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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): November 4, 2015

bluebird bio, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation)

001-35966

(Commission File Number)

13-3680878

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

**150 Second Street
Cambridge, MA**

(Address of principal executive offices)

02141

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code **(339) 499-9300**

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On November 4, 2015, bluebird bio, Inc. announced its financial results for the three months ended September 30, 2015. A copy of the press release is being furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Report on Form 8-K.

The information in this Report on Form 8-K and Exhibit 99.1 attached hereto is intended to be furnished and shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act, except as expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press release issued by bluebird bio, Inc. on November 4, 2015, furnished herewith.

SIGNATURES

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

Date: November 4, 2015

bluebird bio, Inc.

By: /s/ James M. DeTore

James M. DeTore

Chief Financial Officer and Principal Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press release issued by bluebird bio, Inc. on November 4, 2015, furnished herewith.



bluebird bio Reports Third Quarter 2015 Financial Results and Recent Operational Progress

- Six abstracts accepted for presentation at American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting --
- Increased enrollment target for HGB-206 study of LentiGlobin® in severe sickle cell disease (SCD) from eight patients to 20 patients --
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- Published a paper on megaTAL genome editing platform in Science Translational Medicine with collaborators at Seattle Children's Research Institute --
- Ended quarter with \$901.7 million in cash, cash equivalents, and marketable securities --
- Company will discuss ASH abstract data and business updates in a conference call tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. ET --

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., November 4, 2015 – bluebird bio, Inc. (Nasdaq: BLUE), a clinical-stage company committed to developing potentially transformative gene therapies for severe genetic diseases and T cell-based immunotherapies, today reported business highlights and financial results for the third quarter ended September 30, 2015.

“2015 continues to be a year of significant advancement for our programs in beta-thalassemia, sickle cell disease and oncology, which is reflected in our strong presence at ASH this year. We are excited about the progress we’ve made in the third quarter in enrolling the HGB-206 study in severe sickle cell disease, and we have made the decision to increase the enrollment target in order to gather more data and provide additional regulatory options,” said Nick Leschly, chief bluebird. “Our balance sheet remains strong, allowing us to continue to execute on our goals heading into 2016. This includes initiating the Phase 1 study for our first clinical oncology program, bb2121, in early 2016 and our plans to present data from the Starbeam study of LentiD in CCALD in the first half of 2016.”

Recent Highlights

- **DATA FROM HGB-204, HGB-205 AND HGB-206 CLINICAL STUDIES OF LENTIGLOBIN TO BE PRESENTED AT ASH** – Updated data from the HGB-204 study of LentiGlobin in beta-thalassemia major and the HGB-205 study in beta-thalassemia major and severe sickle cell disease (SCD) will be highlighted in separate oral presentations at the ASH annual meeting in December. Initial early data from the HGB-206 study of LentiGlobin in severe SCD will be presented in a poster.
 - **DATA FROM PRE-CLINICAL STUDIES OF BB2121 TO BE PRESENTED AT ASH** -- bluebird bio will also present data from its lead oncology program, bb2121 at ASH – the first bluebird bio oncology data to be presented at a major medical meeting. Three poster presentations will highlight preclinical data and manufacturing improvements made to the anti-BCMA CAR-T program.
 - **INCREASED ENROLLMENT TARGET FOR HGB-206 STUDY IN SEVERE SCD** – Announced plan to increase enrollment in the U.S.-based HGB-206 study in severe SCD from eight patients to 20 patients to gain additional data and experience with LentiGlobin in SCD. bluebird bio plans to provide an update on enrollment in all three LentiGlobin clinical studies at the ASH meeting in December.
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- **PUBLISHED GENOME EDITING PAPER IN SCIENCE TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE** – Along with collaborators at the Center for Immunity and Immunotherapy at Seattle Children’s Research Institute, published “Efficient modification of *CCR5* in primary human hematopoietic cells using a megaTAL nuclease and AAV donor template” in *Science Translational Medicine*. The findings showed that it is possible to edit the *CCR5* gene to enable T cells to both resist and kill HIV. They also showed that the megaTAL nuclease platform allows researchers to place edited genes very precisely in the genome, leading to precise location and control of expression of the edited gene.

Third Quarter 2015 Financial Results and Financial Guidance

- **Cash Position:** Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities as of September 30, 2015 were \$901.7 million, compared to \$492.0 million as of December 31, 2014, an increase of \$409.7 million, which was primarily driven by the June 2015 equity financing.
- **Revenues:** Collaboration revenue was \$1.3 million for the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$6.3 million for the third quarter of 2014. The decrease is a result of an amendment to our collaboration agreement with Celgene in the second quarter of 2015.
- **R&D Expenses:** Research and development expenses were \$30.4 million for the third quarter of 2015, compared to \$16.6 million for the same period in 2014, an increase of \$13.8 million. The increase in research and development expenses was primarily attributable to a \$6.6 million increase in employee compensation and benefit expense to support our overall growth and a \$3.6 million increase in expenses necessary to support the advancement of our clinical and pre-clinical programs.
- **G&A Expenses:** General and administrative expenses were \$13.7 million for the third quarter of 2015, compared to \$6.6 million for the same period in 2014, an increase of \$7.1 million. The increase in general and administrative expenses was primarily attributable to a \$5.7 million increase in employee compensation and benefit expense to support our overall growth.
- **Net Loss:** Net loss was \$42.9 million for the third quarter of 2015, compared to net loss of \$17.0 million for the third quarter of 2014.
- **Financial guidance:** bluebird bio expects that its cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities of \$901.7 million as of September 30, 2015 will be sufficient to fund its current operations through 2018.

Investor Conference Call and Webcast Information

bluebird bio will host a conference call and webcast at 8:30 a.m. ET on Thursday, November 5, 2015 to discuss the ASH abstract data and business updates. The event will be webcast live and can be accessed under "Calendar of Events" in the Investors and Media section of the company's website at www.bluebirdbio.com. The webcast will be available for replay for 30 days on the company website. Alternatively, investors may listen to the call by dialing (844) 825-4408 from locations in the United States or (315) 625-3227 from outside the United States. Please refer to conference ID number 71389854.

bluebird bio, Inc.
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data
(unaudited)
(in thousands, except per share data)

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Revenue:				
Collaboration revenue	\$ 1,324	\$ 6,250	\$ 12,607	\$ 18,750
Research and license fees	—	115	—	285
Total revenue	<u>1,324</u>	<u>6,365</u>	<u>12,607</u>	<u>19,035</u>
Operating expenses:				
Research and development	30,395	16,649	98,380	42,043
General and administrative	13,704	6,648	31,765	17,924
Change in fair value of contingent consideration	352	78	2,540	78
Total operating expenses	<u>44,451</u>	<u>23,375</u>	<u>132,685</u>	<u>60,045</u>
Loss from operations	(43,127)	(17,010)	(120,078)	(41,010)
Other income (expense), net	263	(20)	630	48
Loss before income taxes	(42,864)	(17,030)	(119,448)	(40,962)
Income tax (expense) benefit	(60)	—	(60)	11,797
Net loss	<u>\$ (42,924)</u>	<u>\$ (17,030)</u>	<u>\$ (119,508)</u>	<u>\$ (29,165)</u>
Net loss per share - basic and diluted:	<u>\$ (1.18)</u>	<u>\$ (0.61)</u>	<u>\$ (3.52)</u>	<u>\$ (1.14)</u>
Weighted-average number of common shares used in computing net loss per share - basic and diluted:	<u>36,384</u>	<u>28,115</u>	<u>33,979</u>	<u>25,593</u>

bluebird bio, Inc.
Consolidated Balance Sheets Data
(unaudited)
(in thousands)

	September 30,	December 31,
	2015	2014
Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities	\$ 901,711	\$ 492,003
Total assets	1,017,641	556,739
Total liabilities	128,635	65,482
Total stockholders' equity	889,006	491,257

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