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FAINTUCH AMIR Form 3 December 02, 2010

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Title of Derivative Security

(Instr. 4)

1. Name and Address of Reporting 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person * Statement ATHEROS COMMUNICATIONS INC [ATHR] **FAINTUCH AMIR** (Month/Day/Year) 11/29/2010 (Last) (First) (Middle) 4. Relationship of Reporting 5. If Amendment, Date Original Person(s) to Issuer Filed(Month/Day/Year) C/O ATHEROS (Check all applicable) COMMUNICATIONS, INC.. 1700 TECHNOLOGY 10% Owner Director DRIVE _X__ Officer Other (give title below) (specify below) (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Senior Vice President & GM Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person SAN JOSE,, CAÂ 95110 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned 2. Amount of Securities 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial 1. Title of Security Beneficially Owned Ownership Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Form: (Instr. 5) Direct (D) or Indirect (Instr. 5) Â Common Stock $24,480 \frac{(1)}{2}$ D Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially SEC 1473 (7-02) owned directly or indirectly. Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

2. Date Exercisable and

Expiration Date

(Month/Day/Year)

3. Title and Amount of

Securities Underlying

Derivative Security

Conversion

or Exercise

Ownership

Form of

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6. Nature of Indirect

Beneficial Ownership

(Instr. 5)

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	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	(Instr. 4) Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Price of Derivative Security	Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	
Employee Stock Options (right to buy)	(2)	09/16/2018	Common Stock	100,000	\$ 24.39	D	Â
Employee Stock Options (right to buy)	(3)	02/10/2017	Common Stock	50,000	\$ 34.02	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address		Relationships				
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
FAINTUCH AMIR C/O ATHEROS COMMUNICATIONS, INC. 1700 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE SAN JOSE,, CA 95110	Â	Â	Senior Vice President & GM	Â		

Signatures

Bruce P. Johnson, Attorney-in-fact

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- Includes 14,063 Restricted Stock Units that will vest and be settled in shares of Common Stock in nine equal quarterly installments commencing on February 8, 2011 and 10,417 Restricted Stock Units that will vest and be settled in shares of Common Stock in five equal quarterly installments commencing on February 8, 2011.
- (2) 25% of the options became exercisable on 9/15/2009, and the remaining options became exercisable in 36 equal monthly installments beginning on 10/15/2009.
- (3) The options become exercisable in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on March 11, 2010.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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