of any series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with the series of preferred stock being offered as to distribution rights and rights upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs; and
- any other specific terms, preferences, rights, limitations, or restrictions of the preferred stock.

Registrar and Transfer Agent. The registrar and transfer agent for our preferred stock will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

#### Certain Provisions of Arizona Law and The Company's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws

Certain provisions of our articles of incorporation and by-laws, as amended, and Arizona law could make our acquisition by a third party, a change in our incumbent management or a similar change in control more difficult, including:

- an acquisition of us by means of a tender or exchange offer;
- an acquisition of us by means of a proxy contest or otherwise; or
- the removal of a majority or all of our incumbent officers and directors.

These provisions, which are summarized below, are likely to discourage certain types of coercive takeover practices and inadequate takeover bids. These provisions are also designed to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of us to first negotiate with our board of directors. We believe that these provisions help to protect our potential ability to negotiate with the proponent of an unfriendly or unsolicited proposal to acquire or restructure us, and that this benefit outweighs the potential disadvantages of discouraging such a proposal because our ability to negotiate with the proponent could result in an improvement of the terms of the proposal. The existence of these provisions which are described below could limit the price that investors might otherwise pay in the future for our securities. This description is intended as a summary only and is qualified in its entirety by reference to our articles of incorporation and by-laws, as well as Arizona law.

#### Articles of Incorporation, By-laws and Arizona Law

Authorized But Unissued Capital Stock. We have shares of common stock and preferred stock available for future issuance without shareholder approval, subject to any limitations imposed by the listing standards of the NASDAQ. We may utilize these additional shares for a variety of corporate purposes, including for future public offerings to raise additional capital or facilitate corporate acquisitions or for payment as a dividend on our capital stock. The existence of unissued and unreserved common stock and preferred stock may enable our board of directors to issue shares to persons friendly to current management or to issue preferred stock with terms that could have the effect of making it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or could discourage a third party from seeking to acquire, a controlling interest in the Company by means of a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise. In addition, if we issue preferred stock, the issuance could adversely affect the likelihood that such holders will receive dividend payments and payments upon liquidation.

**Blank Check Preferred Stock.** Our board of directors, without shareholder approval, has the authority under our articles of incorporation, as amended, to issue preferred stock with rights superior to the rights of the holders of common stock. As a result, preferred stock could be issued quickly and easily, could impair the rights of holders of common stock and could be issued with terms calculated to delay or prevent a change in control or make removal of management more difficult.

**Number of Directors; Removal; Filling Vacancies.** Our articles of incorporation, as amended, provide that the number of directors shall be fixed by the by-laws, as amended, which our board of directors can amend without shareholder approval. Our by-laws default to Arizona law with respect to the removal of directors. Arizona law provides that directors may be removed with or without cause where the votes cast by shareholders opposing the action would not be sufficient to elect the director under cumulative voting. A vote to remove one or more directors must be taken at a shareholder's meeting at which a quorum is present where one of the purposes of the meeting is to remove one or more directors. A director cannot be removed by written consent of shareholders unless written consents are obtained from the holders of all the outstanding shares entitled to vote on the removal of the director. Our by-laws provide that vacancies on our board of directors may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors, though not less than a quorum. Arizona law also provides that shareholders may fill any vacancy on our board of directors.

**Shareholder Meetings and Action.** Our by-laws, as amended, provide that shareholders can only call a special meeting with the approval of holders of not less than fifty percent (50%) of all votes entitled to be cast on any issue proposed to be considered at the proposed special meeting. Our by-laws also provide that the business of special meetings of shareholders shall be confined to the purposes stated in the notice of the meeting. These provisions may discourage another person or entity from making a tender offer, unless it acquired a majority of our outstanding voting stock, because the person or entity could only take action at a duly called shareholders' meeting relating to the business specified in the notice of meeting and not by written consent. Arizona law provides that shareholders may act outside of a meeting if one or more written consents describing the action taken are signed by the holders of outstanding shares having one hundred percent (100%) of the votes entitled to be cast at a meeting at which all shares entitled to vote on the action were present and voted.

#### Anti-Takeover Effects of Various Provisions of Arizona Law

Arizona Revised Statutes ("ARS") Sections 10-2701 et seq. were adopted by the Arizona legislature in an attempt to prevent corporate "greenmail" and restrict the ability of a potential suitor to acquire domestic corporations. These statutes generally apply to business combinations or control share acquisitions of "issuing public corporations," which defined term includes Amtech. The provisions summarized below could discourage, deter, delay or impede a tender offer or other attempt to acquire control of Amtech.

**Arizona Business Combination Statute.** The Arizona business combination statute would limit our ability to engage in Business Combinations with Interested Shareholders (each as defined below).

"Business Combination" means any (A) merger or consolidation of Amtech or any subsidiary of Amtech with an Interested Shareholder, (B) exchange of shares of the Amtech's common stock or any subsidiary for shares of an Interested Shareholder, or (C) sale, lease, transfer or other disposition to or with an Interested Shareholder of 10% or more of the consolidated assets of Amtech.

"Interested Shareholder" means any person other than Amtech or a subsidiary of Amtech that is either (A) a direct or indirect beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of the outstanding common stock of Amtech or (B) an affiliate of Amtech who at any time during the three years immediately before the date in question was the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of the then outstanding common stock of Amtech.

"Share Acquisition Date" means the date that a person first becomes an Interested Shareholder of Amtech.



**Business Combinations Within Three Years After Share Acquisition Date.** For three years after an Interested Shareholder's Share Acquisition Date, Amtech may not directly or indirectly engage in any Business Combination with an Interested Shareholder or any affiliate of an Interested Shareholder unless, before the Interested Shareholder's Share Acquisition Date, a committee of disinterested directors approved either:

- the Business Combination; or
- the acquisition of common stock made by the Interested Shareholder on the Interested Shareholder's Share Acquisition Date.

**Business Combinations More Than Three Years After Share Acquisition Date.** If a committee of disinterested directors has not approved the Business Combination or the acquisition of common stock as provided above, Amtech may not directly or indirectly engage in any Business Combination with an Interested Shareholder or any affiliate of an Interested Shareholder unless:

- the Business Combination is consummated no earlier than three years after the Interested Shareholder's Share Acquisition Date, and before the Share Acquisition Date, Amtech's Board of Directors approved either
- the Business Combination; or
- the acquisition of common stock made by the Interested Shareholder on the Share Acquisition Date;
- the Business Combination is approved no earlier than three years after the Interested Shareholder's Share Acquisition Date by the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding voting shares of the common stock of Amtech (excluding shares of common stock beneficially owned by the Interested Shareholder or any affiliate thereof); or
- the Business Combination is consummated no earlier than three years after the Interested Shareholder's Share Acquisition Date and meets certain specified conditions designed to ensure against discriminatory pricing.

**Arizona Control Share Acquisition Statute.** The Arizona control share acquisition statute would limit the voting rights of a person who acquires shares of Amtech under certain circumstances in a control share acquisition (as defined below).

Control Share Acquisition means an acquisition, directly or indirectly (in one or more transactions within 120 days or pursuant to a plan), by a person of beneficial ownership of shares of common stock of Amtech that would, but for the limitations in the control share acquisition statute, entitle the acquiring person to exercise a new range of voting power within the following specified ranges: (A) at least 20% but less than 33-1/3%, (B) at least 33-1/3% but less than or equal to 50% and (C) over 50%.

Within ten days after a Control Share Acquisition, the acquiring person must deliver to the corporation an information statement specifying, among other things, the range of voting power in the election of directors that, but for the limitations in the statute, the acquiring person believes would result from the Control Share Acquisition. At the time of delivery of the information statement, the acquiring person may request that a special meeting of shareholders be called to consider the voting rights of "excess" shares (referred to below).

To the extent that shares of common stock of Amtech acquired in a Control Share Acquisition exceed the threshold of voting power of any of the next specified range of voting power, such "excess" shares will have the same voting rights as other shares of common stock for election of directors but will not have the right to vote on other matters unless approved by a shareholder resolution at an annual or special meeting. Such resolution must be approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding voting shares of common stock (excluding shares owned by the acquiring person, its affiliates or any officer or director of Amtech).

The status of voting rights of "excess" shares is not required to be presented for consideration at any meeting of shareholders unless, at the time of delivery of the information statement referred to above, the acquiring person has entered into a definitive financing agreement for any financing of the acquisition not to be provided by monies of the acquiring person.

If an acquiring person fails to deliver the required information statement within ten days after a Control Share Acquisition or if the Companies' shareholders have voted not to accord voting rights to an acquiring person's "excess" shares referred to above, then Amtech may call for the redemption of such "excess" shares at the fair market value of those shares at the time the call for redemption is given.

#### Stockholder Rights' Plan

On December 15, 2008, we entered into an Amended and Restated Rights Agreement (the "Restated Rights Agreement") with Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as Rights Agent, which amended and restated the terms governing the previously authorized shareholder rights (each a "Right") to purchase fractional shares of the Company's Series A Participating Preferred Stock currently attached to each of the outstanding Common Shares of the Company. As amended, each Right entitles the registered holder to purchase from the Company one one-thousandth of a share of Series A Preferred at an exercise price of \$51.60 (the "Exercise Price"), subject to adjustment. The plan is currently set to expire on December 14, 2018.

#### Limitation of Liability and Indemnification

Pursuant to Amtech's Articles of Incorporation, it shall indemnify any and all of its existing and former directors, officers, employees and agents against all expenses incurred by them and each of them, including, but not limited to legal fees, judgments, penalties and amounts paid in settlement or compromise, which may arise or be incurred, rendered, or levied in any legal action brought or threatened against any of them for or on account of any action or omission alleged to have been committed while acting within the scope of employment as director, officer, employee or agent of the Company, whether or not any action is or has been filed against them and whether or not any settlement or compromise is approved by a court, indemnification shall be made by the Company whether the legal action brought or threatened is by or in the right of the Company or by any other person. Whenever any existing or former director, officer, employee, or agent shall report to the President of the Company or the chairman of the Board of Directors that he or she has incurred or may incur expenses, including, but not limited to, legal fees, judgments, penalties and amounts paid in settlement or compromise in a legal action brought or threatened against him or her for or on account of any action or omission alleged to have been committed by him or her while acting within the scope of his or her employment as a director, officer, employee or agent of the Company, the Board of Directors shall, at its next regular or at a special meeting held within a reasonable time thereafter, determine in good faith, whether in regard to the matter involved in the action or contemplated action, such person acted, failed to act, or refused to act willfully or with gross negligence or with fraudulent or criminal intent. If the Board of Directors determines, in good faith, that such person did not act, fail to act, or refuse to act willfully or with gross negligence or with fraudulent or criminal intent, in regard to the matter involved in the action or contemplated action, such person acted, failed to act, or refused to act willfully or with gross negligence or with fraudulent criminal intent, indemnification shall be mandatory and shall be automatically extended as specified herein; provided, that the Company shall have the right to refuse indemnification in any instance in which the person to whom indemnification would otherwise have been applicable shall have unreasonably refused to permit the Company, at its own expense and through counsel of its own choosing, to defend him or her in the action.

Section 10-851 of Arizona's Revised Statutes enables a corporation to eliminate or limit personal liability of members of its board of directors for violations of their fiduciary duty of care. However, Arizona law does not permit the elimination of a director's or officer's liability: (i) in connection with a proceeding by or in the right of the corporation in which the director was adjudged liable to the corporation; and (ii) in connection with any other proceeding charging improper financial benefit to the director, whether or not involving action in the director's official capacity, in which the director was adjudged liable on the basis that financial benefit was improperly received by the director.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling Amtech pursuant to the foregoing provision, Amtech has been informed that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in such Act and is therefore unenforceable.

## DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

This prospectus describes certain general terms and provisions of the debt securities we may offer under this prospectus and one or more prospectus supplements. When we offer to sell a particular series of debt securities, we will describe the specific terms of the series in a prospectus supplement. The following description of debt securities will apply to the debt securities offered by this prospectus unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement for a particular series of debt securities may specify different or additional terms.

We may issue “senior,” “senior subordinated,” or “subordinated” debt securities. “Senior securities” will be direct obligations of ours and will rank equally and ratably in right of payment with other indebtedness of ours that is not subordinated. “Senior subordinated securities” will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of senior indebtedness, as defined in the applicable prospectus supplement, and may rank equally and ratably with the senior subordinated notes and any other senior subordinated indebtedness. “Subordinated securities” will be subordinated in right of payment to senior subordinated securities.

We need not issue all debt securities of one series at the same time. Unless we provide otherwise, we may reopen a series, without the consent of the holders of such series, for issuances of additional securities of that series.

We will issue the senior debt securities and senior subordinated debt securities under a senior indenture, which we will enter into with the trustee to be named in the senior indenture, and we will issue the subordinated debt securities under a subordinated indenture, which we will enter into with the trustee to be named in the subordinated indenture. We use the term “indenture” or “indentures” to refer to both the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture. Each indenture will be subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or the Trust Indenture Act, and we may supplement the indenture from time to time. Any trustee under any indenture may resign or be removed with respect to one or more series of debt securities, and we may appoint a successor trustee to act with respect to that series. We have filed a form of indenture as an exhibit to this registration statement, of which this prospectus forms a part. The terms of the senior indenture and subordinated indenture will be substantially similar, except that the subordinated indenture will include provisions pertaining to the subordination of the subordinated debt securities and senior subordinated debt securities to the senior debt securities and any other of our senior securities. The following statements relating to the debt securities and the indenture are summaries only, are subject to change and are qualified in their entirety to the detailed provisions of the indenture, any supplemental indenture and the discussion contained in any prospectus supplements.

### General

The debt securities will be our direct obligations. We may issue debt securities from time to time and in one or more series as our board of directors may establish by resolution or as we may establish in one or more supplemental indentures. The particular terms of each series of debt securities will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to the series. We may issue debt securities with terms different from those of debt securities that we previously issued.

We may issue debt securities from time to time and in one or more series with the same or various maturities, at par, at a premium or at a discount. We will set forth in a prospectus supplement, relating to any series of debt securities being offered, the initial offering price and the following terms of the debt securities:

- the title of the debt securities;
- the series designation and whether they are senior securities, senior subordinated securities or subordinated securities;
- the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities and any limit on the aggregate amount of the series of debt securities;

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- the price or prices (expressed as a percentage of the aggregate principal amount) at which we will issue the debt securities and, if other than the principal amount of the debt securities, the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities payable upon the maturity of the debt securities;
- the date or dates on which we will pay the principal on the debt securities;
- the rate or rates (which may be fixed or variable) per annum or the method used to determine the rate or rates (including any commodity, commodity index, stock exchange index or financial index) at which the debt securities will bear interest, the date or dates from which interest will accrue, the date or dates on which interest will commence and be payable and any regular record date for the interest payable on any interest payment date;
- the place where principal, interest and any additional amounts will be payable and where the debt securities can be surrendered for transfer, exchange or conversion;
- the terms, if any, by which holders of the debt securities may convert or exchange the debt securities for our common stock, preferred stock or any other security or property;
- if convertible, the initial conversion price, the conversion period and any other terms governing such conversion;
- any subordination provisions or limitations relating to the debt securities;
- any sinking fund requirements;
- any obligation we have to redeem or purchase the debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions or at the option of a holder of debt securities;
- the dates on which and the price or prices at which we will repurchase the debt securities at the option of the holders of debt securities and other detailed terms and provisions of these repurchase obligations;
- the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;
- the portion of principal amount of the debt securities payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity date, if other than the principal amount;
- whether we will issue the debt securities in certificated or book-entry form;
- whether the debt securities will be in registered or bearer form and, if in registered form, the denominations if other than in even multiples of \$1,000 and, if in bearer form, the denominations and terms and conditions relating thereto;
- the designation of the currency, currencies or currency units in which payment of principal of, premium, and interest on the debt securities will be made;
- if payments of principal of, and interest and any additional amounts on, the debt securities will be made in one or more currencies or currency units other than that or those in which the debt securities are denominated, the manner in which the exchange rate with respect to these payments will be determined;

- the manner in which the amounts of payment of principal of, and interest and any additional amounts on, the debt securities will be determined, if these amounts may be determined by reference to an index based on a currency or currencies other than that in which the debt securities are denominated or designated to be payable or by reference to a commodity, commodity index, stock exchange index or financial index;
- any applicability of the defeasance provisions described in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement;
- whether and under what circumstances, if any, we will pay additional amounts on any debt securities in respect of any tax, assessment or governmental charge and, if so, whether we will have the option to redeem the debt securities instead of making this payment;
- any addition to or change in the events of default described in this prospectus or in the indenture with respect to the debt securities and any change in the acceleration provisions described in this prospectus or in the indenture with respect to the debt securities;
- any addition to or change in the covenants described in this prospectus or in the indenture with respect to the debt securities;
- if the debt securities are to be issued upon the exercise of debt warrants, the time, manner and place for them to be authenticated and delivered;
- any securities exchange on which we will list the debt securities;
- any restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment;
- any provisions relating to any security provided for the debt securities;
- any other terms of the debt securities, which may modify or delete any provision of the indenture as it applies to that series; and
- any depositaries, interest rate calculation agents, exchange rate calculation agents or other agents with respect to the debt securities.

We may issue debt securities that are exchangeable for or convertible into shares of our common stock or other securities or property. The terms, if any, on which the debt securities may be exchanged for or converted into shares of our common stock or other securities or property will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Such terms may include provisions for conversion, either mandatory, at the option of the holder, or at our option, in which case the number of shares of common stock or other securities or property to be received by the holders of debt securities would be calculated as of a time and in the manner stated in the prospectus supplement.

We may issue debt securities at less than the principal amount payable upon maturity. We refer to these securities as “original issue discount securities.” If material or applicable, we will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement special U.S. federal income tax, accounting and other considerations applicable to original issue discount securities.

If we denominate the purchase price of any of the debt securities in a foreign currency or currencies or a foreign currency unit or units, or if the principal of, and interest and any additional amounts on, any series of debt securities is payable in a foreign currency or currencies or a foreign currency unit or units, we will provide you with information on the restrictions, elections, general tax considerations, specific terms and other information with respect to that issue of debt securities and such foreign currency or currencies or foreign currency unit or units in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Except as may be set forth in any prospectus supplement relating to the debt securities, an indenture will not contain any other provisions that would limit our ability to incur indebtedness or that would afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event of a highly leveraged or similar transaction involving us or in the event of a change in control. You should review carefully the applicable prospectus supplement for information with respect to events of default and any covenants applicable to the debt securities being offered.

#### Payments and Paying Agents

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make payment of the interest on any debt securities on any interest payment date to the person in whose name the debt securities, or one or more predecessor securities, are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for the interest.

We will pay principal of, and interest and any additional amounts on, the debt securities of a particular series at the office of the paying agents designated by us, except that, unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may make interest payments by check, which we will mail to the holder, or by wire transfer to certain holders. Unless we otherwise indicate in a prospectus supplement, we will designate the corporate trust office of the trustee as our sole paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement any other paying agents that we initially designate for the debt securities of a particular series.

#### Form, Transfer and Exchange

Each debt security will be represented by either one or more global securities registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, known as DTC, as depository, or a nominee of the depository (as a “book-entry debt security”), or a certificate issued in definitive registered form (as a “certificated debt security”), as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Except as described under “Global Debt Securities and Book-Entry System” below, book-entry debt securities will not be issuable in certificated form.

#### Certificated Debt Securities

You may transfer or exchange certificated debt securities at the trustee’s office or paying agencies in accordance with the terms of the indenture. No service charge will be made for any transfer or exchange of certificated debt securities, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with a transfer or exchange.

You may transfer certificated debt securities and the right to receive the principal of, and interest and any additional amounts on, certificated debt securities only by surrendering the old certificate representing those certificated debt securities and either we or the trustee will reissue the old certificate to the new holder, or we or the trustee will issue a new certificate to the new holder.

#### Global Debt Securities and Book-Entry System

Each global debt security representing book-entry debt securities will be deposited with, or on behalf of, the depository, and registered in the name of the depository or a nominee of the depository. Ownership of beneficial interests in book-entry debt securities will be limited to persons that have accounts with the depository for the related global debt security, whom we refer to as participants, or persons that may hold interests through participants.

Except as described in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement, beneficial owners of book-entry debt securities will not be entitled to have securities registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of a certificate in definitive form representing securities and will not be considered the owners or holders of those securities under the indenture. Accordingly, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indenture, each person beneficially owning book-entry debt securities must rely on the procedures of the depository for the related global debt security and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which that person owns its interest.

We understand, however, that under existing industry practice, the depository will authorize the persons on whose behalf it holds a global debt security to exercise certain rights of holders of debt securities, and the indenture provides that we, the trustee and our respective agents will treat as the holder of a debt security the persons specified in a written statement of the depository with respect to that global debt security for purposes of obtaining any consents or directions required to be given by holders of the debt securities pursuant to the indenture.

We will make payments of principal of, and interest and any additional amounts on, book-entry debt securities to the depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered holder of the related global debt security. We, the trustee and any other agent of ours or agent of the trustee will not have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in a global debt security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests.

Any certificated debt securities issued in exchange for a global debt security will be registered in such name or names as the depository shall instruct the trustee. We expect that such instructions will be based upon directions received by the depository from participants with respect to ownership of book-entry debt securities relating to such global debt security.

For additional discussion of book entry and certificated securities, see the section entitled "Legal Ownership of Securities" included in this prospectus. We have obtained the foregoing information in this section and the "Legal Ownership of Securities" section concerning the depository and the depository's book-entry system from sources we believe to be reliable. We take no responsibility for the depository's performance of its obligations under the rules and regulations governing its operations.

#### No Protection in the Event of a Change in Control

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not contain any provisions that may afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event we have a change in control or in the event of a highly leveraged transaction (whether or not such transaction results in a change in control).

#### Covenants

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not contain any restrictive covenants, including covenants restricting us or any of our subsidiaries from incurring, issuing, assuming or guaranteeing any indebtedness secured by a lien on any of our or our subsidiaries' property or capital stock or restricting us or any of our subsidiaries from entering into any sale and leaseback transactions.

Merger, Consolidation, and Sale of Assets

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may not merge with or into or consolidate with, or convey, transfer or lease all or substantially all of our properties and assets to, any person (a “successor person”), and we may not permit any person to merge into, or convey, transfer, or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to us, unless the following applies:

- either (a) Amtech Systems, Inc. is the surviving entity or (b) the successor person is a corporation, partnership, trust or other entity organized and validly existing under the laws of any United States domestic jurisdiction and expressly assumes our obligations on the debt securities and under the indenture;
- immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no event of default, and no event that, after notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an event of default, shall have occurred and be continuing under the indenture; and
- certain other conditions that may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement are met.

This covenant would not apply to any recapitalization transaction, a change in control of us or a transaction in which we incur a large amount of additional debt unless the transactions or change in control included a merger, consolidation, or transfer or lease of substantially all of our assets. Except as may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, there are no covenants or other provisions in the indenture providing for a “put” right or increased interest or that would otherwise afford holders of debt securities additional protection in the event of a recapitalization transaction, a change in control of us or a transaction in which we incur a large amount of additional debt.

Events of Default Under the Indenture

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, an “event of default” will mean, with respect to any series of debt securities, any of the following:

- default in the payment of any interest upon any debt security of that series when it becomes due and payable and continuance of that default for a period of 30 days (unless the entire amount of such payment is deposited by us with the trustee or with a paying agent before the expiration of the 30-day period);
- default in the payment of principal of, or premium, if any, on any debt security of that series when due and payable either at maturity, redemption or otherwise;
- default in the deposit of any sinking fund payment, when and as due in respect of any debt security of that series;
- default in the performance or breach of any other covenant or warranty by us in the indenture (other than a covenant or warranty that has been included in the indenture solely for the benefit of a series of debt securities other than that series) or in the debt security, which default continues uncured for a period of 90 days after we receive written notice from the trustee or we and the trustee receive written notice from the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series as provided in the indenture;
- we, pursuant to or within the meaning of any applicable bankruptcy law, commence a voluntary case, consent to the entry of an order for relief against us in an involuntary case, consent to the appointment of a custodian for all or substantially all of our property, make a general assignment for the benefit of our creditors or admit in writing our inability generally to pay our debts as they become due; or, similarly, a court enters an order or decree under any applicable bankruptcy law that provides for relief against us in an involuntary case, appoints a custodian for all or substantially all of our properties or orders our liquidation (and the order remains in effect for 90 days); and
- any other event of default provided with respect to debt securities of that series that is included in any supplemental indenture or is described in the applicable prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus.



No event of default with respect to a particular series of debt securities (except as to certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization) necessarily constitutes an event of default with respect to any other series of debt securities. An event of default may also be an event of default under our bank credit agreements or other debt securities in existence from time to time and under certain guaranties by us of any subsidiary indebtedness. In addition, certain events of default or an acceleration under the indenture may also be an event of default under some of our other indebtedness outstanding from time to time.

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, if an event of default with respect to debt securities of any series at the time outstanding occurs and is continuing (other than certain events of our bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization), then the trustee or the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may, by written notice to us (and to the trustee if given by the holders), declare to be due and payable immediately the principal (or, if the debt securities of that series are discount securities, that portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of that series) of and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, of all debt securities of that series. In the case of an event of default resulting from certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, the principal (or such specified amount) of and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, of all outstanding debt securities will become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act by the trustee or any holder of outstanding debt securities.

At any time after an acceleration with respect to debt securities of a series has been made, but before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained by the trustee, the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may cancel the acceleration and annul its consequences if the rescission would not conflict with any judgment or decree and if all existing events of default with respect to that series have been cured or waived except nonpayment of principal (or such lesser amount) or interest that has become due solely because of the acceleration.

The indenture also provides that the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may waive any past default with respect to that series and its consequences, except a default involving the following:

- our failure to pay the principal of, and interest and any additional amounts on, any debt security; or
- a covenant or provision contained in the indenture that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holders of each outstanding debt security affected by the default.

The trustee is generally required to give notice to the holders of debt securities of each affected series within 90 days of a default actually known to a responsible officer of the trustee unless the default has been cured or waived. The indenture provides that the trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any series of any default or event of default (except in payment on any debt securities of that series) with respect to debt securities of that series if it in good faith determines that withholding notice is in the interest of the holders of those debt securities.

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indenture will provide that the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request or direction of any holder of any such outstanding debt securities unless the trustee receives indemnity satisfactory to it against any loss, liability or expense. Subject to certain rights of the trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the debt securities of that series. The trustee may, however, refuse to follow any direction that conflicts with the indenture or any law or which may be unduly prejudicial to the holders of the debt securities of the applicable series not joining in the direction.

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, no holder of any debt security of any series will have any right to institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the indenture or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any remedy under the indenture, unless:

- that holder has previously given to the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to debt securities of that series; and
- the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request, and offered reasonable indemnity, to the trustee to institute such proceeding as trustee, and the trustee shall not have received from the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series a direction inconsistent with that request and has failed to institute the proceeding within 60 days.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, except as provided in the subordination provisions, if any, the holder of any debt security will have an absolute and unconditional right to receive payment of the principal of, and any interest or additional amounts on, that debt security on or after the due dates expressed in that debt security and to institute suit for the enforcement of payment.

The indenture requires us, within 120 days after the end of our fiscal year, to furnish to the trustee a certificate as to compliance with the indenture, or, in the event of noncompliance, specify the noncompliance and the nature and status of the noncompliance.

#### Modification of Indenture and Waiver

Except as specified below, modifications and amendments to the indenture require the approval of not less than a majority in principal amount of our outstanding debt securities.

#### Changes Requiring the Unanimous Approval

We and the trustee may not make any modification or amendment to the indenture without the consent of the holder of each affected debt security then outstanding if that amendment will have any of the following results:

- reduce the rate of or extend the time for payment of interest, including default interest, on any debt security;
- reduce the principal of or any additional amounts on or change the fixed maturity of any debt security or reduce the amount of, or postpone the date fixed for, the payment of any sinking fund or analogous obligation with respect to any series of debt securities;
- reduce the principal amount of discount securities payable upon acceleration of maturity;
- waive a default in the payment of the principal of, and interest or any additional amounts on, any debt security, except a rescission of acceleration of the debt securities of any series by the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding debt securities of that series and a waiver of the payment default that resulted from that acceleration;
- make the principal of, or interest or any additional amounts on, any debt security payable in currency other than that stated in the debt security;

- change the place of payment on a debt security;
- change the currency or currencies of payment of the principal of, and any premium, make-whole payment, interest or additional amounts on, any debt security;
- impair the right to initiate suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to any debt security;
- reduce the percentage of holders of debt securities whose consent is needed to modify or amend an indenture, to waive compliance with certain provisions of an indenture or to waive certain defaults;
- reduce the percentage of the holders of outstanding debt securities of any series necessary to modify or amend the indenture, to waive compliance with provisions of the indenture or defaults and their consequences under the indenture or to reduce the quorum or voting requirements contained in the indenture;
- make any change that adversely affects the right to convert or exchange any debt security other than as permitted by the indenture or decrease the conversion or exchange rate or increase the conversion or exchange price of any such debt security;
- waive a redemption payment with respect to any debt security; or
- make any change to certain provisions of the indenture relating to, among other things, the right of holders of debt securities to receive payment of the principal of, and interest and any additional amount on, those debt securities, the right of holders to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment or the right of holders to waive past defaults.

#### Changes Not Requiring Approval of Debt Holders

We and the trustee may modify or amend an indenture, without the consent of any holder of debt securities, for any of the following purposes:

- to evidence the succession of another person to us as obligor under the indenture;
- to add to our existing covenants additional covenants for the benefit of the holders of all or any series of debt securities, or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us in the indenture;
- to add events of default for the benefit of the holders of all or any series of debt securities;
- to add or change any provisions of the indenture to facilitate the issuance of, or to liberalize the terms of, debt securities in bearer form, or to permit or facilitate the issuance of debt securities in uncertificated form, provided that this action will not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the debt securities of any series in any material respect;
- to add, change or eliminate any provisions of the indenture, provided that any addition, change or elimination (a) shall neither (i) apply to any debt security of any series created prior to the execution of such supplemental indenture and entitled to the benefit of such provision nor (ii) modify the rights of the holder of any debt security with respect to such provision, or (b) shall become effective only when there are no outstanding debt securities;

- to establish additional series of debt securities;
- to secure previously unsecured debt securities;
- to establish the form or terms of debt securities of any series, including the provisions and procedures, if applicable, for the conversion or exchange of the debt securities into our common stock, preferred stock or other securities or property;
- to evidence and provide for the acceptance or appointment of a successor trustee or facilitate the administration of the trusts under the indenture by more than one trustee;
- to make any provision with respect to the conversion or exchange of rights of holders pursuant to the requirements of the indenture;
- to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indenture, provided that the action does not adversely affect the interests of holders of debt securities of any series issued under the indenture;
- to close the indenture with respect to the authentication and delivery of additional series of debt securities or to qualify, or maintain qualification of, the indenture under the Trust Indenture Act; or
- to supplement any of the provisions of the indenture to the extent necessary to permit or facilitate defeasance and discharge of any series of debt securities, provided that the action shall not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the debt securities of any series in any material respect.

A vote by holders of debt securities will not be required for clarifications and certain other changes that would not adversely affect holders of the debt securities.

#### Defeasance of Debt Securities and Certain Covenants in Certain Circumstances

##### Legal Defeasance

Unless the terms of the applicable series of debt securities provide otherwise, we may be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the debt securities of any series (except for certain obligations to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the series; to replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of the series; and to maintain paying agencies and certain provisions relating to the treatment of funds held by paying agents). We will be so discharged upon the deposit with the trustee, in trust, of money and/or U.S. government obligations or, in the case of debt securities denominated in a single currency other than U.S. dollars, foreign government obligations (as described at the end of this section), that, through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient to pay and discharge each installment of principal, interest and any additional amounts on and any mandatory sinking fund payments in respect of the debt securities of that series on the stated maturity of such payments in accordance with the terms of the indenture and those debt securities.

This discharge may occur only if, among other things, we have delivered to the trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel stating that we have received from, or there has been published by, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service a ruling or, since the date of execution of the indenture, there has been a change in the applicable U.S. federal income tax law, in either case to the effect that holders of the debt securities of such series will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit, defeasance and discharge and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amount and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit, defeasance and discharge had not occurred.

#### Defeasance of Certain Covenants

Unless the terms of the applicable series of debt securities provide otherwise, upon compliance with certain conditions, we may omit to comply with the restrictive covenants contained in the indenture, as well as any additional covenants contained in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The conditions include, among others, the following:

- depositing with the trustee money and/or U.S. government obligations or, in the case of debt securities denominated in a single currency other than U.S. dollars, foreign government obligations, that, through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient, in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants, to pay principal, interest and any additional amounts on and any mandatory sinking fund payments in respect of the debt securities of that series on the stated maturity of those payments in accordance with the terms of the indenture and those debt securities; and
- delivering to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit and related covenant defeasance and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax in the same amount and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit and related covenant defeasance had not occurred.

#### Covenant Defeasance and Events of Default

If we exercise our option, as described above, not to comply with certain covenants of the indenture with respect to any series of debt securities, and the debt securities of that series are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any event of default, the amount of money and/or U.S. government obligations or foreign government obligations on deposit with the trustee will be sufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of that series at the time of their stated maturity but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of that series at the time of the acceleration resulting from the event of default. However, we will remain liable for those payments.

“Foreign government obligations” means, with respect to debt securities of any series that are denominated in a currency other than United States dollars:

- direct obligations of the government that issued or caused to be issued such currency for the payment of which obligations its full faith and credit is pledged, which are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer thereof; or
- obligations of a person controlled or supervised by or acting as an agency or instrumentality of that government, the timely payment of which is unconditionally guaranteed as a full faith and credit obligation by that government, which are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer thereof.

#### Subordination

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms and conditions, if any, upon which any series of senior subordinated securities or subordinated securities is subordinated to debt securities of another series or to other indebtedness of ours. The terms will include a description of the following:

- the indebtedness ranking senior to the debt securities being offered;

- any restrictions on payments to the holders of the debt securities being offered while a default with respect to the senior indebtedness is continuing;
- any restrictions on payments to the holders of the debt securities being offered following an event of default; and
- provisions requiring holders of the debt securities being offered to remit some payments to holders of senior indebtedness.

#### Conversion and Exchange Rights

The terms on which debt securities of any series may be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock, preferred stock, or other securities or property of the Company will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. These terms will include the following:

- the conversion or exchange price, or the manner of calculating the price;
- the exchange or conversion period;
- whether the conversion or exchange is mandatory, or voluntary at the option of the holder, or at our option;
- any restrictions on conversion or exchange in the event of redemption of the debt securities and any restrictions on conversion or exchange; and
- the means of calculating the number of shares of our common stock, preferred stock or other securities or property of Amtech Systems, Inc. to be received by the holders of debt securities.

The conversion or exchange price of any debt securities of any series that are convertible into our common stock or preferred stock may be adjusted for any stock dividends, stock splits, reclassification, combinations or similar transactions, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

#### Redemption of Debt Securities

The debt securities may be subject to optional or mandatory redemption on terms and conditions described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Subject to such terms, we may opt at any time to partially or entirely redeem the debt securities.

If less than all the debt securities of any series are to be redeemed or purchased in an offer to purchase at any time, the trustee will select the debt securities of that series to be redeemed or purchased as follows: (1) if the securities of such series are listed on any national securities exchange, in compliance with the requirements of the principal national securities exchange on which the debt securities of that series are listed; or (2) if the debt securities of that series are not listed on a national securities exchange, on a pro rata basis, by lot or by such other method as the trustee deems fair and appropriate.

Except as otherwise provided as to any particular series of debt securities, at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before a redemption date, we or the trustee will mail a notice of redemption to each holder whose debt securities are to be redeemed. From and after notice has been given as provided in the applicable indenture, if funds for the redemption of any debt securities called for redemption shall have been made available on the redemption date, the debt securities will cease to bear interest on the date fixed for the redemption specified in the notice, and the only right of the holders of the debt securities will be to receive payment of the redemption price.

## Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the state of New York, except to the extent that the Trust Indenture Act is applicable.

## DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

### General

We may issue warrants to purchase common stock (which we refer to as common stock warrants), preferred stock (which we refer to as preferred stock warrants) or debt securities (which we refer to as debt security warrants). Any of these warrants may be issued independently or together with any other securities offered by this prospectus and may be attached to or separate from those securities.

While the terms we have summarized below will generally apply to any future warrants we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any warrants that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any warrants we offer under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms we describe below.

We may issue the warrants under a warrant agreement, which we will enter into with a warrant agent to be selected by us. Each warrant agent will act solely as our agent under the applicable warrant agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holder of any warrant. A single bank or trust company may act as warrant agent for more than one issue of warrants. A warrant agent will have no duty or responsibility in case of any default by us under the applicable warrant agreement or warrant, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any proceedings at law or otherwise, or to make any demand upon us. Any holder of a warrant may, without the consent of the related warrant agent or the holder of any other warrant, enforce by appropriate legal action its right to exercise, and receive the securities purchasable upon exercise of, its warrants.

We will incorporate by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part the form of warrant agreement, including a form of warrant certificate, that describes the terms of the series of warrants we are offering before the issuance of the related series of warrants. The following summaries of material provisions of the warrants and the warrant agreements are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the warrant agreement applicable to a particular series of warrants. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the warrants that we sell under this prospectus, as well as the complete warrant agreements that contain the terms of the warrants.

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, including, when applicable, the following:

- the title of the warrants;
- the aggregate number of the warrants;
- the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;
- the designation, number and terms of the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;
- the designation and terms of the other securities, if any, with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each such security;
- the date, if any, on and after which the warrants and the related underlying securities will be separately transferable;

- the price at which each underlying security purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;
- the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and the date on which such right will expire;
- the minimum amount of the warrants that may be exercised at any one time;
- any information with respect to book-entry procedures;
- the effect of any merger, consolidation, sale or other disposition of our business on the warrant agreement and the warrants;
- any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the transferability, exchange and exercise of such warrants;
- the terms of any rights to redeem or call, or accelerate the expiration of, the warrants;
- the date on which the right to exercise the warrants begins and the date on which that right expires;
- the U.S. federal income tax consequences of holding or exercising the warrants; and
- any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the warrants.

Unless specified in an applicable prospectus supplement, common stock warrants, preferred stock warrants, or debt security warrants will be in registered form only.

A holder of warrant certificates may exchange them for new certificates of different denominations, present them for registration of transfer and exercise them at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Until any common stock warrants, preferred stock warrants or debt security warrants are exercised, holders of the warrants will not have any rights of holders of the underlying common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, except to the extent set forth under the heading "Warrant Adjustments" below.

#### Exercise of Warrants

Each warrant will entitle the holder to purchase for cash shares of common stock, preferred stock or debt securities at the applicable exercise price set forth in, or determined as described in, the applicable prospectus supplement. Warrants may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void.

Warrants may be exercised by delivering to the corporation trust office of the warrant agent or any other officer indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement (a) the warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed and (b) payment of the amount due upon exercise. As soon as practicable following exercise, we will forward the shares of common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, as applicable. If less than all of the warrants represented by a warrant certificate are exercised, a new warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining warrants. If we so indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the warrants may surrender securities as all or a part of the exercise price for the warrants.

#### Amendments and Supplements to the Warrant Agreements

We may amend or supplement a warrant agreement without the consent of the holders of the applicable warrants to cure ambiguities in the warrant agreement, to cure or correct a defective provision in the warrant agreement or to provide for other matters under the warrant agreement that we and the warrant agent deem necessary or desirable, so long as, in each case, such amendments or supplements do not materially adversely affect the interests of the holders of the warrants.



#### Warrant Adjustments

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, the exercise price of, and the number of securities covered by, a common stock warrant, preferred stock warrant or debt security warrant will be adjusted proportionately if we subdivide or combine our common stock or preferred stock, as applicable. In addition, unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, if we, without payment:

- issue capital stock or other securities convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or preferred stock, or any rights to subscribe for, purchase or otherwise acquire any of the foregoing, as a dividend or distribution to holders of our common stock or preferred stock;
- pay any cash to holders of our common stock or preferred stock other than a cash dividend paid out of our current or retained earnings or other than in accordance with the terms of the preferred stock;
- issue any evidence of our indebtedness or rights to subscribe for or purchase our indebtedness to holders of our common stock or preferred stock; or
- issue common stock or preferred stock or additional stock or other securities or property to holders of our common stock or preferred stock by way of a spin-off, split-up, reclassification, combination of shares or similar corporate rearrangement,

then the holders of common stock warrants, preferred stock warrants and debt security warrants, as applicable, will be entitled to receive upon exercise of the warrants, in addition to the securities otherwise receivable upon exercise of the warrants and without paying any additional consideration, the amount of stock and other securities and property such holders would have been entitled to receive had they held the common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, as applicable, issuable under the warrants on the dates on which holders of those securities received or became entitled to receive such additional stock and other securities and property.

Except as stated above, the exercise price and number of securities covered by a common stock warrant, preferred stock warrant and debt security warrant, and the amounts of other securities or property to be received, if any, upon exercise of those warrants, will not be adjusted or provided for if we issue those securities or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for those securities, or securities carrying the right to purchase those securities or securities convertible into or exchangeable for those securities.

Holders of common stock warrants, preferred stock warrants and debt security warrants may have additional rights under the following circumstances:

- certain reclassifications, capital reorganizations or changes of the common stock or preferred stock, as applicable;
- certain share exchanges, mergers or similar transactions involving us and which result in changes of the common stock or preferred stock, as applicable; or
- certain sales or dispositions to another entity of all or substantially all of our property and assets.

If one of the above transactions occurs and holders of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities are entitled to receive stock, securities or other property with respect to or in exchange for their securities, the holders of the common stock warrants, preferred stock warrants and debt security warrants then outstanding, as applicable, will be entitled to receive upon exercise of their warrants the kind and amount of shares of stock and other securities or property that they would have received upon the applicable transaction if they had exercised their warrants immediately before the transaction.

## DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the units that we may offer under this prospectus. Units may be offered independently or together with common stock, preferred stock, debt securities and warrants offered by any prospectus supplement, and may be attached to or separate from those securities. While the terms we have summarized below will generally apply to any future units that we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any series of units that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any units offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below.

We will incorporate by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part the form of unit agreement, including a form of unit certificate, if any, that describes the terms of the series of units we are offering before the issuance of the related series of units. The following summaries of material provisions of the units and the unit agreements are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the unit agreement applicable to a particular series of units. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the units that we sell under this prospectus, as well as the complete unit agreements that contain the terms of the units.

### General

We may issue units consisting of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities and/or warrants in any combination. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit agreement under which a unit is issued may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately, at any time or at any time before a specified date.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of units, including the following:

- the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or transferred separately;
- any provisions of the governing unit agreement that differ from those described below; and
- any provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units.

The provisions described in this section, as well as those described under “Description of Common Stock,” “Description of Preferred Stock,” “Description of Debt Securities,” and “Description of Warrants,” will apply to each unit and to any common stock, preferred stock, debt security or warrant included in each unit, respectively.

### Issuance in Series

We may issue units in such amounts and in such numerous distinct series as we determine.

### Enforceability of Rights by Holders of Units

Each unit agent will act solely as our agent under the applicable unit agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holder of any unit. A single bank or trust company may act as unit agent for more than one series of units. A unit agent will have no duty or responsibility in case of any default by us under the applicable unit agreement or unit, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any proceedings at law or otherwise, or to make any demand upon us. Any holder of a unit may, without the consent of the related unit agent or the holder of any other unit, enforce by appropriate legal action its rights as holder under any security included in the unit.

Title

We, the unit agent and any of their agents may treat the registered holder of any unit certificate as an absolute owner of the units evidenced by that certificate for any purposes and as the person entitled to exercise the rights attaching to the units so requested, despite any notice to the contrary.

LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

We can issue securities in registered form or in the form of one or more global securities. We refer to those persons who have securities registered in their own names on the books that we or any applicable trustee, depository, or warrant agent maintain for this purpose as the “holders” of those securities. These persons are the legal holders of the securities. We refer to those persons who, indirectly through others, own beneficial interests in securities that are not registered in their own names as “indirect holders” of those securities. As we discuss below, indirect holders are not legal holders, and investors in securities issued in book-entry form or in street name will be indirect holders.

See also the section entitled “Description of Debt Securities — Form, Transfer, and Exchange” above for additional discussion of book entry and certificated form of ownership as such forms of ownership impact the rights and obligations of purchasers of debt securities to be issued under this prospectus.

Book-Entry Holders

We may issue securities in whole or in part in book-entry form, as we will specify in the applicable prospectus supplement. Book-entry form means securities may be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depository on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depository’s book-entry system. These participating institutions, which are referred to as participants, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the securities on behalf of themselves or their customers. Upon the issuance of a global security, the depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants’ accounts with the respective principal amounts of the book-entry securities represented by the global security beneficially owned by such participants. The accounts to be credited will be designated by any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the book-entry securities. Ownership of book-entry securities will be shown on, and the transfer of the ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the depository for the related global security (with respect to interests of participants) and on the records of participants (with respect to interests of persons holding through participants). The laws of some states may require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. These laws may impair the ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in book-entry securities.

Only the person in whose name a security is registered is recognized as the holder of that security. Securities issued in global form will be registered in the name of the depository or its participants. Consequently, for securities issued in global form, we will recognize only the depository as the holder of the securities, and we will make all payments on the securities to the depository. The depository passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depository and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the securities.

As a result, investors in a book-entry security will not own securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depository’s book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as the securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect holders, not holders, of the securities.

#### Street Name Holders

We may terminate a global security or issue securities in non-global form. In these cases, investors may choose to hold their securities in their own names or in “street name.” Securities held by an investor in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those securities through an account he she, or it maintains at that institution.

For securities held in street name, we will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the securities are registered as the holders of those securities, and we will make all payments on those securities to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold securities in street name will be indirect holders, not holders, of those securities.

#### Legal Holders

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of any applicable trustee and of any third parties employed by us or a trustee, run only to the legal holders of the securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect holder of a security or has no choice because we are issuing the securities only in global form.

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the holder, we have no further responsibility for the payment or notice even if that holder is required, under agreements with depositary participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect holders but does not do so. Whether and how the holders contact the indirect holders is up to the holders.

#### Special Considerations For Indirect Holders

If you hold securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, you should check with your own institution to determine the following:

- how it handles securities payments and notices;
- whether it imposes fees or charges;
- how it would handle a request for the holders’ consent, if ever required;
- whether and how you can instruct it to send you securities registered in your own name so you can be a holder, if that is permitted in the future;
- how it would exercise rights under the securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and
- if the securities are in book-entry form, how the depositary’s rules and procedures will affect these matters.

#### Global Securities

A global security is a security that represents one or any other number of individual securities held by a depositary. Generally, all securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms. Each security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution or its nominee that we select. The financial institution that we select for this purpose is called the depositary. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, DTC will be the depositary for all securities issued in book-entry form.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depositary, its nominee or a successor depositary, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under “Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated.” As a result of these arrangements, the depositary, or its nominee, will be the sole registered owner and holder of all securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depositary or with another institution that does. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a holder of the security, but only an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

If the prospectus supplement for a particular security indicates that the security will be issued in global form only, then the security will be represented by a global security at all times unless and until the global security is terminated. If termination occurs, we may issue the securities through another book-entry clearing system or decide that the securities may no longer be held through any book-entry clearing system.

We may at any time and in our sole discretion determine not to have any of the book-entry securities of any series represented by one or more global securities and, in that event, we will issue certificated securities in exchange for the global securities of that series.

#### Special Considerations For Global Securities

The rights of an indirect holder relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor’s financial institution and of the depositary, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize an indirect holder as a holder of securities and instead deal only with the depositary that holds the global security.

If securities are issued only in the form of a global security, an investor should be aware of the following:

- an investor cannot cause the securities to be registered in his, her or its name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his, her or its interest in the securities, except in the special situations we describe below;
- an investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his, her or its own bank or broker for payments on the securities and protection of his, her or its legal rights relating to the securities, as we describe above;
- an investor may not be able to sell interests in the securities to some insurance companies and to other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form;
- an investor may not be able to pledge his, her or its interest in a global security in circumstances where certificates representing the securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective;
- the depositary's policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to an investor's interest in a global security;
- we and any applicable trustee have no responsibility for any aspect of the depositary's actions or for its records of ownership interests in a global security, nor do we or any applicable trustee supervise the depositary in any way;
- the depositary may, and we understand that DTC will, require that those who purchase and sell interests in a global security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds, and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well; and
- financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system, and through which an investor holds its interest in a global security, may also have their own policies affecting payments, notices and other matters relating to the securities.

There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of those intermediaries.

#### Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated

In a few special situations described below, the global security will terminate and interests in it will be exchanged for physical certificates representing those interests. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in securities transferred to their own name, so that they will be direct holders. We have described the rights of holders and street name investors above.

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the global security will terminate when the following special situations occur:

- if the depositary notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified under the Exchange Act to continue as depositary for that global security and we do not appoint another institution to act as depositary within 90 days;
- if we notify any applicable trustee that we wish to terminate that global security; or
- if an event of default has occurred with regard to securities represented by that global security and has not been cured or waived.

The prospectus supplement may also list additional situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular types and series of securities covered by the applicable prospectus supplement. When a global security terminates, the depositary, and not we or any applicable trustee, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders.

#### PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities described in this prospectus from time to time in one or more of the following ways:

- to or through underwriters or dealers;
- directly to one or more purchasers;
- through agents; or
- through a combination of any of those methods of sale.

The prospectus supplement with respect to the offered securities will describe the terms of the offering, including the following:

- the name or names of any underwriters or agents;
- any public offering price;
- the proceeds from such sale;
- any underwriting discounts or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters' or agents' compensation;
- any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;
- any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and
- any securities exchanges on which the securities may be listed.

We may distribute the securities from time to time in one or more of the following ways:

- at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed;
- at prices relating to prevailing market prices at the time of sale;
- at varying prices determined at the time of sale; or
- at negotiated prices.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, if we use underwriters for a sale of securities, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price, or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities of the series offered if they purchase any of the securities of that series. We may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions the underwriters allow or reallocate or pay to dealers. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe in the prospectus supplement naming the underwriter the nature of any such relationship. We may designate agents who agree to use their reasonable efforts to solicit purchases for the period of their appointment or to sell securities on a continuing basis. We may also sell securities directly to one or more purchasers without using underwriters or agents.

Underwriters, dealers or agents may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from us or from purchasers of the securities as their agents in connection with the sale of the securities. These underwriters, dealers or agents may be considered to be underwriters under the Securities Act. As a result, discounts, commissions or profits on resale received by underwriters, dealers or agents may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions. Each prospectus supplement will identify any underwriter, dealer or agent and describe any compensation received by them from us. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, each class or series of securities will be a new issue with no established trading market, other than our common stock, which is listed on the NASDAQ. We may elect to list any other class or series of securities on any exchange, but we are not obligated to do so. It is possible that one or more underwriters may make a market in a class or series of securities, but the underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot give any assurance as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of the securities.

In connection with any offering, the underwriters may engage in stabilizing transactions, over-allotment transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act.

- Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.
- Over-allotment involves sales by the underwriters of shares of our common stock in excess of the number of shares the underwriters are obligated to purchase, which creates a syndicate short position. The short position may be either a covered short position or a naked short position. In a covered short position, the number of shares of our common stock over-allotted by the underwriters is not greater than the number of shares that they may purchase in the over-allotment option. In a naked short position, the number of shares of our common stock involved is greater than the number of shares in the over-allotment option. The underwriters may close out any covered short position by either exercising their over-allotment option or purchasing shares of our common stock in the open market.
- Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of our common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. In determining the source of shares to close out the short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares of our common stock available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase shares through the over-allotment option so that if there is a naked short position, the position can only be closed out by buying shares in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there could be downward pressure on the price of the shares of our common stock in the open market after the pricing of any offering that could adversely affect investors who purchase in that offering.
- Penalty bids permit the representatives of the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the common stock originally sold by the syndicate member is purchased in a stabilizing or syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions.



These stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of our common stock. As a result, the price of our common stock may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. These transactions may be effected on the NASDAQ or otherwise and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled under agreements entered into with us to indemnification against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments they may be required to make in respect of these liabilities thereof. Underwriters, dealers, agents and their affiliates may be customers of, may engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business for which they receive compensation.

#### Trading Markets and Listing Of Securities

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, each class or series of securities will be a new issue with no established trading market, other than our common stock, which is listed on The Nasdaq Global Select Market. We may elect to list any other class or series of securities on any exchange or market, but we are not obligated to do so. It is possible that one or more underwriters may make a market in a class or series of securities, but the underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot give any assurance as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of the securities.

#### Blue Sky Restrictions on Resale

After you purchase our securities under this registration statement, you will need to comply with state securities laws, also known as "Blue Sky laws," with regard to secondary sales in certain states in the United States. All states offer a variety of exemptions from registration for secondary sales. Many states, for example, have an exemption for secondary trading of certain securities registered under Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Your broker will be able to advise you about which states exempt our securities from registration for secondary sales.

#### LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon by Squire, Sanders & Dempsey (US) LLP. Certain legal matters may be passed upon for any agents or underwriters by counsel for such agents or underwriters identified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

#### EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Amtech Systems, Inc. incorporated in this prospectus by reference to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the years ended September 30, 2010 have been so incorporated in reliance on the reports of Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C., an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

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Amtech Systems, Inc.

\$60,000,000

Common Stock  
Preferred Stock  
Debt Securities  
Warrants  
Units

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PROSPECTUS

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[\_\_\_\_\_], 2010

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This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the terms of those securities. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement with the additional information described under the Sections entitled, "Incorporation by Reference" and "Where You Can Find More Information."

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## PART II

## INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

## Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

The following table sets forth the estimated fees and expenses, other than underwriting discounts and other fees and expenses associated with offerings of particular securities, in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered. All of the amounts shown are estimates, except for the SEC registration fee:

| Description                      | Amount to be Paid (\$) |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| SEC Registration Fee             | 6,966                  |
| Accountants' Fees and Expenses   | 10,000(1)              |
| Legal Fees and Expenses          | 25,000(1)              |
| Printing and Engraving Expenses  | (2)                    |
| Transfer Agent Fees and Expenses | (2)                    |
| Miscellaneous Fees               | (2)                    |
| Total                            | (2)                    |

- (1) These fees include only the costs of filing this Registration Statement. Additional fees will be dependent on the type of securities offered and number of offerings and, therefore, cannot be estimated at this time. In accordance with Rule 430B, additional information regarding estimated fees and expenses will be provided at the time information as to an offering is included in a prospectus supplement.
- (2) These fees will be dependent on the type of securities offered and number of offerings and, therefore, cannot be estimated at this time. In accordance with Rule 430B, additional information regarding estimated fees and expenses will be provided at the time information as to an offering is included in a prospectus supplement.

## Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Pursuant to Amtech's Articles of Incorporation, it shall indemnify any and all of its existing and former directors, officers, employees and agents against all expenses incurred by them and each of them, including, but not limited to legal fees, judgments, penalties and amounts paid in settlement or compromise, which may arise or be incurred, rendered, or levied in any legal action brought or threatened against any of them for or on account of any action or omission alleged to have been committed while acting within the scope of employment as director, officer, employee or agent of the Company, whether or not any action is or has been filed against them and whether or not any settlement or compromise is approved by a court, indemnification shall be made by the Company whether the legal action brought or threatened is by or in the right of the Company or by any other person. Whenever any existing or former director, officer, employee, or agent shall report to the President of the Company or the chairman of the Board of Directors that he or she has incurred or may incur expenses, including, but not limited to, legal fees, judgments, penalties and amounts paid in settlement or compromise in a legal action brought or threatened against him or her for or on account of any action or omission alleged to have been committed by him or her while acting within the scope of his or her employment as a director, officer, employee or agent of the Company, the Board of Directors shall, at its next regular or at a special meeting held within a reasonable time thereafter, determine in good faith, whether in regard to the matter involved in the action or contemplated action, such person acted, failed to act, or refused to act willfully or with gross negligence or with fraudulent or criminal intent. If the Board of Directors determines, in good faith, that such person did not act, fail to act, or refuse to act willfully or with gross negligence or with fraudulent or criminal intent, in regard to the matter involved in the action or contemplated action, such person acted, failed to act, or refused to act willfully or with gross negligence or with fraudulent criminal intent, indemnification shall be mandatory and shall be automatically extended as specified herein; provided, that the Company shall have the right to refuse indemnification in any instance in which the person to whom indemnification would otherwise have been applicable shall have unreasonably refused to permit the Company, at its own expense and through counsel of its own choosing, to defend him or her in the action.

Section 10-851 of Arizona's Revised Statutes enables a corporation to eliminate or limit personal liability of members of its board of directors for violations of their fiduciary duty of care. However, Arizona law does not permit the elimination of a director's or officer's liability: (i) in connection with a proceeding by or in the right of the corporation in which the director was adjudged liable to the corporation; and (ii) in connection with any other proceeding charging improper financial benefit to the director, whether or not involving action in the director's official capacity, in which the director was adjudged liable on the basis that financial benefit was improperly received by the director.

We have also obtained director's and officer's liability insurance.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling Amtech pursuant to the foregoing provision, Amtech has been informed that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in such Act and is therefore unenforceable.

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## Edgar Filing: AMTECH SYSTEMS INC - Form S-3

### Item 16. Exhibits.

| Exhibit | Description   |
|---------|---|
| 1.1*    | Form of Underwriting Agreement  |
| 4.1     | Articles of Incorporation, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Form S-1 Registration Statement No. 2-83934-LA   |
| 4.2     | Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated April 27, 1983, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Form S-1 Registration Statement No. 2-83934-LA  |
| 4.3     | Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated May 19, 1987, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 1987  |
| 4.4     | Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated May 2, 1988, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 1988   |
| 4.5     | Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated May 28, 1993, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Form S-1 Registration Statement (File No. 33-77368)   |
| 4.6     | Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated March 14, 1999, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 1999  |
| 4.7     | Certificate of Designations, Preferences and Privileges of the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock, dated April 21, 2005, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 28, 2005   |
| 4.8     | Amended and Restated Bylaws, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 8, 2008  |
| 4.9     | Amended and Restated Rights Agreement as of December 15, 2008, by and between Amtech Systems, Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., including the form of Certificate of Designation, the form of Rights Certificate and the Summary of Rights attached thereto as Exhibits A, B and C, respectively, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 15, 2008 |
| 4.10    | Form of Subscription Agreement for the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 28, 2005   |
| 4.11*   | Specimen Certificate of Preferred Stock   |
| 4.12*   | Form of Warrant Agreement and Certificate   |
| 4.13*   | Form of Debt Security   |
| 4.14    | Form of Indenture   |
| 4.15*   | Form of Unit Agreement and Unit Certificate   |
| 5.1     | Opinion of counsel regarding legality of securities   |
| 12.1*   | Statement of Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges  |
| 23.1    | Consent of counsel (included in Exhibit 5.1 hereto)   |
| 23.2    | Consent of Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C.  |
| 24.1    | Power of attorney   |
| 25.1*   | Statement of Eligibility on Form T-1 under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 of the Trustee under the Indenture   |

\* To be filed by amendment to this registration statement or by a report filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 17. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in the volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

Provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) of this section do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3 or Form F-3 and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) If the registrant is relying on Rule 430B:

(A) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(c) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that:

(1) For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective.

(2) For the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(d) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Act.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the city of Tempe, State of Arizona, on February 8, 2011.

Amtech Systems, Inc.

By: /s/ Bradley C. Anderson  
 Bradley C. Anderson  
 Vice President - Finance and Chief Financial Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated.

| Signature               | Title                                  | Date             |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|
| *                       | Chairman and Chief Executive Officer   | February 8, 2011 |
| Jong S. Whang           | (principal executive officer)          |                  |
| /s/ Bradley C. Anderson | Vice President - Finance and Chief     | February 8, 2011 |
| Bradley C. Anderson     | Financial Officer (principal financial |                  |
|                         | officer)                               |                  |
| *                       | Chief Accounting Officer (principal    | February 8, 2011 |
| Robert T. Haas          | accounting officer)                    |                  |
| *                       | Director                               | February 8, 2011 |
| Michael Garnreiter      |  |                  |
| *                       | Director                               | February 8, 2011 |
| Robert F. King          |  |                  |
| *                       | Director                               | February 8, 2011 |
| Egbert Jan Gert Goudena |  |                  |
| *                       | Director                               | February 8, 2011 |
| Alfred W. Giese         |  |                  |
| *                       | Director                               | February 8, 2011 |
| Dr. Jeong Mo Hwang      |  |                  |

\* Bradley C. Anderson, the undersigned attorney-in-fact, by signing his name hereto, does hereby sign and execute this registration statement on behalf of the above indicated directors of the registrant (constituting all of the directors) pursuant to a Power of Attorney filed with this registration statement as Exhibit 24.1.

Amtech Systems, Inc.

February 8, 2011 By: /s/ Bradley C. Anderson  
 Bradley C. Anderson  
 Vice President - Finance and Chief Financial Officer

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### Exhibits.

| Exhibit | Description   |
|---------|---|
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| 4.1     | Articles of Incorporation, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Form S-1 Registration Statement No. 2-83934-LA   |
| 4.2     | Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated April 27, 1983, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Form S-1 Registration Statement No. 2-83934-LA  |
| 4.3     | Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated May 19, 1987, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 1987  |
| 4.4     | Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated May 2, 1988, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 1988   |
| 4.5     | Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated May 28, 1993, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Form S-1 Registration Statement (File No. 33-77368)   |
| 4.6     | Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated March 14, 1999, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 1999  |
| 4.7     | Certificate of Designations, Preferences and Privileges of the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock, dated April 21, 2005, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 28, 2005   |
| 4.8     | Amended and Restated Bylaws, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 8, 2008  |
| 4.9     | Amended and Restated Rights Agreement as of December 15, 2008, by and between Amtech Systems, Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., including the form of Certificate of Designation, the form of Rights Certificate and the Summary of Rights attached thereto as Exhibits A, B and C, respectively, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 15, 2008 |
| 4.10    | Form of Subscription Agreement for the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock, incorporated by reference to Amtech's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 28, 2005   |
| 4.11*   | Specimen Certificate of Preferred Stock   |
| 4.12*   | Form of Warrant Agreement and Certificate   |
| 4.13*   | Form of Debt Security   |
| 4.14    | Form of Indenture   |
| 4.15*   | Form of Unit Agreement and Unit Certificate   |
| 5.1     | Opinion of counsel regarding legality of securities   |
| 12.1*   | Statement of Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges  |
| 23.1    | Consent of counsel (included in Exhibit 5.1 hereto)   |
| 23.2    | Consent of Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C.  |
| 24.1    | Power of attorney   |
| 25.1*   | Statement of Eligibility on Form T-1 under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 of the Trustee under the Indenture   |

\* To be filed by amendment to this registration statement or by a report filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference.