

Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security
Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

- A This return/report is for: [] a multiemployer plan [] a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) [x] a single-employer plan [] a DFE (specify) ____
B This return/report is: [] the first return/report [] the final return/report [] an amended return/report [] a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. []
D Check box if filing under: [x] Form 5558 [] automatic extension [] the DFVC program [] special extension (enter description)
E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. []

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan: DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 002
1c Effective date of plan: 01/01/2020
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan): DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC.
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box): 325 BOB HEATH DRIVE, HUNTSVILLE, AL 35806
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 42-1551697
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 256-489-6125
2d Business code (see instructions): 541330

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature of plan administrator, Date, Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator. Includes rows for employer/plan sponsor and DFE.

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2024) v. 240311

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN	
	4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	147
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1)	130
	6a(2)	116
	6b	1
	6c	20
	6d	137
	6e	0
	6f	137
	6g(1)	137
	6g(2)	137
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
2P 2Q 3I

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules	b General Schedules
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R (Retirement Plan Information)	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H (Financial Information)
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> I (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached <u>0</u>
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> C (Service Provider Information)
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	(5) <input type="checkbox"/> D (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> G (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
--	--	--

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024	
A Name of plan DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 42-1551697

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
---------------	--------------------------------------

1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
Assets			
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	193	0
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	0	0
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)		
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)		
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)	24140000	24440000
(2) Employer real property.....	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation.....	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e).....	1f	24140193	24440000
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i	23361312	22765511
j Other liabilities.....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	23361312	22765511
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	778881	1674489

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers.....	2a(1)(A)	1129896	
(B) Participants.....	2a(1)(B)		
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		1129896
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities.....	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments.....	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants).....	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans.....	2b(1)(E)		
(F) Other.....	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		0
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock.....	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		0
(3) Rents.....	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:			
(A) Aggregate proceeds.....	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result.....	2b(4)(C)		0
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:			
(A) Real estate.....	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other.....	2b(5)(B)	300000	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		1429896

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	227269	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		227269
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		306869
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)	150	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		150
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		534288

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		895608
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) Unmodified (2) Qualified (3) Disclaimer (4) Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: **BMSS**

(2) EIN: **42-1551697**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2) It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)		X	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		1000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		X	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? Yes No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) Yes No Not determined
 If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
--	---	--

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A Name of plan <u>DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>002</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>42-1551697</u>	

Part I	Distributions
---------------	----------------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....

1		0
---	--	---

2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):
EIN(s): 58-1428634

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year.....

3	
---	--

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
----------------	---

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? Yes No N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____
If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a	
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b	
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount).....	6c	

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?..... Yes No N/A

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? Yes No N/A

Part III	Amendments
-----------------	-------------------

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box..... Increase Decrease Both No

Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
----------------	---

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? Yes No

11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? Yes No

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) Yes No

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? Yes No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: <input type="checkbox"/> last contributing employer <input type="checkbox"/> alternative <input type="checkbox"/> reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	14b	
c The second preceding plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	14c	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers.....	16b	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
 Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%
 High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:
 0-5 years 5-10 years 10-15 years 15 years or more

20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? Yes No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:
 Yes.
 No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. Other. Provide explanation: _____

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? Yes No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).
 Design-based safe harbor method
 "Prior year" ADP test
 "Current year" ADP test
 N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter ___/___/____ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number _____.

**DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT	3
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Statements of Net Assets (Deficit) Available for Benefits	6
Statement of Changes in Net Assets (Deficit) Available for Benefits	7
Notes to Financial Statements	8
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION	
Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)	18

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Plan Administrator
deciBel Research, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan
Huntsville, Alabama

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of deciBel Research, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), which comprise the statements of net assets (deficit) available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statement of changes in net assets (deficit) available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets (deficit) available for benefits of deciBel Research, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its net assets (deficit) available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2024, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of deciBel Research, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about deciBel Research, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan’s ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments; administering the plan; and determining that the plan’s transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan’s provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of deciBel Research, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about deciBel Research, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule, Schedule H, line 4i – schedule of assets (held at end of year) at December 31, 2024, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor’s Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor’s Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion, the information in the accompanying schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole, and the form and content are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor’s Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

BMSS, LLC

Huntsville, Alabama
September 9, 2025

DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

Statements of Net Assets (Deficit) Available for Benefits

December 31, 2024 and 2023

	December 31, 2024			December 31, 2023		
	Allocated	Unallocated	Total	Allocated	Unallocated	Total
Assets						
Investments, at fair value						
Investment in deciBel Research, Inc. common stock at fair value	\$ 3,406,166	\$ 21,033,834	\$ 24,440,000	\$ 2,690,439	\$ 21,449,561	\$ 24,140,000
Liabilities						
Loan payable	-	22,765,511	22,765,511	-	23,361,119	23,361,119
Net assets (deficit) available for benefits	<u>\$ 3,406,166</u>	<u>\$ (1,731,677)</u>	<u>\$ 1,674,489</u>	<u>\$ 2,690,439</u>	<u>\$ (1,911,558)</u>	<u>\$ 778,881</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
Statement of Changes in Net Assets (Deficit) Available for Benefits
Year ended December 31, 2024

	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
Additions			
Additions to net assets attributed to			
Investment income			
Net unrealized appreciation			
in fair value of investments	\$ 33,436	\$ 266,564	\$ 300,000
Employer contributions	227,419	902,477	1,129,896
Allocation of 27,917 shares of common			
stock of deciBel Research, Inc.			
at fair value	682,291	-	682,291
	<u>943,146</u>	<u>1,169,041</u>	<u>2,112,187</u>
Deductions			
Deductions from net assets attributed to			
Allocation of 27,917 shares of common			
stock of deciBel Research, Inc.			
at fair value	-	682,291	682,291
Distributions	227,419	-	227,419
Interest expense	-	306,869	306,869
	<u>227,419</u>	<u>989,160</u>	<u>1,216,579</u>
Net increase	715,727	179,881	895,608
Net assets (deficit) available for benefits -			
 beginning of year	<u>2,690,439</u>	<u>(1,911,558)</u>	<u>778,881</u>
Net assets (deficit) available for benefits -			
 end of year	<u>\$ 3,406,166</u>	<u>\$ (1,731,677)</u>	<u>\$ 1,674,489</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024 and 2023

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

Nature of the Plan

The following description of the deciBel Research, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the “Plan”) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Summary Plan Description for a more complete description of the Plan’s provisions.

General

deciBel Research, Inc. (the “Company” or “Plan Sponsor”) established the Plan effective January 1, 2020. As of the effective date, the Plan operates as a leveraged Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) and is designed to comply with Section 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code (hereinafter referred to as the “Code”). In addition, in accordance with Section 54.4975-1 l(a)(5) of the Treasury Regulations, this Plan also forms a portion of a Stock Bonus Plan, which is intended to qualify under Section 501(a) of the Code. This Plan reflects the applicable provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (“EGTRRA”) and the guidance issued thereunder.

The Plan purchased Company common stock using the proceeds of a loan payable to the Company (see Note 7) and holds the common stock in a trust established under the Plan (the “Trust”). As the Plan makes debt payments, an appropriate percentage of stock will be allocated to eligible employees’ accounts in accordance with applicable regulations under the Code.

The borrowing is collateralized by the unallocated shares of common stock, and the Company has no rights against shares of common stock once they are allocated to participants in accordance with the terms of the ESOP. Accordingly, the financial statements of the Plan, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, separately present the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to:

- a.* the accounts of employees with vested rights in allocated common stock (allocated), and
- b.* common stock not yet allocated to employees (unallocated).

Eligibility

All employees of the Company are eligible to participate in the Plan after reaching the age of 21. Participants who do not have at least 1,000 hours of service during the Plan year and are not employed on the last working day of the Plan year are generally not eligible for an allocation of Company contributions for such year.

DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024 and 2023
(Continued)

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF PLAN - Continued

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with an allocation of the Plan Sponsor's contribution, Plan earnings, and forfeitures of terminated participants' nonvested accounts. Allocations are based on the proportion that each participant's compensation, as defined in the Plan Document, for that year bears to the total compensation of all participants. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from that participant's account.

Employer Contributions

Employer contributions to the Plan, as determined by the Plan Sponsor, are discretionary and based on the Plan Sponsor's financial performance and condition. Contributions may be made in cash, stock of the Plan Sponsor, or a combination of both.

Vesting

A participant becomes fully vested with respect to Plan Sponsor contributions to the Plan after five years of credited service (as defined in the Plan Document), with a participant becoming 20 percent vested after each year. Participants are automatically vested 100 percent if still employed by the Plan Sponsor upon reaching age 65.

Payment of Benefits

Distributions on account of death, disability, or retirement are made as soon as administratively feasible following the participant's separation from service beginning no later than one year after the close of the Plan year in which such event occurs. Distributions to be paid due to termination for reasons other than death, disability, or retirement shall be paid beginning one year after the close of the Plan year that is the fifth Plan year following the Plan year in which the participant terminates employment, except if the participant is reemployed by the Plan Sponsor before the distribution is required to begin.

DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

(Continued)

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF PLAN - Continued

Voting Rights

Each participant is entitled to exercise voting rights attributable to the shares allocated to his or her account and is notified by the Trustee prior to the time that such rights are to be exercised. The Trustee is required, however, to vote any unallocated shares on behalf of the collective best interest of Plan participants and beneficiaries.

Put Option

Under federal income tax regulations, the Company's stock that is held by the Plan and its participants and is not readily tradable on an established market, or is subject to trading limitations includes a put option. The put option is a right to demand that the Company buy any shares of its stock distributed to participants for which there is no market. The put price is representative of the fair market value of the stock. The Company can pay for the purchase with interest over a period of five years. The purpose of the put option is to ensure that the participant has the ability to ultimately obtain cash in exchange for his/her stock.

Diversification

Diversification is offered to participants who have attained the age of fifty-five (55) and completed ten (10) years of participation under the Plan. Within 90 days after the close of each Plan year, these qualified participants can move no more than 25 percent (50 percent for the six-year qualified election period) of the value of their investment (as limited by the provisions specified in the Plan document) in Plan Sponsor common stock into other investments.

Forfeited Amounts

Forfeited amounts are reallocated to the other participants' accounts according to the proportion that each participant's compensation for that year bears to the total compensation of all participants. For the year ended December 31, 2024, 1,293 shares of the Company's stock were reallocated to eligible participants.

Administrative Expenses

All expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid by the Plan unless paid by the Plan Sponsor.

DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024 and 2023
(Continued)

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In preparing the financial statements, management evaluated subsequent events through September 9, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Concentration of Market Risk

The Plan's investment consists primarily of the Plan Sponsor's common stock. The investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate and market risks, as well as valuation assumptions based on earnings, cash flows, or other such techniques. Due to the level of risk associated with the investment securities and uncertainties inherent in the estimations and assumptions process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of the investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets (deficit) available for benefits.

Income Recognition

The common shares of the Company are valued at fair value. Dividend income is accrued on the ex-dividend date. Realized gains and losses from security transactions are reported on the average cost method. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

(Continued)

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - Continued

Fair Value

The established framework for measuring fair value provides a hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. Fair value is the price the Plan would expect to receive to sell an asset or pay to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction with a market participant at the measurement date. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described as follows:

Level 1 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2 - Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets.
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets.
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability.
- Inputs which are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024 and 2023
(Continued)

NOTE 3 - INVESTMENTS

The Plan’s investments are held by the Trustee of the Plan. All investments are directed by the plan administrator. The estimated fair value of the Plan’s investments in deciBel Research, Inc. common shares at December 31 consisted of the following:

	2024		2023	
	Allocated	Unallocated	Allocated	Unallocated
Number of shares	139,369	860,631	111,452	888,548
Cost	\$ 3,623,594	\$ 22,376,406	\$ 2,897,752	\$ 23,102,248
Estimated fair value	\$ 3,406,166	\$ 21,033,834	\$ 2,690,439	\$ 21,449,561

NOTE 4 - PLAN TERMINATION

The Plan Sponsor reserves the right to terminate the Plan at any time, subject to Plan provisions. Upon such termination of the Plan, all amounts credited to participant accounts will become 100 percent vested and all unallocated amounts shall be allocated to the accounts of participants. The interest of each participant in the Trust fund will be distributed to such participant or his or her beneficiary at the time prescribed by the Plan terms and the regulations of the Code.

NOTE 5 - RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan’s investments consist of the Sponsor’s common stock, which is exposed to various risks, including interest rate, market, and credit risks, as well as valuation assumptions based on earnings and cash flows. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and such changes could materially affect participants’ account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets (deficit) available for benefits.

DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024 and 2023

(Continued)

NOTE 6 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The fair value of the Sponsor common stock is based on an annual independent appraisal. This appraisal was based on a combination of the market and income valuation approaches. The appraiser took into account historical and projected cash flows and net earnings, weighted average cost of capital, market comparables, and applicable discounts and premiums.

The valuation process involves the Trustee’s selection of an independent appraiser. Plan management accumulates the data for the appraiser from the audited financial statements of the Company. The appraiser prepares a report which plan management and the Trustee reviews in detail, discusses, and approves.

Money market funds are valued at amortized cost which approximates fair value.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan’s assets at fair value as of December 31:

Investment Level	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Level 1 investments	\$ -	\$ -
Level 2 investments	-	-
Level 3 investments		
Investment in deciBel Research, Inc. common stock	<u>24,440,000</u>	<u>24,140,000</u>
Total investment assets, at fair value	<u>\$ 24,440,000</u>	<u>\$ 24,140,000</u>

The following table sets forth a summary of changes in the fair value of the Plan’s Level 3 assets for the year ended December 31, 2024:

Investment in deciBel Research, Inc. common stock	
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 24,140,000
Unrealized appreciation in estimated fair value	<u>300,000</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 24,440,000</u>

DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024 and 2023
(Continued)

NOTE 7 - LOAN PAYABLE

In December 2020, the Plan purchased 1,000,000 shares of common stock of the Company with the proceeds of a \$26,000,000 loan from the Company. These shares were recorded by the Trustee in the suspense account. Unallocated shares are collateral for the loan. Shares are released from collateral and allocated to participants as payments of principal and interest are made. The number of shares released in any year is the number of shares held as collateral, times the ratio of the current year principal and interest payments divided by the total of this year's payments, plus all future years' principal and interest payments. This resulted in 27,917 shares being released and allocated for the Plan year ended December 31, 2024.

The agreement provides for the loan to be repaid over 35 years, with a maturity date of December 31, 2055. The loan bears interest at a rate of 1.31 percent per year. The carrying values of the note payable as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 were \$22,765,511 and \$23,361,119, respectively. As of December 31, 2024, scheduled maturities of the loan for the next five years and thereafter consist of the following:

2025	\$ 604,249
2026	612,165
2027	620,184
2028	627,557
2029	636,530
Thereafter	19,664,826
Total	<u>\$ 22,765,511</u>

NOTE 8 - RELATED PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

Plan investments and acquisition indebtedness at December 31, 2024 are related to the Plan Sponsor; therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

(Continued)

NOTE 9 - INCOME TAX STATUS

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Plan Sponsor, by a letter dated August 24, 2021, that the Plan is qualified and the Trust established under the Plan is tax-exempt under the appropriate sections of the Code. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. However, the plan administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed, and being operated, in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code. Therefore, the plan administrator believes that the Plan was qualified, and the related trust was tax-exempt as of the financial statement date.

Tax positions are recognized in the financial statements when it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained upon examination by the tax authorities. The Sponsor has concluded that as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Plan had no significant uncertain tax positions or material amounts of unrecognized tax benefits that qualify for either recognition or disclosure in the financial statements for open tax years based on an assessment of many factors including experience and interpretations of tax laws.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

DECIBEL RESEARCH, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2024

EIN: 42-1551697

Plan Number: 002

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer	(c) Description of Investment	(d) Cost	Value
*	deciBel Research, Inc.	Employer Common Stock, 1,000,000 shares	\$ 26,000,000	\$ 24,440,000
			\$ 26,000,000	\$ 24,440,000

* A party-in-interest as defined by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended.

See independent auditor's report.