

123,093 SHARES

ASPEN TECHNOLOGY, INC.

COMMON STOCK

All of the 123,093 shares of Common Stock offered hereby are being sold by the Selling Stockholders. See "Selling Stockholders." The Company will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares by the Selling Stockholders.

The Company's Common Stock trades on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol "AZPN." On January 28, 1997, the closing sale price of the Common Stock, as reported by the Nasdaq National Market, was \$72.375 per share.

On January 28, 1997, the Company announced that it would effect a two-for-one stock split of its Common Stock by way of a stock dividend to persons who are holders of record of Common Stock as of February 14, 1997. The stock dividend will be distributed on February 28, 1997. The information in this Prospectus does not give effect to the stock dividend. See "Prospectus Summary--Recent Events."

The shares of Common Stock offered hereby may be sold from time to time by the Selling Stockholders, or by pledgees, donees, transferees or other successors in interest of the Selling Stockholders. Such sales may be made on the Nasdaq National Market, or otherwise, at prices and on terms then prevailing or at prices related to the then-current market prices, or in negotiated transactions at negotiated prices. The shares may be sold by one or a combination of the following: (a) a block trade in which the broker or dealer so engaged will attempt to sell the shares as agent, but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction; (b) purchases by a broker or dealer as principal and resale by such broker or dealer for its account pursuant to this Prospectus; and (c) ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker solicits purchasers. Brokers or dealers will receive commissions or discounts from Selling Stockholders in amounts to be negotiated immediately prior to the sale. The Selling Stockholders will be responsible for any discounts, concessions, commissions or other compensation due to any broker or dealer in connection with the sale of any of the shares offered hereby. All of the other expenses of this offering (other than legal fees and expenses incurred by separate counsel for certain of the Selling Stockholders), estimated at \$20,000, will be paid by the Company. See "Plan of Distribution."

SEE "RISK FACTORS" COMMENCING ON PAGE 5 FOR A DISCUSSION OF CERTAIN FACTORS THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS OF SHARES OF COMMON STOCK OFFERED HEREBY.

THESE SECURITIES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED BY THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION NOR HAS THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION PASSED UPON THE ACCURACY OR ADEQUACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

February 4, 1997

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

The Company is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and in accordance therewith files reports and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"). Such reports and other information may be inspected and copies may be obtained (at prescribed rates) at the Commission's Public Reference Section, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Room 1024, Washington D.C. 20549, and at the Commission's Regional Offices at Northwestern Atrium Center, 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1400, Chicago, Illinois 60661-2511 and 7 World Trade Center, Suite 1300, New York, New York 10048. Reports and other information concerning the Company also may be inspected at the offices of the Nasdaq Stock Market, 1735 K Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20006-1500.

This Prospectus constitutes part of a Registration Statement on Form S-3 (the "Registration Statement") filed by the Company with the Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). This Prospectus does not contain all of the information contained in the Registration Statement, and reference is hereby made to the Registration Statement and related exhibits for further information with respect to the Company and the securities offered hereby. Any statements contained herein concerning the provisions of any document are not necessarily complete, and, in such instance, reference is made to the copy of such document filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement or otherwise filed with the Commission. Each such statement is qualified in its entirety by such reference.

INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The following documents heretofore filed by the Company with the Commission pursuant to the Exchange Act are incorporated herein by reference: (1) the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1996 (the "Annual Report"); (2) the Company's definitive Proxy Statement dated November 11, 1996 used in connection with its Annual Meeting of Stockholders held on December 16, 1996; (3) the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 1996 (the "Quarterly Report"); and (4) the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 29, 1997 (the "Current Report").

All reports and other documents subsequently filed by the Company pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this Prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering made hereby shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference herein and to be a part hereof from the date of the filing of such reports and documents. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of the Registration Statement or this Prospectus.

Any person to whom a copy of this Prospectus is delivered may obtain, without charge, upon written or oral request, a copy of any of the documents incorporated by reference herein, except for the exhibits to such documents (other than exhibits expressly incorporated by reference into such documents). Requests for such documents should be addressed to the Manager of Investor Relations of the Company, Ten Canal Park, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141 or directed to the Manager of Investor Relations at either telephone number (617) 577-0100 or e-mail address invest@aspentech.com.

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

The following summary is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed information and financial statements, including the notes thereto, appearing elsewhere in this Prospectus or incorporated by reference herein. Information herein does not give effect to the two-for-one stock split of the Company's Common Stock to be effected by a stock dividend to persons who are holders of record of Common Stock as of February 14, 1997. See "Recent Events" below.

THE COMPANY

Aspen Technology, Inc. ("AspenTech" or the "Company") is a leading supplier of off-the-shelf software products and services for the analysis, design and automation of manufacturing facilities by companies in the process industries, including the chemicals, petroleum, pharmaceuticals, pulp and paper, electric power, and food and consumer products industries.

AspenTech provides a sophisticated, integrated family of off-the-shelf software products for use across the entire process manufacturing life-cycle, from "off-line" applications used primarily in research and development and engineering to "on-line" applications used primarily in production. AspenTech's product offering is classified in four categories: modeling; process information management ("PIM"); advanced process control ("APC") and optimization; and planning and scheduling. The Company's off-line modeling software is used by engineers on desktop computers primarily to simulate and predict manufacturing processes in connection with the design of new facilities or processes and the analysis of existing facilities or processes. AspenTech's on-line PIM, APC and optimization software, which is connected directly to plant instrumentation, enables the real-time adjustment of production variables in response to constantly changing operating conditions to improve process efficiency. AspenTech's PC-based planning and scheduling software is used by companies in the process industries for economic planning and scheduling for both short-term and strategic applications, including feedstock selection, product mix optimization, logistics and supply chain management, scheduling, process unit optimization, and investment planning. AspenTech couples its off-the-shelf software products with design and implementation consulting services in order to market a complete solution to its customers. AspenTech believes its ability to offer a complete solution of both industry-leading software and sophisticated process engineering expertise is an important source of competitive differentiation.

The Company initially became a provider of PIM software and services through its acquisition of Industrial Systems, Inc. in May 1995. The Company significantly enhanced its PIM, APC and optimization software service offerings through its acquisitions of Dynamic Matrix Control Corporation ("DMCC") in January 1996 and Setpoint, Inc. ("Setpoint") in February 1996. In October 1996 AspenTech acquired all of the outstanding stock of B-JAC International, Inc. ("B-JAC"), a supplier of detailed heat exchanger modeling software, in exchange for 52,081 shares of the Company's Common Stock, including certain of the shares being offered hereby. In October 1996 the Company also acquired, in a cash purchase transaction, all of the assets of the Process Control Division of Cambridge Control Limited (the "Cambridge Control Division"), which specializes in APC solutions specifically aimed towards process manufacturing controls applications for the refining, petrochemical, and pulp and paper industries. In December 1996 AspenTech acquired the process industries modeling system business of Bechtel Corporation (the "Bechtel Business"), which provides software products that are used for planning and scheduling in the process industries and that are based on linear programming technology. The consideration for the Bechtel Business consisted of a cash payment to Bechtel Corporation and the issuance of 77,870 shares of the Company's Common Stock (including certain of the shares offered hereby) in exchange for all of the outstanding stock of Basil Joffe Associates, Inc., a related software development organization.

AspenTech's customers span a broad range of process industry segments. With more than 750 customers worldwide, AspenTech' customers include 44 of the 50 largest chemical companies in the world and 18 of the 20 largest petroleum refiners in the world.

The Company was founded in 1981 and is a Massachusetts corporation. AspenTech's executive offices are located at Ten Canal Park, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141, and its telephone number is (617) 577-0100.

RECENT EVENTS

On January 28, 1997, the Company announced financial results for the three and six months ending December 31, 1996. A copy of the Company's press release summarizing those financial results is included in the Current Report.

In connection with the announcement of those financial results, the Company also announced that it would effect a two-for-one stock split of its Common Stock by way of a stock dividend to persons who are holders of record of Common Stock as of February 14, 1997. The stock dividend was approved by the board of directors of the Company on January 27, 1997 and will be payable on February 28, 1997. THE INFORMATION IN THIS PROSPECTUS DOES NOT GIVE EFFECT TO THE STOCK DIVIDEND.

THE OFFERING

All of the 123,093 shares of Common Stock offered hereby are being sold by the Selling Stockholders. The offered shares consist of a portion of the shares of Common Stock issued to the former stockholders of B-JAC, which was acquired by the Company in October 1996, and to the former stockholder of Basil Joffe Associates, Inc., which was acquired by the Company in December 1996 as part of the Bechtel Business. See "Selling Stockholders."

Pursuant to registration rights arrangements entered into with the former shareholders of B-JAC and Basil Joffe Associates, Inc., the Company is obligated to keep the Registration Statement in effect for a period of ninety days after the date on which the Registration Statement is declared effective, or such shorter period that will terminate when all of the shares offered by such former shareholders have been sold. The Company may, in its sole discretion, determine to keep the Registration Statement effective for a longer period of time. See "Plan of Distribution."

The Company will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares by the Selling Stockholders. See "Use of Proceeds."

The Aspen leaf logo is a registered trademark, and "AspenTech" is a trademark, of the Company.

RISK FACTORS

THIS PROSPECTUS CONTAINS AND INCORPORATES BY REFERENCE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION 27A OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 AND SECTION 21E OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934. THE COMPANY'S ACTUAL RESULTS COULD DIFFER MATERIALLY FROM THE RESULTS CONTEMPLATED IN THE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS AS A RESULT OF A NUMBER OF FACTORS, INCLUDING THE RISK FACTORS SET FORTH BELOW.

Integration of Acquired Businesses. Since January 1996, the Company has acquired DMCC, Setpoint, B-JAC, the Cambridge Control Division and the Bechtel Business. Through these acquisitions, the Company has increased its product and service offerings to include additional planning and scheduling, PIM, APC and optimization software and services, and has substantially increased its scope of operations and number of personnel. The successful and timely integration of these acquired businesses into the Company is critical to the Company's future financial performance. This integration will require that the Company, among other things, integrate the companies' software products and technologies, retain key employees, assimilate diverse corporate cultures, integrate management information systems, consolidate the acquired operations and manage geographically dispersed operations, each of which could pose significant challenges. The diversion of the attention of management created by the integration process, and any disruptions or other difficulties encountered in the transition process, could have a material adverse effect on the business, operating results and financial condition of the Company. The difficulty of combining these numerous businesses may be increased by the need to integrate personnel, and changes effected in the combination may cause key employees to leave. The long-term success of the acquisitions will require the further development of the PIM, APC and optimization software and services markets, which currently are immature. There can be no assurance that the Company will be able to integrate and develop the operations of the acquired businesses successfully, and any failure to do so could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition.

A substantial majority of the revenues of each of DMCC, Setpoint and the Cambridge Control Division has been generated by service engagements. AspenTech's revenues historically have been derived principally from the licensing of software products, and its management has limited experience in managing a service business. In particular, a significant portion of the service engagements of these businesses has been undertaken on a fixed-price basis. The Company bears the risk of cost overruns and inflation in connection with fixed-price engagements, and as a result any of these engagements may be unprofitable. While the Company believes that its reserves for fixed-price contracts are reasonable, there can be no assurance that the Company's reserves will be sufficient to cover future losses that might be incurred with respect to any fixed-price contracts. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations--Results of Operations" in the Annual Report and the Quarterly Report.

Dependence Upon Increased Market Penetration. Increased use in the process industries, particularly the chemicals and petroleum industries, of software and services for the analysis, design and automation of process manufacturing plants in general and of the Company's software products and services in particular is critical to the Company's future growth. The Company believes that a number of factors will determine its ability to achieve increased market penetration. These factors include product performance, accuracy of results, ease of implementation and use, breadth and integration of product offerings, reliability and scope of applications. Failure of the Company to achieve increased market penetration in the process industries would substantially restrict the future growth of the Company and could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition. See "Business--The AspenTech Advantage" and "--Strategy" in the Annual Report.

Fluctuations in Quarterly Operating Results. The Company's operating results have fluctuated in the past and may fluctuate significantly in the future as a result of a variety of factors, including purchasing patterns,

timing of new products and enhancements by the Company and its competitors, and fluctuating foreign economic conditions. In addition, the Company ships software products within a short period after receipt of an order and typically does not have a material backlog of unfilled orders of software products. Therefore, revenues from software licenses in any quarter are substantially dependent on orders booked in that quarter. Historically, a majority of each quarter's revenues from software licenses has come from license contracts that have been effected in the final weeks of that quarter. The revenues for a quarter typically include a number of large orders. If the timing of any of these orders is delayed, it could result in a substantial reduction in revenues for that quarter. Since the Company's expense levels are based in part on its expectations as to future revenues, the Company may be unable to adjust spending in a timely manner to compensate for any revenue shortfall and any revenue shortfalls would likely have a disproportionate adverse effect on net income. Prior to fiscal 1996, the Company experienced a net loss for the first quarter of each fiscal year, in part because a substantial portion of the Company's revenues is derived from countries other than the United States where business is slow during the summer months and also in part because of the timing of renewals of software licenses. The Company expects that these factors will continue to affect its operating results and that the Company may experience net losses in the initial quarter of future fiscal years. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations--Quarterly Results" in the Annual Report.

Concentration of Revenues in the Chemicals and Petroleum Industries. The Company derives a significant portion of its revenues from companies in the chemicals and petroleum industries. Accordingly, the Company's future success is dependent upon the continued demand for modeling software by companies in the chemicals industry, for planning and scheduling software in the petroleum industry, and for PIM, APC and optimization software and services by companies in the chemical and petroleum industries. The chemical and petroleum industries are highly cyclical. The Company believes that economic downturns in the United States, Europe, Japan, Asia and South America and pricing pressures experienced by chemical and petroleum companies in connection with cost-containment measures have led to delays and reductions in certain capital and operating expenditures by many of such companies worldwide. The Company's revenues have in the past been, and may in the future be, subject to substantial period-to-period fluctuations as a consequence of such industry patterns, as well as general domestic and foreign economic conditions and other factors affecting spending by companies in the Company's target process industries. There can be no assurance that such factors will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations--Results of Operations" in the Annual Report and the Quarterly Report.

Product Development and Technological Change. The market for software and services for the analysis, design and automation of process manufacturing plants is characterized by continual change and improvement in computer hardware and software technology. The Company's future success will depend on its ability to enhance its current software products and services, to introduce new software products and services that keep pace with technological developments, and to continue to address the changing needs of its customers. There can be no assurance that the Company will be successful in developing and marketing new and enhanced products and services, or that its products and services will continue to address adequately the needs of the marketplace. Like many other software products, the Company's products have on occasion contained undetected errors or "bugs." In addition, because new releases of the Company's products are initially installed only by a small number of customers, any errors or "bugs" in those new releases may not be detected for a number of months after the delivery of the software. If the Company's products do not perform substantially as expected or are not accepted in the marketplace, the Company's business, operating results and financial condition would be materially adversely affected. See "Business--Product Development" in the Annual Report.

Dependence on Key Personnel. The Company's future success depends to a significant extent on Lawrence B. Evans, the Company's chief executive officer, its other executive officers, and certain key technical, managerial and marketing personnel. The loss of the services of any of these individuals or groups

of individuals could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition. None of the Company's executive officers has entered into an employment agreement with the Company, and the Company does not have, and is not contemplating securing, any significant amount of key-man life insurance on any of its executive officers or other key employees. The Company believes that its future success also will depend significantly upon its ability to attract, motivate and retain additional highly skilled technical, managerial and marketing personnel. Competition for such personnel is intense, and there can be no assurance that the Company will be successful in attracting and retaining the personnel it requires to continue to grow and operate profitably. See "Business--Employees" in the Annual Report.

Product Liability. The sale and implementation of on-line applications by the Company may entail the risk of product liability claims. The Company's APC and optimization software products and services are used in the design, operation and management of manufacturing processes at large facilities, and any failure by the software at those facilities could result in significant claims for damages or for violations of environmental, safety and other laws and regulations. The Company's agreements with its customers generally contain provisions designed to limit the Company's exposure to potential product liability claims. It is possible, however, that the limitation of liability provisions contained in the Company's license agreements may not be effective as a result of federal, state or local laws or ordinances or unfavorable judicial decisions. A successful product liability claim against the Company could have a material adverse effect upon the Company's business, operating results and financial condition.

Migration to Microsoft Windows. AspenTech believes that operating systems similar to Microsoft Windows, due to their interoperability and customization capabilities, are increasingly the preferred choice of certain of its customers. AspenTech is currently developing native Windows 95 and Windows NT versions of its software products. The Company is aware of two competitors that are marketing modeling and simulation software for use with existing Microsoft Windows operating systems, both of which are currently shipping a release of modeling and simulation software for Windows operating systems. There can be no assurance that the Company will be successful in developing versions of any or all of its software products that will operate on Windows 95 or Windows NT, or that any such development, even if successful, will be completed concurrent with or prior to introductions by competitors of software products on Windows 95, Windows NT or any other Microsoft Window system. Any such failure or delay could affect the Company's competitive position or lead to product obsolescence in the future. See "Business--Product Development" and "Competition" in the Annual Report.

Dependence on Proprietary Technology. The Company regards its software as proprietary and relies on a combination of copyright, patent, trademark and trade secret laws, license and confidentiality agreements, and software security measures to protect its proprietary rights. AspenTech has received a United States patent for the expert guidance system in its proprietary graphical user interface. The Company has registered or applied to register certain of its significant trademarks in the United States. The Company generally enters into non-disclosure agreements with its employees and customers, and historically has restricted access to its software products' source codes, which it regards as proprietary information. In a few cases, the Company has provided copies of the source code for certain products to customers solely for the purpose of special customization of the products and has deposited copies of the source code for certain products in third-party escrow accounts as security for on-going service and license obligations. In these cases, the Company relies on nondisclosure and other contractual provisions to protect its proprietary rights.

The laws of certain countries in which the Company's products are distributed do not protect the Company's products and intellectual property rights to the same extent as the laws of the United States. The laws of many countries in which the Company licenses its products protect trademarks solely on the basis of registration. The Company currently possesses a limited number of trademark registrations in certain foreign jurisdictions and does not possess any foreign copyright or patent registrations. The Company derived more than 50% of its revenues in each of fiscal 1994 and fiscal 1995, approximately 45% of its revenues in fiscal

1996 and approximately 57% of its revenues in the first six months of fiscal 1997 from customers outside the United States.

There can be no assurance that the steps taken by the Company to protect its proprietary rights will be adequate to deter misappropriation of its technology or independent development by others of technologies that are substantially equivalent or superior to the Company's technology. Any such misappropriation of the Company's technology or development of competitive technologies could have a material adverse effect on the business, results of operations and financial condition of the Company. The Company could incur substantial costs in protecting and enforcing its intellectual property rights. Moreover, from time to time third parties may assert patent, trademark, copyright and other intellectual property rights to technologies that are important to the Company. In such an event, the Company may be required to incur significant costs in litigating a resolution to the asserted claims. There can be no assurance that such a resolution would not require that the Company pay damages or obtain a license of a third party's proprietary rights in order to continue licensing its products as currently offered or, if such a license is required, that it will be available on terms acceptable to the Company. See "Business--Proprietary Rights."

Competition. The Company's software products compete with software tools that are internally developed by companies in the process industries and with certain process modeling, PIM, APC and optimization software products that are sold by a number of commercial suppliers. AspenTech's primary commercial competitors in the process modeling software market are Simulation Sciences Inc., Hyprotech, Ltd. and Chemstations, Inc. In the planning and scheduling market, AspenTech primarily competes with Bonner & Moore Associates, Inc., Haverly Systems, Inc., Chesapeake Decision Sciences, Inc., and Ernst & Young Wright Killen. In the PIM market, AspenTech primarily competes with Oil Systems Inc. and Biles and Associates and, to a lesser extent, with digital control system vendors such as Honeywell Inc. In the APC and optimization markets, AspenTech competes with the Profimatics and Icotron divisions of Honeywell Inc., which primarily sell digital control system hardware, as well as with the Simcon division of ABB Asea Brown Boveri (Holding) Ltd. Several smaller competitors, including the Litwin Engineering division of Raytheon Company and Treiber Control, focus exclusively on the APC market. Emergence of a new competitor or the consolidation of existing competitors could adversely affect the Company's business, operating results and financial condition. Certain competitors also supply related hardware products to existing and potential customers of AspenTech, and may have established relationships that afford the competitors an advantage in supplying software and services to those customers. The Company's continued success depends on its ability to compete effectively with its commercial competitors and to persuade prospective customers to use the Company's products and services instead of, or in addition to, software developed internally or services provided by their own personnel. In light of these factors, there is no assurance that the Company will be able to maintain its competitive position. See "Business--Competition" in the Annual Report.

Management of Growth. Since fiscal 1990, the Company has experienced substantial growth in the number of its employees, the scope of its operating and financial systems, and the geographic area of its operations. The Company's operations have expanded significantly through both internally generated growth and acquisitions, particularly the acquisitions of DMCC and Setpoint in the third quarter of fiscal 1996. This growth has resulted in an increase in the level of responsibility for management personnel. To manage its growth effectively, the Company must continue to implement and improve its operating and financial systems, and to retain and increase its employee base. There can be no assurance that the management systems currently in place will be adequate or that the Company will be able to manage the Company's recent or future growth successfully, and any failure to do so could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations--Results of Operations" in the Annual Report and the Quarterly Report.

International Operations. The Company derived more than 50% of its revenues in each of fiscal 1994 and fiscal 1995, approximately 45% of its revenues in fiscal 1996 and approximately 57% of its revenues in the first six months of fiscal 1997 from customers outside the United States. The Company anticipates that

revenues from customers outside the United States will continue to account for a significant portion of its total revenues in the foreseeable future. AspenTech's customers outside the United States historically have been located principally in Europe and Japan, while Setpoint historically has derived a substantial portion of its revenues from customers in Asia and South America. The Company's operations outside the United States are subject to certain risks, including unexpected changes in regulatory requirements, exchange rates, tariffs and other barriers, political and economic instability, difficulties in managing distributors or representatives, difficulties in staffing and managing foreign subsidiary operations, difficulties or delays in translating products and product documentation into foreign languages, and potentially adverse tax consequences. There can be no assurance that any of these factors will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition.

The impact of future exchange rate fluctuations on the Company's financial condition and results of operations cannot be accurately predicted. In recent years, the Company has increased the extent to which it denominates arrangements with customers outside the United States in the currencies of the country in which the software or services are provided. From time to time the Company has engaged in, and may continue to engage in, hedges of a significant portion of installment contracts denominated in foreign currencies. There can be no assurance that any hedging policies implemented by the Company will be successful or that the cost of such hedging techniques will not have a significant impact on the Company's business, results of operations or financial condition. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in the Annual Report and the Quarterly Report.

Risks Associated With Future Acquisitions. To expand its markets, the Company's business strategy includes growth through additional acquisitions. Identifying and pursuing acquisition opportunities and integrating acquired products and businesses requires a significant amount of management time and skill. There can be no assurance that the Company will be able to identify suitable acquisition candidates, consummate any acquisition on acceptable terms or successfully integrate any acquired business into the Company's operations. There also can be no assurance that any future acquisition will not have an adverse effect upon the Company's operating results, particularly in the fiscal quarters immediately following consummation of the acquisition while the acquired business is being integrated into the Company's operations. As a result of acquisitions, the Company may encounter unexpected liabilities and contingencies associated with the acquired businesses. The Company may use Common Stock or Preferred Stock or may incur additional long-term indebtedness or a combination thereof for all or a portion of the consideration to be paid in future acquisitions. The issuance of Common Stock or Preferred Stock in acquisitions could result in dilution to existing stockholders, while the use of cash reserves or significant debt financing to fund acquisitions could reduce the Company's liquidity.

Potential Volatility of Stock Price. The stock market has from time to time experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations, particularly in the high technology sector, and those fluctuations have often been unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies. In addition, factors such as announcements of technological innovations or new products by the Company or its competitors, as well as market conditions in the computer software or hardware industries, may have a significant impact on the market price of the Company's Common Stock.

Effect of Certain Charter and By-Law Provisions and Anti-Takeover Provisions; Possible Issuances of Preferred Stock. The Company's Restated Articles of Organization, its By-Laws and certain Massachusetts laws contain provisions that may discourage acquisition bids for the Company and that may reduce the temporary fluctuations in the trading price of the Company's Common Stock which are caused by accumulations of stock, thereby depriving stockholders of certain opportunities to sell their stock at temporarily higher prices or receive a premium for their shares as part of an acquisition of the Company. Preferred Stock may be issued by the Company in the future without stockholder approval and upon such terms as the Board of Directors may determine. The rights of the holders of Common Stock will be subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of any Preferred Stock that may be issued in

the future. The issuance of Preferred Stock, while providing desirable flexibility in connection with possible acquisitions and other corporate purposes, could have the effect of making it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or of discouraging a third party from acquiring, a majority of the outstanding stock of the Company. The Company has no present plans to issue any shares of Preferred Stock.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The Company will not receive any proceeds from the sale of Common Stock by the Selling Stockholders, nor will any such proceeds be available for use by the Company or otherwise for the Company's benefit. See "Selling Stockholders."

SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the beneficial ownership of the Company's Common Stock by each of the Selling Stockholders as of January 28, 1997 and as adjusted to reflect the sale of the shares of Common Stock offered hereby for all Selling Stockholders. The following information does not give effect to the stock dividend described in "Prospectus Summary--Recent Events."

Name	Shares Beneficially Owned Prior to Offering(1)		Number of Shares Being Offered	Shares to be Beneficially Owned After Offering if All Shares Sold(1)	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
B-JAC International, Inc. Employees Stock Ownership Plan(2)....	15,624	*	14,062	1,562	*
Basil Joffe(3).....	77,870	*	76,220	1,650	*
Beatrice R. Noe(4).....	19,098	*	17,188	1,910	*
Bruce J. Noe(5).....	17,359	*	15,623	1,736	*
John W. Noe(6).....	19,098	*	17,188	1,910	*

* Percentage of shares beneficially owned is less than 1.0%.

- (1) Unless otherwise noted, each person identified possesses sole voting and investment power with respect to shares subject to community property laws where applicable.
- (2) Mary A. Palermo, the Senior Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer of the Company, is the trustee of the B-JAC International, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan.
- (3) Mr. Joffe was the President and sole director of Basil Joffe Associates, Inc. until its acquisition by the Company in December 1996.
- (4) Includes 19,098 shares held by John Noe (of which 8,594 shares are being offered hereby), the spouse of Ms. Noe. Ms. Noe was the Secretary and a director of B-JAC until its acquisition by the Company in October 1996.
- (5) Mr. Noe was the Vice President and a director of B-JAC until its acquisition by the Company in October 1996.
- (6) Includes 19,098 shares held by Beatrice Noe (of which 8,594 shares are being offered hereby), the spouse of Mr. Noe. Mr. Noe was the President and a director of B-JAC until its acquisition by the Company in October 1996.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

This Prospectus and the Registration Statement are in furtherance of a "shelf" registration pursuant to Rule 415 promulgated by the Commission under the Securities Act. Pursuant to registration rights arrangements entered into with the former shareholders of B-JAC and Basil Joffe Associates, Inc., the Company is obligated to keep the "shelf" registration effective for a period of ninety days after the date on which the Registration Statement is declared effective by the Commission, or such shorter period that will terminate when all of the shares offered by such former shareholders have been sold. The Company may, in its sole discretion, determine to keep the Registration Statement effective for a longer period of time.

The shares offered hereby may be sold from time to time by the Selling Stockholders, or by pledgees, donees, transferees or other successors in interest of the Selling Stockholders. Such sales may be made on the Nasdaq National Market, or otherwise, at prices and on terms then prevailing or at prices related to the then-current market prices, or in negotiated transactions at negotiated prices. The shares may be sold by one or a combination of the following: (a) a block trade in which the broker or dealer so engaged will attempt to sell the shares as agent, but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction; (b) purchases by a broker or dealer as principal and resale by such broker or dealer for its account pursuant to this Prospectus; and (c) ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker solicits purchasers. In effecting sales, brokers or dealers engaged by the Selling Stockholders may arrange for other brokers or dealers to participate. Brokers or dealers will receive commissions or discounts from Selling Stockholders in amounts to be negotiated immediately prior to the sale. The Selling Stockholders and any broker-dealers that participate in the distribution may be deemed to be "underwriters" within the meaning of Section 2(11) of the Securities Act, and any commission received by them and any profit on the resale of shares sold by them may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions.

Upon the Company being notified by a Selling Stockholder that any material arrangement has been entered into with a broker-dealer for the sale of shares through a block trade, special offering, exchange distribution or secondary distribution or a purchase by a broker or dealer, a supplemented prospectus will be filed, if required, pursuant to Rule 424(c) under the Securities Act, setting forth (i) the name of such Selling Stockholder and the name of each of the participating broker-dealers, (ii) the number of shares involved, (iii) the price at which such shares were sold, (iv) the commissions paid or discounts or concessions allowed to such broker-dealers, where applicable, (v) a statement to the effect that such broker-dealers did not conduct any investigation to verify the information set out or incorporated by reference in this Prospectus and (vi) other facts material to the transaction.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the shares of Common Stock offered hereby will be passed upon for the Company by Foley, Hoag & Eliot LLP, Boston, Massachusetts.

EXPERTS

The consolidated balance sheets of the Company and its subsidiaries as of June 30, 1995 and 1996 and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity and cash flows for the years ended June 30, 1994, 1995 and 1996 incorporated by reference herein have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent public accountants, as indicated in their report with respect thereto, and are incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the authority of said firm as experts in giving said reports.

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No broker, dealer or any other person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representations in connection with this offering other than those contained in this Prospectus, and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the Company or any Selling Stockholder. This Prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the shares of Common Stock to which it relates or an offer to, or a solicitation of, any person in any jurisdiction where such an offer or solicitation would be unlawful. Neither the delivery of this Prospectus nor any sale made hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the Company since the date hereof or that information contained herein is correct as of any time subsequent to its date.

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123,093 SHARES

ASPEN TECHNOLOGY, INC.

COMMON STOCK

PROSPECTUS

February 4, 1997

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