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

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**FORM SD**

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**Specialized Disclosure Report**

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**Cerus Corporation**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**000-21937**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**68-0262011**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**2550 Stanwell Drive, Concord, California**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**94520**  
(Zip Code)

**Chrystal N. Menard**  
**Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel**  
**(925) 288-6000**

(Name and telephone number, including area code, of the person to contact in connection with this report.)

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Check the appropriate box to indicate the rule pursuant to which this form is being filed, and provide the period to which the information in this form applies:

Rule 13p-1 under the Securities Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13p-1) for the reporting period from January 1 to December 31, 2017.

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**Section 1—Conflict Minerals Disclosure****Item 1.01 Conflict Minerals Disclosure and Report****Conflict Minerals Disclosure**

This Form SD of Cerus Corporation (the “Company”) is filed pursuant to Rule 13p-1 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the reporting period January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

A copy of the Company’s Conflict Minerals Report is provided as Exhibit 1.01 to this Form SD and is publicly available on the Company’s website at <http://www.cerus.com/Investors/Corporate-Governance/default.aspx>.

**Item 1.02 Exhibit**

As specified in Section 2, Item 2.01 of this Form SD, the Company is hereby filing its Conflict Minerals Report as Exhibit 1.01 to this report.

**Section 2—Exhibits****Item 2.01 Exhibits**

The following exhibit is filed as part of this report.

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.01	Conflict Minerals Report of Cerus Corporation

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**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 duly authorized undersigned.

Cerus Corporation

By: /s/ Chrystal N. Menard  
Chrystal N. Menard  
Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel

May 31, 2018

**Cerus Corporation**  
**Conflict Minerals Report**  
**For the reporting period from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017**

This Conflict Minerals Report (the “Report”) of Cerus Corporation (“Cerus”) has been prepared pursuant to Rule 13p-1 and Form SD (the “Rule”) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, for the reporting period January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

The Rule requires disclosure of certain information when a company manufactures or contracts to manufacture products and the minerals specified in the Rule are necessary to the functionality or production of those products. The specified minerals, which are collectively referred to in this Report as the “Conflict Minerals,” are gold, columbite-tantalite (coltan), cassiterite and wolframite, including their derivatives, which are limited to tantalum, tin and tungsten. The “Covered Countries,” for the purposes of the Rule and this Report, are the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia and Angola. As described in this Report, Cerus contracts to manufacture one product which contains Conflict Minerals that are necessary to the functionality or production of such product (the “Necessary Conflict Minerals”). As discussed below, following the performance of a reasonable country-of-origin inquiry (“RCOI”) and due diligence on the source and chain of custody of the Necessary Conflict Minerals, Cerus has reasonably concluded that is unable to determine whether, with respect to the Covered Product (as defined below), Necessary Conflict Minerals were used, directly or indirectly, to finance or benefit armed groups in the Covered Countries.

#### **Description of Cerus’ Product Covered by this Report**

Cerus is a biomedical products company focused on the field of blood safety. Cerus currently markets and sells the INTERCEPT Blood System for both platelets and plasma (the “platelet system” and “plasma system,” respectively) in the United States; certain countries in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Middle East, and Latin America and selected countries in other regions around the world. Both the platelet system and plasma system employ the same technology. Platelet or plasma components collected from blood donors are transferred into plastic INTERCEPT disposable kits and are mixed with Cerus’ proprietary compound, amotosalen, a small molecule compound which has an affinity for nucleic acid. The disposable kits are then placed in the INTERCEPT Illuminator, an illumination device (the “Illuminator”), where the mixture is exposed to ultra-violet A, or UVA, light. If pathogens such as viruses, bacteria or parasites are present in the platelet or plasma components, the energy from the UVA light causes the amotosalen to bond with the nucleic acid. Since platelets and plasma do not rely on nucleic acid for therapeutic efficacy, the INTERCEPT Blood System is designed to preserve the therapeutic function of the platelet and plasma components when used in human transfusions.

This Report relates to one product, which is referred to in this Report as the “Covered Product”: (i) for which Conflict Minerals are necessary to its functionality or production; (ii) that were manufactured, or contracted to be manufactured, by Cerus; and (iii) for which the manufacture was completed during calendar year 2017. For the Reporting Period, the Illuminator was the only Covered Product.

#### **Reasonable Country-of-Origin Inquiry**

Cerus has conducted a good faith reasonable country-of-origin inquiry regarding the Necessary Conflict Minerals. This good faith RCOI was reasonably designed to determine whether any of the Necessary Conflict Minerals originated in the Covered Countries and whether any of the Necessary Conflict Minerals may be from recycled or scrap sources. Cerus’ RCOI comprises the conduct described under the caption “Description of Due Diligence Measures — Identify and Assess Risk in the Supply Chain” below. Because, as a result of the RCOI, Cerus was unable to determine the countries of origin of all of the Necessary Conflict Minerals in its supply chain, Cerus also performed due diligence on the source and chain of custody of the Necessary Conflict Minerals.

#### **Cerus’ Due Diligence Process**

The Illuminator is manufactured by Cerus’ supplier according to Cerus-provided specifications and contains several hundred electronic components purchased from over 60 of Cerus’ supplier’s upstream component manufacturers. Due to the Illuminator’s level of regulatory classification in most jurisdictions where it is sold, changes to its design or components will require significant regulatory review and approval. The supply chain for the components of the Illuminator is complex and includes primarily third-party suppliers or distributors between the ultimate manufacturer of the Illuminator and the original sources of the Necessary Conflict Minerals contained therein. Cerus does not purchase any Necessary Conflict Minerals directly from mines, smelters or refiners and does not make any purchases in any of the Covered Countries. Therefore, Cerus

must rely on its direct supplier and its supplier's upstream component manufacturers to provide information on the origin of the Conflict Minerals contained in the components and materials used in the manufacture of the Illuminator and the applicable smelters and refiners of Necessary Conflict Minerals in Cerus' supply chain. The information provided by Cerus' direct supplier and its supplier's upstream component manufacturers may be inaccurate or incomplete or subject to other irregularities. In addition, because of Cerus' relative location within the supply chain in relation to the actual extraction and transport of Conflict Minerals, Cerus' ability to verify the accuracy of information reported by its direct supplier and its supplier's upstream component manufacturers is limited. Accordingly, Cerus cannot provide absolute assurance regarding the source and chain of custody of the Necessary Conflict Minerals in the Illuminator.

Cerus' amended agreement with its direct supplier, among other things, requires the supplier to (i) use its best efforts to source materials for the manufacture of the Illuminator that do not contain Conflict Minerals, and (ii) deliver to Cerus a full report each year identifying the sources of any Conflict Minerals, if any, contained in the Illuminator. As in the prior year, in 2017, Cerus' direct supplier manufactured two versions of the Illuminator and provided to Cerus full reports for both the INT100 and INT100G2 Illuminators manufactured in 2017 (collectively, the "2017 Report"). The 2017 Report identifies the suppliers or distributors of components in the INT100 and INT100G2 Illuminators that contained Necessary Conflict Minerals that (a) did not originate from the Covered Countries, (b) are unknown to have originated from the Covered Countries, or (c) were not found by the third-party software program. With respect to the INT100 Illuminator, of the 396 components analyzed, 25% did not originate from a Covered Country or did not originate from a smelter or refiner known to finance or benefit armed groups in the Covered Countries (such status, "Non-Covered Country of Origin"), 73% were of an unknown origin, and 1% were not found by the third-party software program; as compared to 31%, 67% and 1%, respectively, in the report for INT100 Illuminators manufactured in 2016. Of the 367 components that were analyzed for the INT100G2 Illuminator, 19% had a status of Non-Covered Country of Origin, 77% were of an unknown origin, and 3% were not found by the third-party software program, as compared to 59%, 38% and 3%, respectively, in the report for INT100G2 Illuminators manufactured in 2016. Due to the significant decrease in the percentage of components that were not classified as Non-Covered Country of Origin in the 2017 Report compared to 2016, Cerus further investigated the reason for such difference and found that of the nearly 400 components analyzed, 149 components changed from a Non-Covered Country of Origin status in the report for 2016 to an unknown origin in the 2017 Report. Cerus further determined that two upstream suppliers provided a majority of such 149 components and both such suppliers answered "unknown" instead of "no" on its EICC template when asked *Do any of the smelters in your supply chain source the 3TG from the covered countries?* In addition, the EICC template provided by one of the two upstream suppliers indicated that it had a 78% increase in the number of smelters included on their smelter list from 2016 to 2017, suggestive of a broader sourcing program with potentially more unknown origins of Conflict Minerals. The other upstream supplier indicated to Cerus that it frequently changes its upstream suppliers and that those suppliers, in turn, may also be changing its sourcing smelters, which similarly impacts the potential for unknown origins of Conflict Minerals. As a result of the disparity in the percentage of components from Non-Covered Countries of Origins between 2016 and 2017, Cerus has decided to undertake, with its supplier, additional technical review to determine if any alternative suppliers are available for certain components used in the manufacture of the Illuminators. However, based on the potential impact that changing components may have on the regulatory approval for the Illuminators, in addition to Cerus' downstream position in the supply chain for components of the Covered Products, Cerus cannot ensure that such additional technical review will result in sourcing Illuminator components from non-Covered Countries. Additionally, because Cerus is unlikely to know about future sourcing changes by upstream suppliers of the Illuminator components until the annual EICC templates are published, Cerus may continue to experience year-over-year uncertainty in its effort to achieve a supply chain that is free of Conflict Minerals sourced from a Covered Country.

### **Design of Due Diligence**

Cerus' due diligence measures have been designed to conform, in all material respects, to the framework in the *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chain of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High Risk Areas: Third Edition*, including the related supplements on gold, tin, tantalum and tungsten (the "OECD Guidance"), consistent with Cerus' position as a downstream company in the Conflict Minerals supply chain.

### **Description of Due Diligence Measures**

Cerus' due diligence measures performed with respect to Covered Products manufactured during 2017 included the following:

#### ***Establish Strong Company Management Systems***

- *Conflict Minerals Team*. Cerus has established a Conflict Minerals management team, consisting of members of its manufacturing and legal departments, including its Vice President of Manufacturing and Operations, its Senior Director of Device Engineering and Project Management, its Senior Director of Supply Chain and Operations and its

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Associate General Counsel to oversee the due diligence efforts and consider and address potential risks within Cerus' supply chain.

- *System of Controls and Transparency* . The management team collectively devised a Conflict Minerals plan for internal information management and supplier engagement. The system is designed to collect and retain the information necessary to support Cerus' conflict minerals inquiry and reporting.
- *Continued Engagement with Suppliers* . Cerus continues to engage its direct supplier in order to obtain the required upstream supplier information for components of the Covered Product.
- *Grievance Mechanism* . Cerus has an established Whistleblower Hotline. Customers, employees or other interested parties are able to use the Hotline to provide anonymous information about Cerus, including grievances or other information related to Conflict Minerals.

#### ***Identify and Assess Risk in the Supply Chain***

- Identify upstream suppliers in the supply chain that may be providing Conflict Minerals that are necessary to the functionality or production of the Illuminator;
- Partnered with Cerus' direct supplier to utilize a third-party software program to analyze the data reported by upstream component suppliers to determine whether any suppliers provided Conflict Minerals for use in the manufacture of the Illuminator that were sourced from Covered Countries; and
- Reviewed the reports completed by Cerus' direct supplier for the Illuminator.

#### ***Design and Implement a Strategy to Respond to Identified Risks***

As noted above under “ *Establish Strong Company Management Systems* ,” Cerus has established a reporting protocol under which the Conflict Minerals management team reports risks arising from its diligence exercise to executives of the company. The protocol is designed to enable the Conflicts Minerals management team to report, among other things, identified risks in the supply chain. Cerus' risk management strategy includes maintaining close contact with its direct supplier in order to (a) obtain the required upstream supplier information for components of the Covered Product, (b) pursue Cerus' goal of having a conflict-free supply chain, and (c) attempt to influence the selection, to the extent practicable, of alternative upstream suppliers that can provide assurance that their components do not contain Conflict Minerals from Covered Countries that directly or indirectly finance armed groups in the Covered Countries.

In addition, Cerus intends, to the extent practicable, to take the steps discussed under the caption “Future Due Diligence and Risk Mitigation.”

#### ***Carry Out Independent Third-Party Audit of Supply Chain***

Cerus does not have any direct relationships with smelters or refiners that process Conflict Minerals, and it does not perform or direct audits of these entities within its supply chain. As an alternative, Cerus has relied on information collected and provided by its supplier.

#### ***Report Annually on Supply Chain Due Diligence***

Cerus expects to report annually, as required by the Rule, and has posted this Report on its website. However, Cerus' reporting obligations under the Rule may change in the future and its ability to implement certain processes or obtain information from its suppliers may differ materially from those anticipated or implied in this Report.

#### **Conclusions**

Due to the large number of suppliers upstream of the Illuminator supplier, as well as the relatively small percentage of the Illuminator supplier's business that the manufacture of the Illuminator comprises, Cerus was unable to obtain complete information regarding the source and chain of custody for all of the Conflict Minerals contained in components of the Illuminator. Cerus was unable to locate any component specification datasheets that were provided as part of Cerus' diligence effort which specified the smelters or refiners that were the source of Conflict Minerals for the particular component. Most of the smelter information provided was obtained through the EICC templates and were reported at the company level for products manufactured by the supplier; thus, did not specify the country of origin for Conflict Minerals in the particular components used to manufacture the Illuminator. As a result, based on the diligence performed to date, Cerus determined that it did not have

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sufficient information to reasonably or reliably identify the particular smelters or refiners that processed the Conflict Minerals contained in the Illuminator or the country of origin of such Conflict Minerals, and thus did not list the smelters or refiners or countries of origin in this Report. To determine the mines or location of origin of the Conflict Minerals with the greatest possible specificity, Cerus performed the due diligence measures described above.

*Future Due Diligence and Risk Mitigation.* Cerus intends to take the following steps to improve its due diligence: (a) continue to maintain close contact with the Illuminator supplier with the goal of having a conflict-free supply chain; and (b) attempt to influence the selection, to the extent practicable, of alternative upstream suppliers that can provide assurance that their components do not contain any Conflict Minerals from Covered Countries that directly or indirectly finance armed groups in the Covered Countries.

#### ***Cautionary Note on Forward-Looking Statements***

Forward-looking statements in this Report are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and other federal securities laws. Investors are cautioned that statements in this Report that are not strictly historical statements, including without limitation, Cerus' ability to ensure that components of the Illuminator that contain Conflict Minerals originate from non-Covered Countries, Cerus' intentions and expectations regarding further supplier engagement, future reporting, due diligence and risk mitigation efforts and strategy, constitute forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Words such as "expects," "anticipates," "targets," "goals," "projects," "intends," "plans," "believes," "seeks," "estimates," "evaluates," variations of these words, and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. Actual results could differ materially from the forward-looking statements. Risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ include, without limitation, risks and uncertainties associated with the progress of industry and other supply chain transparency and smelter or refiner validation programs for Conflict Minerals (including the possibility of inaccurate information, fraud and other irregularities), including year-over-year changes experienced by upstream suppliers of the Illuminator components, inadequate supplier education and knowledge, limitations on the ability or willingness of suppliers to provide more accurate, complete and detailed information and limitations on Cerus' ability to verify the accuracy or completeness of any supply chain information provided by suppliers or others, as well as potential statutory or regulatory changes.