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): May 06, 2024

ROCKET LAB USA, INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation)

001-39560

(Commission File Number)

98-1550340

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

3881 McGowen Street Long Beach, California (Address of Principal Executive Offices)

90808 (Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code: 714 465-5737

Not Applicable (Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

eck 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 visions:
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))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

□ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

	Trading	
Title of each class	Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share	RKLB	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§ 230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§ 240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company □

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. \Box

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Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On May 6, 2024, Rocket Lab USA, Inc. (the "Company") issued a press release announcing its financial results for the first quarter ended March 31, 2024. A copy of the press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

The information in this Item 2.02, including Exhibit 99.1, is being furnished and shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 (the "Section") of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference into any registration statement or other filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit	Description
99.1	Press Release of Rocket Lab USA, Inc., dated May 6, 2024
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document).

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 thereunto duly authorized.

ROCKET LAB USA, INC.

Date: May 6, 2024 By: /s/ Adam Spice

Adam Spice

Chief Financial Officer



Exhibit 99.1

Rocket Lab Announces First Quarter 2024 Financial Results Reflecting Year-on-Year Revenue Growth of 69%, Sequential Quarterly Growth of 55%, and Continued Growth in Q2 2024

Rocket Lab also provided a major update on the progress of its new rocket Neutron, including that it has completed its first Archimedes engine build and has begun its engine test campaign in Mississippi.

Long Beach, California. May 06, 2024 – Rocket Lab USA, Inc. (Nasdaq: RKLB) ("Rocket Lab" or "the Company"), a global leader in launch services and space systems, today shared the financial results for fiscal first quarter ended March 31, 2024.

Rocket Lab founder and CEO, Peter Beck, said: "Rocket Lab has had a strong start to the year, with our four Electron missions in Q1 marking an accelerated cadence of launches this year and maintaining our status as operators of the United States' second most frequently launched rocket. Most recently we were awarded close to \$50 million across two mission contracts post quarter for the United States' Space Force's Space Systems Command: the Victus Haze responsive space demonstration with Electron and a Rocket Lab Pioneer-class satellite that must launch within 24 hours' notice, and the next mission in the Space Systems Command's Space Test Program that will lift-off from our launch pad in Virginia. Both missions are a further demonstration of Rocket Lab as a trusted partner to the Department of Defense for assured access to space, coming off the back of our fifth overall national security launch for the National Reconnaissance Office which we flew before quarter-end in March.

"In our Space Systems business, execution on our \$515m constellation build program for the Space Development Agency has begun in earnest with a successful program kick-off, completed preliminary design studies for the constellation's 18 spacecraft, and the selection and onboarding of the program's subcontractors who will contribute across various mission requirements. Other major spacecraft programs, including our 17 spacecraft constellation build for MDA and Globalstar, our twin spacecraft to Mars for the NASA ESCAPADE mission, and our mission support and reentry spacecraft for Varda, also cleared significant delivery, build, and test milestones that advance the programs and maintain schedule for launches or deliveries this year.

"For Neutron, we've also achieved major development milestones to date this year, including the first assembly of an Archimedes engine, now ready for a hot fire engine test campaign at our facilities at NASA Stennis in Mississippi. The Archimedes test site at Stennis is also now commissioned and ready to support the upcoming test campaign, the results of which will be the driver of Neutron's expected date for first launch. Now with a complete engine, we're through some of the unknowns in the development program and can update the schedule for first flight accordingly, which we have adjusted to no earlier than mid-2025.

"Other developments across the program include major installations at the Neutron launch pad in Wallops, Virginia, such as completed concrete pours for the site's launch mount and finalization of the site's 278 ft water tower, forever changing the Wallops Island skyline and marking an exciting new era in Neutron's path to first launch."



First Quarter 2024 Business Highlights:

- Closed Q1 2024 with \$1+ billion in backlog.
- Successfully launched four Electron missions for commercial and national security customers across our launch sites in the United States and New Zealand.
- Successful program kick-off as the prime contractor for a \$515m Space Development Agency contract to design, build and operate 18 satellites for the Tranche 2 Transport Layer-Beta.
- Meaningful progress made on the production and testing of two Rocket Lab spacecraft for NASA's ESCAPADE mission to Mars.
- Successfully returned a spacecraft to Earth for Varda in a world-first in-space manufacturing mission, enabling Varda's payload of pharmaceutical crystals made in space to return to Earth.
- Progressed major infrastructure milestones at Launch Complex 3 for Neutron, including foundations for the launch mount, water tower and liquid oxygen tanks.

Business Highlights Since March 31, 2024:

- First launch of the guarter successfully completed for KAIST and NASA.
- Completed the assembly of an Archimedes engine for the first time ahead of upcoming engine test campaign at NASA Stennis in Mississippi.
- Completed major infrastructure installations at Launch Complex 3 for Neutron in Virginia, including the final concrete pour for Neutron's launch mount and finalization of the site's 278 ft water tower.
- Awarded a \$32 million end-to-end launch-plus-spacecraft contract with the U.S. Space Force's Space Systems Command for a 24-hour notice responsive space demonstration.
- Awarded a second U.S. Space Force launch contract valued at \$14.49 million for the Space System Command's Space Test Program (STP).



Second Quarter 2024 Guidance

For the second quarter of 2024, Rocket Lab expects:

- Revenue between \$105 million and \$110 million.
- Space Systems revenue between \$77 million and \$81 million.
- Launch Services revenue between \$28 million and \$29 million.
- GAAP Gross Margins between 24% and 26%.
- Non-GAAP Gross Margins between 30% and 32%.
- GAAP Operating Expenses between \$74 million and \$76 million.
- Non-GAAP Operating Expenses between \$62 million and \$64 million.
- Expected Interest Expense (Income), net \$1 million.
- Adjusted EBITDA loss of \$23 million to \$25 million.
- Basic Shares Outstanding of 494 million.

See "Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures" below for an explanation of our use of Non-GAAP financial measures, and the reconciliation of historical Non-GAAP measures to the comparable GAAP measures in the tables attached to this press release. We have not provided a reconciliation for the forward-looking Non-GAAP Gross Margin, Non-GAAP Operating Expenses or Adjusted EBITDA expectations for Q2 2024 described above because, without unreasonable efforts, we are unable to predict with reasonable certainty the amount and timing of adjustments that are used to calculate these non-GAAP financial measures, particularly related to stock-based compensation and its related tax effects. Stock-based compensation is currently expected to range from \$14 million to \$15 million in Q2 2024.



Conference Call Information

Rocket Lab will host a conference call for investors at 2 p.m. PT (5 p.m. ET) today to discuss these business highlights and financial results for our first quarter, to provide our outlook for the second quarter, and other updates.

The live webcast and a replay of the webcast will be available on Rocket Lab's Investor Relations website: https://investors.rocketlabusa.com/events-and-presentations/events

About Rocket Lab

Founded in 2006, Rocket Lab is an end-to-end space company with an established track record of mission success. We deliver reliable launch services, satellite manufacture, spacecraft components, and on-orbit management solutions that make it faster, easier, and more affordable to access space. Headquartered in Long Beach, California, Rocket Lab designs and manufactures the Electron small orbital launch vehicle, our family of spacecraft platforms, and the Company is developing the large Neutron launch vehicle for constellation deployment. Since its first orbital launch in January 2018, Rocket Lab's Electron launch vehicle has become the second most frequently launched U.S. rocket annually and has delivered 180+ satellites to orbit for private and public sector organizations, enabling operations in national security, scientific research, space debris mitigation, Earth observation, climate monitoring, and communications. Rocket Lab spacecraft have been selected to support NASA missions to the Moon and Mars, as well as the first private commercial mission to Venus. Rocket Lab has three launch pads at two launch sites, including two launch pads at a private orbital launch site located in New Zealand and a third launch pad in Virginia. To learn more, visit www.rocketlabusa.com

+ Rocket Lab Investor Relations Contact Adam Spice investors@rocketlabusa.com

+ Rocket Lab Media Contact Murielle Baker media@rocketlabusa.com



+ FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This press release may contain certain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, contained in this press release, including statements regarding our expectations of financial results for the second quarter of 2024, strategy, future operations, future financial position, projected costs, prospects, plans and objectives of management, are forward-looking statements. Words such as, but not limited to, "anticipate," "aim," "believe," "contemplate," "continue," "could," "design," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "may," "might," "plan," "possible," "potential," "predict," "project," "seek," "should," "suggest," "strategy," "target," "will," "would," and similar expressions or phrases, or the negative of those expressions or phrases, are intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words. These forward-looking statements are based on Rocket Lab's current expectations and beliefs concerning future developments and their potential effects. These forward-looking statements involve a number of risks, uncertainties (many of which are beyond Rocket Lab's control), or other assumptions that may cause actual results or performance to be materially different from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. Many factors could cause actual future events to differ materially from the forward-looking statements in this release, including risks related to delays and disruptions in expansion efforts; delays in the development of our Neutron rocket; our dependence on a limited number of customers; the harsh and unpredictable environment of space in which our products operate which could adversely affect our launch vehicle and spacecraft; increased competition in our industry due in part to rapid technological development; technological change in our industry which we may not be able to keep up with or which may render our services uncompetitive; average selling price trends; general economic uncertainty and turbulence which could impact our customers' ability to pay what we are owed; failure of our launch vehicles, spacecraft and components to operate as intended either due to our error in design, in engineering, in production or through no fault of our own; launch schedule disruptions; supply chain disruptions, product delays or failures; launch failures; natural disasters and epidemics or pandemics; any inability to effectively integrate recently acquired assets; a US government shutdown or delays in government funding; changes in governmental regulations including with respect to trade and export restrictions, or in the status of our regulatory approvals or applications; or other events that force us to cancel or reschedule launches, including customer contractual rescheduling and termination rights; risks that acquisitions may not be completed on the anticipated time frame or at all or do not achieve the anticipated benefits and results; and the other risks detailed from time to time in Rocket Lab's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including under the heading "Risk Factors" in Rocket Lab's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, which was filed with the SEC on February 28, 2024, and elsewhere. There can be no assurance that the future developments affecting Rocket Lab will be those that we have anticipated. Except as required by law, Rocket Lab is not undertaking any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.



+ USE OF NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

We supplement the reporting of our financial information determined under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the United States of America ("GAAP") with certain non-GAAP financial information. The non-GAAP financial information presented excludes certain significant items that may not be indicative of, or are unrelated to, results from our ongoing business operations. We believe that these non-GAAP measures provide investors with additional insight into the company's ongoing business performance. These non-GAAP measures should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for the related GAAP measures, and other companies may define such measures differently. We encourage investors to review our financial statements and publicly filed reports in their entirety and not to rely on any single financial measure. Reconciliation of the non-GAAP financial information to the corresponding GAAP measures for the historical periods disclosed are included at the end of the tables in this press release. We have not provided a reconciliation for forward-looking non-GAAP financial measures because, without unreasonable efforts, we are unable to predict with reasonable certainty the amount and timing of adjustments that are used to calculate these non-GAAP financial measures, particularly related to stock-based compensation and its related tax effects. The following definitions are provided:

+ ADJUSTED EDITDA

EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. Adjusted EBITDA further excludes items of income or loss that we characterize as unrepresentative of our ongoing operations. Such items are excluded from net income or loss to determine Adjusted EBITDA. Management believes this measure provides investors meaningful insight into results from ongoing operations.

+ OTHER NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

Non-GAAP gross profit, research and development, net, selling, general and administrative, operating expenses, operating loss and total other income (expense), net, further excludes items of income or loss that we characterize as unrepresentative of our ongoing operations. Such items are excluded from the applicable GAAP financial measure. Management believes these non-GAAP measures provide investors meaningful insight into results from ongoing operations.



ROCKET LAB U.S.A., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2024 AND 2023

(unaudited; in thousands, except share and per share data)

	Three Months Ended March 31,		
	 2024		2023
Revenues	\$ 92,767	\$	54,895
Cost of revenues	68,593		48,538
Gross profit	24,174		6,357
Operating expenses:			
Research and development, net	38,504		23,905
Selling, general and administrative	28,749		28,469
Total operating expenses	67,253		52,374
Operating loss	 (43,079)		(46,017)
Other income (expense):			
Interest expense, net	(898)		(685)
Gain on foreign exchange	311		134
Other (expense) income, net	(589)		1,477
Total other (expense) income, net	(1,176)		926
Loss before income taxes	 (44,255)		(45,091)
Provision for income taxes	(5)		(526)
Net loss	\$ (44,260)	\$	(45,617)
Net loss per share attributable to Rocket Lab USA, Inc.:			
Basic and diluted	\$ (0.09)	\$	(0.10)
Weighted-average common shares outstanding:			
Basic and diluted	489,994,709		476,199,710



ROCKET LAB U.S.A., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

AS OF MARCH 31, 2024 AND DECEMBER 31, 2023

(unaudited; in thousands, except share and per share data)

(unaudited; in thousands, except share and per share	Ma	arch 31, 2024 unaudited)	Decen	nber 31, 2023
Assets				
Current assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	365,929	\$	162,518
Marketable securities, current		126,593		82,255
Accounts receivable, net		31,167		35,176
Contract assets		14,895		12,951
Inventories		99,901		107,857
Prepaids and other current assets		78,606		66,949
Assets held for sale		8,532		9,016
Total current assets		725,623		476,722
Non-current assets:				
Property, plant and equipment, net		148,087		145,409
Intangible assets, net		66,845		68,094
Goodwill		71,020		71,020
Right-of-use assets - operating leases		56,870		59,401
Right-of-use assets - finance leases		14,827		14,987
Marketable securities, non-current		68,566		79,247
Restricted cash		3,849		3,916
Deferred income tax assets, net		3,353		3,501
Other non-current assets		22,884		18,914
Total assets	\$	1,181,924	\$	941,211
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity				
Current liabilities:				
Trade payables	\$	25,995	\$	29,303
Accrued expenses	_	9,091	•	5,590
Employee benefits payable		13,934		16,342
Contract liabilities		150,535		139,338
Current installments of long-term borrowings		10,996		17,764
Other current liabilities		21,911		15,036
Total current liabilities		232,462		223,373
Non-current liabilities:		202,102		220,070
Convertible senior notes, net		343,829		_
Long-term borrowings, net, excluding current installments		52,717		87,587
Non-current operating lease liabilities		54,101		56,099
Non-current finance lease liabilities		15,177		15,238
Deferred tax liabilities		530		426
Other non-current liabilities		4,162		3,944
Total liabilities		702,978		386,667
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES		702,770		300,007
Stockholders' equity:				
Common stock, \$0.0001 par value; authorized shares: 2,500,000,000; issued and outstanding shares: 492,670,716				
and 488,923,055 at March 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023, respectively		49		49
Additional paid-in capital		1,148,484		1,176,484
Accumulated deficit		(667,786)		(623,526)
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)		(1,801)		1,537
Total stockholders' equity		478,946		554,544
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$	1,181,924	\$	941,211



ROCKET LAB U.S.A., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2024 AND 2023 (unaudited; in thousands)

	For the Thre	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2024		2023
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Net loss	\$ (4	4,260) \$	(45,617
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization		8,313	7,033
Stock-based compensation expense	1	3,093	14,036
Loss on disposal of assets		3	5
Loss on extinguishment of long-term debt		1,330	_
Amortization of debt issuance costs and discount		639	709
Noncash lease expense		1,491	988
Change in the fair value of contingent consideration		(271)	300
Accretion of marketable securities purchased at a discount		(842)	(1,147
Deferred income taxes		78	420
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable, net		3,939	(14,116
Contract assets	(1,944)	(3,109
Inventories		7,509	(6,712
Prepaids and other current assets	(5,303)	(10,035
Other non-current assets	(4,266)	103
Trade payables	(1,673)	11,305
Accrued expenses		3,200	403
Employee benefits payables		(622)	1,294
Contract liabilities	1	1,205	17,292
Other current liabilities		6,729	2,305
Non-current lease liabilities	(1,425)	(891
Other non-current liabilities		489	49
et cash used in operating activities		2,588)	(25,385
ASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchases of property, equipment and software	(1	9,177)	(12,674
Purchases of marketable securities		9,359)	(76,394
Maturities of marketable securities		6,280	78,099
let cash used in investing activities		2,256)	(10,969
ASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:	(-	_,,	(20,505
Proceeds from the exercise of stock options and public warrants		943	771
Proceeds from Employee Stock Purchase Plan		507	1,202
Proceeds from sale of employees restricted stock units to cover taxes		5,119	3,078
Minimum tax withholding paid on behalf of employees for restricted stock units		5,163)	(1,915
Payment of contingent consideration	,	_	(1,000
Purchase of capped calls related to issuance of convertible senior notes	(4	3,168)	(1,000
Proceeds from issuance of convertible senior notes		5,000	
Repayments on Trinity Loan Agreement		3,215)	_
Payment of debt issuance costs		1,226)	_
Finance lease principal payments	(1	(90)	(78
et cash provided by financing activities	25		
ffect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	23	8,707	2,058
		(519)	127
let increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash		3,344	(34,169
ash and cash equivalents, and restricted cash, beginning of period		6,434	245,871
Cash and cash equivalents, and restricted cash, end of period	\$ 36	9,778 \$	211,702

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ROCKET LAB U.S.A., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES RECONCILIATION OF NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2024 AND 2023

(unaudited; in thousands)

The tables provided below reconcile the non-GAAP financial measures Adjusted EBITDA, Non-GAAP gross profit, Non-GAAP research and development, net, Non-GAAP selling, general and administrative, Non-GAAP operating expenses, Non-GAAP operating loss and Non-GAAP total other income (expense), net with the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures. See above for additional information on the use of these non-GAAP financial measures.

	Three Months Ended March 31,			31,
		2024		2023
NET LOSS	\$	(44,260)	\$	(45,617)
Depreciation		4,924		3,713
Amortization		3,389		3,320
Stock-based compensation expense		13,093		14,036
Transaction costs		372		165
Interest expense, net		898		685
Change in fair value of contingent consideration		(271)		300
Performance reserve escrow		_		1,838
Provision for income taxes		5		526
Gain on foreign exchange		(311)		(134)
Accretion of marketable securities purchased at a discount		(842)		(1,165)
Loss on disposal of assets		3		5
Employee retention credit		_		(3,841)
Loss on extinguishment of debt		1,330		_
ADJUSTED EBITDA	\$	(21,670)	\$	(26,169)



Three Months Ended March 31, 2024 2023 **GAAP Gross profit** 24,174 \$ 6,357 3,503 Stock-based compensation 3,813 Amortization of purchased intangibles and favorable lease 1,743 1,710 Performance reserve escrow 57 Employee retention credit (2,130)29,420 9,807 Non-GAAP Gross profit \$ \$ 31.7 % 17.9 % Non-GAAP Gross margin GAAP Research and development, net \$ 38,504 \$ 23,905 Stock-based compensation (3,985)(5,022)Amortization of purchased intangibles and favorable lease (229)(9) 631 Employee retention credit 34,290 19,505 Non-GAAP Research and development, net GAAP Selling, general and administrative 28,749 28,469 Stock-based compensation (5,605)(5,201)Amortization of purchased intangibles and favorable lease (932)(1,434) Transaction costs (372)(165)Performance reserve escrow (1,781)Change in fair value of contingent consideration 271 (300)Employee retention credit 1,080 22,111 20,668 Non-GAAP Selling, general and administrative 67,253 52,374 **GAAP Operating expenses** Stock-based compensation (9,590)(10,223)Amortization of purchased intangibles and favorable lease (1,161)(1,443)Transaction costs (372)(165)Performance reserve escrow (1,781)271 Change in fair value of contingent consideration (300)Employee retention credit 1,711 Non-GAAP Operating expenses \$ 56,401 \$ 40,173 (46,017) (43,079)**GAAP Operating loss** \$ Total non-GAAP adjustments 16,098 15,651 (30,366) (26,981) **Non-GAAP Operating loss** GAAP Total other income (expense), net \$ (1,176)\$ 926 (311)Gain on foreign exchange (134)Loss on disposal of assets 3 5 Loss on extinguishment of debt 1,330 Non-GAAP Total other income (expense), net (154)797