



DIVISION OF
CORPORATION FINANCE

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

April 22, 2011

Steven Nichtberger, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Tengion, Inc.
2900 Potshop Lane, Suite 100
East Norriton, PA 19403

Re: Tengion, Inc.
Registration Statement on Form S-3
Filed April 18, 2011
File No. 333-173574

Dear Dr. Nichtberger:

We have limited our review of your registration statement to the issue we have addressed in our comment.

Please respond to this letter by amending your registration statement and providing the requested information. Where you do not believe our comment applies to your facts and circumstances or do not believe an amendment is appropriate, please tell us why in your response.

After reviewing any amendment to your registration statement and the information you provide in response to this comment, we may have additional comments.

1. Please note that Instruction I.A.3 of Form S-3 requires, among other things, that you have been subject to the requirements of Section 12 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act for a period of at least twelve calendar months immediately preceding the filing of this registration statement. Your registration statement for your initial public offering went effective on April 9, 2010. Accordingly, assuming you continue to timely file your required Exchange Act reports, prior to requesting effectiveness of this registration statement, please amend your Form S-3 on or after May 1, 2011. See Rule 401(c) of Regulation C and Securities Act Forms CDI Question 115.06.

We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing to be certain that the filing includes the information the Securities Act of 1933 and all applicable Securities Act rules require. Since the company and its management are in possession of all facts relating to a company's disclosure, they are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosures they have made.

Steven Nichtberger, M.D.

Tengion, Inc.

April 22, 2011

Page 2

Notwithstanding our comments, in the event you request acceleration of the effective date of the pending registration statement please provide a written statement from the company acknowledging that:

- should the Commission or the staff, acting pursuant to delegated authority, declare the filing effective, it does not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the filing;
- the action of the Commission or the staff, acting pursuant to delegated authority, in declaring the filing effective, does not relieve the company from its full responsibility for the adequacy and accuracy of the disclosure in the filing; and
- the company may not assert staff comments and the declaration of effectiveness as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States.

Please refer to Rules 460 and 461 regarding requests for acceleration. We will consider a written request for acceleration of the effective date of the registration statement as confirmation of the fact that those requesting acceleration are aware of their respective responsibilities under the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as they relate to the proposed public offering of the securities specified in the above registration statement. Please allow adequate time for us to review any amendment prior to the requested effective date of the registration statement.

Please contact Jennifer Riegel at (202) 551-3575 or me at (202) 551-3715 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Riedler
Assistant Director

cc: Justin P. Klein, Esq.
Ballard Spahr LLP
1735 Market Street, 51st Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103