

DYNAVAX TECHNOLOGIES CORP

Form 8-K

October 27, 2010

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): October 27, 2010

Dynavax Technologies Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Commission File Number: 001-34207

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction)

33-0728374
(IRS Employer)

Edgar Filing: DYNAVAX TECHNOLOGIES CORP - Form 8-K

of incorporation)

Identification No.)

2929 Seventh Street, Suite 100

Berkeley, CA 94710-2753

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(510) 848-5100

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

(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))

Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

Based on preliminary financial data, we expect to report consolidated revenues, operating expenses and net loss for the three months ended September 30, 2010 of approximately \$11.6 million, \$18.4 million and \$5.0 million, respectively, and consolidated cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities as of September 30, 2010 of approximately \$47.2 million. Our financial statements for the three months ended September 30, 2010 are not yet available, and the estimates above are based on management estimates. In the course of preparing our financial statements for the three months ended September 30, 2010 to be filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, we may make adjustments to the amounts from which we derived the estimates above.

The information with respect to Item 2.02 in this current report shall not be deemed to be filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section or Sections 11 and 12(a)(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. The information with respect to Item 2.02 in this current report shall not be incorporated by reference into any filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission made by Dynavax, whether made before or after the date hereof, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing.

Item 8.01 Other Events.

We are filing the following information with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for the purpose of updating our publicly disclosed risk factors.

We have incurred substantial losses since inception and do not have any commercial products that generate revenue.

We have experienced significant net losses in each year since our inception. As of June 30, 2010, our consolidated accumulated deficit was approximately \$296.8 million. Based on preliminary financial data, we expect to report consolidated net loss for the three months ended September 30, 2010 of approximately \$5.0 million. To date, our revenue has resulted from collaboration agreements, services and license fees from customers of Dynavax Europe, and government and private agency grants. The grants are subject to annual review based on the achievement of milestones and other factors. Our projected spend for the remainder of 2010 is expected to increase over the average quarterly spend that occurred through September 30, 2010. We anticipate that we will incur substantial additional net losses for the foreseeable future as the result of our investment in research and development activities.

We do not have any products that generate revenue. There can be no assurance whether HEPLISAV can be further developed, financed or commercialized in a timely manner without significant additional studies or patient data or significant expense; whether our future development efforts will be sufficient to support product approval; or whether the market for HEPLISAV will be substantial enough for us to reach profitability.

Clinical trials for certain of our other product candidates are ongoing. These and our other product candidates may never be commercialized, and we may never achieve profitability. Our ability to generate revenue depends upon:

demonstrating in clinical trials that our product candidates are safe and effective, particularly in the current and planned trials for our product candidates;

obtaining regulatory approvals for our product candidates; and

entering into and maintaining successful collaborative relationships.

If we are unable to generate significant revenues or achieve profitability, we may be required to reduce or discontinue our current and planned operations, enter into a transaction that constitutes a change in control of the company or raise additional capital on less than favorable terms. Additionally, if we continue to incur substantial additional net losses without additional equity funding, we will continue to deplete our stockholders' equity. If such equity balance falls below the listing requirement threshold of \$2.0 million for the NASDAQ Capital Market, we may be delisted. In November 2008, we transferred our listing of Dynavax shares to The NASDAQ Capital Market from The NASDAQ Global Market.

Edgar Filing: DYNAVAX TECHNOLOGIES CORP - Form 8-K

We require substantial additional capital to continue development of our product candidates, particularly our most advanced candidate, HEPLISAV. We cannot be certain that funds will be available, and, if they are not available, we may not be able to continue as a going concern, which may result in actions that could adversely impact our stockholders.

In order to continue development of our product candidates, particularly HEPLISAV, we still need to raise significant additional funds. This may occur through our Common Stock Purchase Agreement, or the Purchase Agreement, with Aspire Capital Fund LLC, future public or private financings and/or strategic alliance and licensing arrangements. We expect to continue to spend substantial funds in connection with:

development and manufacturing of our product candidates, particularly HEPLISAV;

various human clinical trials for our product candidates; and

protection of our intellectual property.

We currently estimate that we have sufficient resources to meet our anticipated cash needs through the next twelve months based on cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities on hand at September 30, 2010, anticipated revenues from existing agreements and the funding available to us under the Purchase Agreement with Aspire Capital.

Sufficient additional financing through future public or private financings, strategic alliance and licensing arrangements or other financing sources may not be available on acceptable terms, or at all. Additional equity financings could result in significant dilution or otherwise have adverse effects on the rights of existing shareholders. If adequate funds are not available in the future, we would need to delay, reduce the scope of or put on hold the HEPLISAV program and potentially our other development programs while we seek strategic alternatives. In any event, we may be required to reduce costs and expenses within our control, including potentially significant personnel-related costs and other expenditures that are part of our current operations.

On any business day on which the closing sale price of our common stock exceeds \$1.00 per share, we have a right to sell up to a maximum of 150,000 shares per day under our Purchase Agreement with Aspire Capital, which total may be increased by mutual agreement up to an additional 1,000,000 shares per day. The capital available under the Purchase Agreement may not be sufficient to fund our current need for capital. The extent to which we rely on Aspire Capital as a source of funding will depend on a number of factors, including the prevailing market price of our common stock and the extent to which we are able to secure working capital from other sources. The Purchase Agreement provides that we may not issue and sell more than 19.99% of our outstanding common stock as of the date of the Purchase Agreement without stockholder approval.

The sale of our common stock to Aspire Capital Fund LLC, or Aspire Capital, may cause substantial dilution to our existing stockholders, and the sale of the shares of common stock acquired by Aspire Capital could cause the price of our common stock to decline.

Shares offered to Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement dated September 20, 2010 between us and Aspire Capital may be sold over a period of up to 25 months from the date of such Purchase Agreement. The number of our shares ultimately offered for sale by Aspire Capital is dependent upon the number of shares we elect to sell to Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement and the number of authorized shares we have available for sale. Aspire Capital may ultimately purchase all, some or none of the remaining common stock provided for in the applicable Purchase Agreement. To date, we have issued 2,350,000 shares of common stock under our Purchase Agreement with Aspire Capital. After Aspire Capital has acquired shares pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, it may sell all, some or none of those shares.

Depending upon market liquidity at the time, sales of shares of our common stock by Aspire Capital may cause the trading price of our common stock to decline. In addition, sales to Aspire Capital by us pursuant to the Purchase Agreement may result in substantial dilution to the interests of other holders of our common stock. The sale of a substantial number of shares of our common stock to Aspire Capital, or anticipation of such sales, could make it more difficult for us to sell equity or equity-related securities in the future at a time and at a price that we might otherwise wish to effect sales. However, we have the right to control the timing and amount of any sales of our shares to Aspire Capital and the Purchase Agreement may be terminated by us at any time at our discretion without any cost to us.

Our independent registered public accountants have indicated that our financial condition raises substantial doubt as to our ability to continue as a going concern.

Our independent registered public accounting firm has included in their audit opinion on our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009 a statement with respect to substantial doubt regarding our ability to continue as a going concern. Our consolidated financial statements have been prepared assuming we will continue to operate as a going concern, which contemplates the realization of assets and the satisfaction of liabilities in the normal course of business. If we became unable to continue as a going concern, we may have to liquidate our assets, and the values we receive for our assets in liquidation or dissolution could be significantly lower than the values reflected in our consolidated financial statements. The reaction of investors to the inclusion of a going concern statement by our independent auditors may materially adversely affect our share price and our ability to raise new capital or to enter into strategic alliances.

The success of our product candidates depends on timely achievement of successful clinical results and regulatory approval. Failure to obtain regulatory approvals could require us to discontinue operations.

None of our product candidates have been approved for sale. Any product candidate we develop is subject to extensive regulation by federal, state and local governmental authorities in the United States, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, and by foreign regulatory agencies. Our success is primarily dependent on our ability to timely enroll patients in clinical trials, achieve successful clinical results and obtain regulatory approvals for our most advanced product candidates. Approval processes in the United States and in other countries are uncertain, take many years and require the expenditure of substantial resources.

We will need to demonstrate in clinical trials that a product candidate is safe and effective before we can obtain the necessary approvals from the FDA and foreign regulatory agencies. If we identify any safety issues associated with our product candidates, we may be restricted from initiating further trials for those products. Moreover, we may not see sufficient signs of efficacy in those studies.

The FDA or foreign regulatory agencies may require us to conduct additional clinical trials prior to approval. Despite the time and money expended, regulatory approvals are uncertain. In addition, failure to timely and successfully complete clinical trials and show that our products are safe and effective would have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations. Even if approved, the labeling approved by the relevant regulatory authority for a product may restrict to whom we may market the product, which could significantly limit the commercial opportunity for such product.

Our clinical trials may be extended, suspended, delayed or terminated at any time. Even short delays in the commencement and progress of our trials may lead to substantial delays in the regulatory approval process for our product candidates, which will impair our ability to generate revenues.

We may extend, suspend or terminate clinical trials at any time for various reasons, including regulatory actions by the FDA or foreign regulatory agencies, actions by institutional review boards, failure to comply with good clinical practice requirements, concerns regarding health risks to test subjects, failure to enroll patients in a timely manner or delays due to inadequate supply of the product candidate. Even a short delay in a trial for any product candidate could require us to delay commencement or continuation of a trial until the target population is available for testing, which could result in a delay of a year or more. It is possible, for example, that the FDA may require larger or additional clinical trials for our HEPLISAV product candidate than we currently contemplate before granting regulatory approval, if at all.

Our registration and commercial timelines depend on successful completion of current and planned clinical trials, successful results from such trials, and further discussions with the FDA and corresponding foreign regulatory agencies. Any extension, suspension, modification, termination or unanticipated delays of our clinical trials could:

adversely affect our ability to timely and successfully commercialize or market these product candidates;

result in significant additional costs;

potentially diminish any competitive advantages for those products;

potentially limit the markets for those products;

adversely affect our ability to enter into collaborations, receive milestone payments or royalties from potential collaborators;

cause us to abandon the development of the affected product candidate; or

limit our ability to obtain additional financing on acceptable terms, if at all.

If we receive regulatory approval for our product candidates, we will be subject to ongoing FDA and foreign regulatory obligations and continued regulatory review.

Any regulatory approvals that we receive for our product candidates are likely to contain requirements for post-marketing follow-up studies, which may be costly. Product approvals, once granted, may be modified based on data from subsequent studies or long-term use. As a result, limitations on labeling indications or marketing claims or withdrawal from the market may be required if problems occur after commercialization.

In addition, we or our contract manufacturers will be required to adhere to federal regulations setting forth current good manufacturing practice. The regulations require that our product candidates be manufactured and our records maintained in a prescribed manner with respect to manufacturing, testing and quality control activities. Furthermore, we or our contract manufacturers will be subject to periodic inspection by the FDA and corresponding foreign regulatory agencies under reciprocal agreements with the FDA. Further, to the extent that we contract with third parties for the manufacture of our products, our ability to control third-party compliance with FDA requirements will be limited to contractual remedies and rights of inspection.

Failure to comply with regulatory requirements could prevent or delay marketing approval or require the expenditure of money or other resources to correct. Failure to comply with applicable requirements may also result in warning letters, fines, injunctions, civil penalties, recall or seizure of products, total or partial suspension of production, refusal of the government to renew marketing applications and criminal prosecution, any of which could be harmful to our ability to generate revenues and our stock price.

Our most advanced product candidate and most of our earlier stage programs rely on ISS-based technology. Serious adverse safety data relating to either 1018 ISS or other ISS-based technology may require us to reduce the scope of or discontinue our operations.

Our most advanced product candidate in clinical trials is based on our 1018 ISS compound, and most of our research and development programs use ISS-based technology. If any of our product candidates in clinical trials produce serious adverse safety data, we may be required to delay, discontinue or modify our clinical trials or our clinical trial strategy. For example, from March 2008 until September 2009, the two investigational new drug, or IND, applications for HEPLISAV were placed on clinical hold by the FDA following a serious adverse event that occurred in one of our clinical trials. In September 2009, the FDA removed the clinical hold on the IND application for individuals with chronic kidney disease, but the other IND application for HEPLISAV remains on clinical hold. In addition, most of our clinical product candidates contain ISS, and a common safety risk across therapeutic areas may hinder our ability to enter into potential collaborations. If adverse safety data are found to apply to our ISS-based technology as a whole, we may be required to significantly reduce or discontinue our operations.

We rely on our facility in Düsseldorf, Germany and third parties to supply materials necessary to manufacture our clinical product candidates for our clinical trials. If we reduce our clinical product candidates, we may not require this manufacturing capacity. We have limited experience in manufacturing our product candidates in commercial quantities.

We rely on our facility in Düsseldorf and a number of third parties for the multiple steps involved in the manufacturing process of our product candidates, including, for example, ISS, a key component material that is necessary for our product candidates, the production of certain antigens, the combination of the antigens and ISS and the fill and finish. Termination or interruption of these relationships may occur due to circumstances that are outside of our control, resulting in higher cost or delays in our product development efforts.

We and these third parties are required to comply with applicable current good manufacturing practice regulations and other international regulatory requirements. If one of these parties fails to maintain compliance with these regulations, the production of our product candidates could be interrupted, resulting in delays and additional costs. Additionally, these third parties and our manufacturing facility must undergo a pre-approval inspection before we can obtain marketing authorization for any of our product candidates.

We have limited experience in manufacturing sufficient quantities of ISS for our clinical trials and rely on limited third parties to produce the ISS we need for our clinical trials.

We have relied on a limited number of suppliers to produce ISS for clinical trials and a single supplier to produce our 1018 ISS for HEPLISAV. To date, we have manufactured only small quantities of ISS and 1018 ISS ourselves for research purposes. If we were unable to maintain or replace our existing source for 1018 ISS, we would have to establish an alternate qualified manufacturing capability, which would result in significant additional operating costs and delays in developing and commercializing our product candidates, particularly HEPLISAV. We or other third parties may not be able to produce 1018 ISS at a cost, quantity and quality that are available from our current third-party supplier.

We currently utilize our facility in Düsseldorf to manufacture the hepatitis B surface antigen for HEPLISAV. The commercial manufacturing of vaccines and other biological products is a time-consuming and complex process, which must be performed in compliance with current good manufacturing practices regulations. We may not be able to comply with these and comparable foreign regulations, and our manufacturing process may be subject to delays, disruptions or quality control problems. Noncompliance with these regulations or other problems with our manufacturing process may limit or delay the development or commercialization of our product candidates and could result in significant expense.

If HEPLISAV cannot be successfully developed or is not commercially viable, we will have to use the Düsseldorf facility for alternative manufacturing or research activities that may not fully utilize the facility's capacity, resulting in continued operating costs that may not be offset by corresponding revenues. We may also consider other alternatives for the Düsseldorf facility, including its sale or closure, which would result in certain costs of disposal or discontinuation of operations. Discontinuation of operations in Düsseldorf would be complex, expensive, time-consuming and difficult to execute without significant additional costs due to, among other things, international legal and tax considerations related to those operations. As a result, we may not realize cost savings associated with closure of the Düsseldorf operations, if at all.

We rely on contract research organizations to conduct our clinical trials. If these third parties do not fulfill their contractual obligations or meet expected deadlines, our planned clinical trials may be delayed and we may fail to obtain the regulatory approvals necessary to commercialize our product candidates.

We rely on third parties to conduct our clinical trials. If these third parties do not perform their obligations or meet expected deadlines, our planned clinical trials may be extended, delayed, modified or terminated. Any extension, delay, modification or termination of our clinical trials could delay or otherwise adversely affect our ability to commercialize our products and could have a material adverse effect on our business and operations.

If any products we develop are not accepted by the market or if regulatory agencies limit our labeling indications or marketing claims, we may be unable to generate significant revenues, if any.

Even if we obtain regulatory approval for our product candidates and are able to commercialize them, our products may not gain market acceptance among physicians, patients, health care payors and the medical community.

The degree of market acceptance of any of our approved products will depend upon a number of factors, including:

the indication for which the product is approved and its approved labeling;

the presence of other competing approved therapies;

the potential advantages of the product over existing and future treatment methods;

the relative convenience and ease of administration of the product;

the strength of our sales, marketing and distribution support;

the price and cost-effectiveness of the product; and

sufficient third-party reimbursement.

The FDA or other regulatory agencies could limit the labeling indication for which our product candidates may be marketed or could otherwise limit marketing efforts for our products. For example, in connection with the removal of the clinical hold on HEPLISAV in September 2009 and related discussions with the FDA, it is expected that further development of HEPLISAV in the United States initially will be limited to individuals who are less responsive to current licensed vaccines, including adults over 40 years of age and individuals with chronic kidney disease. If we are unable to successfully market any approved product candidates, or marketing efforts are restricted by regulatory limits, our ability to generate revenues could be significantly impaired.

A key part of our business strategy is to establish collaborative relationships to commercialize and fund development of our product candidates. We may not succeed in establishing and maintaining collaborative relationships, which may significantly limit our ability to develop and commercialize our products successfully, if at all.

We will need to establish collaborative relationships to obtain domestic and international sales, marketing and distribution capabilities for our product candidates, in particular with respect to the commercialization of HEPLISAV. Failure to obtain a collaborative relationship for HEPLISAV, particularly in the European Union, may significantly impair the potential for this product and our ability to successfully develop, manufacture and commercialize this product. We also will need to enter into collaborative relationships to provide funding to support our research and development programs. The process of establishing and maintaining collaborative relationships is difficult, time-consuming and involves significant uncertainty, including:

our partners may seek to renegotiate or terminate their relationships with us due to unsatisfactory clinical results, a change in business strategy, a change of control or other reasons;

our shortage of capital resources may impact a willingness on the part of potential companies to collaborate with us;

our contracts for collaborative arrangements are terminable for convenience on written notice and may otherwise expire or terminate, and we may not have alternative funding available;

our partners may choose to pursue alternative technologies, including those of our competitors;

we may have disputes with a partner that could lead to litigation or arbitration;

we do not have day-to-day control over the activities of our partners and have limited control over their decisions;

our ability to receive milestones and royalties from our partners depends upon the abilities of our partners to establish the safety and efficacy of our drug candidates, obtain regulatory approvals and achieve market acceptance of products developed from our drug candidates;

we or our partners may fail to properly initiate, maintain or defend our intellectual property rights, where applicable, or a party may utilize our proprietary information in such a way as to invite litigation that could jeopardize or potentially invalidate our proprietary information or expose us to potential liability;

our partners may not devote sufficient capital or resources towards our product candidates; and

our partners may not comply with applicable government regulatory requirements.

If any collaborator fails to fulfill its responsibilities in a timely manner, or at all, our research, clinical development or commercialization efforts related to that collaboration could be delayed or terminated, or it may be necessary for us to assume responsibility for expenses or activities that would otherwise have been the responsibility of our collaborator. If we are unable to establish and maintain collaborative relationships on acceptable terms or to successfully transition terminated collaborative agreements, we may have to delay or discontinue further development of one or more of our product candidates, undertake development and commercialization activities at our own expense or find alternative sources of capital.

The financial terms of future collaborative or licensing or financing arrangements could result in significant dilution of our share value.

Funding from collaboration partners and other parties may in the future involve issuance of our equity securities. Because we do not currently have any such arrangements, we cannot be certain how the terms under which such shares are issued will be determined or when such determinations will be made. The current market for financing or collaborative arrangements often involves the issuance of warrants as additional consideration in establishing the purchase price of the equity securities issued. Any such issuance could result in significant dilution in the value of our issued and outstanding shares.

Many of our competitors have greater financial resources and expertise than we do. If we are unable to successfully compete with existing or potential competitors despite these disadvantages we may be unable to generate revenues and our business will be harmed.

We compete with pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology companies, academic institutions and research organizations, in developing therapies to prevent or treat infectious diseases. Competitors may develop more effective, more affordable or more convenient products or may achieve earlier patent protection or commercialization of their products. These competitive products may render our product candidates obsolete or limit our ability to generate revenues from our product candidates. Many of the companies developing competing technologies and products have significantly greater financial resources and expertise in research and development, manufacturing, preclinical and clinical testing, obtaining regulatory approvals and marketing than we do.

Existing and potential competitors may also compete with us for qualified scientific and management personnel, as well as for technology that would be advantageous to our business. If we are unable to compete successfully, we may not be able to obtain financing, enter into collaborative arrangements, sell our product candidates or generate revenues.

The loss of key personnel, including our Chief Executive Officer and our President, could delay or prevent achieving our objectives.

Our research, product development and business efforts could be adversely affected by the loss of one or more key members of our scientific or management staff, including our Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Dino Dina, and our President, Dr. J. Tyler Martin. We currently have no key person insurance on any of our employees.

Because we are a relatively small biopharmaceutical company with limited resources, we may not be able to attract and retain qualified personnel.

Our success in developing marketable products and achieving a competitive position will depend, in part, on our ability to attract and retain qualified scientific and management personnel, particularly in areas requiring specific technical, scientific or medical expertise. There is intense competition for the services of these personnel. If we do not succeed in attracting new personnel and retaining and motivating existing personnel, our operations may suffer and we may be unable to implement our current initiatives.

We may develop, seek regulatory approval for and market our product candidates outside the United States, requiring a significant commitment of resources. Failure to successfully manage our international operations could result in significant unanticipated costs and delays in regulatory approval or commercialization of our product candidates.

We may seek to introduce certain of our product candidates in various markets outside the United States. Developing, seeking regulatory approval for and marketing our product candidates outside the United States could impose substantial burdens on our resources and divert management's attention from domestic operations. International operations are subject to risk, including:

the difficulty of managing geographically distant operations, including recruiting and retaining qualified employees, locating adequate facilities and establishing useful business support relationships in the local community;

compliance with varying international regulatory requirements, laws and treaties;

securing international distribution, marketing and sales capabilities;

adequate protection of our intellectual property rights;

legal uncertainties and potential timing delays associated with tariffs, export licenses and other trade barriers;

adverse tax consequences;

the fluctuation of conversion rates between foreign currencies and the U.S. dollar; and

regional and geopolitical risks.

To date, we have not filed for marketing approval for any of our product candidates outside the United States. We may not obtain foreign regulatory approvals on a timely basis, if at all. Approval by the FDA does not ensure approval by regulatory agencies in other foreign countries. However, a failure or delay in obtaining regulatory approval in one jurisdiction may have a negative effect on the regulatory approval process in other jurisdictions, including approval by the FDA. If we are unable to successfully manage our international operations, we may incur significant unanticipated costs and delays in regulatory approval or commercialization of our product candidates, which would impair our ability to generate revenues.

We rely on licenses to intellectual property from third parties. Impairment of these licenses or our inability to maintain them would severely harm our business.

Our current research and development efforts depend upon our license arrangements for intellectual property owned by third parties. Our dependence on these licenses subjects us to numerous risks, such as disputes regarding the use of the licensed intellectual property and the creation and ownership of new discoveries under such license agreements. In addition, these license arrangements require us to make timely payments in order to maintain our licenses and typically contain diligence or milestone-based termination provisions. Our failure to meet any obligations pursuant to these agreements could allow our licensors to terminate our agreements or undertake other remedies such as converting exclusive to non-exclusive licenses if we are not able to cure or obtain waivers for such failures or amend the term of such agreements on terms acceptable to us. In addition, our license agreements may be terminated or may expire by their terms, and we may not be able to maintain the exclusivity of these licenses. If we cannot maintain licenses that are advantageous or necessary to the development or the commercialization of our product candidates, we may be required to expend significant time and resources to develop or license similar technology or to find other alternatives to maintaining the competitive position of our products. If such alternatives are not available to us in a timely manner or on acceptable terms, we may be unable to continue development or commercialize our product candidates. In addition, we must make timely payments or meet diligence obligations in order to maintain any such licenses in effect. In the absence of a current license, we may be required to redesign our technology so it does not infringe a third party's patents, which may not be possible or could require substantial funds and time.

If third parties successfully assert that we have infringed their patents and proprietary rights or challenge our patents and proprietary rights, we may become involved in intellectual property disputes and litigation that would be costly, time consuming and delay or prevent development or commercialization of our product candidates.

We may be exposed to future litigation by third parties based on claims that our product candidates or proprietary technologies infringe their intellectual property rights, or we may be required to enter into litigation to enforce patents issued or licensed to us or to determine the ownership, scope or validity of our or another party's proprietary rights, including a challenge as to the validity of our issued and pending claims. We are involved in various interference and other administrative proceedings related to our intellectual property which has caused us to incur certain legal expenses. If we become involved in any litigation and/or other significant interference proceedings related to our intellectual property or the intellectual property of others, we will incur substantial additional expenses and it will divert the efforts of our technical and management personnel.

Edgar Filing: DYNAVAX TECHNOLOGIES CORP - Form 8-K

Two of our potential competitors, Merck, and GSK, are exclusive licensees of broad patents covering hepatitis B surface antigen, a component of HEPLISAV. In addition, the Institut Pasteur also owns or has exclusive licenses to patents covering hepatitis B surface antigen. While some of these patents have expired or will soon expire outside the United

States, they remain in force in the United States. To the extent we are able to commercialize HEPLISAV in the United States while these patents remain in force, Merck, GSK or the Institut Pasteur may bring claims against us.

If we or our collaborators are unsuccessful in defending or prosecuting our issued and pending claims or in defending potential claims against our products, as may arise, for example, in the commercialization of HEPLISAV or any similar product candidate in the United States, we or our collaborator could be required to pay substantial damages or be unable to commercialize our product candidates or use our proprietary technologies without a license from such third party. A license may require the payment of substantial fees or royalties, require a grant of a cross-license to our technology or may not be available on acceptable terms, if at all. Any of these outcomes could require us to change our business strategy and could materially impact our business and operations.

One of our potential competitors, Pfizer Inc., has issued patent claims, as well as patent claims pending with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and foreign patent offices, that may be asserted against our ISS products. We may need to obtain a license to one or more of these patent claims held by Pfizer by paying fees or royalties or offering rights to our own proprietary technologies in order to commercialize one or more of our formulations of ISS other than with respect to HEPLISAV, for which we have a license. A license for other uses may not be available to us on acceptable terms, if at all, which could preclude or limit our ability to commercialize our products.

If the combination of patents, trade secrets and contractual provisions that we rely on to protect our intellectual property is inadequate, the value of our product candidates will decrease.

Our success depends on our ability to:

obtain and protect commercially valuable patents or the rights to patents both domestically and abroad;

operate without infringing upon the proprietary rights of others; and

prevent others from successfully challenging or infringing our proprietary rights.

We will be able to protect our proprietary rights from unauthorized use only to the extent that these rights are covered by valid and enforceable patents or are effectively maintained as trade secrets. We try to protect our proprietary rights by filing and prosecuting U.S. and foreign patent applications. However, in certain cases, such protection may be limited, depending in part on existing patents held by third parties, which may only allow us to obtain relatively narrow patent protection. In the United States, legal standards relating to the validity and scope of patent claims in the biopharmaceutical field can be highly uncertain, are still evolving and involve complex legal and factual questions for which important legal principles remain unresolved.

The biopharmaceutical patent environment outside the United States is even more uncertain. We may be particularly affected by this uncertainty since several of our product candidates may initially address market opportunities outside the United States, where we may only be able to obtain limited patent protection.

The risks and uncertainties that we face with respect to our patents and other proprietary rights include the following:

we may not receive an issued patent for any of our patent applications or for any patent applications that we have exclusively licensed;

the pending patent applications we have filed or to which we have rights may take longer than we expect to result in issued patents;

the claims of any patents that are issued may not provide meaningful protection or may not be valid or enforceable;

we might not be able to develop additional proprietary technologies that are patentable;

the patents licensed or issued to us or our collaborators may not provide a competitive advantage;

patents issued to other parties may limit our intellectual property protection or harm our ability to do business;

other parties may independently develop similar or alternative technologies or duplicate our technologies and commercialize discoveries that we attempt to patent; and

other parties may design around technologies we have licensed, patented or developed.

We also rely on trade secret protection and confidentiality agreements to protect our interests in proprietary know-how that is not patentable and for processes for which patents are difficult to enforce. We cannot be certain that we will be able to protect our trade secrets adequately. Any disclosure of confidential data in the public domain or to third parties could allow our competitors to learn our trade secrets. If we are unable to adequately obtain or enforce proprietary rights we may be unable to commercialize our products, enter into collaborations, generate revenues or maintain any advantage we may have with respect to existing or potential competitors.

We face product liability exposure, which, if not covered by insurance, could result in significant financial liability.

While we have not experienced any product liability claims to date, the use of any of our product candidates in clinical trials and the sale of any approved products will subject us to potential product liability claims and may raise questions about a product's safety and efficacy. As a result, we could experience a delay in our ability to commercialize one or more of our product candidates or reduced sales of any approved product candidates. In addition, a product liability claim may exceed the limits of our insurance policies and exhaust our internal resources. We have obtained limited clinical trial liability and umbrella insurance coverage for our clinical trials. This coverage may not be adequate or may not continue to be available in sufficient amounts, at an acceptable cost or at all. We also may not be able to obtain commercially reasonable product liability insurance for any product approved for marketing in the future. A product liability claim, product recalls or other claims, as well as any claims for uninsured liabilities or in excess of insured liabilities, would divert our management's attention from our business and could result in significant financial liability.

We face uncertainty related to coverage, pricing and reimbursement and the practices of third party payors, which may make it difficult or impossible to sell our product candidates on commercially reasonable terms.

In both domestic and foreign markets, our ability to achieve profitability will depend in part on the negotiation of a favorable price or the availability of appropriate reimbursement from third party payors, in particular for HEPLISAV where existing products are approved for our target indications. Existing laws affecting the pricing and coverage of pharmaceuticals and other medical products by government programs and other third party payors may change before any of our product candidates are approved for marketing. In addition, third party payors are increasingly challenging the price and cost-effectiveness of medical products and services, and pricing and reimbursement decisions may not allow our products to compete effectively with existing or competitive products. Because we intend to offer products, if approved, that involve new technologies and new approaches to treating disease, the willingness of third party payors to reimburse for our products is particularly uncertain. We will have to charge a price for our products that is sufficiently high to enable us to recover our considerable investment in product development. Adequate third-party reimbursement may not be available to enable us to maintain price levels sufficient to achieve profitability and could harm our future prospects and reduce our stock price.

The President of the United States recently signed into law the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. We are unable to predict what impact reform legislation will have on our business or future prospects. The uncertainty as to the nature and scope of the implementation of any proposed reforms limits our ability to forecast changes that may affect our business and to manage our business accordingly.

We use hazardous materials in our business. Any claims or liabilities relating to improper handling, storage or disposal of these materials could be time consuming and costly to resolve.

Our research and product development activities involve the controlled storage, use and disposal of hazardous and radioactive materials and biological waste. We are subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the use, manufacture, storage, handling and disposal of these materials and certain waste products. We believe we are currently in compliance with all government permits that are required for the storage, use and disposal of these materials. However, we cannot eliminate the risk of accidental contamination or injury to persons or property from these materials. In the event of an accident related to hazardous materials, we could be held liable for damages, cleanup costs or penalized with fines, and this liability could exceed the limits of our insurance policies and exhaust our internal resources. We may have to incur significant costs to comply with future environmental laws and regulations.

Our stock price is subject to volatility, and your investment may suffer a decline in value.

The market prices for securities of biopharmaceutical companies have in the past been, and are likely to continue in the future to be, very volatile. The market price of our common stock is subject to substantial volatility depending upon many factors, many of which are beyond our control, including:

progress or results of any of our clinical trials or regulatory efforts, in particular any announcements regarding the progress or results of our planned trials and communications from the FDA or other regulatory agencies;

our ability to establish and maintain collaborations for the development and commercialization of our product candidates;

our ability to raise additional capital to fund our operations;

technological innovations, new commercial products or drug discovery efforts and preclinical and clinical activities by us or our competitors;

changes in our intellectual property portfolio or developments or disputes concerning the proprietary rights of our products or product candidates;

our ability to obtain component materials and successfully enter into manufacturing relationships for our product candidates or establish manufacturing capacity on our own;

our ability to establish and maintain licensing agreements for intellectual property necessary for the development of our product candidates;

changes in government regulations, general economic conditions or industry announcements;

issuance of new or changed securities analysts' reports or recommendations;

actual or anticipated fluctuations in our quarterly financial and operating results;

our ability to maintain continued listing on the NASDAQ markets or similar exchanges; and

the volume of trading in our common stock.

One or more of these factors could cause a substantial decline in the price of our common stock. In addition, securities class action litigation has often been brought against a company following a decline in the market price of its securities. This risk may be particularly relevant for us because we have experienced greater than average stock price volatility, as have other biotechnology companies in recent years. We may in the future be the target of similar litigation. Securities litigation could result in substantial costs, and divert management's attention and resources, which could harm our business, operating results and financial condition.

Edgar Filing: DYNAVAX TECHNOLOGIES CORP - Form 8-K

The anti-takeover provisions of our certificate of incorporation bylaws, Delaware law and our share purchase rights plan may prevent or frustrate a change in control, even if an acquisition would be beneficial to our stockholders, which could affect our stock price adversely and prevent attempts by our stockholders to replace or remove our current management.

Provisions of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws may delay or prevent a change in control, discourage bids at a premium over the market price of our common stock and adversely affect the market price of our common stock and the voting or other rights of the holders of our common stock. These provisions include:

authorizing our board of directors to issue additional preferred stock with voting rights to be determined by the board of directors;

limiting the persons who can call special meetings of stockholders;

providing that stockholders may take action only at a duly called annual or special meeting;

creating a classified board of directors pursuant to which our directors are elected for staggered three-year terms;

providing that a supermajority vote of our stockholders is required for amendments to certain provisions of our bylaws and the provisions of our certificate of incorporation relating to the management of our company being vested in our board of directors, the classification of our board of directors, the term of directors, vacancies on our board of directors, amendment of certain provisions of our bylaws, action by stockholders in accordance with the bylaws, removal of directors and requirement of election of directors by written ballot; and

establishing advance notice requirements for nominations for election to our board of directors or for proposing matters that can be acted on by stockholders at stockholder meetings.

Our share purchase rights plan may have certain anti-takeover effects. Specifically, the rights issued pursuant to the plan will cause substantial dilution to a person or group that attempts to acquire us on terms not approved by our board of directors. Although the rights should not interfere with any merger or other business combination approved by our board of directors since the rights issued may be amended to permit such acquisition or redeemed by us at \$0.001 per right prior to the earliest of (i) the time that a person or group has acquired beneficial ownership of 20% or more of our shares or (ii) the final expiration date of the rights. The effect of the rights plan may deter a potential acquisition of the Company. In addition, we remain subject to the provisions of the Delaware corporation law that, in general, prohibit any business combination with a beneficial owner of 15% or more of our common stock for three years unless the holder's acquisition of our stock was approved in advance by our board of directors.

We may need to implement additional financial and accounting systems, procedures or controls as our business and organization changes and to comply with reporting requirements.

We are required to comply with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the related rules and regulations of the SEC. Compliance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and other requirements may increase our costs and require additional management resources. We may need to continue to implement additional finance and accounting systems, procedures and controls in order to accommodate changes in our business and organization and to comply with the reporting requirements. There can be no assurance that we will be able to maintain a favorable assessment as to the adequacy of our internal control over financial reporting. If we are unable to reach an unqualified assessment, or our independent registered public accounting firm is unable to issue an unqualified attestation as to the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of the end of our fiscal year, investors could lose confidence in the reliability of our financial reporting, which could harm our business and could impact the price of our common stock.

Future sales of our common stock or the perception that such sales may occur in the public market could cause our stock price to fall.

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock in the public market, or the perception that these sales might occur, could depress the market price of our common stock and could impair our ability to raise capital through the sale of additional equity securities. As of September 30, 2010, we had 88,344,444 shares of common stock outstanding, all of which shares were eligible for sale in the public market, subject in some cases to the volume limitations and manner of sale requirements under Rule 144.

In addition, we have filed registration statements on Form S-8 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, to register the shares of our common stock reserved for issuance under our stock option plans, and we intend to file additional registration statements on Form S-8 to register the shares automatically added each year to the share reserves under these plans. We may also adopt new equity incentive plans and file registration statements on Form S-8 to register grants under any such new plan.

Symphony Capital Partners, L.P. and Symphony Strategic Partners, LLC collectively control a substantial percentage of the voting power of our outstanding common stock as well as \$15 million of our debt.

Symphony Capital Partners, L.P. and Symphony Strategic Partners, LLC (collectively, Symphony) currently collectively control approximately 9,031,431 shares of our common stock and warrants to purchase approximately 4,515,717 shares of our common stock. Based on the number of shares of our common stock that are outstanding as of September 30, 2010, Symphony owns approximately 10% of our total outstanding shares of our common stock. If Symphony exercises all of the warrants held by it and assuming no other issuances of our common stock, Symphony would own approximately 15% of our total outstanding shares of common stock. In addition, Symphony Dynamo Holdings LLC, or Holdings, an affiliate of Symphony holds a promissory note in the principal amount of \$15 million, which may be satisfied in cash, Dynavax common stock or a combination of cash and Dynavax common stock, at our election. Finally, under the terms of the Standstill and Corporate Governance Letter Agreement we entered into with Holdings on December 30, 2009, for as long as Holdings and its affiliates, which include Symphony, beneficially own 10% or more of our outstanding common stock, we agreed to use our commercially reasonable efforts to cause to be elected and remain as directors on our board of directors one individual designated by Holdings and a second individual who must be an independent third party designated by Holdings and reasonably acceptable to us. Holdings designated Mark

Kessel, a partner of Symphony Capital LLC, as its designee, and Mr. Kessel has been appointed to our board of directors. On July 22, 2010, the board of directors nominated Daniel L. Kisner, M.D. to the board of directors as the independent third party designee. As a result, Symphony, Holdings and their affiliates will be able to exercise substantial influence over the direction of our company.

Sales of our common stock from our recent public offering could trigger a limitation on our ability to use our net operating losses and tax credits in the future.

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 limits the annual use of net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards in certain situations where changes occur in stock ownership of a company. In the event we have a change in ownership, as defined, the annual utilization of such carryforwards could be limited. Any additional equity issuances could trigger a limitation on our ability to use our net operating losses and tax credits in the future under Sections 382 and 383 of the Internal Revenue Code as enacted by the Tax Reform Act of 1986.

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.

DYNAVAX TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

Date: October 27, 2010

By: /s/ **MICHAEL S. OSTRACH**
Michael S. Ostrach

Vice President