
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2022
or

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 001-36152

Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

20-3109565
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

**4301 Emperor Boulevard, Suite 400
Durham, North Carolina 27703
(919) 237-5300**

(Address of principal executive offices, zip code and telephone number, including area code)

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

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share	AERI	Nasdaq Global Market

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes: No:

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes: No:

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

Large accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emerging growth company	<input type="checkbox"/>		

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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

As of October 28, 2022, there were 49,417,407 shares of the registrant's common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, outstanding.

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Unless otherwise indicated or the context requires, the terms “Aerie,” “Company,” “we,” “us,” and “our” refer to Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and its subsidiaries. References to “products” mean products approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) or other regulatory authorities; references to “product candidates” mean products that are in development but not yet approved by the FDA or other regulatory authorities; and references to “future product candidates” mean products that have not yet been developed.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). We may, in some cases, use terms such as “predicts,” “believes,” “potential,” “proposed,” “continue,” “estimates,” “anticipates,” “expects,” “plans,” “intends,” “may,” “would,” “could,” “might,” “will,” “should,” “exploring,” “pursuing,” or other words that convey uncertainty of future events or outcomes to identify these forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements appear in a number of places throughout this report and include statements regarding our intentions, beliefs, projections, outlook, analyses, or current expectations concerning, among other things:

- the anticipated timing of the proposed Merger (as defined below) with Alcon Research, LLC and the expected benefits of the proposed transaction, as further described in Note 1 to our condensed consolidated financial statements included in this report;
- the broad impact of the coronavirus (“COVID-19”) pandemic on our business;
- the sales of Rocklatan[®] (netarsudil and latanoprost ophthalmic solution) 0.02%/0.005% (“Rocklatan[®]”) or of Rhopressa[®] (netarsudil ophthalmic solution) 0.02% (“Rhopressa[®]”), in the United States, and the potential future sales in the United States of any product candidates or future product candidates, if approved;
- the potential future sales in jurisdictions outside of the United States of Rocklatan[®], named Roclanda[®] (netarsudil and latanoprost ophthalmic solution) 0.02%/0.005% (“Roclanda[®]”) in Europe, or Rhopressa[®], named Rhokiinsa[®] (netarsudil ophthalmic solution) 0.02% (“Rhokiinsa[®]”) in Europe, or their equivalents, and those of any product candidates or future product candidates;
- our commercialization, marketing, manufacturing and supply management capabilities, and strategies in and outside of the United States;
- third-party payer coverage and reimbursement for our products, product candidates, and any future product candidates, if approved;
- the glaucoma patient market size and the rate and degree of market adoption of our products, product candidates, and any future product candidates, if approved, by eye-care professionals and patients;
- the timing, cost or other aspects of the commercial launch of our products, product candidates, and any future product candidates, if approved;
- the success, timing, and cost of our ongoing and anticipated preclinical studies and clinical trials for our product candidates and any future product candidates, including statements regarding the timing of initiation and completion of the studies and trials;
- our expectations regarding the effectiveness of our products, product candidates, and any future product candidates and our expectations regarding the results of any clinical trials and preclinical studies;
- the timing of and our ability to request, obtain, and maintain FDA or other regulatory authority approval of, or other action with respect to our products, product candidates, and any future product candidates in the United States, Europe, Japan, and elsewhere, including the expected timing of, and regulatory and/or other review of, filings for such products, product candidates, and any future product candidates;
- our expectations related to the use of proceeds from our financing activities;

- our estimates regarding anticipated operating expenses and capital requirements and our needs for additional financing;
- our plans to pursue development of additional product candidates and technologies in ophthalmology, including development of our products or product candidates for additional indications, and our preclinical retinal programs and other therapeutic opportunities;
- the potential advantages of our products, product candidates, and any future product candidates;
- our ability to protect our proprietary technology and enforce our intellectual property rights; and
- our expectations regarding existing and future collaborations, licensing, acquisitions, and strategic operations, including our ability to in-license or acquire additional ophthalmic products, product candidates or technologies.

By their nature, forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties because they relate to events, competitive dynamics, industry changes and other factors beyond our control, and depend on regulatory approvals and economic and other environmental circumstances that may or may not occur in the future or may occur on longer or shorter timelines than anticipated. We discuss many of these risks in greater detail under the heading “Risk Factors” in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) on February 25, 2022 and Part II, Item 1A of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, and other documents we have filed or furnished with the SEC.

You should not rely upon forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. Although we believe that we have a reasonable basis for each forward-looking statement contained in this report, we caution you that forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and that our actual results of operations, financial condition and liquidity, and the development of the industry in which we operate, may differ materially from the forward-looking statements contained in this report. In addition, even if our results of operations, financial condition and liquidity, and events in the industry in which we operate, are consistent with the forward-looking statements contained in this report, they may not be predictive of results or developments in future periods.

In particular, FDA and European Medicines Agency (“EMA”) approval of Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®], and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (“MHRA”) authorization of Roclanda[®] does not guarantee regulatory approval of Rocklatan[®], Rhopressa[®], or Roclanda[®] in other jurisdictions, and there can be no assurance that we will receive regulatory approval for Rocklatan[®], Rhopressa[®], or Roclanda[®] in such other jurisdictions. In addition, FDA approval of Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®] does not guarantee FDA approval of our product candidates or any future product candidates and there can be no assurance that we will receive FDA approval for our product candidates or any future product candidates. Furthermore, the acceptance of the Investigational New Drug Applications by the FDA for our product candidates does not guarantee FDA approval of such product candidates and the outcomes of later clinical trials for our product candidates may not be sufficient to submit a New Drug Application (“NDA”) with the FDA or to receive FDA approval. In addition, the clinical trials discussed in this report are preliminary and the outcome of such clinical trials may not be predictive of the outcome of later clinical trials. Any future clinical trial results may not demonstrate safety and efficacy sufficient to obtain regulatory approval related to the clinical trials findings discussed in this report, and we may suspend or discontinue research programs at any time for any reason.

Any forward-looking statements that we make in this report speak only as of the date of this report. Except as required by law, we are under no duty to update or revise any of the forward-looking statements, whether the result of new information, future events or otherwise, after the date of this report.

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**Item 1. Financial Statements****AERIE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.****Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets**
(Unaudited)
(in thousands, except share data)

	SEPTEMBER 30, 2022	DECEMBER 31, 2021
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 54,093	\$ 37,187
Short-term investments	118,371	102,614
Accounts receivable, net	73,881	68,828
Inventory	46,762	40,410
Licensing receivable	—	90,000
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	9,706	16,611
Total current assets	302,813	355,650
Property, plant, and equipment, net	50,296	51,472
Operating lease right-of-use assets	20,760	22,669
Other assets	1,721	1,600
Total assets	\$ 375,590	\$ 431,391
Liabilities and Stockholders' Deficit		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 9,062	\$ 8,285
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	119,398	112,341
Operating lease liabilities	4,873	4,365
Total current liabilities	133,333	124,991
Convertible notes, net	312,588	234,527
Deferred revenue, non-current	70,881	64,315
Operating lease liabilities, non-current	19,525	21,751
Other non-current liabilities	3,245	3,140
Total liabilities	539,572	448,724
Commitments and contingencies (Note 12)		
Stockholders' deficit		
Preferred stock, \$0.001 par value; 15,000,000 shares authorized as of September 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021; none issued and outstanding	—	—
Common stock, \$0.001 par value; 150,000,000 shares authorized as of September 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021; 49,390,503 and 48,444,473 shares issued and outstanding as of September 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021, respectively	49	48
Additional paid-in capital	1,024,809	1,136,656
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(803)	(126)
Accumulated deficit	(1,188,037)	(1,153,911)
Total stockholders' deficit	(163,982)	(17,333)
Total liabilities and stockholders' deficit	\$ 375,590	\$ 431,391

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

AERIE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Loss
(Unaudited)

(in thousands, except share and per share data)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Product revenues, net	\$ 36,129	\$ 29,313	\$ 99,275	\$ 79,468
Total revenues, net	36,129	29,313	99,275	79,468
Costs and expenses:				
Cost of goods sold	6,929	7,899	17,450	20,776
Selling, general, and administrative	33,878	34,656	93,551	101,796
Research and development	21,994	19,132	66,726	54,990
Total costs and expenses	62,801	61,687	177,727	177,562
Loss from operations	(26,672)	(32,374)	(78,452)	(98,094)
Other expense, net	(59)	(7,259)	(2,800)	(22,142)
Loss before income taxes	(26,731)	(39,633)	(81,252)	(120,236)
Income tax expense	95	58	836	107
Net loss	\$ (26,826)	\$ (39,691)	\$ (82,088)	\$ (120,343)
Net loss per common share—basic and diluted	\$ (0.56)	\$ (0.86)	\$ (1.72)	\$ (2.60)
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding—basic and diluted	47,819,936	46,342,905	47,635,854	46,217,404
Net loss	\$ (26,826)	\$ (39,691)	\$ (82,088)	\$ (120,343)
Unrealized (loss) gain on available-for-sale investments, net	(10)	2	(677)	(7)
Comprehensive loss	\$ (26,836)	\$ (39,689)	\$ (82,765)	\$ (120,350)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

AERIE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' (Deficit) Equity
(Unaudited)**

(in thousands, except share data)

	COMMON STOCK		ADDITIONAL PAID-IN CAPITAL	ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE LOSS	ACCUMULATED DEFICIT	TOTAL
	SHARES	AMOUNT				
Balances at December 31, 2020	46,821,644	\$ 47	\$ 1,103,074	\$ (52)	\$ (1,079,101)	\$ 23,968
Issuance of common stock upon exercise of stock options	62,016	—	26	—	—	26
Issuance of common stock for restricted stock awards, net	10,162	—	(1,127)	—	—	(1,127)
Stock-based compensation	—	—	8,741	—	—	8,741
Other comprehensive loss	—	—	—	(12)	—	(12)
Net loss	—	—	—	—	(41,964)	(41,964)
Balances at March 31, 2021	46,893,822	\$ 47	\$ 1,110,714	\$ (64)	\$ (1,121,065)	\$ (10,368)
Issuance of common stock upon exercise of stock purchase rights	89,555	—	998	—	—	998
Issuance of common stock upon exercise of stock options	18,426	—	91	—	—	91
Issuance of common stock for restricted stock awards, net	(7,400)	—	(13)	—	—	(13)
Stock-based compensation	—	—	8,363	—	—	8,363
Other comprehensive income	—	—	—	3	—	3
Net loss	—	—	—	—	(38,688)	(38,688)
Balances at June 30, 2021	46,994,403	\$ 47	\$ 1,120,153	\$ (61)	\$ (1,159,753)	\$ (39,614)
Issuance of common stock upon exercise of stock options	8,897	—	112	—	—	112
Issuance of common stock for restricted stock awards, net	176,433	—	(502)	—	—	(502)
Stock-based compensation	—	—	6,817	—	—	6,817
Other comprehensive income	—	—	—	2	—	2
Net loss	—	—	—	—	(39,691)	(39,691)
Balances at September 30, 2021	47,179,733	\$ 47	\$ 1,126,580	\$ (59)	\$ (1,199,444)	\$ (72,876)

	COMMON STOCK		ADDITIONAL PAID-IN CAPITAL	ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE LOSS	ACCUMULATED DEFICIT	TOTAL
	SHARES	AMOUNT				
Balances at December 31, 2021	48,444,473	\$ 48	\$ 1,136,656	\$ (126)	\$ (1,153,911)	\$ (17,333)
Cumulative effect adjustment from adoption of ASU 2020-06	—	—	(124,666)	—	47,962	(76,704)
Issuance of common stock for restricted stock awards, net	191,227	—	(358)	—	—	(358)
Stock-based compensation	—	—	4,878	—	—	4,878
Other comprehensive loss	—	—	—	(304)	—	(304)
Net loss	—	—	—	—	(35,891)	(35,891)
Balances at March 31, 2022	48,635,700	\$ 48	\$ 1,016,510	\$ (430)	\$ (1,141,840)	\$ (125,712)
Issuance of common stock upon exercise of stock purchase rights	30,043	—	191	—	—	191
Issuance of common stock for restricted stock awards, net	20,505	—	(25)	—	—	(25)
Stock-based compensation	—	—	4,146	—	—	4,146
Other comprehensive loss	—	—	—	(363)	—	(363)
Net loss	—	—	—	—	(19,371)	(19,371)
Balances at June 30, 2022	48,686,248	\$ 48	\$ 1,020,822	\$ (793)	\$ (1,161,211)	\$ (141,134)
Issuance of common stock upon exercise of stock options	197,701	—	679	—	—	679
Issuance of common stock for restricted stock awards, net	506,554	1	(492)	—	—	(491)
Stock-based compensation	—	—	3,800	—	—	3,800
Other comprehensive loss	—	—	—	(10)	—	(10)
Net loss	—	—	—	—	(26,826)	(26,826)
Balances at September 30, 2022	49,390,503	\$ 49	\$ 1,024,809	\$ (803)	\$ (1,188,037)	\$ (163,982)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

AERIE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(Unaudited)
(in thousands)

	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2022	2021
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net loss	\$ (82,088)	\$ (120,343)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		
Depreciation	4,802	4,774
Amortization and accretion	5,582	22,943
Stock-based compensation	12,232	23,358
Other non-cash	(505)	1,221
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Accounts receivable, net	(5,053)	(8,544)
Inventory	(5,548)	(2,486)
Prepaid, current, and other assets	6,938	(5,381)
Licensing receivable	90,000	—
Accounts payable, accrued expenses, and other current liabilities	7,692	14,738
Operating lease liabilities	(3,341)	(2,165)
Deferred revenue	6,566	2,841
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	37,277	(69,044)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of available-for-sale investments	(145,726)	(112,432)
Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments	129,137	94,708
Purchase of property, plant, and equipment	(3,779)	(2,540)
Net cash used in investing activities	(20,368)	(20,264)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Payments related to issuance of stock for stock-based compensation arrangements, net	(3)	(415)
Net cash used in financing activities	(3)	(415)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	16,906	(89,723)
Cash and cash equivalents, at beginning of period	37,187	151,570
Cash and cash equivalents, at end of period	\$ 54,093	\$ 61,847
Non-cash investing and financing activities		
Purchase of property, plant, and equipment in accounts payable and accrued expenses and other current liabilities	\$ 947	\$ 200

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

AERIE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.**Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(Unaudited)****1. The Company**

Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (“Aerie”), with its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Aerie Distribution, Inc., Aerie Pharmaceuticals Limited, Aerie Pharmaceuticals Ireland Limited, and Avizorex Pharma S.L. (“Aerie Distribution,” “Aerie Limited,” “Aerie Ireland Limited,” and “Avizorex,” respectively, together with Aerie, the “Company”), is a pharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development, and commercialization of first-in-class ophthalmic therapies for the treatment of patients with eye diseases and conditions including open-angle glaucoma, dry eye, diabetic macular edema (“DME”), and wet age-related macular degeneration (“AMD”). The Company has its principal executive offices in Durham, North Carolina, and operates as one business segment.

U.S. Commercialization of the Glaucoma Franchise

The Company has developed and commercialized two U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) approved products, Rocklatan® (netarsudil/latanoprost ophthalmic solution) 0.02%/0.005% (“Rocklatan®”) and Rhopressa® (netarsudil ophthalmic solution) 0.02% (“Rhopressa®”), which are sold in the United States and comprise its glaucoma franchise. Rocklatan® is a once-daily fixed-dose combination of Rhopressa® and latanoprost, a commonly prescribed drug for the treatment of patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension. Rhopressa® is a once-daily eye drop designed to reduce elevated intraocular pressure (“IOP”) in patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension. The Company is commercializing Rocklatan®, which was launched in the United States in May 2019, and Rhopressa®, which was launched in the United States in April 2018.

In March 2022, the Company commenced a Phase 4 program that was designed to further demonstrate that Rocklatan® is a highly effective single bottle, once-daily therapy.

Efforts Outside the United States

In addition to actively promoting Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® in the United States, the Company is also developing business opportunities outside of the United States and has made progress in its efforts to commercialize Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® in Europe, Japan, and other regions of the world.

The Company partnered and has collaboration agreements in place with Santen Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd. (“Santen Pharmaceuticals”) and Santen SA (“Santen SA”) and, together with Santen Pharmaceuticals, “Santen”) to develop and commercialize its products in Japan and South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and Taiwan (collectively, “East Asia”), as well as Europe, China, India, the Middle East, Commonwealth of Independent States (“CIS”), Africa, parts of Latin America, and the Oceania countries. The initial Collaboration and License Agreement with Santen was executed in October 2020 (the “First Santen Agreement”) to advance the Company’s clinical development and ultimately commercialize Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® in Japan and East Asia. The second Collaboration and License Agreement with Santen (the “Second Santen Agreement” and, together with the First Santen Agreement, the “Santen Agreements”) was executed in December 2021 to develop and commercialize Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® in Europe, China, India, the Middle East, CIS, Africa, parts of Latin America, and the Oceania countries. See Note 3 for additional information. In Europe, Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® will be marketed under the names Roclanda® and Rhokiinsa®, respectively.

Roclanda® and Rhokiinsa® were granted a Centralised Marketing Authorisation (“Centralised MA”) by the European Commission (“EC”) in January 2021 and November 2019, respectively. In April 2021, Roclanda® received marketing authorisation from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (“MHRA”) in Great Britain.

In Japan, in October 2021, the Company reported positive topline results for its Phase 3 clinical trial of netarsudil ophthalmic solution 0.02% (“netarsudil 0.02%”), the first of three expected Phase 3 clinical trials in Japan. A second, confirmatory Phase 3 study, required for approval in Japan, is currently underway. Santen is taking the lead on next steps in preparation for registration in Japan under the terms of the First Santen Agreement. Clinical trials for Rocklatan® in Japan have not yet begun.

Glaucoma Product Manufacturing

The Company has a sterile fill manufacturing facility in Athlone, Ireland (“Athlone plant”), for the production of its FDA and EMA approved products and clinical supplies. In addition, the Athlone plant has also manufactured clinical supplies of Rhopressa® for the Phase 3 clinical trials in Japan as well as registration batches to support product approval in Japan.

Product Candidates in Development

The Company is furthering the development of its product candidates focused on dry eye and retinal diseases as described below.

Dry Eye Program

The Company is developing AR-15512 ophthalmic solution for the treatment of patients with dry eye disease. The active ingredient in AR-15512 is a potent and selective agonist of the TRPM8 ion channel, a cold sensor and osmolarity sensor that regulates tear production and blink rate. In addition, activating the TRPM8 receptor may reduce ocular discomfort by promoting a cooling sensation.

In September 2021, the Company reported topline results of its Phase 2b clinical study, named COMET-1, for AR-15512. The Company completed a dose ranging study evaluating two concentrations of AR-15512 (0.0014% and 0.003%) in a 90-day trial with 369 subjects. The COMET-1 clinical study achieved statistical significance for multiple pre-specified and validated signs and symptoms. The greatest efficacy was demonstrated with the higher concentration 0.003% formulation, which the Company plans to advance to Phase 3 studies. The study did not achieve statistical significance at the pre-determined primary endpoints at Day 28. The Company gained alignment with the FDA in the first quarter of 2022 on the results of the Phase 2b clinical trial and confirmed the design of the Phase 3 registrational trials, which was based on the endpoints that achieved statistical significance in the COMET-1 study. The Company initiated the Phase 3 registrational trials in the second quarter of 2022, with the first Phase 3 registrational trial, named COMET-2, commencing in May 2022 with the enrollment of the first participant. The second Phase 3 registrational trial, named COMET-3, commenced in August 2022 with the enrollment of the first participant. Both COMET-2 and COMET-3 are multi-center, vehicle-controlled, double-masked, randomized clinical studies, designed to evaluate a single concentration of AR-15512 (0.003%) compared to the AR-15512 vehicle, administered twice-daily for 90 days. The last of the Phase 3 registrational trials, a 12-month study designed to evaluate the long-term safety of AR-15512, named COMET-4, commenced in November 2022 with the enrollment of the first participant.

Retina Program

The Company is currently developing two sustained-release implants focused on retinal diseases, AR-1105 and AR-14034 SR. For AR-1105, a dexamethasone steroid implant, the Company completed a Phase 2 clinical trial for patients with macular edema due to retinal vein occlusion (“RVO”) in July 2020 and reported topline results indicating sustained efficacy of up to six months.

The preclinical sustained-release implant AR-14034 SR is being designed to deliver the active ingredient, axitinib, a potent small molecule pan vascular endothelial growth factor (“VEGF”) receptor inhibitor. AR-14034 SR has the potential to provide a duration of effect of approximately one year with a once per-year injection. It may potentially be used to treat DME, wet AMD, and related diseases of the retina.

Liquidity

The Company’s activities prior to the commercial launch of Rhopressa[®] had primarily consisted of developing product candidates, raising capital, and performing research and development activities. The Company has incurred losses and experienced negative operating cash flows since inception. The Company had previously funded its operations primarily through the sale of equity securities and issuance of convertible notes prior to generating product revenues. In September 2019, the Company issued an aggregate principal amount of \$316.25 million of 1.50% convertible senior notes due October 2024 (the “Convertible Notes”). See Note 10 for additional information. Further, the Company entered into the First Santen Agreement and Second Santen Agreement in October 2020 and December 2021, respectively, pursuant to which Santen made upfront payments of \$50.0 million and \$88.0 million, respectively. In December 2021, the Company also earned a \$2.0 million supplemental upfront payment associated with the Second Santen Agreement. Total aggregate upfront payments of \$90.0 million associated with the Second Santen Agreement (the “Second Santen Agreement Upfront Payment”) were received in January 2022. See Note 3 for additional information. As of September 30, 2022, the Company had \$172.5 million in cash, cash equivalents, and investments. The Company believes that its cash, cash equivalents, and investments and projected cash flows from revenues will provide sufficient resources to support its operations, including interest payments for its Convertible Notes, through at least the next twelve months from the date of this filing, without giving effect to the proposed Merger (as defined below) and assuming the Company remains a standalone entity.

The Company expects to incur ongoing operating losses until such a time when Rocklatan[®] or Rhopressa[®] or any current or future product candidates, if approved, generate sufficient cash flows for the Company to achieve profitability. Accordingly, the Company may be required to obtain further funding through debt or equity offerings or other sources. In addition, the Company continues to evaluate collaboration and licensing opportunities related to its product candidates in development. Adequate

additional funding may not be available to the Company on acceptable terms, or at all. If the Company is unable to raise capital or repurchase, repay, or otherwise refinance its Convertible Notes when needed or on acceptable terms, it may be forced to delay, reduce or eliminate its research and development programs or commercialization and manufacturing efforts.

Additionally, pursuant to the Merger Agreement (as defined below) the Company is subject to a variety of operational restrictions. Unless the Company obtains Alcon's prior written consent, it may not, among other things and subject to certain exceptions and aggregate limitations, incur additional indebtedness, issue additional shares of common stock, repurchase common stock, pay dividends, acquire assets, or enter into material contracts. The Company does not believe these restrictions will prevent it from meeting ongoing costs of operations, working capital needs, or capital expenditure requirements.

Proposed Merger

On August 22, 2022, the Company entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the "Merger Agreement") with Alcon Research, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Alcon") and indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Alcon Inc., and Lyon Merger Sub, Inc., a Delaware corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of Alcon ("Merger Sub"). The Merger Agreement provides, among other things, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth therein, that Merger Sub will be merged with and into the Company, with the Company surviving as a wholly owned subsidiary of Alcon (the "Merger").

At the effective time of the Merger (the "Effective Time"), and by virtue of the Merger, each share of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, of the Company then outstanding (other than shares held (i) by the Company or held in the Company's treasury or (ii) by Alcon, Merger Sub or any direct or indirect wholly owned Subsidiary (as defined in the Merger Agreement) of Alcon or the Company, which, in each case, will be cancelled and retired and will cease to exist) will be converted into the right to receive \$15.25 per share in cash (the "Merger Consideration"), without interest and subject to any withholding of taxes. As a result of the Merger, the Company's common stock will no longer be publicly traded, and will be delisted from The Nasdaq Global Market ("Nasdaq").

The Company's Board of Directors unanimously approved the Merger Agreement and transactions contemplated thereby, including the Merger, and directed that a proposal to adopt the Merger Agreement be submitted to a vote at a meeting of the Company's stockholders.

The consummation of the Merger (the "Closing") is subject to certain conditions, including, but not limited to, (i) the approval and adoption of the Merger Agreement and the Merger by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock of the Company as of the close of business on October 4, 2022 at the stockholder meeting on November 17, 2022, (ii) the absence of any temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction or final judgment, or law, regulation, or order promulgated, enacted, issued or deemed applicable to the Merger, by any governmental entity in any jurisdiction in which Alcon or the Company has material business operations that prohibits or otherwise makes illegal the consummation of the Merger, and (iii) the expiration or termination of any waiting period (or any extension thereof) applicable to the Merger under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended (the "HSR Act"), and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. The parties expect the transaction to close following the receipt of all required regulatory and antitrust approvals and the satisfaction or waiver of the other closing conditions. The waiting period applicable to the Merger under the HSR Act expired in October 2022.

Pursuant to the terms of the Merger Agreement, the Company would be required to pay a termination fee to Alcon equal to \$27.0 million under certain specified conditions upon or following the termination of the Merger Agreement. Alcon will be required to make a payment to the Company equal to \$65.0 million if the Merger Agreement is terminated under certain specified conditions.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2022, the Company incurred \$10.4 million in Merger-related costs, including for professional services, which are included in general and administrative expenses in the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive loss.

The Merger is expected to close during the fourth quarter of 2022.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Company's interim condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP"). In the opinion of management, the Company has made all necessary adjustments, which include normal recurring adjustments necessary for a fair statement of the Company's

condensed consolidated financial position and results of operations for the interim periods presented. Certain information and disclosures normally included in the annual consolidated financial statements prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP have been condensed or omitted. These interim condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes for the year ended December 31, 2021 included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on February 25, 2022. The results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2022 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for a full year, any other interim periods or any future year or period.

Principles of Consolidation

The interim condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Aerie and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. All intercompany accounts, transactions and profits have been eliminated in consolidation.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of condensed consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the condensed consolidated financial statements and reported amounts of income and expenses during the reporting periods. Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include revenue recognition, leases, acquisitions, stock-based compensation, and fair value measurements. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus ("COVID-19") outbreak a pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, which the Company considered in its critical and significant accounting estimates as future developments continue to be uncertain, including as a result of new information that may emerge concerning COVID-19 and its variants and the actions taken to contain or treat it, as well as the economic impact on eye-care professionals, patients, third parties, and markets. Actual results could differ from the Company's estimates.

Adoption of New Accounting Standards

In August 2020, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued ASU 2020-06, *Debt - Debt with Conversion and Other Options (Subtopic 470-20) and Derivatives and Hedging - Contracts in Entity's Own Equity (Subtopic 815-40): Accounting for Convertible Instruments and Contracts in an Entity's Own Equity* ("ASU 2020-06"). This ASU simplifies the complexity associated with applying GAAP for certain financial instruments with characteristics of liabilities and equity. More specifically, the amendments focus on the guidance for convertible instruments and the derivative scope exception for contracts in an entity's own equity. Under ASU 2020-06, the embedded conversion features are no longer separated from the host contract for convertible instruments with conversion features that are not required to be accounted for as derivatives under Topic 815, or that do not result in substantial premiums accounted for as paid-in capital. Consequently, a convertible debt instrument, such as the Convertible Notes, will be accounted for as a single liability measured at its amortized cost, as long as no other features require bifurcation and recognition as derivatives. The new guidance also requires the if-converted method to be applied for all convertible instruments and requires additional disclosures. The guidance became effective for the Company beginning on January 1, 2022, and was applied using a modified retrospective approach through a cumulative-effect adjustment to retained earnings as of the effective date. As such, financial results reported in prior periods were not adjusted. The impact of adopting ASU 2020-06 on January 1, 2022, was comprised of a \$124.7 million decrease to additional paid-in capital, a \$76.7 million increase to convertible notes, net to reduce debt discounts and a \$48.0 million decrease to accumulated deficit. Upon adoption of ASU 2020-06, the Company's interest expense, recognized as a component of other expense, net in its condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive loss, will decrease which primarily relates to no longer recognizing non-cash interest expense from the discount amortization, partially offset by an increase in amortization of debt issuance costs. See Note 10 for additional information.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards

There have been no new accounting pronouncements issued since the filing of the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2021 that are expected to materially impact the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Net Loss per Common Share

Basic net loss per common share ("Basic EPS") is calculated by dividing the net loss by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding for the period, without consideration for potentially dilutive securities. Diluted net loss per share ("Diluted EPS") gives effect to all dilutive potential shares of common stock outstanding during this period. For Diluted EPS, net loss used in calculating Basic EPS may be adjusted for certain items related to the dilutive securities.

For all periods presented, Aerie's potential common stock equivalents have been excluded from the computation of Diluted EPS as their inclusion would have had an anti-dilutive effect.

The potential common stock equivalents that have been excluded from the computation of Diluted EPS consisted of the following:

	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Convertible Notes ⁽¹⁾	12,662,650	—	12,662,650	—
Outstanding stock options	5,753,892	8,703,221	5,753,892	8,703,221
Non-vested restricted stock awards	1,491,788	796,656	1,491,788	796,656
Non-vested restricted stock units	225,685	155,083	225,685	155,083
Total	20,134,015	9,654,960	20,134,015	9,654,960

⁽¹⁾ Upon adoption of ASU 2020-06 on January 1, 2022, the if-converted method is applied to the Convertible Notes in the calculation of earnings per share. Prior to the adoption of ASU 2020-06, the Company did not include the conversion value of the Convertible Notes in the diluted earnings per share computation.

3. Revenue Recognition

Product Revenues

Net product revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021 were generated from sales of Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®], the Company's glaucoma franchise products, which were commercially launched in the United States in May 2019 and April 2018, respectively. Aerie's customers include a limited number of national and select regional wholesalers (the "distributors"). For the nine months ended September 30, 2022, three distributors accounted for 37%, 33%, and 29% of total revenues, respectively. For the nine months ended September 30, 2021, three distributors accounted for 36%, 32%, and 31% of total revenues, respectively. Product affordability for the patient drives consumer acceptance, and this is generally managed through coverage by third-party payers, such as government or private healthcare insurers and pharmacy benefit managers ("Third-party Payers") and such product may be subject to rebates and discounts payable directly to those Third-party Payers.

Product revenues are recorded net of trade discounts, allowances, rebates, chargebacks, estimated returns, and other incentives in the condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive loss, discussed below. These reserves are classified as either reductions of accounts receivable or as current liabilities in the condensed consolidated balance sheets. Amounts billed or invoiced are included in accounts receivable, net on the condensed consolidated balance sheets. The Company did not have any contract assets (unbilled receivables) as of September 30, 2022 or December 31, 2021, as customer invoicing generally occurs before or at the time of revenue recognition. The Company did not have any contract liabilities as of September 30, 2022 or December 31, 2021, as the Company did not receive payments in advance of fulfilling its performance obligations to its customers. The Company calculates its net product revenues based on the wholesale acquisition cost that the Company charges its distributors for Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®] less provisions for (i) trade discounts and allowances, such as discounts for prompt payment and distributor fees, (ii) estimated rebates to Third-party Payers, estimated payments for Medicare Part D prescription drug program coverage gap (commonly called the "donut hole"), patient co-pay program coupon utilization, chargebacks and other discount programs, and (iii) reserves for expected product returns. Provisions for revenue reserves reduced product revenues by \$75.5 million and \$210.0 million in aggregate for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2022, respectively, a significant portion of which related to commercial and Medicare Part D rebates. Provisions for revenue reserves reduced product revenues by \$65.8 million and \$177.8 million in aggregate for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2021, respectively, a significant portion of which related to commercial and Medicare Part D rebates.

Trade Discounts and Allowances: The Company generally provides discounts on sales of Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®] to its distributors for prompt payment and pays fees for distribution services and for certain data that distributors provide to the Company. The Company expects its distributors to earn these discounts and fees, and accordingly deducts the full amount of these discounts and fees from its gross product revenues at the time such revenues are recognized.

Rebates, Chargebacks and Other Discounts: The Company contracts with Third-party Payers for coverage and reimbursement of Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®]. The Company estimates the rebates, donut hole and chargebacks it expects to be obligated to provide to Third-party Payers and deducts these estimated amounts from its gross product revenue at the time the revenue is

recognized. The Company estimates the rebates, donut hole and chargebacks that it expects to be obligated to provide to Third-party Payers based upon (i) the Company's contracts and applicable negotiations with these Third-party Payers, (ii) estimates regarding the payer mix for Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® based on utilization of both third-party and the Company's historical data, (iii) inventory held by distributors, and (iv) estimates of inventory held at the retail channel. Other discounts include the Company's co-pay assistance coupon programs for commercially-insured patients meeting certain eligibility requirements. The calculation of the accrual for co-pay assistance is based on an estimate of claims and the cost per claim that the Company expects to pay associated with product that has been recognized as revenue.

Product Returns: The Company estimates the amount of Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® that will be returned and deducts these estimated amounts from its gross revenue at the time the revenue is recognized. The Company currently estimates product returns based on historical information regarding returns of Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® as well as historical industry information regarding rates for comparable pharmaceutical products and product portfolios, the estimated remaining shelf life of Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® shipped to distributors, and contractual agreements with the Company's distributors intended to limit the amount of inventory they maintain. Reporting from the distributors includes distributor sales and inventory held by distributors, which provides the Company with visibility into the distribution channel to determine when the product would be eligible to be returned.

Santen Collaboration and License Agreements

Second Santen Agreement

In December 2021, Aerie Ireland Limited entered into the Second Santen Agreement with Santen which expands the scope of the First Santen Agreement, entered into in October 2020. Pursuant to the Second Santen Agreement, Aerie Ireland Limited granted to Santen the exclusive right to develop and commercialize Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® (the "Licensed Products") in Europe, China, India, the Middle East, CIS, Africa, parts of Latin America, and the Oceania countries (such jurisdictions collectively, the "Expanded Territories"). The Company is the sole manufacturer of the Licensed Products for Santen and Santen may manufacture, in certain circumstances, upon mutual agreement of both parties. In addition, Aerie Ireland Limited granted Santen a first right of refusal to commercialize the Licensed Products in Canada.

Under the agreement, Santen made the Second Santen Agreement Upfront payment in January 2022 to Aerie Ireland Limited which was comprised of an \$88.0 million upfront payment and a \$2.0 million supplemental upfront payment that was earned based on the achievement of an event that occurred in December 2021. Upon the achievement of certain events, Aerie Ireland Limited will earn various development milestones of up to \$15.5 million and sales milestones of up to \$60.0 million. In addition, Santen will pay Aerie Ireland Limited a royalty in excess of 25% of the Licensed Products' net sales in the Expanded Territories, excluding China and India (and in excess of 20% of the Licensed Products' net sales in China and India), such consideration consisting of the cost of products supplied to Santen from Aerie Ireland Limited and a royalty for the Company's intellectual property. While the royalty rate decreases when the Licensed Products are manufactured by or on behalf of Santen, there is a guaranteed minimum percentage.

The term of the Second Santen Agreement continues on a country-by-country and product-by-product basis until the expiration of the obligation to make payments under the Second Santen Agreement with respect to each Licensed Product in each country or region. The Second Santen Agreement may be terminated by either Aerie Ireland Limited or Santen upon the other party's material breach, bankruptcy or insolvency. Aerie Ireland Limited may also terminate the agreement upon a patent challenge by Santen or on a country-by-country basis upon a breach by Santen of its obligation to develop, obtain marketing approval of and commercialize the Licensed Products in certain of the Expanded Territories. Santen may terminate the Second Santen Agreement in its discretion if Santen reasonably determines that the Licensed Products are not commercially viable in the Expanded Territory (effective upon 180 days' prior written notice). In addition, in the event that patents are issued that may prevent the commercialization of the Licensed Products during the three-year period following marketing authorization of Rhopressa® in China, Santen would have the right to terminate the agreement with respect to China only and require Aerie Ireland Limited to repay \$8.0 million of the Second Santen Agreement Upfront Payment. In the event of termination, the Licensed Products in the applicable Expanded Territories will revert to Aerie Ireland Limited.

The Company recognized deferred revenue, non-current as of September 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021 as follows:

(in thousands)	SEPTEMBER 30, 2022	DECEMBER 31, 2021
First Santen Agreement:		
Upfront payment ⁽¹⁾	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Developmental milestones ⁽²⁾	6,000	—
Santen's portion of shared costs ⁽³⁾	6,881	6,315
Second Santen Agreement:		
Upfront payment ⁽⁴⁾	8,000	8,000
Total	\$ 70,881	\$ 64,315

⁽¹⁾ While the Company determined that the license was a right to use the Company's intellectual property and as of the effective date of the First Santen Agreement, the Company had provided all necessary information to Santen to benefit from the license and the license term had begun, revenue was not recognized upon satisfaction of the performance obligation due to the uncertainty around potential termination in the event that patents are issued that may prevent the commercialization of the Licensed Products.

The Company will recognize the \$50.0 million upfront payment received under the First Santen Agreement, and any other current and potential future development milestones and sales milestones, when it is probable that a significant reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognized will not occur. The Company will re-evaluate the transaction price in each reporting period and as uncertain events are resolved or other changes in circumstances occur.

⁽²⁾ In March 2022, Santen made a \$6.0 million developmental milestone payment in connection with the First Santen Agreement.

⁽³⁾ This item represents Santen's portion of shared costs related to conducting the first Rhopressa[®] Phase 3 clinical trial in Japan, which commenced in the fourth quarter of 2020, as described above.

⁽⁴⁾ As of September 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021, the Company recognized \$8.0 million of the Second Santen Agreement Upfront Payment as deferred revenue, non-current in its consolidated balance sheet due to the uncertainty around potential termination in China in the event that patents are issued that may prevent the commercialization of the Licensed Products.

4. Investments

Cash, cash equivalents and investments as of September 30, 2022 included the following:

(in thousands)	AMORTIZED COST	GROSS UNREALIZED GAINS	GROSS UNREALIZED LOSSES	FAIR VALUE
Cash and cash equivalents:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 54,093	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 54,093
Total cash and cash equivalents	\$ 54,093	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 54,093
Investments:				
Certificates of deposit (due within 1 year)	\$ 1,500	\$ —	\$ (1)	\$ 1,499
Commercial paper (due within 1 year)	49,174	—	(251)	48,923
Corporate bonds (due within 1 year)	21,240	—	(241)	20,999
U.S. Government and government agencies (due within 1 year)	47,260	—	(310)	46,950
Total investments	\$ 119,174	\$ —	\$ (803)	\$ 118,371
Total cash, cash equivalents, and investments	\$ 173,267	\$ —	\$ (803)	\$ 172,464

Cash, cash equivalents and investments as of December 31, 2021 included the following:

(in thousands)	AMORTIZED COST	GROSS UNREALIZED GAINS	GROSS UNREALIZED LOSSES	FAIR VALUE
Cash and cash equivalents:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 37,187	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 37,187
Total cash and cash equivalents	\$ 37,187	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 37,187
Investments:				
Certificates of deposit (due within 1 year)	\$ 9,047	\$ —	\$ (9)	\$ 9,038
Commercial paper (due within 1 year)	50,975	—	(55)	50,920
Corporate bonds (due within 1 year)	42,718	—	(62)	42,656
Total investments	\$ 102,740	\$ —	\$ (126)	\$ 102,614
Total cash, cash equivalents, and investments	\$ 139,927	\$ —	\$ (126)	\$ 139,801

Interest income earned on the Company's cash, cash equivalents, and investments was \$0.5 million and \$0.9 million during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2022, respectively, and was immaterial for each of the three and nine months ended September 30, 2021. Realized gains or losses were immaterial during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021.

As of September 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021, the Company did not hold any equity securities.

5. Fair Value Measurements

The following tables summarize the fair value of financial assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value and the classification by level of input within the fair value hierarchy:

(in thousands)	FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2022			
	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	TOTAL
Cash and cash equivalents:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 54,093	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 54,093
Total cash and cash equivalents:	\$ 54,093	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 54,093
Investments:				
Certificates of deposit	\$ —	\$ 1,499	\$ —	\$ 1,499
Commercial paper	—	48,923	—	48,923
Corporate bonds	—	20,999	—	20,999
U.S. Government and government agencies	—	46,950	—	46,950
Total investments	\$ —	\$ 118,371	\$ —	\$ 118,371
Total cash, cash equivalents, and investments:	\$ 54,093	\$ 118,371	\$ —	\$ 172,464

**FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS AS OF
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

(in thousands)	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	TOTAL
Cash and cash equivalents:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 37,187	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 37,187
Total cash and cash equivalents:	\$ 37,187	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 37,187
Investments:				
Certificates of deposit	\$ —	\$ 9,038	\$ —	\$ 9,038
Commercial paper	—	50,920	—	50,920
Corporate bonds	—	42,656	—	42,656
Total investments	\$ —	\$ 102,614	\$ —	\$ 102,614
Total cash, cash equivalents, and investments:	\$ 37,187	\$ 102,614	\$ —	\$ 139,801

The fair value of the Convertible Notes, which differs from their carrying value, is influenced by interest rates, stock price and stock price volatility and is determined by prices observed in market trading. The market for trading of the Convertible Notes is not considered to be an active market and therefore the estimate of fair value is based on Level 2 inputs. The estimated fair value of the Convertible Notes was \$310.7 million and \$270.4 million at September 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021, respectively.

There were no transfers between the different levels of the fair value hierarchy during the nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021.

6. Inventory

Inventory consists of the following:

(in thousands)	SEPTEMBER 30, 2022	DECEMBER 31, 2021
Raw materials	\$ 4,450	\$ 5,368
Work-in-process	35,328	30,989
Finished goods	6,984	4,053
Total inventory	\$ 46,762	\$ 40,410

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2022, \$4.1 million and \$9.0 million, respectively, of production costs associated with underutilized capacity at the Company's Athlone plant were recorded to costs of goods sold. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2021, \$5.4 million and \$13.7 million, respectively, of production costs associated with underutilized capacity at the Company's Athlone plant were recorded to costs of goods sold. The underutilization results from the Athlone plant having not yet reached full capacity as it commenced operations in early 2020.

7. Property, Plant, and Equipment, Net

Property, plant, and equipment, net consists of the following:

(in thousands)	SEPTEMBER 30, 2022	DECEMBER 31, 2021
Manufacturing equipment	\$ 22,719	\$ 22,464
Laboratory equipment	9,786	9,182
Furniture and fixtures	1,614	1,569
Software, computer, and other equipment	7,979	7,779
Leasehold improvements	32,647	31,175
Construction-in-progress	3,259	2,037
Property, plant and equipment	78,004	74,206
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(27,708)	(22,734)
Property, plant, and equipment, net	<u>\$ 50,296</u>	<u>\$ 51,472</u>

8. Leases

The Company has operating leases for corporate offices, research and development facilities, and a fleet of vehicles. The properties primarily relate to the Company's principal executive office and research facility located in Durham, North Carolina, regulatory, commercial support, and other administrative activities located in Irvine, California, and clinical, finance, and legal operations located in Bedminster, New Jersey. The Durham, North Carolina facility consists of approximately 61,000 square feet of laboratory and office space under a lease that was renewed in the third quarter of 2021 and expires in June 2029. The Irvine, California location consists of approximately 27,000 square feet of office space under a lease that was renewed in the third quarter of 2021 and expires in October 2027. The Bedminster, New Jersey location consists of approximately 34,000 square feet of office space under a lease that expires in October 2029. There are also small offices in the United Kingdom and Japan.

The Company is leasing approximately 30,000 square feet of interior floor space for its manufacturing plant in Athlone, Ireland. The Company is reasonably certain it will remain in the lease through the end of its lease term in 2037, however, the Company is permitted to terminate the lease as early as September 2027.

The Company's operating leases have remaining lease terms of approximately 1 year to 15 years, some of which include options to extend the leases.

The Company's right-of-use assets obtained in exchange for operating lease obligations were \$0.4 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2022.

9. Accrued Expenses and Other Current Liabilities

Accrued expenses and other current liabilities consist of the following:

(in thousands)	SEPTEMBER 30, 2022	DECEMBER 31, 2021
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities:		
Accrued revenue reserves ⁽¹⁾	\$ 85,503	\$ 85,381
Accrued compensation and benefits	11,741	15,881
Accrued consulting and professional fees	2,949	5,007
Accrued Merger-related costs	8,036	—
Accrued research and development ⁽²⁾	7,190	2,262
Accrued other ⁽³⁾	3,979	3,810
Total accrued expenses and other current liabilities	<u>\$ 119,398</u>	<u>\$ 112,341</u>

⁽¹⁾ Comprised primarily of accruals related to commercial and government rebates as well as returns.

- (2) Comprised primarily of accruals related to fees for investigative sites, contract research organizations, and other service providers that assist in conducting preclinical research studies and clinical trials.
- (3) Comprised primarily of accruals related to interest payable as well as other business-related expenses.

10. Debt

Convertible Notes

In September 2019, the Company issued an aggregate principal amount of \$316.25 million of Convertible Notes to qualified institutional buyers pursuant to Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. The Convertible Notes, governed by an indenture between the Company and a trustee, are senior, unsecured obligations and do not include financial and operating covenants nor any restrictions on the payments of dividends, the incurrence of indebtedness or the issuance or repurchase of securities by Aerie or any of its subsidiaries. Interest on the Convertible Notes is payable semi-annually in cash in arrears at a rate of 1.50% per annum on April 1 and October 1 of each year, which began on April 1, 2020. The Convertible Notes will mature on October 1, 2024 unless they are redeemed, repurchased or converted prior to such date. Prior to April 1, 2024, the Convertible Notes will be convertible at the option of holders only during certain periods and upon satisfaction of certain conditions, including upon consummation of the Merger, as discussed further below. On and after April 1, 2024, the Convertible Notes will be convertible at the option of the holders any time until the close of business on the second scheduled trading day immediately preceding the maturity date. Upon conversion, the Convertible Notes may be settled in shares of Aerie common stock, cash or a combination, thereof, at the Company's election. The Company intends to pay cash upon conversion of the Convertible Notes without giving effect to the proposed Merger and assuming the Company remains a standalone entity. See Note 2 for additional information. In connection with the Closing of the Merger, each holder will be entitled to convert such holder's Convertible Notes into the right to receive the Merger Consideration in respect of each share of common stock into which the Convertible Notes would have been convertible pursuant to the applicable conversion rate under the indenture. For more information see Note 1.

The Convertible Notes have an initial conversion rate of 40.04 shares of Aerie common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of the Convertible Notes, which will be subject to customary anti-dilution adjustments in certain circumstances. This represents an initial effective conversion price of approximately \$24.98 per share, which represents a premium of approximately 35% to the \$18.50 per share closing price of Aerie common stock on September 4, 2019, the date the Company priced the offering.

The Company may redeem all or any portion of the Convertible Notes, at its option, on or after October 3, 2022, at a cash redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Convertible Notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the redemption date, but only if the last reported sale price of Aerie common stock exceeds 130% of the conversion price of \$24.98, which amounts to \$32.47, then in effect for at least 20 trading days (whether or not consecutive) during any 30 consecutive trading day period (including the last trading day of such period) ending on, and including, the trading day immediately before the date the Company provides written notice of redemption; and the trading day immediately before the notice is sent.

Holders of Convertible Notes may require the Company to repurchase their Convertible Notes upon the occurrence of certain events that constitute a fundamental change under the indenture governing the Convertible Notes at a fundamental change repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the fundamental change repurchase date. If consummated, the Merger is expected to constitute a fundamental change.

During the three months ended September 30, 2022, the conditions allowing holders of the Convertible Notes to elect to convert had not been met, without giving effect to the proposed Merger. As of September 30, 2022, the if-converted value of the Convertible Notes did not exceed the principal amount of the Convertible Notes.

The estimated fair value of the liability component of the Convertible Notes at the time of issuance was \$187.9 million, and was determined based on a discounted cash flow analysis and a binomial lattice model. The valuation required the use of Level 3 unobservable inputs and subjective assumptions, including but not limited to the stock price volatility and bond yield. The equity component of the Convertible Notes was recognized at issuance and represents the difference between the principal amount of the Convertible Notes and the fair value of the liability component of the Convertible Notes at issuance. The equity component was approximately \$128.4 million at the time of issuance and its fair value was not remeasured as long as it continued to meet the conditions for equity classification.

In connection with the issuance of the Convertible Notes, the Company incurred debt issuance costs of \$9.2 million for the three months ended December 31, 2019. In accordance with ASC Topic 470, *Debt*, these costs were allocated to debt and equity components in proportion to the allocation of proceeds. Issuance costs of \$5.5 million were recorded as debt issuance costs in

the net carrying value of Convertible Notes. The debt issuance costs are amortized on an effective interest basis over the term of the Convertible Notes. The remaining issuance costs of \$3.7 million were recorded as additional paid-in capital, net with the equity component and such amounts were not subject to amortization.

Upon the Company's adoption of ASU 2020-06 on January 1, 2022, as further discussed in Note 2, embedded conversion features are no longer separated from the host contract for convertible instruments with conversion features that are not required to be accounted for as derivatives under Topic 815, or that do not result in substantial premiums accounted for as paid-in capital. Consequently, the Convertible Notes will be accounted for as a single liability measured at its amortized cost. The effective interest rate was 2.1% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2022. The effective interest rate on the liability component was 10.5% for the period from the date of issuance through September 30, 2021.

The following table summarizes the carrying value of the Convertible Notes:

(in thousands)	SEPTEMBER 30, 2022	DECEMBER 31, 2021
Gross proceeds	\$ 316,250	\$ 316,250
Unamortized debt discount	—	(78,395)
Unamortized issuance costs	(3,662)	(3,328)
Carrying value	<u>\$ 312,588</u>	<u>\$ 234,527</u>

The following table summarizes the interest expense recognized related to the Convertible Notes:

(in thousands)	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Stated interest	\$ 1,186	\$ 1,186	\$ 3,558	\$ 3,558
Amortized debt discount	—	5,915	—	17,091
Amortized issuance costs	458	251	1,357	725
Interest expense	<u>\$ 1,644</u>	<u>\$ 7,352</u>	<u>\$ 4,915</u>	<u>\$ 21,374</u>

Separately, in September 2019, the Company entered into privately negotiated capped call options with financial institutions. The capped call options cover, subject to customary anti-dilution adjustments, the number of shares of Aerie common stock that initially underlie the Convertible Notes. The cap price of the capped call options is \$37.00 per share of Aerie common stock, representing a premium of 100% above the closing price of \$18.50 per share of Aerie common stock on September 4, 2019, and is subject to certain adjustments under the terms of the capped call options. The capped call options are generally intended to reduce or offset potential dilution to Aerie common stock upon conversion of the Convertible Notes with such reduction and/ or offset, as the case may be, subject to a cap based on the cap price. The Company paid a total of \$32.9 million in premiums for the capped call options, which was recorded as additional paid-in capital, using a portion of the gross proceeds from the issuance and sale of the Convertible Notes. The capped call options are excluded from diluted earnings per share because the impact would be anti-dilutive. In connection with the Closing of the Merger, the capped call options are expected to be unwound.

11. Stock-Based Compensation

Stock-based compensation expense for options granted, restricted stock awards ("RSAs"), RSAs with non-market performance and service conditions ("PSAs"), restricted stock units ("RSUs"), and stock appreciation rights ("SARs") is reflected in the condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive loss as follows:

(in thousands)	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Cost of goods sold	\$ 140	\$ 287	\$ 372	\$ 1,225
Selling, general, and administrative	2,490	4,385	8,260	16,238
Research and development	1,012	1,941	3,600	5,895
Total	<u>\$ 3,642</u>	<u>\$ 6,613</u>	<u>\$ 12,232</u>	<u>\$ 23,358</u>

Equity Plans

The Company maintains three equity compensation plans: the 2005 Aerie Pharmaceutical Stock Plan (the “2005 Plan”), the 2013 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the “2013 Equity Plan”), which was amended and restated as the Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Second Amended and Restated Omnibus Incentive Plan (the “Second Amended and Restated Equity Plan”), as described below, and the Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Inducement Award Plan (the “Inducement Award Plan”), which was amended and restated as the Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Second Amended and Restated Inducement Award Plan (the “Second Amended and Restated Inducement Award Plan”), as described below. The 2005 Plan, the Second Amended and Restated Equity Plan, and the Second Amended and Restated Inducement Award Plan are referred to collectively as the “Plans.” The 2005 Plan was frozen in 2013 and no additional awards have been or will be made under the 2005 Plan.

In 2018, Aerie’s stockholders approved the adoption of the Second Amended and Restated Equity Plan to increase the number of shares issuable under the Plan by 4,500,000. The Second Amended and Restated Equity Plan provides for the granting of up to 10,229,068 equity awards in respect of common stock of Aerie, including equity awards that were previously available for issuance under the 2013 Equity Plan.

In 2016, Aerie’s Board of Directors approved the Inducement Award Plan which provides for the granting of up to 418,000 equity awards in respect of common stock of Aerie and subsequently amended and restated the Inducement Award Plan twice in 2017 to increase the equity awards that may be issued by a total of an additional 874,500 shares. In 2019, the Second Amended and Restated Inducement Award Plan was further amended by Aerie’s Board of Directors to increase the number of shares issuable under the plan by 100,000 shares. On December 9, 2021, Aerie’s Board of Directors approved an increase to the number of shares issuable under the plan for grants made to the Company’s new Chief Executive Officer in connection with his hiring, including 602,952 shares for grants made in December 2021 and additional shares for grants made in the first quarter of 2022. On March 11, 2022, Aerie’s Board of Directors approved an amendment to the Second Amended and Restated Inducement Award Plan to increase the number of shares that may be issued under the plan to 4,092,500 shares, which includes the 602,952 shares granted to our Chief Executive Officer in December 2021 as well as an additional 2,097,048 shares to cover his previously approved March 2022 grant and other new hire grant projections. Awards granted under the Second Amended and Restated Inducement Award Plan, as amended from time to time are intended to qualify as employment inducement awards under NASDAQ Listing Rule 5635(c)(4).

Options to Purchase Common Stock

The following table summarizes the stock option activity under the Plans:

	NUMBER OF SHARES	WEIGHTED AVERAGE EXERCISE PRICE	WEIGHTED AVERAGE REMAINING CONTRACTUAL LIFE (YEARS)	AGGREGATE INTRINSIC VALUE (000’s)
Options outstanding at December 31, 2021	6,550,610	\$ 26.87		
Granted	1,160,275	8.39		
Exercised	(204,227)	3.81		
Canceled/Expired	(1,752,766)	28.09		
Options outstanding at September 30, 2022	5,753,892	\$ 23.59	6.32	\$ 12,896
Options exercisable at September 30, 2022	3,654,873	\$ 30.61	4.75	\$ 2,572
Options vested and expected to vest at September 30, 2022	5,753,892	\$ 23.59	6.32	\$ 12,896

As of September 30, 2022, the Company had \$13.3 million of unrecognized compensation expense related to options that are expected to vest. This expense is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 2.5 years as of September 30, 2022.

Restricted Stock Awards

The following table summarizes the RSA, including PSA, activity under the Plans:

	NUMBER OF SHARES	WEIGHTED AVERAGE FAIR VALUE PER SHARE
Non-vested RSAs at December 31, 2021	977,244	\$ 18.32
Granted	963,062	8.42
Vested	(266,519)	25.51
Canceled	(181,999)	18.72
Non-vested RSAs at September 30, 2022	1,491,788	10.60

As of September 30, 2022, the Company had \$11.8 million of unrecognized compensation expense related to unvested RSAs, including PSAs, that are expected to vest. This expense is expected to be recognized over the weighted average period of 3.0 years as of September 30, 2022. As of September 30, 2022, the Company also had \$1.7 million of unrecognized compensation expense related to those unvested PSAs where the performance conditions have not been met.

The vesting of the RSAs is time and service based with terms of 1 to 4 years. In 2017, the Company granted 98,817 PSAs that vested in 2020 upon the satisfaction of certain performance and service conditions. During the nine months ended September 30, 2022, the Company granted 218,418 PSAs which vest upon the satisfaction of certain performance and service conditions, none of which have vested.

Restricted Stock Units

The following table summarizes the RSU activity under the Plans:

	NUMBER OF SHARES	WEIGHTED AVERAGE FAIR VALUE PER SHARE
Non-vested RSUs at December 31, 2021	156,873	\$ 14.88
Granted	148,850	8.33
Vested	(37,375)	9.11
Canceled	(42,663)	14.98
Non-vested RSUs at September 30, 2022	225,685	11.49

As of September 30, 2022, the associated unrecognized compensation expense totaled \$3.7 million related to unvested RSUs that are expected to vest. This expense is expected to be recognized over the weighted average period of 3.1 years as of September 30, 2022.

Stock Appreciation Rights

The following table summarizes the SARs activity under the Plans:

	NUMBER OF SHARES	WEIGHTED AVERAGE EXERCISE PRICE	WEIGHTED AVERAGE REMAINING CONTRACTUAL LIFE (YEARS)	AGGREGATE INTRINSIC VALUE (000's)
SARs outstanding at December 31, 2021	238,349	\$ 27.67		
Granted	111,854	8.21		
Exercised	(1,425)	12.25		
Canceled	(44,201)	25.95		
SARs outstanding at September 30, 2022	304,577	\$ 20.84	3.2	\$ 852
SARs exercisable at September 30, 2022	116,437	\$ 34.27	1.7	\$ 42

Holders of the SARs are entitled under the terms of the Plans to receive cash payments calculated based on the excess of Aerie's common stock price over the exercise price in their award; consequently, these awards are accounted for as liability-

classified awards and the Company measures compensation cost based on their estimated fair value at each reporting date, net of actual forfeitures, if any.

12. Commitments and Contingencies

Milestone Payments

In November 2019, the Company entered into a Share Purchase Agreement with Avizorex (the “Avizorex Agreement”) under which the Company acquired Avizorex, including its lead product candidate AVX-012 (now known as AR-15512), for which Avizorex completed a Phase 2a study in dry eye subjects in 2019. The consideration for the Avizorex acquisition was \$10.2 million. Additionally, contingent milestone payments of up to \$69.0 million may be due, subject to achievement of certain product regulatory approvals using the in-process research and development (“IPR&D”) assets acquired, plus royalties on net sales of any approved products from Avizorex’s development pipeline. In the first quarter of 2022, the Company gained alignment with the FDA on the results of its Phase 2b clinical trial for AR-15512 and confirmed the design of the Phase 3 trials, which the Company initiated in the second quarter of 2022. This resulted in the achievement of a regulatory milestone in which the Company paid the former shareholders of Avizorex \$8.0 million in the first quarter of 2022.

In October 2017, the Company entered into an Asset Purchase Agreement with Envisia Therapeutics (“Envisia”) (the “Envisia Agreement”) to acquire the rights to use PRINT[®] technology in ophthalmology, as well as rights relating to a preclinical dexamethasone steroid implant for the potential treatment of RVO and DME that utilizes the PRINT[®] technology, referred to as AR-1105. Under the terms of the Envisia Agreement, the Company (a) made an upfront cash payment of \$10.5 million and issued 263,146 shares of Aerie’s common stock valued at approximately \$14.3 million and (b) agreed to make potential milestone payments of up to an aggregate of \$45.0 million, subject to achievement of certain product regulatory approvals using the IPR&D assets acquired, if achieved within the 15-year milestone period.

In July 2017, the Company entered into a collaborative research, development and licensing agreement with DSM Biomedical (“DSM”), which included an option to license DSM’s bio-erodible polymer implant technology for sustained delivery of certain Aerie compounds to treat ophthalmic diseases. This technology uses polyesteramide polymers to produce an injectable, thin fiber that is minute in size. On August 1, 2018, the Company entered into an Amended and Restated Collaborative Research, Development, and License Agreement with DSM (the “DSM Agreement”), which provides for (i) a worldwide exclusive license for all ophthalmic indications to DSM’s polyesteramide polymer technology, (ii) continuation of the collaborative research initiatives through the end of 2020, including the transfer of DSM’s formulation technology to Aerie during that time and (iii) access to a preclinical latanoprost implant. Aerie paid \$6.0 million to DSM upon execution of the DSM Agreement, with an additional \$9.0 million payable to DSM through the end of 2020. The DSM Agreement includes contingent payments of up to \$75 million that may be due to DSM upon the achievement of certain development and regulatory milestones. In addition, pursuant to the DSM Agreement, a \$3.0 million milestone payment was made during the year ended December 31, 2018 upon the completion of certain manufacturing technology transfer activities. Aerie would also pay royalties to DSM when products are commercialized under this DSM Agreement, if any.

These contingent milestone payments are recognized only when the contingency is resolved (the milestone is achieved) and the consideration is paid or becomes payable. As of September 30, 2022, there were no liabilities recorded relating to potential future milestone payments as the achievement of the related milestones were not met and the timing and likelihood of such milestone payments are not known.

Litigation

The Company may periodically become subject to legal proceedings and claims arising in connection with its business. The Company did not have contingency reserves established for any litigation liabilities as of September 30, 2022.

Legal Proceedings related to the Merger Agreement

Beginning on September 22, 2022, three purported stockholders of the Company filed separate lawsuits in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York captioned Stein v. Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc., et al., Case No. 1:22-cv-08103; O’Dell v. Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc., et al., Case No. 1:22-cv-08261, and Weiss v. Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc., et al., Case No. 1:22-cv-09235. The complaints name Aerie and members of the Board of Directors as defendants and allege that the defendants made materially incomplete and misleading statements about the proposed acquisition of Aerie by Alcon. Specifically, the complaints allege that all defendants violated Section 14(a) of the Exchange Act and that each member of the Board of Directors violated Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act, on the basis of allegedly inadequate disclosures regarding Aerie’s financial projections and Goldman Sachs’s financial analysis in the preliminary proxy statement filed with the SEC on

September 21, 2022 and/or the definitive proxy statement filed with the SEC on October 7, 2022. In addition, Aerie has received from certain purported Aerie stockholders several demand letters alleging similar insufficiencies in the preliminary proxy statement and/or the definitive proxy statement as those noted in the complaints referenced above. The complaints seek, among other relief, (i) injunctive relief preventing the parties from proceeding with the Merger until the alleged disclosure deficiencies have been remedied, (ii) rescission in the event the Merger is consummated or alternatively rescissory damages, and (iii) an award of costs, including attorneys' and experts' fees. Aerie believes these lawsuits are without merit.

Additional lawsuits may be filed against Aerie, members of the Board of Directors or Aerie's officers in connection with the Merger, which could prevent or delay completion of the Merger and result in substantial costs to Aerie, including any costs associated with indemnification.

Patent Infringement Lawsuits

On March 14, 2022, the Company filed patent infringement lawsuits in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey against (i) Micro Labs Limited and Micro Labs USA, Inc. (collectively, "Micro Labs"), (ii) Gland Pharma Limited ("Gland Pharma"), and (iii) Orbicular Pharmaceutical Technologies ("Orbicular Pharma" and, together with Micro Labs and Gland Pharma, the "Defendants"). These lawsuits (the "Micro Labs Complaint," the "Gland Pharma Complaint," and the "Orbicular Pharma Complaint," respectively, and collectively, the "Complaints") were initiated within 45 days of receiving (i) Paragraph IV Certification Notices from Gland Pharma and Micro Labs under the Hatch-Waxman Act notifying the Company that Gland Pharma and Micro Labs have filed applications to the FDA seeking pre-patent expiry approval to sell generic versions of Rhopressa[®], and (ii) Paragraph IV Certification Notices from Orbicular Pharma and Micro Labs under the Hatch-Waxman Act notifying the Company that Orbicular Pharma and Micro Labs have filed applications to the FDA seeking pre-patent expiry approval to sell generic versions of Rocklatan[®]. As a result of filing the Complaints, under applicable law, FDA approval of the Defendants' ANDAs is stayed until June 18, 2025, unless modified by court order. However, regardless of any court decision in these proceedings, all patents that are not the subject of the proceedings are expected to remain in force until their expiration dates. A trial related to these Complaints is scheduled to commence in January 2025.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following management's discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and related notes that appear elsewhere in this report and with our audited financial statements and related notes and management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, as filed with the SEC on February 25, 2022 ("2021 Form 10-K"). This management's discussion and analysis contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Please see "Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" for additional factors relating to such statements and see "Risk Factors" in our 2021 Form 10-K and other documents we have filed or furnished with the SEC for a discussion of certain risk factors applicable to our business, financial condition, and results of operations. Past operating results are not necessarily indicative of operating results in any future periods.

Overview

We are a pharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development, and commercialization of first-in-class ophthalmic therapies for the treatment of patients with eye diseases and conditions including open-angle glaucoma, dry eye, DME, and wet AMD.

U.S. Commercialization of the Glaucoma Franchise

Our strategy is to grow the market share of our FDA approved glaucoma franchise products, Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®] in the United States. Both Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®] are being sold to national and regional U.S. pharmaceutical distributors, and patients have access to them through pharmacies across the United States. We have obtained broad formulary coverage for Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®] for the lives covered under commercial plans and Medicare Part D plans. Our commercial team responsible for sales of Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®] is targeting select eye-care professionals who treat glaucoma throughout the United States.

In March 2022, we commenced a Phase 4 program that was designed to further demonstrate that Rocklatan[®] is a highly effective single bottle, once-daily therapy. We expect topline data for this Phase 4 Multi-center Open-label Rocklatan[®] Evaluation ("MORE") study to be available in the first half of 2023.



Rocklatan[®] is a once-daily fixed-dose combination of Rhopressa[®] and latanoprost, a commonly prescribed drug for the treatment of patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension. Rocklatan[®] is taken in the evening, and similar to Rhopressa[®], has shown in preclinical and clinical trials to be highly effective in reducing IOP, with a favorable safety profile.

Based on our clinical data in which Rocklatan[®] demonstrated statistically superior IOP reduction over its components, latanoprost and netarsudil, at every measured time point, we believe that Rocklatan[®] has the potential to provide a greater IOP-reducing effect than any glaucoma medication currently marketed in the United States.

Rhopressa[®] is a once-daily eye drop designed to reduce elevated IOP in patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension. Rhopressa[®] is taken in the evening and has shown in preclinical and clinical trials to be effective in reducing IOP, with a favorable safety profile.



The active ingredient in Rhopressa[®], netarsudil, is an Aerie-owned Rho kinase ("ROCK") inhibitor. Rhopressa[®] increases the outflow of aqueous humor through the trabecular meshwork ("TM"), which accounts for approximately 80% of fluid drainage from the healthy eye and is the diseased tissue responsible for elevated IOP in glaucoma. Using this mechanism of action ("MOA"), we believe that Rhopressa[®] represents the first of a new drug class for reducing IOP in patients with glaucoma in over 20 years.

Efforts Outside the United States

In addition to growing the market share of Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®] in the United States, our strategy also includes developing business opportunities outside of the United States and we continue to make progress in our efforts to commercialize Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®] in Europe, Japan, and other regions of the world.

We have partnered and have collaboration agreements in place with Santen to develop and commercialize our products in Japan, East Asia, as well as Europe, China, India, the Middle East, CIS, Africa, parts of Latin America, and the Oceania countries. The First Santen Agreement was executed in October 2020 to advance our clinical development and ultimately commercialize Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® in Japan and East Asia. The Second Santen Agreement was executed in December 2021 to develop and commercialize Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® in Europe, China, India, the Middle East, CIS, Africa, parts of Latin America, and the Oceania countries.

In Europe, Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® will be marketed under the names Roclanda® and Rhokiinsa®, respectively. Roclanda® and Rhokiinsa® were granted a Centralised MA by the EC in January 2021 and November 2019, respectively. In April 2021, Roclanda® received marketing authorisation from the MHRA in Great Britain.

In Japan, we reported positive topline results for our Phase 3 clinical trial of netarsudil ophthalmic solution 0.02% in October 2021, the first of three expected Phase 3 clinical trials in Japan. The results evaluated netarsudil 0.02% versus ripasudil hydrochloride hydrate ophthalmic solution 0.4% (“ripasudil 0.4%”) and showed that netarsudil 0.02% once-daily was superior to ripasudil 0.4% twice-daily in lowering IOP after four weeks ($p < 0.0001$), the primary endpoint of the study. The medications were safe and well tolerated. The most common treatment emergent adverse event was conjunctival hyperemia, which is treatable. In March 2022, Santen made a \$6.0 million developmental milestone payment in connection with the conclusion of this Phase 3 clinical trial. A second, confirmatory Phase 3 study, required for approval in Japan, is currently underway. Santen is taking the lead on next steps in preparation for registration in Japan under the terms of the First Santen Agreement. Clinical trials for Rocklatan® have not yet begun.

Glaucoma Product Manufacturing

We have a sterile fill production facility in Athlone, Ireland, for the production of our FDA and EMA approved products and clinical supplies, with the intent of having the Athlone plant supply our ophthalmic products in all markets for which we received regulatory approval and are commercialized. The Athlone plant began manufacturing commercial supplies of Rocklatan® in the first quarter of 2020 and Rhopressa® in the third quarter of 2020 for distribution to the United States. Shipments of commercial supply of both Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® from the Athlone plant to the United States commenced in the second half of 2020. In addition, the Athlone plant has manufactured clinical supplies of Rhopressa® for the Phase 3 clinical trials in Japan as well as registration batches to support product approval in Japan. We currently expect to commence shipments of Roclanda® to Santen pursuant to the Second Santen Agreement in the fourth quarter of 2022.

As the Athlone plant commenced operations in early 2020, it has not reached full capacity. We expect that the Athlone plant will have adequate capacity to produce for the markets included in the Santen Agreements, as needed, which include Europe, Japan, East Asia, and certain other regions of the world, if approved for commercial distribution in those markets. The Athlone plant manufactures most of our ongoing needs for Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® in the United States. We may continue to use contract manufacturers to produce commercial supplies of Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® for distribution in the United States, but at reduced levels as a result of the Athlone plant commencing manufacturing operations.

Product Candidates in Development

Our strategy includes enhancing our longer-term commercial potential by identifying and advancing additional product candidates through our internal discovery efforts, our entry into potential research collaborations or in-licensing arrangements or our acquisition of additional ophthalmic products, technologies or product candidates that complement our current product portfolio.

Dry Eye Program

We are developing AR-15512 ophthalmic solution for the treatment of patients with dry eye disease. In September 2021, we reported topline results of our Phase 2b clinical study, named COMET-1, for AR-15512. We completed a dose ranging study evaluating two concentrations of AR-15512 (0.0014% and 0.003%) in a 90-day trial with 369 subjects. The COMET-1 clinical study achieved statistical significance for multiple pre-specified and validated signs and symptoms. The greatest efficacy was demonstrated with the higher concentration 0.003% formulation, which we have advanced to Phase 3 studies. The study did not achieve statistical significance at the pre-determined primary endpoints at Day 28. We gained alignment with the FDA in the first quarter of 2022 on the results of the Phase 2b clinical study and confirmed the design of the Phase 3 registrational trials, which was based on the endpoints that achieved statistical significance in the COMET-1 study. We initiated the Phase 3 registrational trials in the second quarter of 2022, with the first Phase 3 registrational trial, named COMET-2, commencing in May 2022 with the enrollment of the first participant. The second Phase 3 registrational trial, named COMET-3, commenced in August 2022 with the enrollment of the first participant. Both COMET-2 and COMET-3 are multi-center, vehicle-controlled, double-masked, randomized clinical studies designed to evaluate a single concentration of AR-15512 (0.003%) compared to the AR-15512 vehicle, administered twice-daily for 90 days. COMET-2 and COMET-3 are each expected to enroll about 460

participants at approximately 20 sites in the United States. The last of the Phase 3 registrational trials, a 12-month safety study named COMET-4, commenced in November 2022 with the enrollment of the first participant. Assuming the Phase 3 registrational trials are successful, we anticipate filing a New Drug Application in 2024.

Retina Program

Furthermore, we are currently developing two sustained-release implants focused on retinal diseases, AR-1105 and AR-14034 SR. For AR-1105, we completed a Phase 2 clinical trial for patients with macular edema due to RVO in July 2020 and reported topline results indicating sustained efficacy of up to six months. We have received advice from regulatory agencies in both Europe and the United States regarding clinical and regulatory pathways for Phase 3 clinical trials. We are currently evaluating Phase 3 development options. In addition, we are also working to advance our preclinical sustained-release retinal implant, AR-14034 SR, for which we anticipate filing an Investigational New Drug Application (“IND”) with the FDA in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Pipeline

We own over 4,000 ROCK inhibitor molecules that provide a basis for further research and development opportunities. We discovered and developed the active ingredient in Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®], netarsudil, through a rational drug design approach that coupled medicinal chemistry with high content screening of compounds in proprietary cell-based assays. We selected and formulated netarsudil for preclinical *in vivo* testing following a detailed characterization of over 3,000 synthesized ROCK inhibitors, a number that has since grown to approximately 4,000. We evaluate this library on an ongoing basis for additional development opportunities. Early-stage evaluations of these molecules are underway for other ophthalmic indications. We continue to evaluate external business development opportunities to provide access to technologies developed outside of Aerie to complement our internal research and development efforts.

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus (“COVID-19”) outbreak a pandemic. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, we considered this in our critical and significant accounting estimates as future developments continue to be uncertain, including as a result of new information that may emerge concerning COVID-19 and its variants and the actions taken to contain or treat it, as well as the economic impact on eye-care professionals, patients, third parties, and markets. Actual results could differ from our estimates.

The health and safety of our employees, patients, prescribers, and community are of utmost importance during this time. We are complying with all requirements and mandates from various agencies and governments, and we continue to monitor applicable federal and state regulations, including with respect to vaccination mandates. We have taken precautionary measures to protect our employees and our stakeholders, and adapted company policy to maintain the continuity of our business. We have continued to operate effectively as most of our manufacturing plant personnel are working at the manufacturing plant with precautionary measures in place, and the balance of our workforce has returned to the office on a hybrid schedule in accordance with state and local mandates. We may take further actions as government authorities require or recommend or as we determine to be in the best interest of our employees.

Proposed Merger

On August 22, 2022, we entered into the Merger Agreement with Alcon and Merger Sub. The Merger Agreement provides, among other things, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth therein, that Merger Sub will be merged with and into Aerie, with Aerie surviving as a wholly owned subsidiary of Alcon.

At the Effective Time, each share of Aerie’s common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, then outstanding (other than shares held (i) by Aerie or held in Aerie’s treasury or (ii) by Alcon, Merger Sub or any direct or indirect wholly owned Subsidiary (as defined in the Merger Agreement) of Alcon or Aerie, which, in each case, will be cancelled and retired and will cease to exist) will be converted into the right to receive \$15.25 per share in cash, without interest and subject to any withholding of taxes. As a result of the Merger, Aerie’s common stock will no longer be publicly traded, and will be delisted from Nasdaq.

Our Board of Directors unanimously approved the Merger Agreement and transactions contemplated thereby, including the Merger, and directed that a proposal to adopt the Merger Agreement be submitted to a vote at a meeting of the Aerie stockholders.

The consummation of the Merger is subject to certain conditions, including, but not limited to, (i) the approval and adoption of the Merger Agreement and the Merger by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock of Aerie as of the close of business on October 4, 2022 at the stockholder meeting on November 17, 2022, (ii)

the absence of any temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction or final judgment, or law, regulation, or order promulgated, enacted, issued or deemed applicable to the Merger, by any governmental entity in any jurisdiction in which Alcon or Aerie has material business operations that prohibits or otherwise makes illegal the consummation of the Merger, and (iii) the expiration or termination of any waiting period (or any extension thereof) applicable to the Merger under the HSR Act, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. We expect the transaction to close during the fourth quarter of 2022 following the receipt of all required regulatory and antitrust approvals and the satisfaction or waiver of the other closing conditions. The waiting period applicable to the Merger under the HSR Act expired in October 2022.

Financial Overview

Our cash, cash equivalents, and investments totaled \$172.5 million as of September 30, 2022. We believe that our cash, cash equivalents, and investments and projected cash flows from revenues will provide sufficient resources for our current ongoing needs through at least the next twelve months from the date of this filing, without giving effect to the proposed Merger and assuming we remain a standalone entity. There may be need for additional financing activity as we continue to grow, including repurchasing, repaying, or otherwise refinancing our aggregate principal amount of \$316.25 million of Convertible Notes, which are scheduled to mature on October 1, 2024, unless earlier repurchased, redeemed or converted. We continue to evaluate our product candidates in development for collaboration and licensing opportunities. See “—Liquidity and Capital Resources” below and Note 10 to our condensed consolidated financial statements included in this report for further discussion.

We have incurred net losses since our inception in June 2005. Until 2018, when we commenced commercial operations, our business activities were primarily limited to developing product candidates, raising capital, and performing research and development activities. As of September 30, 2022, we had an accumulated deficit of \$1,188.0 million and recognized a net loss of \$26.8 million and \$82.1 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2022, respectively. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2021, we recognized a net loss of \$39.7 million and \$120.3 million, respectively. Our capital resources and business efforts are largely focused on activities relating to the commercialization of Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®], advancing our product candidates in development, international expansion, and operating our Athlone plant.

We expect to incur operating losses until such a time when Rocklatan[®] or Rhopressa[®] or any current or future product candidates, if approved, or proceeds in connection with collaboration and licensing arrangements, generate sufficient cash flows for us to achieve profitability. Accordingly, we may be required to obtain further funding through debt or equity offerings or other sources. Adequate additional funding may not be available to us on acceptable terms, or at all. If we are unable to raise capital when needed or on acceptable terms, we may be forced to delay, reduce or eliminate our research and development programs or commercialization or manufacturing efforts, particularly if the proposed Merger is not completed within the expected timeframe or at all. In addition, even if we do not have an immediate need for additional capital, we may seek to access the public or private capital markets whenever conditions are favorable.

Product Revenues, Net

Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®], our glaucoma franchise products, were launched in the United States in May 2019 and April 2018, respectively. We commenced generating product revenues from sales of Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®] during the second quarter of 2019 and 2018, respectively. Product affordability for the patient drives consumer acceptance, and this is generally managed through coverage by third-party payers, such as government or private healthcare insurers and pharmacy benefit managers (“Third-party Payers”) and such product may be subject to rebates and discounts payable directly to those Third-party Payers. Our product revenues are recorded net of provisions relating to estimates for (i) trade discounts and allowances, such as discounts for prompt payment and distributor fees, (ii) estimated rebates to Third-party Payers, estimated payments for Medicare Part D prescription drug program coverage gap (commonly called the “donut hole”), patient co-pay program coupon utilization, chargebacks and other discount programs, and (iii) reserves for expected product returns. These estimates reflect current contractual and statutory requirements, known market events and trends, industry data, forecasted customer mix, and lagged claims. Actual amounts may ultimately differ from these estimates. If actual results vary, estimates may be adjusted in the period such change in estimate becomes known, which may have an impact on earnings in the period of adjustment.

We will not generate any revenues from any product candidates or future product candidates unless and until we obtain regulatory approval and commercialize such products.

Cost of Goods Sold

Cost of goods sold consists of direct and indirect costs to procure and manufacture product sold, including third-party manufacturing costs. Production costs related to underutilized capacity at the Athlone plant, are not included in the cost of inventory but are charged directly to cost of goods sold in the condensed consolidated statements of operations and

comprehensive loss in the period incurred. We expect cost of goods sold for the remainder of 2022 to continue to be unfavorably impacted by production costs due to the underutilization at the Athlone plant as a result of the Athlone plant having become operational in early 2020 and having not yet reached full capacity. We expect the underutilization to continue to have an unfavorable impact on cost of goods sold that will decrease over time as the manufacturing plant reaches full capacity.

Selling, General, and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general, and administrative expenses consist primarily of employee-related expenses, including salaries, benefits, and stock-based compensation for all officers and employees in general management, sales and marketing, finance, and administration. Other significant expenses include selling and marketing expenses, facilities expenses, shipping and handling costs, and professional fees for audit, tax, legal, Merger-related costs, and other services.

Research and Development Expenses

We expense research and development costs to operations as incurred. Research and development expenses consist primarily of costs incurred for the research and development of our preclinical and clinical candidates, which include:

- employee-related expenses, including salaries, benefits, travel, and stock-based compensation expense for research and development personnel;
- expenses incurred under agreements with CROs, contract manufacturing organizations, and service providers that assist in conducting clinical trials and preclinical studies;
- costs associated with any collaboration arrangements, licenses or acquisitions of preclinical molecules, product candidates or technologies;
- costs associated with preclinical activities and development activities;
- costs associated with regulatory operations; and
- depreciation expense for assets used in research and development activities.

Our expenses related to clinical trials are based on estimates of patient enrollment and related expenses at clinical investigator sites as well as estimates for the services received and efforts expended pursuant to contracts with research institutions, consultants and CROs that assist in conducting and managing clinical trials. We accrue expenses related to clinical trials based on contracted amounts applied to the level of patient enrollment and activity according to the protocol. If future timelines or contracts are modified based upon changes in the clinical trial protocol or scope of work to be performed, we modify our estimates of accrued expenses accordingly on a prospective basis. Historically, such modifications have not been material.

Other Expense, Net

Other expense, net primarily includes interest expense, interest income, foreign exchange gains and losses, and other income and expense. Interest expense consists of interest expense under the Convertible Notes, including the amortization of debt discounts and issuance costs incurred. Interest income primarily consists of interest earned on our cash, cash equivalents, and investments. See “—Liquidity and Capital Resources” below and Note 10 to our condensed consolidated financial statements included in this report for further discussion. Foreign exchange gains and losses are primarily due to the remeasurement of our lease liabilities, which are denominated in a foreign currency and held by a subsidiary with a U.S. dollar functional currency. Also included in other income and expense are changes in the fair value of equity securities (sold during the nine months ended September 30, 2021), and research and development tax credit refunds.

Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense primarily includes branch taxes of our non-U.S. subsidiaries and withholding taxes related to the \$6.0 million developmental milestone made by Santen pursuant to the First Santen Agreement during the nine months ended September 30, 2022.

Critical Accounting Policies and Use of Estimates

Our management’s discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations is based on our condensed consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (“U.S. GAAP”). The preparation of consolidated financial statements also requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, costs and expenses, and related disclosures. We evaluate our estimates and judgments on an ongoing basis. Significant estimates include assumptions used in the determination of revenue

recognition, leases, acquisitions, stock-based compensation, and fair value measurements. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other factors that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

Our critical accounting policies and significant estimates have not materially changed since the date we filed our 2021 Form 10-K. For more information on our critical accounting policies and estimates, refer to our 2021 Form 10-K.

Results of Operations

Comparison of the Three Months Ended September 30, 2022 and 2021

The following table summarizes the results of our operations for the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021:

	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
	2022	2021		
	(in thousands, except percentages)			
Product revenues, net	\$ 36,129	\$ 29,313	\$ 6,816	23 %
Total revenues, net	36,129	29,313	6,816	23 %
Costs and expenses:				
Cost of goods sold	6,929	7,899	(970)	(12)%
Selling, general, and administrative expenses	33,878	34,656	(778)	(2)%
Research and development expenses	21,994	19,132	2,862	15 %
Total costs and expenses	62,801	61,687	1,114	2 %
Loss from operations	(26,672)	(32,374)	5,702	(18)%
Other expense, net	(59)	(7,259)	7,200	(99)%
Loss before income taxes	\$ (26,731)	\$ (39,633)	\$ 12,902	(33)%

Product revenues, net

Product revenues, net were \$36.1 million and \$29.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, respectively, and related to sales of our U.S. glaucoma franchise products, Rocklatan® or Rhopressa®. The year-over-year revenue increase is primarily due to an increase in the number of units shipped to wholesalers and improved margins per bottle.

Cost of goods sold

Cost of goods sold was \$6.9 million and \$7.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Our gross margin percentage was 80.8% and 73.1% for the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, respectively. The increase in the gross margin percentage was driven by the increase in product revenues, net as discussed above as well as \$1.3 million of lower production costs associated with underutilized capacity at the Athlone plant due to increased commercial production during the three months ended September 30, 2022. The increased commercial production resulted in a higher level of costs capitalized into inventory. Our cost of goods sold and gross margin percentage for the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021 were unfavorably impacted by costs due to underutilized capacity at the Athlone plant, which increased the cost of goods sold by \$4.1 million and \$5.4 million and lowered the gross margin percentage by 11.3% and 18.6%, respectively. We expect the underutilization to continue to have an unfavorable impact on cost of goods sold that will decrease over time as the Athlone plant reaches full capacity.

Selling, general, and administrative expenses

Selling, general, and administrative expenses were \$33.9 million and \$34.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Selling, general, and administrative expenses decreased by \$0.8 million primarily due to lower sales and marketing, employee-related and stock-based compensation expenses. Partially offsetting the decrease in selling, general, and administrative expenses were costs related to the Merger, which totaled \$10.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2022.

Research and development expenses

Our direct research and development expenses are tracked on a program-by-program basis and consist primarily of costs incurred for the research and development of our preclinical and clinical product candidates, which include but are not limited to: (1) expenses incurred under agreements with contract research organizations, contract manufacturing organizations and service providers that assist in conducting clinical and preclinical studies; (2) costs associated with any collaboration arrangements, licenses or acquisitions of preclinical molecules, product candidates or technologies; and (3) costs associated with our preclinical activities, development activities, and regulatory operations. We do not allocate employee-related expenses, stock-based compensation or facility expenses, including depreciation or other indirect costs, to specific programs because these costs are deployed across multiple programs.

	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
	2022	2021		
(in thousands, except percentages)				
Direct research and development expenses by program:				
Rhopressa [®]	\$ 497	\$ 1,828	\$ (1,331)	(73)%
Rocklatan [®]	2	114	(112)	(98)%
AR-15512	10,348	2,090	8,258	*
Retina programs ⁽¹⁾	263	936	(673)	(72)%
Other direct research and development program costs ⁽²⁾	61	594	(533)	(90)%
Total direct research and development program costs	11,171	5,562	5,609	*
Employee-related costs	5,376	6,664	(1,288)	(19)%
Stock-based compensation	1,012	1,941	(929)	(48)%
Other indirect costs ⁽³⁾	4,435	4,965	(530)	(11)%
Research and development expenses	\$ 21,994	\$ 19,132	\$ 2,862	15 %

*Percentage not meaningful

⁽¹⁾ Consists of AR-1105, AR-13503 SR, and AR-14034 SR in 2021 and 2022.

⁽²⁾ Other direct research development program costs primarily include AR-6121.

⁽³⁾ Consists primarily of other indirect costs incurred for the research and development of preclinical and clinical product candidates, including expenses associated with our research facilities such as lab supplies, depreciation, and other research facility related costs.

Research and development expenses were \$22.0 million and \$19.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Research and development expenses increased by \$2.9 million primarily due to an increase of \$8.3 million in expenses associated with AR-15512. In September 2021, we reported topline results on safety and efficacy for COMET-1, a Phase 2b clinical trial in which we completed a dose ranging study evaluating two concentrations of AR-15512 (0.0014% and 0.003%). In May and August 2022, we initiated COMET-2 and COMET-3, respectively, the first two of three Phase 3 clinical trials for AR-15512, and the last of the Phase 3 clinical trials, a safety study named COMET-4, commenced in November 2022 with the enrollment of the first participant, and therefore we expect an increase in these costs through the end of the year.

The increase described above was partially offset by a \$1.3 million decrease in expenses for Rhopressa[®], a \$1.3 million decrease in employee-related costs, and a \$0.9 decrease in stock-based compensation for the three months ended September 30, 2022 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2021. Furthermore, expenses for Rhopressa[®] during the three months ended September 30, 2021 consisted of costs for the Rhopressa[®] Phase 3 clinical trial in Japan. Santen's portion of shared costs related to conducting the first Rhopressa[®] Phase 3 clinical trial in Japan were recorded as deferred revenue, non-current on the condensed consolidated balance sheets. We reported positive topline results for our Phase 3 clinical trial of netarsudil 0.02% in October 2021. Santen is taking the lead on next steps in preparation for registration in Japan under the terms of the First Santen Agreement.

Costs related to the development of our retina programs decreased by \$0.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2022 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2021. The decrease is primarily related to a reduction in spend for our

AR-1105 and AR-13503 projects as we focus our ongoing retina program activities to advance our preclinical sustained-release retinal implant, AR-14034 SR, for which we anticipate filing an IND with the FDA in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Other expense, net

Other expense, net consists of the following:

	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		\$ CHANGE
	2022	2021	
	(in thousands)		
Interest income	\$ 542	\$ 25	\$ 517
Interest expense	(1,650)	(7,358)	5,708
Other income (expense)	1,049	74	975
Other expense, net	<u>\$ (59)</u>	<u>\$ (7,259)</u>	<u>\$ 7,200</u>

Other expense, net decreased by \$7.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2022 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2021. This decrease was primarily due to a decrease of \$5.7 million in interest expense due to the impact of adopting ASU 2020-06 on January 1, 2022 which accounts for convertible debt instruments, such as the Convertible Notes, as a single liability measured at its amortized cost, as well as by a change of \$1.0 million in other income (expense) primarily due to an increase in research and development tax credit refunds, and \$0.5 million in interest income during the three months ended September 30, 2022 as compared to the three months ended September 30, 2021. See Notes 2 and 10 to our condensed consolidated financial statements for additional information on the Convertible Notes.

Comparison of the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2022 and 2021

The following table summarizes the results of our operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021:

	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
	2022	2021		
	(in thousands, except percentages)			
Product revenues, net	\$ 99,275	\$ 79,468	\$ 19,807	25 %
Total revenues, net	<u>99,275</u>	<u>79,468</u>	<u>19,807</u>	<u>25 %</u>
Costs and expenses:				
Cost of goods sold	17,450	20,776	(3,326)	(16)%
Selling, general, and administrative expenses	93,551	101,796	(8,245)	(8)%
Research and development expenses	66,726	54,990	11,736	21 %
Total costs and expenses	<u>177,727</u>	<u>177,562</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>— %</u>
Loss from operations	(78,452)	(98,094)	19,642	(20)%
Other expense, net	(2,800)	(22,142)	19,342	(87)%
Loss before income taxes	<u>\$ (81,252)</u>	<u>\$ (120,236)</u>	<u>\$ 38,984</u>	<u>(32)%</u>

Product revenues, net

Product revenues, net were \$99.3 million and \$79.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, respectively, and related to sales of our U.S. glaucoma franchise products, Rocklatan® or Rhopressa®. The year-over-year revenue increase is primarily due to an increase in the number of units shipped to wholesalers and improved margins per bottle.

Cost of goods sold

Cost of goods sold was \$17.5 million and \$20.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Our gross margin percentage was 82.4% and 73.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, respectively. The increase in the gross margin percentage was driven by the increase in product revenues, net as discussed above as well as \$4.7 million of lower production costs associated with underutilized capacity at the Athlone plant due to increased commercial production during the nine months ended September 30, 2022. The increased commercial production resulted in a higher level of costs capitalized into inventory. Our cost of goods sold and gross margin percentage for the nine months ended

September 30, 2022 and 2021 were unfavorably impacted by costs due to underutilized capacity at the Athlone plant, which increased the cost of goods sold by \$9.0 million and \$13.7 million and lowered the gross margin percentage by 9.1% and 17.2%, respectively. We expect the underutilization to continue to have an unfavorable impact on cost of goods sold that will decrease over time as the Athlone plant reaches full capacity.

Selling, general, and administrative expenses

Selling, general, and administrative expenses were \$93.6 million and \$101.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Selling, general, and administrative expenses decreased by \$8.2 million primarily due to lower stock-based compensation, employee-related and sales and marketing expenses. Partially offsetting the decrease in selling, general, and administrative expenses were costs related to the Merger, which totaled \$10.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2022.

Research and development expenses

	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
	2022	2021		
(in thousands, except percentages)				
Direct research and development expenses by program:				
Rhopressa®	\$ 790	\$ 5,446	\$ (4,656)	(85)%
Rocklatan®	135	275	(140)	*
AR-15512	27,490	8,605	18,885	*
Retina programs ⁽¹⁾	2,083	1,421	662	47%
Other direct research and development program costs ⁽²⁾	732	863	(131)	(15)%
Total direct research and development program costs	31,230	16,610	14,620	88%
Employee-related costs	18,518	19,136	(618)	(3)%
Stock-based compensation	3,600	5,896	(2,296)	(39)%
Other indirect costs ⁽³⁾	13,378	13,348	30	—%
Research and development expenses	\$ 66,726	\$ 54,990	\$ 11,736	21%

*Percentage not meaningful

⁽¹⁾ Consists of AR-1105, AR-13503 SR, and AR-14034 SR in 2021 and 2022.

⁽²⁾ Other direct research development program costs primarily include AR-6121.

⁽³⁾ Consists primarily of other indirect costs incurred for the research and development of preclinical and clinical product candidates, including expenses associated with our research facilities such as lab supplies, depreciation, and other research facility related costs.

Research and development expenses were \$66.7 million and \$55.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Research and development expenses increased by \$11.7 million primarily due to an increase of \$18.9 million in expenses associated with AR-15512. In September 2021, we reported topline results on safety and efficacy for COMET-1, a Phase 2b clinical trial in which we completed a dose ranging study evaluating two concentrations of AR-15512 (0.0014% and 0.003%). In January 2022, the Company gained alignment with the FDA on the results of its Phase 2b clinical trial and confirmed the design of the Phase 3 trials. This resulted in the achievement of a regulatory milestone in which the Company paid the former shareholders of Avizorex \$8.0 million during the three months ended March 31, 2022. In May and August 2022, we initiated COMET-2 and COMET-3, respectively, the first two of three Phase 3 clinical trials for AR-15512, and the last of the Phase 3 clinical trials, a safety study named COMET-4, commenced in November 2022 with the enrollment of the first participant, and therefore we expect an increase in these costs through the end of the year.

The increase described above was partially offset by a \$4.7 million decrease in expenses for Rhopressa®, a \$2.3 million decrease in stock-based compensation, and a \$0.6 million decrease in employee-related expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2021. Furthermore, expenses for Rhopressa® in the nine months ended September 30, 2021 consisted of costs for the Rhopressa® Phase 3 clinical trial in Japan. Santen's portion of

shared costs related to conducting the first Rhopressa® Phase 3 clinical trial in Japan were recorded as deferred revenue, non-current on the condensed consolidated balance sheets. We reported positive topline results for our Phase 3 clinical trial of netarsudil 0.02% in October 2021. Santen is taking the lead on next steps in preparation for registration in Japan under the terms of the First Santen Agreement.

Costs related to the development of our retina programs increased by \$0.7 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2022 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2021. The increase is primarily related to our ongoing activities to advance our preclinical sustained-release retinal implant, AR-14034 SR, for which we anticipate filing an IND with the FDA in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Other expense, net

Other expense, net consists of the following:

	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		\$ CHANGE
	2022	2021	
	(in thousands)		
Interest income	\$ 854	109	\$ 745
Interest expense	(4,921)	(21,381)	16,460
Other income (expense)	1,267	(870)	2,137
Other expense, net	<u>\$ (2,800)</u>	<u>\$ (22,142)</u>	<u>\$ 19,342</u>

Other expense, net decreased by \$19.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2021. This decrease was primarily due to a decrease of \$16.5 million in interest expense due to the impact of adopting ASU 2020-06 on January 1, 2022 which accounts for convertible debt instruments, such as the Convertible Notes, as a single liability measured at its amortized cost, partially offset by a change of \$2.1 million in other income (expense) and \$0.7 million in interest income during the nine months ended September 30, 2022 as compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2021. The change in other income (expense) primarily consists of \$1.0 million in realized loss on equity securities in the prior period as well as an increase in research and development tax credit refunds. See Notes 2 and 10 to our condensed consolidated financial statements for additional information on the Convertible Notes.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Since our inception, we have funded operations primarily through the sale of equity securities and the issuance of convertible notes. In addition, we generate cash flows from product revenues related to sales of Rocklatan® and Rhopressa® in the United States. Further, we entered into the Second Santen Agreement in December 2021 which included the Second Santen Agreement Upfront Payment, consisting of (a) \$88.0 million which we received in January 2022 and (b) a supplemental upfront payment of \$2.0 million. This expanded the scope of the First Santen Agreement pursuant to which Santen made an upfront payment of \$50.0 million in the fourth quarter of 2020.

We have incurred losses and experienced negative operating cash flows since our inception and anticipate that we will continue to incur losses until such a time when our current products and any future products, if commercialized, generate adequate revenues to render us profitable. We will not generate any revenue from any product candidates or future product candidates unless and until we obtain regulatory approval and commercialize such products.

Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, we are subject to a variety of operational restrictions. Unless we obtain Alcon's prior written consent, we may not, among other things and subject to certain exceptions and aggregate limitations, incur additional indebtedness, issue additional shares of common stock, repurchase common stock, pay dividends, acquire assets, or enter into material contracts. We do not believe these restrictions will prevent us from meeting our ongoing costs of operations, working capital needs, or capital expenditure requirements.

Sources of Liquidity

Our product revenues, net amounted to \$99.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2022, which relate to sales of our glaucoma franchise products, Rocklatan® and Rhopressa®. Accounts receivable, net amounted to \$73.9 million as of September 30, 2022.

As of September 30, 2022, our principal sources of liquidity were our cash, cash equivalents and investments, which totaled approximately \$172.5 million. In January 2022, we received an aggregate \$90.0 million associated with the Second Santen Agreement Upfront Payment. See Note 3 to our condensed consolidated financial statements included in this report for additional information. We believe that our cash, cash equivalents, and investments and projected cash flows from revenues will provide sufficient resources for our current ongoing needs through at least the next twelve months. See “—Operating Capital Requirements.”

Cash Flows

The following table summarizes our sources and uses of cash:

	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2022	2021
	(in thousands)	
Net cash provided by (used in):		
Operating activities	\$ 37,277	\$ (69,044)
Investing activities	(20,368)	(20,264)
Financing activities	(3)	(415)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	\$ 16,906	\$ (89,723)

Operating Activities

During the nine months ended September 30, 2022, net cash provided by operating activities of \$37.3 million related to a net cash inflow of \$97.3 million, primarily driven by the increase in licensing receivables and adjustments for non-cash items of \$22.1 million related to stock-based compensation expense, amortization and accretion, and depreciation. These were offset by a net loss of \$82.1 million. During the nine months ended September 30, 2021, net cash used in operating activities of \$69.0 million related to a net loss of \$120.3 million, adjusted for non-cash items of \$52.3 million primarily related to stock-based compensation expense, amortization and accretion, and depreciation, offset by a net cash outflow of \$1.0 million related to changes in operating assets and liabilities.

The increase in net cash provided by operating activities during the nine months ended September 30, 2022 as compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2021 was primarily due to the January 2022 receipt of the \$90.0 million Second Santen Agreement Upfront Payment from Santen in connection with the Second Santen Agreement, the March 2022 receipt of a \$6.0 million developmental milestone payment from Santen in connection with the First Santen Agreement, and higher net cash collections generated from product revenues.

Investing Activities

During the nine months ended September 30, 2022, net cash used in investing activities of \$20.4 million related to purchases of available-for-sale investments of \$145.7 million and purchases of property, plant, and equipment of \$3.8 million primarily related to the Athlone plant, partially offset by sales and maturities of available-for-sale investments of \$129.1 million. During the nine months ended September 30, 2021, net cash used in investing activities of \$20.3 million related to purchases of available-for-sale investments of \$112.4 million and purchases of property, plant, and equipment of \$2.5 million primarily related to the Athlone plant, partially offset by sales and maturities of available-for-sale investments of \$94.7 million.

Financing Activities

During the nine months ended September 30, 2022, net cash used in financing activities was immaterial. During the nine months ended September 30, 2021, net cash used in financing activities was \$0.4 million and primarily related to tax payments made on employees' behalf through withholding of shares on restricted stock grants, partially offset by proceeds from issuance of common stock upon exercise of stock purchase rights and stock options.

Operating Capital Requirements

We expect to incur ongoing operating losses until such a time when Rocklatan[®], Rhopressa[®], Roclanda[®] or Rhokiinsa[®], or any product candidates or future product candidates, if approved, generate sufficient cash flows for Aerie to achieve profitability.

Our principal liquidity requirements are for: working capital; operating expenses, including for commercialization and manufacturing activities; expenses associated with developing our pipeline opportunities, including pursuing strategic growth opportunities; costs associated with executing our global expansion strategy, including clinical and potential commercialization activities outside the United States; contractual obligations; and capital expenditures.

We believe that our cash, cash equivalents, and investments and projected cash flows from revenues, will provide sufficient resources to support our operations, including interest payments for our Convertible Notes, through at least the next twelve months, without giving effect to the proposed Merger and assuming we remain a standalone entity.

Our future funding requirements will depend on many factors, including, but not limited to the following:

- consummation of the Merger;
- commercial performance of Rocklatan[®], Rhopressa[®], Roclanda[®] or Rhokiinsa[®], or any current or future product candidates, if approved;
- costs of commercialization activities for Rocklatan[®], Rhopressa[®], Roclanda[®] or Rhokiinsa[®], and any current or future product candidates, if approved;
- costs of building inventory to support sales growth and other associated working capital needs;
- costs, timing, and outcome of seeking regulatory approval;
- timing and costs of our ongoing and future clinical trials and preclinical studies including those related to our global expansion;
- costs of any follow-on development or products, including the exploration and/or development of any additional indications or additional opportunities for new ophthalmic product candidates, delivery alternatives, and new therapeutic areas;
- terms and timing of any acquisitions, collaborations, or other arrangements;
- costs related to the Convertible Notes, particularly if the proposed Merger is not completed, including repurchasing, repaying, or otherwise refinancing our Convertible Notes, unless earlier repurchased, redeemed or converted, including in connection with the consummation of the Merger; and
- costs related to filing and prosecuting patent applications, maintaining and protecting our intellectual property rights, and defending against intellectual property related claims, including defending against any ANDA filings that contain a Paragraph IV Certification.

We based our projections, without giving effect to the proposed Merger, on assumptions that may prove to be incorrect or unreliable or may change due to circumstances beyond our control, and as a result, we may consume our available capital resources earlier than we originally projected, particularly if the proposed Merger is not completed and if we are required to pay a termination fee to Alcon. Accordingly, we may be required to obtain further funding through debt or equity offerings or other sources. If such funding is required, we cannot guarantee that it will be available to us on favorable terms, if at all.

Outstanding Indebtedness

In September 2019, we issued an aggregate principal amount of \$316.25 million of Convertible Notes.

The Convertible Notes are senior, unsecured obligations with interest payable semi-annually in cash in arrears at a rate of 1.50% per annum on April 1 and October 1 of each year, which began on April 1, 2020. The Convertible Notes will mature on October 1, 2024 unless they are redeemed, repurchased or converted prior to such date. If consummated, the Merger is expected to constitute a fundamental change under the indenture governing the Convertible Notes. Prior to April 1, 2024, the Convertible Notes will be convertible at the option of holders only during certain periods and upon satisfaction of certain conditions, including upon consummation of the Merger, as discussed further below. On and after April 1, 2024, the Convertible Notes will be convertible at the option of the holders any time until the close of business on the second scheduled trading day immediately preceding the maturity date. Upon conversion, the Convertible Notes may be settled in shares of our common stock, cash or a combination, thereof, at our election. We intend to pay cash upon conversion of the Convertible Notes, without giving effect to the proposed Merger and assuming we remain a standalone entity. See Note 2 for additional information. In connection with the Closing of the Merger, each holder will be entitled to convert such holder's Convertible Notes into the right to receive the Merger Consideration in respect of each share of common stock into which the Convertible Notes would have been convertible pursuant to the applicable conversion rate under the indenture.

See Notes 1 and 10 to our condensed consolidated financial statements included in this report for additional information.

Contractual Obligations and Commitments

There have been no material changes to our contractual obligations and commitments as included in our 2021 Form 10-K.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

None.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

For a discussion of recently issued accounting standards, see Note 2 to our condensed consolidated financial statements included in this report.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

We have market risk exposure to interest income sensitivity, which is affected by changes in the general level of U.S. interest rates. Our cash, cash equivalents, and investments totaled \$172.5 million and \$139.8 million as of September 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021, respectively. Given the short-term nature of our cash, cash equivalents, and investments, we do not believe that a change in market interest rates would have a material impact on our financial condition or results of operations. We do not currently engage in any hedging activities against changes in interest rates.

We face market risks attributable to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and exposure on the remeasurement of foreign currency-denominated monetary assets or liabilities into U.S. dollars. In particular, our operations and subsidiary in Ireland may enter into certain obligations or transactions in Euros or other foreign currencies but has a U.S. dollar functional currency. We do not currently have a foreign currency hedging program. To date and during the nine months ended September 30, 2022, foreign currency exposure and foreign currency financial instruments have not been material.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our management, with the participation of our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15(d)-15(e)), as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based upon the evaluation, our principal executive officer and principal financial officer concluded that, as of September 30, 2022, the disclosure controls and procedures were effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in the reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is (i) recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms and (ii) accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. In designing and evaluating our disclosure controls and procedures, management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives, and management necessarily applies its judgment in evaluating the benefits of possible controls and procedures relative to their costs.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended September 30, 2022 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

We may periodically become subject to legal proceedings and claims arising in connection with our business.

Legal Proceedings related to the Merger Agreement

Beginning on September 22, 2022, three purported stockholders of the Company filed separate lawsuits in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York captioned *Stein v. Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 1:22-cv-08103; *O'Dell v. Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 1:22-cv-08261, and *Weiss v. Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 1:22-cv-09235. The complaints name Aerie and members of the Board of Directors as defendants and allege that the defendants made materially incomplete and misleading statements about the proposed acquisition of Aerie by Alcon. Specifically, the complaints allege that all defendants violated Section 14(a) of the Exchange Act and that each member of the Board of Directors violated Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act, on the basis of allegedly inadequate disclosures regarding Aerie's financial projections and Goldman Sachs's financial analysis in the preliminary proxy statement filed with the SEC on September 21, 2022 and/or the definitive proxy statement filed with the SEC on October 7, 2022. In addition, Aerie has received from certain purported Aerie stockholders several demand letters alleging similar insufficiencies in the preliminary proxy statement and/or the definitive proxy statement as those noted in the complaints referenced above. The complaints seek, among other relief, (i) injunctive relief preventing the parties from proceeding with the Merger until the alleged disclosure deficiencies have been remedied, (ii) rescission in the event the Merger is consummated or alternatively rescissory damages, and (iii) an award of costs, including attorneys' and experts' fees. Aerie believes these lawsuits are without merit.

Additional lawsuits may be filed against Aerie, members of the Board of Directors or Aerie's officers in connection with the Merger, which could prevent or delay completion of the Merger and result in substantial costs to Aerie, including any costs associated with indemnification.

Patent Infringement Lawsuits

On March 14, 2022, we filed complaints for patent infringement against Micro Labs, Gland Pharma, and Orbicular Pharma in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey arising from the Defendants' Abbreviated New Drug Application ("ANDA") filings with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (the "FDA"). As a result, under applicable law, FDA approval of Defendants' ANDAs is stayed until June 18, 2025, unless modified by court order. We are seeking, among other relief, an order that the effective date of any FDA approval of the Defendants' ANDAs would be no earlier than the expiration date of the applicable patents listed in the Notices (as defined below) and equitable relief enjoining the Defendants from infringing on such patents. The patents subject to Micro Lab's certification include, with respect to Rocklatan[®], U.S. Patent Nos. 9,993,470 (the "'470 Patent") and 11,197,853 (the "'853 Patent"), which expire in 2034, and the Rhopressa[®] Listed Patents (as defined below) (the '470 Patent, '853 Patent, and the Rhopressa[®] Listed Patents, collectively, the "Micro Labs Listed Patents"), and with respect to Rhopressa[®], U.S. Patent Nos. 8,394,826, 10,174,017, 10,654,844, and 11,028,081, which expire in 2030, and U.S. Patent Nos. 9,415,043 (the "'043 Patent"), 9,931,336 (the "'336 Patent"), 11,185,538 (the "'538 Patent"), and 10,588,901 (the "'901 Patent") (collectively, the "Rhopressa[®] Listed Patents"), which expire in 2034. The patents subject to Gland Pharma's certification include the '043 Patent, the '336 Patent, the '538 Patent, and the '901 Patent (collectively, the "Gland Pharma Listed Patents"). The patents subject to Orbicular Pharma's certification include the '043 Patent, the '336 Patent, the '538 Patent, the '901 Patent, the '470 Patent, and the '853 Patent (collectively, the "Orbicular Pharma Listed Patents"). On May 9, 2022, Gland Pharma filed an answer to the Gland Pharma Complaint and Orbicular Pharma filed an answer to the Orbicular Pharma Complaint. On May 13, 2022, Micro Labs filed an answer to the Micro Labs Complaint and filed a counterclaim. On June 1, 2022, we filed an answer to Micro Labs' counterclaim. On July 18, 2022, Micro Labs filed a corrected answer to the Micro Labs Complaint.

These patent infringement suits were initiated within 45 days of receiving Paragraph IV Certification Notices (the "Notices") advising that (i) Micro Labs had submitted ANDAs to the FDA seeking approval to manufacture and sell generic versions of Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®] prior to the expiration of the Micro Labs Listed Patents, (ii) Gland Pharma had submitted an ANDA to the FDA seeking approval to manufacture and sell generic versions of Rhopressa[®] prior to the expiration of the Gland Pharma Listed Patents, and (iii) Orbicular Pharma had submitted an ANDA to the FDA seeking approval to manufacture and sell generic versions of Rocklatan[®] prior to the expiration of the Orbicular Pharma Listed Patents, in each case which patents are listed in the FDA's Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations, known as the "Orange Book." The Notices allege that the Micro Labs Listed Patents, the Gland Pharma Listed Patents, and the Orbicular Pharma Listed Patents, as applicable, are invalid, unenforceable and/or will not be infringed by the commercial manufacture, use or sale of the generic products described in the Defendants' ANDAs.

A trial related to these complaints is scheduled to commence in January 2025. We intend to vigorously defend our intellectual property rights.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

You should consider carefully the risks set forth under “Risk Factors” in our 2021 Form 10-K, and other documents that we have filed or furnished with the SEC. Except as set forth below, there have been no material changes to these risk factors.

The announcement and pendency of our proposed acquisition by Alcon could adversely impact our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

On August 22, 2022, we entered into the Merger Agreement with Alcon and Merger Sub. Uncertainty about the effect of the Merger on our employees, customers, and other parties may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operations regardless of whether the Merger is completed. These risks to our business include the following, all of which could be exacerbated by a delay in the completion of the Merger:

- the impairment of our ability to attract, retain, and motivate our employees, including key personnel;
- the diversion of significant management time and resources towards the completion of the Merger;
- difficulties maintaining relationships with third-party payors, customers, distributors, suppliers, and other business partners, who may delay or defer decisions about working with us or seek to change existing business relationships with us;
- the inability to pursue certain business opportunities or make appropriate changes to our business because the Merger Agreement requires us to use commercially reasonable efforts to conduct our business in the ordinary course and use commercially reasonable efforts to preserve intact our material business organizations and material business relationships with third parties, and to not engage in certain types of transactions prior to the completion of the Merger;
- litigation relating to the Merger and the costs and distractions related thereto; and
- the incurrence of significant costs, expenses, and fees in connection with the Merger, including for professional services.

Failure to consummate the Merger within the expected timeframe or at all could adversely impact our business, financial condition, and results of operations, as well as the market price of our common stock.

The completion of the Merger is subject to the satisfaction or waiver of certain customary closing conditions, including (a) the approval and adoption of the Merger Agreement and the Merger by Aerie’s stockholders, (b) the expiration or termination of any waiting period (or any extension thereof) applicable to the Merger under the HSR Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, and (c) the absence of any temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction or final judgment, or law, regulation, or order promulgated, enacted, issued or deemed applicable to the Merger, by any governmental entity in any jurisdiction in which we or Alcon has material business operations that prohibits or otherwise makes illegal the consummation of the Merger. The obligation of each party to consummate the Merger is also conditioned upon the other party’s representations and warranties being true and correct (subject to certain customary materiality exceptions) and the other party having performed in all material respects its obligations under the Merger Agreement, and the obligation of Alcon to consummate the Merger is additionally conditioned upon the absence of a material adverse effect on Aerie that is continuing. While the waiting period applicable to the Merger under the HSR Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder expired on October 6, 2022, there can be no assurance that any or all of these conditions will be satisfied in a timely manner or at all or that the Merger will be completed.

The Merger Agreement also includes customary termination rights for each of us and Alcon, subject, in certain circumstances, to the payment by us of a termination fee of \$27.0 million in cash upon termination of the Merger Agreement under specified circumstances. If we are required to make this payment, doing so may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

While Alcon, in certain circumstances, is required to pay a reverse termination fee of \$65.0 million to us, there can be no assurance that a remedy will be available to us in the event of a breach of the Merger Agreement by Alcon or its affiliates or that we will wholly or partially recover any damages incurred by us in connection with the Merger. Furthermore, there can be no assurance that our business, our relationships or our financial condition will not be adversely affected, as compared to the condition prior to the announcement of the Merger, if the Merger is not consummated within the expected timeframe or at all.

Failure to complete the Merger within the expected timeframe or at all could adversely affect our business and the market price of our common stock in a number of ways, including the following:

- if the Merger is not completed within the expected timeframe or at all the market price of our common stock will likely change to the extent that the current market price of our common stock reflects assumptions regarding the likelihood of completion of the Merger;
- failure to complete the Merger within the expected timeframe or at all may result in negative publicity and a negative impression of us among our customers or in the business community generally and may lead to subsequent offers to acquire our company at a lower price or otherwise on less favorable terms to us and our stockholders than contemplated by the Merger;
- we have incurred, and will continue to incur, significant costs, expenses, and fees in connection with the Merger, including for professional services, for which we will have received little or no benefit if the Merger is not completed. Many of these fees and costs will be payable by us even if the Merger is not completed and may relate to activities that we would not have undertaken other than to complete the Merger;
- the impairment of our ability to attract, retain, and motivate personnel, including key personnel; and
- difficulties maintaining relationships with third-party payors, customers, distributors, suppliers, and other business partners.

Litigation relating to the Merger has been filed against us and our Board of Directors, and additional litigation may be filed against us and our Board of Directors in the future, which could prevent or delay the completion of the Merger or result in the payment of damages.

Litigation relating to the Merger has been filed against us and our Board of Directors, and it is possible that additional litigation by our stockholders may be filed against us and our Board of Directors in the future. Among other remedies, these claimants could seek damages and/or to enjoin the consummation of the Merger. The outcome of any litigation is uncertain and any such lawsuits could prevent or delay the completion of the Merger and result in significant costs. Any such actions may create uncertainty relating to the Merger and may be costly and distracting to our management.

The Merger Agreement contains provisions that could discourage a potential competing acquirer of our company or could result in any competing proposal being at a lower price than it might otherwise be.

Pursuant to the terms of the Merger Agreement, we are subject to certain restrictions on our ability to solicit alternative acquisition proposals from third parties, to provide information to third parties, and to enter into or continue discussions or negotiations with third parties regarding alternative acquisition proposals, subject to customary exceptions. In addition, we may be required to pay Alcon a termination fee of \$27.0 million in specified circumstances, including if the Merger Agreement is terminated in specified circumstances by us to enter into an agreement in connection with a Superior Offer (as defined in the Merger Agreement). These provisions could discourage a potential competing acquirer that might have an interest in acquiring all or a significant part of our company from considering or proposing such an acquisition, or might result in a potential competing acquirer proposing to pay a lower price than it might otherwise have proposed to pay because of the added expense of the termination fee that may become payable in specified circumstances under the Merger Agreement.

While the Merger Agreement is in effect, we are subject to restrictions on our business activities.

The Merger Agreement includes restrictions on the conduct of our business prior to the completion of the Merger and generally requires us to conduct our business in the ordinary course and to use commercially reasonable efforts to preserve intact our material business organizations and material business relationships with third parties. Unless we obtain Alcon's prior written consent, we may not, among other things and subject to certain exceptions and aggregate limitations, incur additional indebtedness, issue additional shares of our common stock, repurchase our common stock, pay dividends, acquire assets, or enter into material contracts. These and other contractual restrictions in the Merger Agreement may delay or prevent us from responding, or limit our ability to respond, effectively to competitive pressures, industry developments, and future business opportunities that may arise during the pendency of the Merger, even if our management believes that responding to such competitive pressures, industry developments or business opportunities may be advisable. If any of these effects were to occur, it could materially and adversely impact our operating results, financial position, cash flows, or the price of our common stock.

We have initiated patent infringement lawsuits in response to ANDAs submitted to the FDA seeking approval to manufacture and sell generic versions of Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®], which may lead us to incur substantial costs, and should there be an adverse result in such litigation, one or more of our patents could be at risk of being invalidated or

interpreted narrowly, or could be at risk of having its patent protection shortened, which may have a significant negative effect on our revenues and results of operations.

On March 14, 2022, we filed complaints for patent infringement against Micro Labs, Gland Pharma and Orbicular Pharma in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey arising from the Defendants' ANDA filings with the FDA. As a result, under applicable law, FDA approval of Defendants' ANDAs is stayed until June 18, 2025, unless modified by court order. We are seeking, among other relief, an order that the effective date of any FDA approval of the Defendants' ANDAs be no earlier than the expiration of the Micro Labs Listed Patents, the Gland Pharma Listed Patents and the Orbicular Pharma Listed Patents, as applicable, and equitable relief enjoining the Defendants from infringing on such patents. These patent infringement suits were initiated within 45 days of receiving the Notices advising that (i) Micro Labs had submitted ANDAs to the FDA seeking approval to manufacture and sell generic versions of Rocklatan[®] and Rhopressa[®] prior to the expiration of the Micro Labs Listed Patents, (ii) Gland Pharma had submitted an ANDA to the FDA seeking approval to manufacture and sell generic versions of Rhopressa[®] prior to the expiration of the Gland Pharma Listed Patents and (iii) Orbicular Pharma had submitted an ANDA to the FDA seeking approval to manufacture and sell generic versions of Rocklatan[®] prior to the expiration of the Orbicular Pharma Listed Patents, in each case which patents are listed in the FDA's "Orange Book." The Notices allege that the Micro Labs Listed Patents, the Gland Pharma Listed Patents and the Orbicular Pharma Listed Patents, as applicable, are invalid, unenforceable and/or will not be infringed by the commercial manufacture, use or sale of the generic products described in the Defendants' ANDAs. See "Part II, Item 1. Legal Proceedings" included elsewhere in this report.

There can be no assurance that we will be successful with respect to these litigation proceedings, and even if successful, they may result in substantial costs and distraction of our management and other employees. An adverse result in any litigation or defense proceedings could result in the unenforceability or invalidity of one or more of our patents or such patents being interpreted narrowly. An adverse outcome could also result in the patent protection for our products being shortened, allowing for the sale of generic versions of Rocklatan[®] and/or Rhopressa[®] earlier than their patent expirations, which could have a significant negative effect on our revenues and results of operations. Our product candidates may be subject to the same risks in the future.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

None.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

None.

Item 5. Other Information

None.

Item 6. Exhibits

2.1†	Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of August 22, 2022, by and among the Company, Alcon and Merger Sub (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on August 23, 2022).
31.1*	Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
31.2*	Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
32.1**	Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2**	Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.INS***	XBRL Instance Document.
101.SCH***	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.
101.CAL***	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document.
101.LAB***	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Database.
101.PRE***	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document.
101.DEF***	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document.
104***	Cover Page Interactive Data File

† Certain exhibits and schedules have been omitted pursuant to Item 601(b)(2) of Regulation S-K. The Company agrees to furnish supplementally to the SEC a copy of any omitted exhibits or schedules upon request.

* Filed herewith.

** Furnished herewith.

*** Attached as Exhibit 101 to this report are the following formatted in XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language):

(i) Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at September 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021 (unaudited), (ii) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Loss for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021 (unaudited), (iii) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' (Deficit) Equity for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021 (unaudited), (iv) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021 (unaudited) and (v) Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited).

SIGNATURES

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

AERIE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

Date: November 4, 2022

/s/ PETER LANG

Peter Lang
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

/s/ JEFFREY M. CALABRESE, CPA

Jeffrey M. Calabrese, CPA
Vice President, Finance
(Principal Accounting Officer)

CERTIFICATION

I, Raj Kannan, certify that:

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

Date: November 4, 2022

/s/ RAJ KANNAN

Raj Kannan
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

CERTIFICATION

I, Peter Lang, certify that:

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

Date: November 4, 2022

/s/ PETER LANG

Peter Lang
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

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

In connection with the filing of the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), for the period ended September 30, 2022 (the "Report"), the undersigned, Raj Kannan, Chief Executive Officer of the Company, hereby certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, as adopted pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that to his knowledge:

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

Date: November 4, 2022

/s/ RAJ KANNAN

Raj Kannan
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

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

In connection with the filing of the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), for the period ended September 30, 2022 (the "Report"), the undersigned, Peter Lang, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, hereby certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, as adopted pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that to his knowledge:

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

Date: November 4, 2022

/s/ PETER LANG

Peter Lang
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)