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

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017

or

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Commission file number: 000-51026

Monolithic Power Systems, Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

77-0466789
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

79 Great Oaks Boulevard, San Jose, CA 95119 (408) 826-0600
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code and telephone number)

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

Title of each class
Common Stock, \$0.001 Par Value

Name of each exchange on which registered
The NASDAQ Global Select Market

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:
None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

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Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer
Smaller reporting company 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.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant based upon the closing price of the Common Stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market on June 30, 2017 was \$3.1 billion.*

There were 42,132,242 shares of the registrant's common stock issued and outstanding as of February 21, 2018.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's Proxy Statement for the registrant's 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K to the extent stated herein. The Proxy Statement will be filed within 120 days of the registrant's fiscal year ended December 31, 2017.

* Excludes 8,933,704 shares of the registrant's common stock held by executive officers, directors and stockholders whose ownership exceeds 5% ("affiliates") of the Common Stock outstanding at June 30, 2017. Exclusion of such shares should not be construed to indicate that any such person possesses the power, direct or indirect, to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of the registrant or that such person is controlled by or under common control with the registrant.

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.
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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, that have been made pursuant to and in reliance on the provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements include among other things, statements concerning:

- the above-average industry growth of product and market areas that we have targeted,
- our plan to increase our revenue through the introduction of new products within our existing product families as well as in new product categories and families,
- our belief that we may incur significant legal expenses that vary with the level of activity in each of our current or future legal proceedings,
- the effect that liquidity of our investments has on our capital resources,
- the continuing application of our products in the consumer, computing and storage, industrial, automotive and communications markets,
- estimates of our future liquidity requirements,
- the cyclical nature of the semiconductor industry,
- protection of our proprietary technology,
- business outlook for 2018 and beyond,
- the factors that we believe will impact our ability to achieve revenue growth,
- the percentage of our total revenue from various market segments,
- our ability to identify, acquire and integrate the companies, businesses and products that we acquire and achieve the anticipated benefits from such acquisitions,
- the impact of the U.S. tax reform enacted in December 2017 on our income tax provision and cash flows,
- our intention and ability to repurchase shares under our stock repurchase program and pay future cash dividends, and
- the factors that differentiate us from our competitors.

In some cases, words such as “would,” “could,” “may,” “should,” “predict,” “potential,” “targets,” “continue,” “anticipate,” “expect,” “intend,” “plan,” “believe,” “seek,” “estimate,” “project,” “forecast,” “will,” the negative of these terms or other variations of such terms and similar expressions relating to the future identify forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements are based on our current outlook, expectations, estimates, projections, beliefs and plans or objectives about our business and our industry. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks and uncertainties. Actual events or results could differ materially and adversely from those expressed in any such forward-looking statements. Risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially include those set forth throughout this Annual Report on Form 10-K and, in particular, in the section entitled “Item 1A. Risk Factors.” Except as required by law, we disclaim any duty to, and undertake no obligation to, update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information relating to existing conditions, future events or otherwise or to release publicly the results of any future revisions we may make to forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such statements, which speak only as of the date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Readers should carefully review future reports and documents that we file from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission, such as our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and any Current Reports on Form 8-K.

Except as the context otherwise requires, the terms “Monolithic Power Systems”, “MPS”, “Registrant”, “Company”, “we”, “us”, or “our” as used herein are references to Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

PART I**ITEM 1. BUSINESS****General**

Monolithic Power Systems (“MPS”) is a leading semiconductor company that designs, develops and markets high-performance power solutions. Founded in 1997, MPS’s core strengths include deep system-level and applications knowledge, strong analog design expertise and innovative proprietary process technologies. These combined strengths enable MPS to deliver highly integrated monolithic products that offer energy efficient, cost-effective, easy-to-use solutions for systems found in consumer, computing and storage, industrial, automotive and communications applications. MPS’s mission is to reduce total energy consumption in its customers’ systems with green, practical and compact solutions.

MPS is headquartered in San Jose, California and has over 1,500 employees worldwide, with locations in China, India, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, the United States and Europe.

Industry Overview

Semiconductors comprise the basic building blocks of electronic systems and equipment. Within the semiconductor industry, components can be classified either as discrete devices, such as individual transistors or integrated circuits (“ICs”), in which a number of transistors and other elements are combined to form a more complicated electronic circuit. ICs can be further divided into three primary categories: digital, analog, and mixed-signal. Digital ICs, such as memory devices and microprocessors, can store or perform arithmetic functions on data that is represented by a series of ones and zeroes. Analog ICs, in contrast, handle real world signals such as temperature, pressure, light, sound, or speed. In addition, analog ICs also perform power management functions, such as regulating or converting voltages, for electronic devices. Mixed-signal ICs combine digital and analog functions onto a single chip and play an important role in bridging real world to digital systems.

Analog and Mixed-Signal Markets. We focus on the market for high performance analog and mixed-signal ICs. High performance products generally are differentiated by functionality and performance factors which include integration of higher levels of functionality onto a single chip, greater precision, higher speed and lower heat and noise. There are several key factors that distinguish the analog and mixed-signal IC markets, and in particular the high performance portion of the analog and mixed signal IC market, from digital IC markets. These factors include longer product life cycles, numerous market segments, technology that is difficult to replicate, relative complexity of design and process technology, importance of experienced design engineers, lower capital requirements and diversity of end markets. We have targeted product and market areas that we believe have the ability to offer above-average growth over the long term, compared to the semiconductor industry as a whole.

End Markets and Applications

We currently target our products in the consumer, computing and storage, industrial, automotive and communications markets, with the consumer market representing the largest portion of our revenue. The following is a brief summary of the various applications of our products in each end market, and such market’s contribution as a percentage of our total revenue:

End Markets	Applications	Percentage of Total Revenue		
		2017	2016	2015
• Consumer	• Set-top boxes, monitors, gaming, lighting, chargers, home appliances, cellular handsets, digital video players, GPS, televisions, stereos and cameras.	40.3%	39.5%	43.6%
• Computing and storage	• Storage networks, computers and notebooks, printers, servers and workstations.	21.4%	20.7%	17.0%
• Industrial	• Power sources, security, point-of-sale systems, smart meters and other industrial equipment.	13.4%	14.4%	13.8%
• Automotive	• Infotainment, safety and connectivity applications	11.4%	8.7%	6.1%
• Communications	• Networking and telecommunication infrastructure, routers and modems, wireless access points and voice over IP.	13.5%	16.7%	19.5%

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Product Families

Our proprietary process technologies enable us to design and deliver smaller, single-chip power management ICs. These technologies simplify the design process, and are applicable across a wide range of analog applications within the consumer, computing and storage, industrial, automotive and communications markets. Our product families are differentiated with respect to their high degree of integration and strong levels of accuracy and efficiency, making them cost-effective relative to many competing solutions. Our key product families include the following:

Direct Current (DC) to DC Products. DC to DC ICs are used to convert and control voltages within a broad range of electronic systems, such as portable electronic devices, wireless LAN access points, computers, and monitors, automobiles and medical equipment. We believe that our DC to DC products are differentiated in the market, particularly with respect to their high degree of integration, high voltage operation, high load current, high switching speed and small footprint. These features are important to our customers as they result in fewer components, a smaller form factor, more accurate regulation of voltages, and, ultimately, lower system cost and increased reliability through the elimination of many discrete components and power devices. The DC to DC product family accounted for 92%, 90% and 90% of our total revenue in 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

Lighting Control Products. Lighting control ICs are used in backlighting and general illumination products. Lighting control ICs for backlighting are used in systems that provide the light source for LCD panels typically found in notebook computers, monitors, car navigation systems and televisions. Backlighting solutions are typically either white light emitting diode lighting sources or cold cathode fluorescent lamps. In addition to alternating current/direct current, or AC/DC, offline solutions for lighting illumination applications, we also offer AC/DC power conversion solutions for a diverse number of end products that plug into a wall outlet. The Lighting Control product family accounted for 8%, 10% and 10% of our total revenue in 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

In the future, we plan to continue to introduce additional new products within our existing product families, as well as expand our newer product families. Our ability to achieve revenue growth will depend in part upon our ability to enter new market segments, gain market share, grow in regions outside of China, Taiwan and other Asian markets, expand our customer base and continue to secure manufacturing capacity.

Customers, Sales and Marketing

We sell our products through third-party distributors, value-added resellers and directly to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), original design manufacturers (ODMs), and electronic manufacturing service (EMS) providers. Our third-party distributors are subject to distribution agreements with us which allow the distributor to sell our products to end customers and other resellers. Distributors sell our products to end customers which include OEMs, ODMs or EMS providers. Our value-added resellers may second source our products and provide other services to customers. ODMs typically design and manufacture electronic products on behalf of OEMs, and EMS providers typically provide manufacturing services for OEMs and other electronic product suppliers.

Sales to our largest distributor accounted for 17% of our total revenue in 2017, 22% in 2016, and 24% in 2015. In addition, one other distributor accounted for 10% of our total revenue in 2017. No other distributors or end customers accounted for more than 10% of our total revenue in any of the periods presented.

Current distribution agreements with several of our major distributors provide that each distributor has the non-exclusive right to sell and use its best efforts to promote and develop a market for our products. These agreements provide that payment for purchases from us will generally occur within 30 to 45 days from the date of invoice. In addition, we allow for limited stock rotation in certain agreements.

We have sales offices located in China, India, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, the United States and Europe. Our products typically require a highly technical sales and applications engineering effort where we assist our customers in the design and use of our products in their application. We maintain a staff of applications engineers who work directly with our customers' engineers in the development of their systems' electronics containing our products.

Because our sales are primarily billed and payable in United States dollars, our sales are generally not subject to fluctuating currency exchange rates. However, because a majority of our revenue is attributable to sales to customers in Asia, changes in the relative value of the dollar may create pricing pressures for our products. For the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, our revenue from sales to customers in Asia was 89%, 91% and 91%, respectively.

Our sales are made primarily pursuant to standard individual purchase orders. Our backlog consists of orders that we have received from customers which have not yet shipped. Because orders in backlog are subject to cancellation or postponement, and backlog at any particular date is not necessarily representative of actual sales for any succeeding period, we believe that our backlog is not necessarily a reliable indicator of future revenues.

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Our manufacturing lead times are generally 8 to 16 weeks and we often build inventory in advance of customer orders based on our forecast of future customer orders. This subjects us to certain risks, most notably the possibility that sales will not meet our forecast, which could lead to inventories in excess of demand. If excess inventory exists, it may be necessary for us to sell it at a substantial discount, take a significant write-down or dispose of it altogether, all of which would negatively affect our profit margins.

We operate in the cyclical semiconductor industry where there is seasonal demand for certain of our products. While we are not immune from current and future industry downturns, we have targeted product and market areas that we believe have the ability to offer above average industry performance over the long term.

Research and Development

We have assembled a qualified team of engineers in the United States and China with core competencies in analog and mixed-signal design. Through our research and development efforts, we have developed a collection of intellectual property and know-how that we are able to leverage across our products and markets. These include the development of high efficiency power devices, the design of precision analog circuits, expertise in mixed-signal integration and the development of proprietary semiconductor process technologies.

Our research and development efforts are generally targeted at three areas: systems architecture, circuit design and implementation, and process technology. In the area of systems architecture, we are exploring new ways of solving our customers' system design challenges and are investing in the development of systems expertise in new markets and applications that align well with our core capabilities. In the area of circuit design and implementation, our initiatives include expanding our portfolio of products and adding new features to our products. In the area of process technology, we are investing research and development resources to provide leading-edge analog power processes for our next generation of integrated circuits. Process technology is a key strategic component to our future growth.

Our research and development expenses totaled \$82.4 million, \$73.6 million and \$65.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

Patents and Intellectual Property Matters

We rely on our proprietary technologies, which include both our proprietary circuit designs for our products and our proprietary manufacturing process technologies. Our future success and competitive position depend in part upon our ability to obtain and maintain protection of our proprietary technologies.

In general, we have elected to pursue patent protection for aspects of our circuit and device designs that we believe are patentable and to protect our manufacturing process technologies by maintaining those process technologies as trade secrets. As of December 31, 2017, we had 1,145 patents/applications issued or pending, of which 360 patents have been issued in the United States. Our issued patents are scheduled to expire at various times through December 2037. Our patents are material to our business, but we do not rely on any one particular patent for our success. We also rely on a combination of nondisclosure agreements and other contractual provisions, as well as our employees' commitment to confidentiality and loyalty, to protect our technology, know-how and processes. We also seek to register certain of our trademarks as we deem appropriate. We have not registered any of our copyrights and do not believe registration of copyrights is material to our business. Despite precautions that we take, it may be possible for unauthorized third parties to copy aspects of our current or future technology or products or to obtain and use information that we regard as proprietary. There can be no assurance that the steps we take will be adequate to protect our proprietary rights, that our patent applications will lead to issued patents, that others will not develop or patent similar or superior products or technologies, or that our patents will not be challenged, invalidated or circumvented by others. Furthermore, the laws of the countries in which our products are or may be developed, manufactured or sold may not protect our products and intellectual property rights to the same extent as laws in the United States. Our failure to adequately protect our proprietary technologies could materially harm our business.

The semiconductor industry is characterized by frequent claims of infringement and litigation regarding patent and other intellectual property rights. Patent infringement is an ongoing risk, in part because other companies in our industry could have patent rights that may not be identifiable when we initiate development efforts. Litigation may be necessary to enforce our intellectual property rights, and we may have to defend ourselves against infringement claims. Any such litigation could be very costly and may divert our management resources. Further, we have agreed to indemnify certain of our customers and suppliers in some circumstances against liability from infringement by our products. In the event any third party were to make an infringement claim against us or our customers, we could be enjoined from selling selected products, could be required to indemnify our customers or suppliers, or could pay royalties or other damages to third parties. If any of our products are found to infringe and we are unable to obtain necessary licenses or other rights on acceptable terms, we would either have to change our product so that it does not infringe or stop making the infringing product, which could have a material adverse effect on our operating results, financial condition and cash flows.

Manufacturing

We utilize a fabless business model, working with third parties to manufacture and assemble our ICs. This fabless approach allows us to focus our engineering and design resources on our strengths and to reduce our fixed costs and capital expenditures. In contrast to many fabless semiconductor companies, which utilize standard process technologies and design rules established by their foundry partners, we have developed our own proprietary process technologies and collaborate with our foundry partners to install our technologies on their equipment in their facilities for use solely on our behalf. This close collaboration and control over the manufacturing process has historically resulted in favorable yields and product performance for our ICs.

We currently contract with four suppliers to manufacture our wafers in foundries located in China and Korea. Once our silicon wafers have been produced, they are shipped to our facility in Chengdu, China for wafer sort, which is a testing process performed to identify non-functioning dies. Our semiconductor products are then assembled and packaged by independent subcontractors in China and Malaysia. The assembled ICs are then sent either for final testing at our Chengdu facility, or to other turnkey providers who perform final testing based on our standards prior to shipping to our customers.

In September 2004, we entered into a lease arrangement for a 60,000 square-foot manufacturing facility located in Chengdu, China. In September 2015, we exercised our option to purchase the facility and the transaction was completed in January 2016. The facility has been fully operational since 2006 and we have benefitted from shorter manufacturing cycle times and lower labor and overhead costs compared to our operations prior to the use of the facility. We have expanded our product testing capabilities in this facility and are able to take advantage of the rich pool of local engineering talent to expand our manufacturing support and engineering operations. In addition, we constructed a 150,000 square-foot research and development facility in Chengdu, China, which was put into operation in October 2010.

Key Personnel and Employees

Our performance is substantially dependent on the performance of our executive officers and key employees. Due to the relative complexity of the design of our analog and mixed-signal ICs, our engineers generally have more years of experience and greater circuit design aptitude than the more prevalent digital circuit design engineer. Analog engineers with advanced skills are limited in number and difficult to replace. The loss of the services of key officers, managers, engineers and other technical personnel would materially harm our business. Our future success will depend, in part, on our ability to attract, train, retain, and motivate highly qualified technical and managerial personnel. We may not be successful in attracting and retaining such personnel. Our employees are not represented by a collective bargaining organization, and we have never experienced a work stoppage or strike. Our management considers employee relations to be good. As of December 31, 2017, we employed 1,534 employees primarily located in China, India, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, the United States and Europe, compared with 1,417 employees as of December 31, 2016.

Competition

The analog and mixed-signal semiconductor industry is highly competitive, and we expect competitive pressures to continue. Our ability to compete effectively and to expand our business will depend on our ability to continue to recruit both applications engineering and design engineering personnel, our ability to introduce new products, and our ability to maintain the rate at which we introduce these new products. Our industry is characterized by decreasing unit selling prices over the life of a product. We compete with domestic and international semiconductor companies, many of which have substantially greater financial and other resources with which to pursue engineering, manufacturing, marketing, and distribution of their products and, in some cases, have a broader product offerings that may enable them to more effectively market and sell to customers. We are in direct and active competition, with respect to one or more of our product lines, with at least 10 manufacturers of such products, of varying size and financial strength. We consider our primary competitors to include Analog Devices, Infineon Technologies, Intersil (acquired by Renesas Electronics in 2017), Linear Technology (acquired by Analog Devices in 2017), Maxim Integrated Products, NXP Semiconductors (pending acquisition by Qualcomm), ON Semiconductor, Power Integrations, ROHM Semiconductor, Semtech and Texas Instruments.

We expect continued competition from existing competitors as well as competition from new entrants into the semiconductor market. We believe that we are competitive in the markets in which we sell, particularly because our ICs typically are smaller in size, are highly integrated, possess higher levels of power management functionalities and achieve high performance specifications at lower price points than most of our competition. However, there is no assurance that our products will continue to compete favorably or that we will be successful in the face of increasing competition from new products and enhancements introduced by existing competitors or new companies entering this market. In addition, there has recently been a high level of consolidation in the semiconductor industry. If these or future acquisitions are successful, competition may intensify, and our competitors may have additional resources to compete against us.

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Geographical and Segment Information

Please refer to the geographical and segment information in Note 17 to our consolidated financial statements in the section entitled “Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplemental Data.”

Please refer to the discussion of risks related to our foreign operations in the section entitled “Item 1A: Risk Factors.”

Available Information

We were incorporated in California in 1997 and reincorporated in Delaware in November 2004. Our executive offices are located at 79 Great Oaks Boulevard, San Jose, California 95119. Our telephone number is (408) 826-0600. Our e-mail address is investors@monolithicpower.com, and our website is www.monolithicpower.com. Our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those filed or furnished pursuant to Sections 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, are available free of charge. They may be obtained from our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or at the SEC website at www.sec.gov. Information contained on our website is not a part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

Information regarding our executive officers as of March 1, 2018 is as follows:

Name	Age	Position
Michael Hsing	58	President, CEO and Director
Bernie Blegen	60	Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Deming Xiao	55	President of Asia Operations
Maurice Sciammas	58	Senior Vice President of Worldwide Sales and Marketing
Saria Tseng	47	Vice President, Strategic Corporate Development, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

Michael Hsing has served on our Board of Directors and has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer since founding MPS in August 1997. Prior to founding MPS, Mr. Hsing was a Senior Silicon Technology Developer at several analog IC companies, where he developed and patented key technologies, which set new standards in the power electronics industry. Mr. Hsing is an inventor on numerous patents related to the process development of bipolar mixed-signal semiconductor manufacturing. Mr. Hsing holds a B.S.E.E. from the University of Florida.

Bernie Blegen has served as our Chief Financial Officer since July 2016 and is responsible for finance, accounting, tax, treasury and investor relations. From August 2011 to June 2016, Mr. Blegen served as our Corporate Controller. Prior to joining MPS, Mr. Blegen held a number of executive finance and accounting positions for other publicly traded technology companies, including Xilinx, Inc. and Credence Systems. Mr. Blegen is a CPA and holds a B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Deming Xiao has served as our President of Asia Operations since January 2008. Since joining us in May 2001, Mr. Xiao has held several executive positions, including Foundry Manager and Senior Vice President of Operations. Before joining MPS, from June 2000 to May 2001, Mr. Xiao was Engineering Account Manager at Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing, Inc. Prior to that, Mr. Xiao spent six years as the Manager of Process Integration Engineering at Fairchild Imaging Sensors. Mr. Xiao holds a B.S. in Semiconductor Physics from Sichuan University, Chengdu, China and an M.S.E.E. from Wayne State University.

Maurice Sciammas has served as our Senior Vice President of Worldwide Sales and Marketing since 2007. Mr. Sciammas joined MPS in July 1999 and served as Vice President of Products and Vice President of Sales (excluding greater China) until he was appointed to his current position. Before joining MPS, he was Director of IC Products at Supertex from 1990 to 1999. He has also held positions at Micrel, Inc. He holds a B.S.E.E. degree from San Jose State University.

Saria Tseng has served as our Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary since 2004 and additionally as our Vice President, Strategic Corporate Development since 2009. Ms. Tseng joined the Company from MaXXan Systems, Inc., where she was also Vice President and General Counsel from 2001 to 2004. Previously, Ms. Tseng was an attorney at Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich, LLP and Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue. Ms. Tseng is a member of the state bar in both California and New York and is a member of the bar association of the Republic of China (Taiwan). Ms. Tseng currently serves on the Board of Directors of Super Micro Computer, Inc., a global leader in high performance server technology. Ms. Tseng holds Masters of Law degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and the Chinese Culture University in Taipei.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Our business involves numerous risks and uncertainties. You should carefully consider the risks described below, together with all of the other information in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission in evaluating our business. If any of the following risks actually occur, our business, financial condition, operating results, and growth prospects would likely be materially and adversely affected. In such an event, the trading price of our common stock could decline, and you could lose all or part of your investment in our common stock. Our past financial performance should not be considered to be a reliable indicator of future performance, and investors should not use historical trends to anticipate results or trends in future periods. These risks involve forward-looking statements and our actual results may differ substantially from those discussed in these forward-looking statements.

The future trading price of our common stock could be subject to wide fluctuations in response to a variety of factors.

The future trading price of our common stock is likely to be highly volatile and could be subject to wide fluctuations in response to various factors, many of which are beyond our control, including:

- our results of operations and financial performance;
- general economic, industry and market conditions worldwide;
- our ability to outperform the market, and outperform at a level that meets or exceeds our investors' expectations;
- whether our guidance meets the expectations of our investors;
- the depth and liquidity of the market for our common stock;
- developments generally affecting the semiconductor industry;
- commencement of or developments relating to our involvement in litigation;
- investor perceptions of us and our business strategies;
- changes in securities analysts' expectations or our failure to meet those expectations;
- actions by institutional or other large stockholders;
- terrorist acts or acts of war;
- actual or anticipated fluctuations in our results of operations;
- actual or anticipated manufacturing capacity limitations;
- developments with respect to intellectual property rights;
- introduction of new products by us or our competitors;
- our sale of common stock or other securities in the future;
- conditions and trends in technology industries;
- our loss of key customers;
- changes in market valuation or earnings of our competitors;
- any mergers, acquisitions or divestitures of assets undertaken by us;
- government debt default;
- government policies and regulations on international trade restrictions and corporate taxes, including the impact of the tax legislation, commonly referred to as the U.S. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, enacted in December 2017 (the "2017 Tax Act");
- our ability to develop new products, enter new market segments, gain market share, manage litigation risk, diversify our customer base and successfully secure manufacturing capacity;
- our ability to increase our gross margins;

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- market reactions to guidance from other semiconductor companies or third-party research groups;
- market reactions to merger and acquisition activities in the semiconductor industry, and rumors or expectations of further consolidation in the industry;
- investments in sales and marketing resources to enter new markets;
- costs of increasing wafer capacity and qualifying additional third-party wafer fabrication facilities;
- our ability to repurchase shares under our stock repurchase program and pay quarterly cash dividends to stockholders; and,
- changes in the estimation of the future size and growth rate of our markets.

In addition, the stock market often experiences substantial volatility that may be unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies. These broad market fluctuations may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock.

We expect our operating results to fluctuate from quarter to quarter and year over year, which may make it difficult to predict our future performance and could cause our stock price to decline and be volatile.

Our revenue, expenses, and results of operations are difficult to predict, have varied significantly in the past and will continue to fluctuate significantly in the future due to a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control. We expect fluctuations to continue for a number of reasons, including:

- changes in general demand for electronic products as a result of worldwide macroeconomic conditions;
- changes in business conditions at our distributors, value-added resellers and/or end-customers;
- changes in general economic conditions in the countries where our products are sold or used;
- the timing of developments and related expenses in our litigation matters;
- the loss of key customers or our inability to attract new customers due to customer and prospective customer concerns about being litigation targets;
- continued dependence on turns business (orders received and shipped within the same fiscal quarter);
- continued dependence on the Asian markets for our customer base;
- increases in assembly costs due to commodity price increases, such as the price of gold;
- the timing of new product introductions by us and our competitors;
- changes in our revenue mix between original equipment manufacturers (“OEMs”), original design manufacturers (“ODMs”), distributors and value-added resellers;
- changes in product mix, product returns, and actual and potential product liability;
- the acceptance of our new products in the marketplace;
- our ability to develop new process technologies and achieve volume production;
- our ability to meet customer product demand in a timely manner;
- the scheduling, rescheduling, or cancellation of orders by our customers;
- the cyclical nature of demand for our customers’ products;
- fluctuations in our estimate for stock rotation reserves;
- our ability to manage our inventory levels, including the levels of inventory held by our distributors;

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- product obsolescence;
- seasonality and variability in the consumer, computing and storage, industrial, automotive and communications markets;
- the availability of adequate manufacturing capacity from our outside suppliers;
- increases in prices for finished wafers due to general capacity shortages;
- the potential loss of future business resulting from capacity issues;
- changes in manufacturing yields;
- movements in foreign exchange rates, interest rates or tax rates;
- the impact of the 2017 Tax Act on our income tax provision and cash flows; and
- stock-based compensation charges primarily resulting from performance and market-based equity awards granted to our employees.

Due to the factors noted above and other risks described in this section, many of which are beyond our control, you should not rely on quarter-to-quarter or year-over-year comparisons to predict our future financial performance. Unfavorable changes in any of the above factors may seriously harm our business and results of operations, and may cause our stock price to decline and be volatile.

Our business has been and may be significantly impacted by worldwide economic conditions.

In recent years, global credit and financial markets experienced disruptions, and may experience disruptions in the future, including diminished liquidity and credit availability, declines in consumer confidence, declines in economic growth, increases in unemployment rates, and uncertainty about economic stability. Economic uncertainty affects businesses such as ours in a number of ways, making it difficult to accurately forecast and plan our future business activities. The tightening of credit in financial markets may lead consumers and businesses to postpone spending, which may cause our customers to cancel, decrease or delay their existing and future orders with us. In addition, financial difficulties experienced by our suppliers or distributors could result in product delays, increased accounts receivable defaults and inventory challenges. Volatility in the credit markets could severely diminish liquidity and capital availability. Demand for our products is a function of the health of the economies in the United States, Europe, China and the rest of the world. We cannot predict the timing, strength or duration of any economic disruption or subsequent economic recovery worldwide, in the United States, in our industry, or in the different markets that we serve. These and other economic factors have had, and may in the future have, a material adverse effect on demand for our products and on our financial condition and operating results.

We may not be profitable on a quarterly or annual basis.

Our profitability is dependent on many factors, including:

- our sales, which because of our turns business, are difficult to accurately forecast;
- the cancellation or rescheduling of our customers' orders, which may occur without significant penalty to our customers;
- changes in general demand for electronic products as a result of worldwide macroeconomic conditions;
- changes in revenue mix between OEMs, ODMs, distributors and value-added resellers;
- changes in product mix, and actual and potential product liability;
- changes in revenue mix between end market segments (i.e. consumer, computing and storage, industrial, automotive and communications);
- our competition, which could adversely impact our selling prices and our potential sales;
- our manufacturing costs, including our ability to negotiate with our vendors and our ability to efficiently run our test facility in China;

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- manufacturing capacity constraints;
- level of activity in our legal proceedings, which could result in significant legal expenses;
- the impact of the 2017 Tax Act on our income tax provision and cash flows; and,
- stock-based compensation charges primarily resulting from performance and market-based equity awards granted to our employees;
- our operating expenses, including general and administrative expenses, selling and marketing expenses, and research and development expenses relating to products that will not be introduced and will not generate revenue until later periods, if at all.

We may not achieve profitability on a quarterly or annual basis in the future. Unfavorable changes in our operations, including any of the factors noted above, may have a material adverse effect on our quarterly or annual profitability.

We may not experience growth rates comparable to past years.

In the past, our revenue increased significantly in certain years due to increased sales of certain of our products. We are subject to numerous risks and factors that could cause a decrease in our growth rates compared to past periods, including increased competition, loss of certain of our customers, unfavorable changes in our operations, reduced global electronics demand, end-customer market downturn, market acceptance and penetration of our current and future products and litigation. A material decrease in our growth rates could adversely affect our stock price and results of operations.

There can be no assurance that we will continue to declare cash dividends at all or in any particular amounts.

In June 2014, the Board of Directors approved a dividend program pursuant to which we intend to pay quarterly cash dividends on our common stock. The declaration of any future cash dividends is at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend on, among other things, our financial condition, results of operations, capital requirements, business conditions, statutory requirements of Delaware law, compliance with the terms of future indebtedness and credit facilities and other factors that our Board of Directors may deem relevant, as well as a determination that cash dividends are in the best interests of our stockholders. Our dividend payments may change from time to time, and we cannot provide assurance that we will continue to declare dividends at all or in any particular amounts. A reduction in or elimination of our dividend payments could have a negative effect on the price of our common stock.

We may be unsuccessful in developing and selling new products with margins similar to or better than what we have experienced in the past, which would impact our overall gross margin and financial performance.

Our success depends on products that are differentiated in the market, which result in gross margins that have historically been above industry averages. Should we fail to improve our gross margin in the future, and accordingly develop and introduce sufficiently differentiated products that result in higher gross margins than industry averages, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

The highly cyclical nature of the semiconductor industry, which has produced significant and sometimes prolonged downturns, could materially adversely affect our operating results, financial condition and cash flows.

Historically, the semiconductor industry has been highly cyclical and, at various times, has experienced significant downturns and wide fluctuations in supply and demand. These conditions have caused significant variances in product demand and production capacity, as well as rapid erosion of average selling prices. The industry may experience severe or prolonged downturns in the future, which could result in downward pressure on the price of our products as well as lower demand for our products. Because significant portions of our expenses are fixed in the short term or incurred in advance of anticipated sales, we may not be able to decrease our expenses in a timely manner to offset any sales shortfall. These conditions could have a material adverse effect on our operating results, financial condition and cash flows.

Industry consolidation may lead to increased competition and may harm our operating results.

In recent years, there has been a trend toward semiconductor industry consolidation. We expect this trend to continue as companies attempt to improve the leverage of growing research and development costs, strengthen or hold their market positions in an evolving industry, or become unable to continue operations unless they find an acquirer or consolidate with another company. In addition, companies that are strategic alliance partners in some areas of our business may acquire or form alliances with our competitors, thereby reducing their business with us. We believe that semiconductor industry consolidation may result in stronger competitors that are better able to compete as sole-source vendors for customers. This could lead to more variability in our operating results and could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition.

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If demand for our products declines in the major end markets that we serve, our revenue will decrease and our results of operations and financial condition would be materially and adversely affected.

We believe that the application of our products in the consumer, computing and storage, industrial, automotive and communications markets will continue to account for the majority of our revenue. If the demand for our products declines in the major end markets that we serve, our revenue will decrease and our results of operations and financial condition would be materially and adversely affected. In addition, as technology evolves, the ability to integrate the functionalities of various components, including our discrete semiconductor products, onto a single chip and/or onto other components of systems containing our products increases. Should our customers require integrated solutions that we do not offer, demand for our products could decrease, and our business and results of operations would be materially and adversely affected.

We may be unsuccessful in developing and selling new products or in penetrating new markets required to maintain or expand our business.

Our competitiveness and future success depend on our ability to design, develop, manufacture, assemble, test, market, and support new products and enhancements on a timely and cost-effective basis. A fundamental shift in technologies in any of our product markets could have a material adverse effect on our competitive position within these markets. Our failure to timely develop new technologies or to react quickly to changes in existing technologies could materially delay our development of new products, which could result in product obsolescence, decreased revenue, and/or a loss of market share to competitors.

As we develop new product lines, we must adapt to market conditions that are unfamiliar to us, such as competitors and distribution channels that are different from those we have known in the past. Some of our new product lines require us to re-equip our labs to test parameters we have not tested in the past. If we are unable to adapt rapidly to these new and additional conditions, we may not be able to successfully penetrate new markets.

The success of a new product depends on accurate forecasts of long-term market demand and future technological developments, as well as on a variety of specific implementation factors, including:

- timely and efficient completion of process design and device structure improvements;
- timely and efficient implementation of manufacturing, assembly, and test processes;
- the ability to secure and effectively utilize fabrication capacity in different geometries;
- product performance;
- product availability;
- product quality and reliability; and,
- effective marketing, sales and service.

To the extent that we fail to timely introduce new products or to quickly penetrate new markets, our revenue and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

We may face competition from customers developing products internally.

Our customers generally have substantial technological capabilities and financial resources. Some customers have traditionally used these resources to develop their own products internally. The future prospects for our products in these markets are dependent in part upon our customers' acceptance of our products as an alternative to their internally developed products. Future sales prospects also are dependent upon acceptance of third-party sourcing for products as an alternative to in-house development. Customers may in the future continue to use internally developed components. They also may decide to develop or acquire components, technologies or products that are similar to, or that may be substituted for, our products. If our customers fail to accept our products as an alternative, if they develop or acquire the technology to develop such components internally rather than purchase our products, or if we are otherwise unable to develop or maintain strong relationships with them, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

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We derive most of our revenue from direct or indirect sales to customers in Asia and have significant operations in Asia, which may expose us to political, cultural, regulatory, economic, foreign exchange, and operational risks.

We derive most of our revenue from customers located in Asia through direct sales or indirect sales through distribution arrangements and value-added reseller agreements with parties located in Asia. As a result, we are subject to increased risks due to this geographic concentration of business and operations. For the year ended December 31, 2017, 89% of our revenue was from customers in Asia. There are risks inherent in doing business in Asia, and internationally in general, including:

- changes in, or impositions of, legislative or regulatory requirements, including tax laws in the U.S. and in the countries in which we manufacture or sell our products;
- trade restrictions, including restrictions imposed by the United States on trading with parties in foreign countries;
- currency exchange rate fluctuations impacting intra-company transactions;
- the fluctuations in the value of the U.S. Dollar relative to other foreign currencies, which could affect the competitiveness of our products;
- transportation delays;
- changes in tax regulations in China that may impact our tax status in Chengdu, Hangzhou and other regions where we have significant operations;
- multi-tiered distribution channels that lack visibility to end customer pricing and purchase patterns;
- international political relationships and threats of war;
- terrorism and threats of terrorism;
- epidemics and illnesses;
- work stoppages and infrastructure problems due to adverse weather conditions or natural disasters;
- work stoppages related to employee dissatisfaction;
- economic, social and political instability;
- longer accounts receivable collection cycles and difficulties in collecting accounts receivables;
- enforcing contracts generally; and,
- less effective protection of intellectual property and contractual arrangements.

If we fail to expand our customer base and significantly reduce the geographic concentration of our customers, we will continue to be subject to the foregoing risks, which could materially and adversely affect our revenue and financial condition.

We depend on a limited number of customers, including distributors, for a significant percentage of our revenue.

Historically, we have generated most of our revenue from a limited number of customers, including distributors. For example, sales to our largest distributor accounted for 17% of our total revenue for the year ended December 31, 2017. We continue to rely on a limited number of customers for a significant portion of our revenue. Because we rely on a limited number of customers for significant percentages of our revenue, a decrease in demand or significant pricing pressure for our products from any of our major customers for any reason (including due to competition, market conditions, catastrophic events or otherwise) could have a materially adverse impact on our financial conditions and results of operations.

We are subject to anti-corruption laws in the jurisdictions in which we operate, including the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, or the FCPA. Our failure to comply with these laws could result in penalties which could harm our reputation and have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We are subject to the FCPA, which generally prohibits companies and their intermediaries from making improper payments to foreign officials for the purpose of obtaining or keeping business and/or other benefits, along with various other anti-corruption laws. Although we have implemented policies and procedures designed to ensure that we, our employees and other intermediaries comply with the FCPA and other anti-corruption laws to which we are subject, there is no assurance that such policies or procedures will work effectively all of the time or protect us against liability under the FCPA or other laws for actions taken by our employees and other intermediaries with respect to our business or any businesses that we may acquire. We have significant operations in Asia, which places us in frequent contact with persons who may be considered “foreign officials” under the FCPA, resulting in an elevated risk of potential FCPA violations. If we are not in compliance with the FCPA and other laws governing the conduct of business with government entities (including local laws), we may be subject to criminal and civil penalties and other remedial measures, which could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity. Any investigation of any potential violations of the FCPA or other anti-corruption laws by the U.S. or foreign authorities could harm our reputation and have an adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We receive a significant portion of our revenue from distribution arrangements, value-added resellers and direct customers, and the loss of any one of these distributors, value-added resellers or direct customers or failure to collect a receivable from them could adversely affect our operations and financial position.

We market our products through distribution arrangements and value-added resellers and through our direct sales and applications support organization to customers that include OEMs, ODMs and electronic manufacturing service providers (“EMSS”). Receivables from our customers are generally not secured by any type of collateral and are subject to the risk of being uncollectible. Sales to our largest distributor accounted for 17% of our total revenue for the year ended December 31, 2017. Significant deterioration in the liquidity or financial condition of any of our major customers or any group of our customers could have a material adverse impact on the collectability of our accounts receivable and our future operating results. We primarily conduct our sales on a purchase order basis, and we do not have any long-term supply commitments.

Moreover, we believe a high percentage of our products are eventually sold to a number of OEMs. Although we communicate with OEMs in an attempt to achieve “design wins,” which are decisions by OEMs and/or ODMs to incorporate our products, we do not have purchase commitments from these end users. Therefore, there can be no assurance that the OEMs and/or ODMs will continue to incorporate our ICs into their products. OEM technical specifications and requirements can change rapidly, and we may not have products that fit new specifications from an end-customer for whom we have had previous design wins. We cannot be certain that we will continue to achieve design wins from large OEMs, that our direct customers will continue to be successful in selling to the OEMs, or that the OEMs will be successful in selling products which incorporate our ICs. The loss of any significant customer, any material reduction in orders by any of our significant customers or by their OEM customers, the cancellation of a significant customer order, or the cancellation or delay of a customer’s or an OEM’s significant program or product could reduce our revenue and adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

Due to the nature of our business as a component supplier, we may have difficulty both in accurately predicting our future revenue and appropriately managing our expenses.

Because we provide components for end products and systems, demand for our products is influenced by our customers’ end product demand. As a result, we may have difficulty in accurately forecasting our revenue and expenses. Our revenue depends on the timing, size, and speed of commercial introductions of end products and systems that incorporate our products, all of which are inherently difficult to forecast, as well as the ongoing demand for previously introduced end products and systems. In addition, demand for our products is influenced by our customers’ ability to manage their inventory. Our sales to distributors are subject to higher volatility because they service demand from multiple levels of the supply chain which, in itself, is inherently difficult to forecast. If our customers, including distributors, do not manage their inventory correctly or misjudge their customers’ demand, our shipments to and orders from our customers may vary significantly on a quarterly basis.

Our ability to increase product sales and revenue may be constrained by the manufacturing capacity of our suppliers.

Although we provide our suppliers with rolling forecasts of our production requirements, their ability to provide wafers to us is limited by the available capacity, particularly capacity in the geometries we require, at the facilities in which they manufacture wafers for us. As a result, this lack of capacity has at times constrained our product sales and revenue growth. In addition, an increased need for capacity to meet internal demands or demands of other customers could cause our suppliers to reduce capacity available to us. Our suppliers may also require us to pay amounts in excess of contracted or anticipated amounts for wafer deliveries or require us to make other concessions in order to acquire the wafer supply necessary to meet our customer requirements. If our suppliers extend lead times, limit supplies or the types of capacity we require, or increase prices due to capacity constraints or other factors, our revenue and gross margin may materially decline. In addition, if we experience supply delays or limitations, our customers may reduce their purchase levels with us and/or seek alternative solutions to meet their demand, which could materially and adversely impact our business and results of operations. Delays in increasing third-party manufacturing capacity may also limit our ability to meet customer demand.

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We currently depend on third-party suppliers to provide us with wafers for our products. If any of our wafer suppliers become insolvent or capacity constrained and are unable and/or fail to provide us sufficient wafers at acceptable yields and at anticipated costs, our revenue and gross margin may decline or we may not be able to fulfill our customer orders.

We have a supply arrangement with certain suppliers for the production of wafers. Should any of our suppliers become insolvent or capacity constrained, we may not be able to fulfill our customer orders, which would likely cause a decline in our revenue.

While certain aspects of our relationship with these suppliers are contractual, many important aspects of this relationship depend on our suppliers' continued cooperation and our management of the supplier relationships. In addition, the fabrication of ICs is a highly complex and precise process. Problems in the fabrication process can cause a substantial percentage of wafers to be rejected or numerous ICs on each wafer to be non-functional. This could potentially reduce yields. The failure of our suppliers to supply us wafers at acceptable yields could prevent us from fulfilling our customer orders for our products and would likely cause a decline in our revenue.

Further, as is common in the semiconductor industry, our customers may reschedule or cancel orders on relatively short notice. If our customers cancel orders after we submit a committed forecast to our suppliers for the corresponding wafers, we may be required to purchase wafers that we may not be able to resell, which would adversely affect our operating results, financial condition and cash flows.

We might not be able to deliver our products on a timely basis if our relationships with our assembly and test subcontractors are disrupted or terminated.

We do not have direct control over product delivery schedules or product quality because all of our products are assembled by third-party subcontractors and a portion of our testing is currently performed by third-party subcontractors. Also, due to the amount of time typically required to qualify assembly and test subcontractors, we could experience delays in the shipment of our products if we were forced to find alternate third parties to assemble or test our products. In addition, events such as global economic crises may materially impact our assembly suppliers' ability to operate. Any future product delivery delays or disruptions in our relationships with our subcontractors could have a material adverse effect on our operating results, financial condition and cash flows.

There may be unanticipated costs associated with adding to or supplementing our third-party suppliers' manufacturing capacity.

We anticipate that future growth of our business will require increased manufacturing capacity on the part of third-party supply foundries, assembly shops, and testing facilities for our products. In order to facilitate such growth, we may need to enter into strategic transactions, investments and other activities. Such activities are subject to a number of risks, including:

- the costs and expense associated with such activities;
- the availability of modern foundries to be developed, acquired, leased or otherwise made available to us or our third-party suppliers;
- the ability of foundries and our third-party suppliers to obtain the advanced equipment used in the production of our products;
- delays in bringing new foundry operations online to meet increased product demand; and
- unforeseen environmental, engineering or manufacturing qualification problems relating to existing or new foundry facilities, including delays in qualification of new foundries by our customers.

These and other risks may affect the ultimate cost and timing of any expansion of our third-party suppliers' capacity.

We purchase inventory in advance based on expected demand for our products, and if demand is not as expected, we may have insufficient or excess inventory, which could adversely impact our financial position.

As a fabless semiconductor company, we purchase our inventory from third-party manufacturers in advance of selling our products. We place orders with our manufacturers based on existing and expected orders from our customers for particular products. While most of our contracts with our customers and distributors include lead time requirements and cancellation penalties that are designed to protect us from misalignment between customer orders and inventory levels, we must nonetheless make some predictions when we place orders with our manufacturers. In the event that our predictions are inaccurate due to unexpected increases in orders or unavailability of product within the timeframe that is required, we may have insufficient inventory to meet our customer demands. In the event that we order products that we are unable to sell due to a decrease in orders, unexpected order cancellations, injunctions due to patent litigation, or product returns, we may have excess inventory which, if not sold, may need to be written down or would result in a decrease in our revenue in future periods as the excess inventory at our distributors is sold. If any of these situations were to arise, it could have a material impact on our business and financial position.

The 2017 Tax Act is expected to have significant effects on our income tax expense, which could result in a material adverse impact on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

In December 2017, the 2017 Tax Act was enacted and includes a broad range of tax reforms, including changes to corporate tax rates, business deductions and international tax provisions. Many of these provisions significantly differ from prior U.S. tax law, resulting in material tax accounting implications for us. Some of the significant new requirements include, but are not limited to, a one-time mandatory deemed repatriation transition tax on previously deferred foreign earnings, a remeasurement of our deferred taxes due to the change in the corporate tax rate, taxation of certain global intangible low-taxed income under the international tax provisions, and limitations on the deductibility of performance-based compensation for officers. Some of these provisions, such as the deemed repatriation transition tax and remeasurement of deferred tax assets, had immediate accounting implications which resulted in a significant increase in our tax expenses for the year ended December 31, 2017. As we continue to evaluate the potential implications of the 2017 Tax Act on our financial statements, any increase in our income tax expense in future periods could have a material negative impact on our results of operations. In addition, the deemed repatriation transition tax liability, which will be payable over eight years, will adversely impact our cash flows and financial condition in future periods. Any changes to our corporate tax planning and strategies as a result of the 2017 Tax Act may not result in a favorable impact on our income tax expense in future periods.

The calculation of the tax impact and exposures under the 2017 Tax Act is complex. It requires the collection of information not regularly produced by us, the use of estimates and the exercise of significant judgment in determining our tax provision. As regulations and guidance evolve with respect to the 2017 Tax Act, and as we gather more information and perform more analysis, our results may differ from previous estimates and may materially affect our financial position. Furthermore, we will need to evaluate whether changes to our existing processes and controls are necessary to address the financial reporting effects. If we fail to correctly interpret the tax law or implement effective internal controls on gathering, analyzing and reviewing data used in our calculations, our income tax provision could be misstated, which could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations and financial condition.

The complexity of calculating our tax provision may result in errors that could result in restatements of our financial statements.

Due to the complexity associated with the calculation of our tax provision, including the effects of the 2017 Tax Act, we engage third-party tax advisors to assist us in the calculation. If we or our tax advisors fail to resolve or fully understand certain issues that we may have had in the past and issues that may arise in the future, we could be subject to errors, which, if material, would result in us having to restate our financial statements. Restatements are generally costly and could adversely impact our results of operations, damage our reputation, and/or have a negative impact on the trading price of our common stock.

Changes in effective tax rates or adverse outcomes resulting from examination of our income tax returns could adversely affect our results.

Our future effective tax rates could be adversely affected by earnings being lower than anticipated in countries where we have lower statutory rates and higher than anticipated in countries where we have higher statutory rates, by changes in the valuation of our deferred tax assets and liabilities, or by changes in tax laws such as the 2017 Tax Act, regulations, accounting principles or interpretations thereof and discrete items such as future exercises or dispositions of stock options and restricted stock releases. In addition, we are subject to potential future examinations of our income tax returns by the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) and other tax authorities. For example, our U.S. federal income tax returns for the years ended December 31, 2005 through December 31, 2007 were examined by the IRS. We reached a resolution with the IRS in April 2015 and recorded a one-time net charge of \$2.7 million to our income tax provision in the second quarter of 2015. We assess the likelihood of adverse outcomes resulting from these examinations to determine the adequacy of our provision for income taxes. There can be no assurance that the outcomes from any examinations will not have an adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition.

Implementation of an enterprise resource planning (“ERP”) or other information technology systems could result in significant disruptions to our operations.

From time to time, we may implement new ERP software solutions or upgrade existing systems. Implementation of these solutions and systems is highly dependent on coordination of system providers and internal business teams. We may experience difficulties as we transition to these new or upgraded systems and processes, including loss or corruption of financial, business or customer data. In addition, transitioning to these new systems requires significant capital investments and personnel resources. Difficulties in implementing new or upgraded information systems or significant system failures could disrupt our operations, which could have a material adverse effect on our capital resources, financial condition or results of operations.

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System security risks, data protection or privacy breaches, cyber attacks and systems integration issues could disrupt our internal operations and/or harm our reputation, and any such disruption or harm could cause a reduction in our expected revenue, increase our expenses, negatively impact our results of operation or otherwise adversely affect our stock price.

Experienced computer programmers and hackers may be able to penetrate our network security and misappropriate or compromise our confidential and proprietary information, create system disruptions or cause shutdowns. The costs to us to eliminate or alleviate cyber or other security problems, bugs, viruses, worms, malicious software programs and security vulnerabilities could be significant, and our efforts to address these problems may not be successful and could result in interruptions and delays that may impede our sales, manufacturing, distribution or other critical functions.

In the ordinary course of business, we store sensitive data on our internal systems, network and servers, such as proprietary business and financial information, and confidential data pertaining to our customers, suppliers and business partners. The secure maintenance of sensitive information on our networks and the protection features of our solutions are both critical to our operations and business strategy. We devote significant resources to network security, data encryption, and other security measures to protect our systems and data. However, these security measures cannot provide absolute security. Although we make significant efforts to maintain the security and integrity of our systems and solutions, any destructive or intrusive breach could compromise our networks, creating system disruptions or slowdowns, and the information stored on our networks could be accessed, publicly disclosed, lost or stolen. If any of these types of security breaches were to occur and we were unable to protect sensitive data, our relationships with our business partners and customers could be materially damaged, our reputation could be materially harmed, and we could be exposed to a risk of litigation and possible significant liability.

Portions of our IT infrastructure also may experience interruptions, delays or cessations of service or produce errors in connection with systems integration or migration work that takes place from time to time. We may not be successful in implementing new systems and transitioning data, which could cause business disruptions and our remediation efforts may be expensive, time consuming, disruptive and resource-intensive. Such disruptions could adversely impact our ability to fulfill orders and interrupt other processes. Delayed sales or lost customers resulting from these disruptions could adversely affect our financial results, stock price and reputation.

If we are unsuccessful in legal proceedings brought against us or any of our customers, we could be prevented from selling many of our products and/or be required to pay substantial damages. An unfavorable outcome or an additional award of damages, attorneys' fees or an injunction could cause our revenue to decline significantly and could severely harm our business and operating results.

From time to time we are a party to various legal proceedings. If we are not successful in litigation that could be brought against us or our customers, we could be ordered to pay monetary fines and/or damages. If we are found liable for willful patent infringement, damages could be significant. We and/or our customers could also be prevented from selling some or all of our products. Moreover, our customers and end-users could decide not to use our products, and our products and our customers' accounts payable to us could be seized. Finally, interim developments in these proceedings could increase the volatility in our stock price as the market assesses the impact of such developments on the likelihood that we will or will not ultimately prevail in these proceedings.

Given our inability to control the timing and nature of significant events in our legal proceedings that either have arisen or may arise, our legal expenses are difficult to forecast and may vary substantially from our publicly disclosed forecasts with respect to any given quarter, which could contribute to increased volatility in our stock price and financial condition.

Historically, we have incurred significant expenses in connection with various legal proceedings that vary with the level of activity in the proceeding. It is difficult for us to forecast our legal expenses for any given quarter, which adversely affects our ability to forecast our expected results of operations in general. We may also be subject to unanticipated legal proceedings, which would result in us incurring unexpected legal expenses. If we fail to meet the expectations of securities or industry analysts as a result of unexpected changes in our legal expenses, our stock price could be materially impacted.

Future legal proceedings may divert our financial and management resources.

The semiconductor industry is characterized by frequent claims of infringement and litigation regarding patent and other intellectual property rights. Patent infringement is an ongoing risk, in part because other companies in our industry could have patent rights that may not be identifiable when we initiate development efforts. Litigation may be necessary to enforce our intellectual property rights, and we may have to defend ourselves against additional infringement claims. Such litigation is very costly. In the event any third party makes a new infringement claim against us or our customers, we could incur additional ongoing legal expenses. In addition, in connection with these legal proceedings, we may be required to post bonds to defend our intellectual property rights in certain countries for an indefinite period of time, until such dispute is resolved. If our legal expenses materially increase or exceed anticipated amounts, our capital resources and financial condition could be adversely affected. Further, if we are not successful in any of our intellectual property defenses, our financial condition could be adversely affected and our business could be harmed. Our management team may also be required to devote a great deal of time, effort and energy to these legal proceedings, which could divert management's attention from focusing on our operations and adversely affect our business.

Failure to protect our proprietary technologies or maintain the right to certain technologies may negatively affect our ability to compete.

We rely heavily on our proprietary technologies. Our future success and competitive position depend in part upon our ability to obtain and maintain protection of certain proprietary technologies used in our products. We pursue patents for some of our new products and unique technologies, and we also rely on a combination of nondisclosure agreements and other contractual provisions, as well as our employees' commitment to confidentiality and loyalty, to protect our technology, know-how and processes. Despite the precautions we take, it may be possible for unauthorized third parties to copy aspects of our current or future technologies or products, or to obtain and use information that we regard as proprietary. We intend to continue to protect our proprietary technologies, including through patents. However, there can be no assurance that the steps we take will be adequate to protect our proprietary rights, that our patent applications will lead to issued patents, that others will not develop or patent similar or superior products or technologies, or that our patents will not be challenged, invalidated or circumvented by others. Furthermore, the laws of the countries in which our products are or may be developed, manufactured or sold may not protect our products and intellectual property rights to the same extent as laws in the United States. Our failure to adequately protect our proprietary technologies could materially harm our business.

The market for government-backed student loan auction-rate securities has suffered a decline in liquidity which may impact the liquidity and potential value of our investment portfolio.

The market for government-backed student loan auction-rate securities became illiquid in 2008. Since 2008, we have redeemed 87% of the original portfolio of our auction-rate securities at par and continue to hold \$5.6 million in principal amount as of December 31, 2017. It is unclear as to when the remaining balance of our auction-rate securities will regain their liquidity. The underlying maturity of these auction-rate securities is up to 30 years. We have historically recorded temporary and other-than-temporary impairment charges on these investments. The valuation is subject to fluctuations in the future, which will depend on many factors, including the quality of underlying collateral, estimated time for liquidity including potential to be called or restructured, underlying final maturity, insurance guaranty and market conditions, among others. Should there be further deterioration in the market for auction-rate securities, the value of our portfolio may decline, which may have an adverse impact on our cash position and our earnings. If the accounting rules for these securities change, there may be an adverse impact on our earnings.

We face risks in connection with our internal control over financial reporting.

Effective internal control over financial reporting is necessary for us to provide reliable and accurate financial reports. If we cannot provide reliable financial reports or prevent fraud or other financial misconduct, our business and operating results could be harmed. Our failure to implement and maintain effective internal control over financial reporting could result in a material misstatement of our financial statements or otherwise cause us to fail to meet our financial reporting obligations. This, in turn, could result in a loss of investor confidence in the accuracy and completeness of our financial reports, which could have an adverse effect on our results of operations and/or have a negative impact on the trading price of our common stock, and could subject us to stockholder litigation. In addition, we cannot assure you that we will not in the future identify material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting that we have not discovered to date, which may impact the reliability of our financial reporting and financial statements.

Our products must meet specifications, and undetected defects and failures may occur, which may cause customers to return or stop buying our products and may expose us to product liability risk.

Our customers generally establish demanding specifications for quality, performance, and reliability that our products must meet. ICs as complex as ours often encounter development delays and may contain undetected defects or failures when first introduced or after commencement of commercial shipments, which might require product replacement or recall. Further, our third-party manufacturing processes or changes thereof, or raw material used in the manufacturing processes may cause our products to fail. We have from time to time in the past experienced product quality, performance or reliability problems. Our standard warranty period is generally one to two years, which exposes us to significant risks of claims for defects and failures. If defects and failures occur in our products, we could experience lost revenue, increased costs, including warranty expense and costs associated with customer support, cancellations or rescheduling of orders or shipments, and product returns or discounts, any of which would harm our operating results.

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In addition, product liability claims may be asserted with respect to our technology or products. Although we currently have insurance, there can be no assurance that we have obtained a sufficient amount of insurance coverage, that asserted claims will be within the scope of coverage of the insurance, or that we will have sufficient resources to satisfy any asserted claims.

The price and availability of commodities (e.g., gold, copper and silicon) may adversely impact our ability to deliver our products in a timely and cost-effective manner, and may adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Our products incorporate commodities such as gold, copper and silicon. An increase in the price or a decrease in the availability of these commodities and similar commodities that we use could negatively impact our business and results of operations.

Fluctuations in the value of the U.S. Dollar relative to other foreign currencies, including the Renminbi, may adversely affect results of operations.

Our manufacturing and packaging suppliers are and will continue to be primarily located in China for the foreseeable future. If the value of the Renminbi rises against the U.S. Dollar, there could be an increase in our manufacturing costs relative to competitors who have manufacturing facilities located in the U.S., which could adversely affect our operations. In addition, our sales are primarily denominated in the U.S. Dollar. If the value of the U.S. Dollar rises against other currencies, it may adversely affect the demand for our products in international markets, which could negatively impact our business and results of operations.

We incur foreign currency exchange gains or losses related to the timing of payments for transactions between the U.S. and our foreign subsidiaries, which are reported in interest and other income in the statements of operations. Fluctuations in the value of the U.S. Dollar relative to the foreign currencies could increase the amount of foreign currency exchange losses we record, which could have an adverse impact on our results of operations.

Our business is subject to various governmental laws and regulations, and compliance with these regulations may impact our revenue and cause us to incur significant expense. If we fail to maintain compliance with applicable regulations, we may be forced to recall products and cease their distribution, and we could be subject to civil or criminal penalties.

Our business is subject to various significant laws and other legal requirements imposed by the U.S. and other countries we conduct business with, including export control laws such as the U.S. Export Administration Regulations. These laws and regulations are complex, change frequently and have generally become more stringent over time. We may be required to incur significant expense to comply with these regulations or to remedy violations of these regulations. In addition, if our customers fail to comply with these regulations, we may be required to suspend sales to these customers, which could negatively impact our results of operations. We must conform the manufacture and distribution of our products to various laws and adapt to regulatory requirements in many countries as these requirements change. If we fail to comply with these requirements in the manufacture or distribution of our products, we could be required to pay civil penalties, face criminal prosecution and, in some cases, be prohibited from distributing our products commercially until the products are brought into compliance.

Environmental laws and regulations could cause a disruption in our business and operations.

We are subject to various state, federal and international laws and regulations governing the environment, including those restricting the presence of certain substances in electronic products and making manufacturers of those products financially responsible for the collection, treatment, recycling and disposal of certain products. Such laws and regulations have been passed in several jurisdictions in which we operate, including various European Union member countries and countries in Asia. There can be no assurance that similar laws and regulations will not be implemented in other jurisdictions resulting in additional costs, possible delays in delivering products, and even the discontinuance of existing and planned future product replacements if the cost were to become prohibitive.

We and our manufacturing partners are or will be subject to extensive Chinese government regulation, and the benefit of various incentives from Chinese governments that we and our manufacturing partners receive may be reduced or eliminated, which could increase our costs or limit our ability to sell products and conduct activities in China.

We have manufacturing and testing facilities in China and most of our manufacturing partners are located in China. The Chinese government has broad discretion and authority to regulate the technology industry in China. Additionally, China's government has implemented policies from time to time to regulate economic expansion in China. It exercises significant control over China's economic growth through the allocation of resources, controlling payment of foreign currency-denominated obligations, setting monetary policy and providing preferential treatment to particular industries or companies.

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Personal privacy, cyber security, and data protection are becoming increasingly significant issues in China. To address these issues, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress promulgated the Cyber Security Law of the People's Republic of China (the "Cyber Security Law"), which took effect on June 1, 2017. The Cyber Security Law sets forth various requirements relating to the collection, use, storage, disclosure and security of data, among other things. Various Chinese agencies are expected to issue additional regulations in the future to define these requirements more precisely. These requirements may increase our costs of compliance. We cannot assure you that we will be able to comply with all of these regulatory requirements. Any failure to comply with the Cyber Security Law and the relevant regulations and policies could result in further cost and liability to us and could adversely affect our business and results of operations. Additionally, increased costs to comply with, and other burdens imposed by, the Cyber Security Law and relevant regulations and policies that are applicable to the businesses of our suppliers, vendors and other service providers, as well as our customers, could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Any additional new regulations or the amendment or modification of previously implemented regulations could require us and our manufacturing partners to change our business plans, increase our costs, or limit our ability to sell products and conduct activities in China, which could adversely affect our business and operating results.

The Chinese government and provincial and local governments also have provided, and continue to provide, various incentives to encourage the development of the semiconductor industry in China. Such incentives include tax rebates, reduced tax rates, favorable lending policies and other measures, some or all of which may be available to our manufacturing partners and to us with respect to our facilities in China. Any of these incentives could be reduced or eliminated by governmental authorities at any time. Any such reduction or elimination of incentives currently provided to our manufacturing partners could adversely affect our business and operating results.

There are inherent risks associated with the operation of our manufacturing and testing facilities in China, which could increase product costs or cause a delay in product shipments.

We have manufacturing and testing facilities in China that began operations in 2006. We face the following risks, among others, with respect to our operations in China:

- inability to hire and maintain a qualified workforce;
- inability to maintain appropriate and acceptable manufacturing controls; and,
- higher than anticipated overhead and other costs of operation.

If we are unable to maintain our facilities in China at fully operational status with qualified workers, appropriate manufacturing controls and reasonable cost levels, we may incur higher costs than our current expense levels, which would affect our gross margins. In addition, if capacity restraints result in significant delays in product shipments, our business and results of operations would be adversely affected.

The average selling prices of products in our markets have historically decreased over time and could do so in the future, which could harm our revenue and gross profits.

Average selling prices of semiconductor products in the markets we serve have historically decreased over time. Our gross profits and financial results will suffer if we are unable to offset any reductions in our average selling prices by reducing our costs, developing new or enhanced products on a timely basis with higher selling prices or gross profits, or increasing our sales volumes. Additionally, because we do not operate our own wafer manufacturing or assembly facilities, we may not be able to reduce our costs as rapidly as companies that operate their own facilities, and our costs may even increase, which could also reduce our profit margins.

Because of the lengthy sales cycles for our products and the fixed nature of a significant portion of our expenses, we may incur substantial expenses before we earn associated revenue and may not ultimately achieve our forecasted sales for our products.

The introduction of new products presents significant business challenges because product development plans and expenditures may be made up to two years or more in advance of any sales. It generally takes us up to 12 months or more to design and manufacture a new product prototype. Only after we have a prototype do we introduce the product to the market and begin selling efforts in an attempt to achieve design wins. This sales process requires us to expend significant sales and marketing resources without any assurance of success. Volume production of products that use our ICs, if any, may not be achieved for an additional period of time after an initial sale. Sales cycles for our products are lengthy for a number of reasons, including:

- our customers usually complete an in-depth technical evaluation of our products before they place a purchase order;

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- the commercial adoption of our products by OEMs and ODMs is typically limited during the initial release of their product to evaluate product performance and consumer demand;
- our products must be designed into our customers' products or systems; and,
- the development and commercial introduction of our customers' products incorporating new technologies frequently are delayed.

As a result of our lengthy sales cycles, we may incur substantial expenses before we earn associated revenue because a significant portion of our operating expenses is relatively fixed and based on expected revenue. The lengthy sales cycles of our products also make forecasting the volume and timing of orders difficult. In addition, the delays inherent in lengthy sales cycles raise additional risks that customers may cancel or change their orders. Our sales are made by purchase orders. Because industry practice allows customers to reschedule or cancel orders on relatively short notice, backlog is not always a good indicator of our future sales. If customer cancellations or product changes occur, we could lose anticipated sales and not have sufficient time to reduce our inventory and operating expenses.

Our success depends on our investment of significant resources in research and development. We may have to invest more resources in research and development than anticipated, which could increase our operating expenses and negatively impact our operating results.

Our success depends on us investing significant amounts of resources into research and development. We expect to have to continue to invest heavily in research and development in the future in order to continue to innovate and introduce new products in a timely manner and increase our revenue and profitability. If we have to invest more resources in research and development than we anticipate, we could see an increase in our operating expenses which may negatively impact our operating results. Also, if we are unable to properly manage and effectively utilize our research and development resources, we could see material adverse effects on our business, financial condition and operating results.

In addition, if new competitors, technological advances by existing competitors, our entry into new markets, or other competitive factors require us to invest significantly greater resources than anticipated in our research and development efforts, our operating expenses would increase. If we are required to invest significantly greater resources than anticipated in research and development efforts without a corresponding increase in revenue, our operating results could decline. Research and development expenses are likely to fluctuate from time to time to the extent we make periodic incremental investments in research and development and these investments may be independent of our level of revenue, which could negatively impact our financial results. In order to remain competitive, we anticipate that we will continue to devote substantial resources to research and development, and we expect these expenses to increase in absolute dollars in the foreseeable future due to the increased complexity and the greater number of products under development.

The loss of any of our key personnel or the failure to attract or retain specialized technical and management personnel could affect our operations or impair our ability to grow our business.

Our future success depends upon our ability to attract and retain highly qualified technical and managerial personnel. We are particularly dependent on the continued services of our key executives, including Michael Hsing, our President and Chief Executive Officer, who founded our company and developed our proprietary process technology. In addition, personnel with highly skilled analog and mixed-signal design engineering expertise are scarce and competition for personnel with these skills is intense. There can be no assurance that we will be able to retain existing key employees or that we will be successful in attracting, integrating or retaining other highly qualified personnel with critical capabilities in the future. If we are unable to retain the services of existing key employees or are unsuccessful in attracting new highly qualified employees quickly enough to meet the demands of our business, including design cycles, our business could be harmed. Furthermore, if we lose key personnel, the search for a qualified replacement and the transition could interrupt our operations as the search could take us longer than expected and divert management resources, and the newly hired employee could take longer than expected to integrate into the team.

If we fail to retain key employees in our sales, applications, finance and legal staff or to make continued improvements to our internal systems, particularly in the accounting and finance area, our business may suffer.

If we fail to continue to adequately staff our sales, applications, financial and legal staff, maintain or upgrade our business systems and maintain internal control that meet the demands of our business, our ability to operate effectively will suffer. The operation of our business also depends upon our ability to retain these employees, as these employees hold a significant amount of institutional knowledge about us and our products, and, if they were to terminate their employment, our sales and internal control over financial reporting could be adversely affected.

We intend to continue to expand our operations, which may strain our resources and increase our operating expenses.

We plan to continue to expand our domestic and foreign operations through internal growth, strategic relationships, and/or acquisitions. We expect that any such expansion will strain our systems and operational and financial controls. In addition, we are likely to incur significantly higher operating costs. To manage our growth effectively, we must continue to improve and expand our systems and controls, as well as hire experienced administrative and financial personnel. If we fail to do so, our growth will be limited. If we fail to effectively manage our planned expansion of operations, our business and operating results may be harmed.

We may not realize the anticipated benefits of any company or business that we acquire. In addition, acquisitions could result in diluting the ownership interests of our stockholders, reduce our cash balances, and cause us to incur debt or to assume contingent liabilities, which could adversely affect our business. We may also be the target of strategic transactions, which could divert our management's attention and otherwise disrupt our operations and adversely affect our business.

As a part of our business strategy, from time to time we review acquisition prospects that would complement our current product offerings, enhance our design capability or offer other competitive opportunities. As a result of completing acquisitions, we could use a significant portion of our available cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments, issue equity securities that would dilute current stockholders' percentage ownership, incur substantial debt or contingent liabilities, or incur impairment charges related to goodwill or other acquisition-related intangibles. Such actions could impact our operating results and the price of our common stock.

In addition, we may be unable to identify or complete prospective acquisitions for various reasons, including competition from other companies in the semiconductor industry, the valuation expectations of acquisition candidates and applicable antitrust laws or related regulations. If we are unable to identify and complete acquisitions, we may not be able to successfully expand our business and product offerings.

We cannot guarantee that any future acquisitions will improve our results of operations or that we will otherwise realize the anticipated benefits of any acquisitions. In addition, if we are unsuccessful in integrating any acquired company or business into our operations or if integration is more difficult than anticipated, we may experience disruptions that could harm our business and result in our failure to realize the anticipated benefits of the acquisitions. Some of the risks that may adversely affect our ability to integrate or realize any anticipated benefits from the acquired companies, businesses or assets include those associated with:

- unexpected losses of key employees or customers of the acquired companies or businesses;
- conforming the acquired company's standards, processes, procedures and controls with our operations;
- coordinating new product and process development;
- hiring additional management and other critical personnel;
- increasing the scope, geographic diversity and complexity of our operations;
- difficulties in consolidating facilities and transferring processes and know-how;
- difficulties in the assimilation of acquired operations, technologies or products;
- the risk of undisclosed liabilities of the acquired businesses and potential legal disputes with founders or stockholders of acquired companies;
- our inability to commercialize acquired technologies;
- the risk that the future business potential as projected is not realized and as a result, we may be required to take a charge to earnings that would impact our profitability;
- the need to take impairment charges or write-downs with respect to acquired assets and technologies;
- difficulties in assessing the fair value of earn-out arrangements;
- diversion of management's attention from other business concerns; and
- adverse effects on existing business relationships with customers.

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In addition, third parties may be interested in acquiring us. We will consider and discuss such transactions as we deem appropriate. Such potential transactions may divert the attention of management, and cause us to incur various costs and expenses in investigating and evaluating such transactions, whether or not they are consummated.

If we issue additional shares of stock in the future, it may have a dilutive effect on our stockholders.

We may issue additional shares of common stock in the future in order to raise additional capital to fund our global operations or in connection with an acquisition. We also issue restricted stock units to employees, which convert into shares of common stock upon vesting. Any issuance of our common stock may result in immediate dilution of our stockholders. In addition, the issuance of a significant amount of our common stock may result in additional regulatory requirements, such as stockholder approval.

We compete against many companies with substantially greater financial and other resources, and our market share may be reduced if we are unable to respond to our competitors effectively.

The analog and mixed-signal semiconductor industry is highly competitive, and we expect competitive pressures to continue. Our ability to compete effectively and to expand our business will depend on our ability to continue to recruit applications and design talent, our ability to introduce new products, and our ability to maintain the rate at which we introduce these new products. We compete with domestic and non-domestic semiconductor companies, many of which have substantially greater financial and other resources with which to pursue engineering, manufacturing, marketing, and distribution of their products. We are in direct and active competition, with respect to one or more of our product lines, with many manufacturers of such products, of varying size and financial strength. The number of our competitors has grown due to the expansion of the market segments in which we participate.

We cannot assure you that our products will continue to compete favorably, or that we will be successful in the face of increasing competition from new products and enhancements introduced by existing competitors or new companies entering this market, which would materially and adversely affect our results of operations and our financial condition.

If securities or industry analysts downgrade our stock or do not continue to publish research or reports about our business, our stock price and trading volume could decline.

The trading market for our common stock will depend, in part, on the research and reports that industry or securities analysts publish about us or our business. We do not have any control over these analysts. If one or more of the analysts who cover us downgrade our stock, our stock price would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts cease coverage of us or fail to regularly publish reports on us, we could lose visibility in the financial markets, which in turn could cause our stock price or trading volume to decline.

Major earthquakes or other natural disasters and resulting systems outages may cause us significant losses.

Our corporate headquarters, the production facilities of our third-party wafer suppliers, our IC testing and manufacturing facilities, a portion of our assembly and research and development activities, and certain other critical business operations are located in or near seismically active regions and are subject to periodic earthquakes. We do not maintain earthquake insurance and could be materially and adversely affected in the event of a major earthquake. Much of our revenue, as well as our manufacturers and assemblers, are concentrated in Asia, particularly in China. Such concentration increases the risk that other natural disasters, labor strikes, terrorism, war, political unrest, epidemics, and/or health advisories could disrupt our operations. In addition, we rely heavily on our internal information and communications systems and on systems or support services from third parties to manage our operations efficiently and effectively. Any of these are subject to failure due to a natural disaster or other disruption. System-wide or local failures that affect our information processing could have material adverse effects on our business, financial condition, operating results and cash flows.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

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ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

The following table summarizes our primary properties as of December 31, 2017:

Location	Approximate Building Square Footage	Primary Use
Owned:		
San Jose, California	106,000	Corporate headquarters, research and development, sales and marketing
Chengdu, China	150,000	Research and development, administrative offices
Chengdu, China	60,000	Testing and manufacturing
Hangzhou, China	68,000	Research and development
Shanghai, China	23,000	Sales and marketing
Shenzhen, China	8,000	Sales and marketing
Taipei, Taiwan	47,000	Sales and marketing, research and development
Leased:		
Chengdu, China	45,000	Inventory storage warehouse
Hangzhou, China	34,000	Research and development
Seattle, Washington	9,000	Sales and marketing, research and development

We also lease other sales and research and development offices in China, India, Japan, Korea, Singapore, the United States and Europe. We believe that our existing facilities are adequate for our current operations.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are a party to actions and proceedings in the ordinary course of business, including potential litigation initiated by our shareholders, challenges to the enforceability or validity of our intellectual property, claims that our products infringe on the intellectual property rights of others, and employment matters. These proceedings often involve complex questions of fact and law and may require the expenditure of significant funds and the diversion of other resources to prosecute and defend. We defend ourselves vigorously against any such claims.

As of December 31, 2017, there were no material pending legal proceedings to which we were a party.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

PART II**ITEM 5. Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities.****Market Price of Our Common Stock**

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol “MPWR.” The following table sets forth the high and low sales price per share of our common stock:

	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
2017:		
First quarter	\$ 94.49	\$ 81.84
Second quarter	\$ 103.92	\$ 88.19
Third quarter	\$ 107.87	\$ 94.24
Fourth quarter	\$ 126.80	\$ 105.01
2016:		
First quarter	\$ 63.64	\$ 56.21
Second quarter	\$ 70.75	\$ 60.93
Third quarter	\$ 80.50	\$ 66.11
Fourth quarter	\$ 85.43	\$ 76.44

Holders of Our Common Stock

As of February 21, 2018, there were nine registered holders of record of our common stock. A substantially greater number of holders of our common stock are “street name” or beneficial holders, whose shares are held by banks, brokers and other financial institutions.

Dividend Policy

In June 2014, our Board of Directors approved a dividend program pursuant to which we intend to pay quarterly cash dividends on our common stock. Based on our historical practice, stockholders of record as of the last business day of the quarter are entitled to receive the quarterly cash dividends when and if declared by our Board of Directors, which are payable to the stockholders in the following month. Our Board of Directors declared the following cash dividends:

	<u>Dividend Declared per Share</u>	<u>Total Amount</u> (in thousands)
2017:		
First quarter	\$ 0.20	\$ 8,248
Second quarter	\$ 0.20	\$ 8,273
Third quarter	\$ 0.20	\$ 8,301
Fourth quarter	\$ 0.20	\$ 8,323
2016:		
First quarter	\$ 0.20	\$ 8,047
Second quarter	\$ 0.20	\$ 8,096
Third quarter	\$ 0.20	\$ 8,132
Fourth quarter	\$ 0.20	\$ 8,159

In February 2018, our Board of Directors approved an increase in our quarterly cash dividends from \$0.20 per share to \$0.30 per share, effective for the first quarter of 2018.

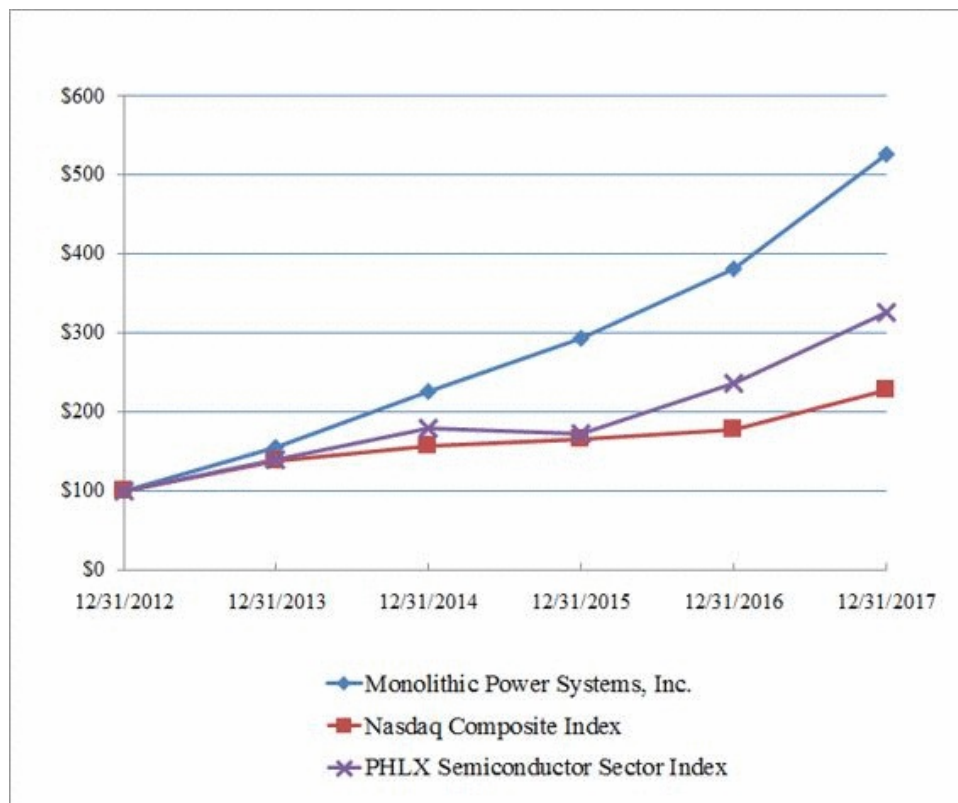
The declaration of any future cash dividends is at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend on, among other things, our financial condition, results of operations, capital requirements, business conditions, statutory requirements of Delaware law, compliance with the terms of future indebtedness and credit facilities and other factors that our Board of Directors may deem relevant, as well as a determination that cash dividends are in the best interests of the stockholders.

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We anticipate that cash used for future dividend payments will come from our current domestic cash and cash generated from ongoing U.S. operations. In addition, we currently plan to repatriate cash from our Bermuda subsidiary on an ongoing basis to fund future dividends and continue to indefinitely reinvest our earnings from other foreign subsidiaries. See Note 12 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements under Item 8 for further discussion.

Stock Performance Graph

The following graph compares the cumulative five-year total return on our common stock relative to the cumulative total returns of the Nasdaq Composite Index and the PHLX Semiconductor Sector Index. An investment of \$100 is assumed to have been made in our common stock on December 31, 2012 and its relative performance is tracked through December 31, 2017, assuming the reinvestment of dividends. Historic stock performance is not indicative of future performance.



The information contained in this stock performance graph section shall not be deemed to be “soliciting material,” or “filed” or incorporated by reference in future filings with the SEC, or subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent that we specifically incorporate it by reference into a document filed under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers

In February 2016, the Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase program that authorized us to repurchase up to \$50 million in the aggregate of our common stock through December 31, 2016. In December 2016, the Board of Directors approved an extension of the program through December 31, 2017. Under the program, shares may be repurchased in privately negotiated or open market transactions, including under plans complying with Rule 10b5-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

For the three months and year ended December 31, 2017, we did not repurchase any shares under the program. The program expired on December 31, 2017 with a remaining unused balance of \$50 million.

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following selected consolidated financial data should be read in conjunction with "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and the consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K to fully understand factors that may affect the comparability of the information presented below. We derived the selected consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the consolidated statement of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 from our audited consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, and the consolidated statement of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 are derived from our audited consolidated financial statements which are not included in this report. Operating results for any year are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for any future periods.

Consolidated Statement of Operations Data:

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
	(in thousands, except per share amounts)				
Revenue	\$ 470,929	\$ 388,665	\$ 333,067	\$ 282,535	\$ 238,091
Cost of revenue	212,646	177,792	152,898	129,917	110,190
Gross profit	258,283	210,873	180,169	152,618	127,901
Operating expenses:					
Research and development	82,359	73,643	65,787	58,590	49,733
Selling, general and administrative	97,257	83,012	72,312	66,755	54,624
Litigation expense (benefit), net	1,243	(229)	1,000	(8,027)	(371)
Total operating expenses	180,859	156,426	139,099	117,318	103,986
Income from operations	77,424	54,447	41,070	35,300	23,915
Interest and other income, net	5,520	2,817	1,421	1,092	92
Income before income taxes	82,944	57,264	42,491	36,392	24,007
Income tax provision	17,741	4,544	7,319	897	1,109
Net income	<u>\$ 65,203</u>	<u>\$ 52,720</u>	<u>\$ 35,172</u>	<u>\$ 35,495</u>	<u>\$ 22,898</u>
Net income per share:					
Basic	\$ 1.58	\$ 1.30	\$ 0.89	\$ 0.92	\$ 0.61
Diluted	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.26	\$ 0.86	\$ 0.89	\$ 0.59
Weighted-average shares outstanding:					
Basic	41,350	40,436	39,470	38,686	37,387
Diluted	43,578	41,915	40,869	39,793	38,620
Cash dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.45	\$ -

Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:

	December 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
	(in thousands)				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 82,759	\$ 112,703	\$ 90,860	\$ 126,266	\$ 101,213
Short-term investments	216,331	155,521	144,103	112,452	125,126
Long-term investments	5,256	5,354	5,361	5,389	9,860
Total assets	\$ 652,569	\$ 511,126	\$ 431,285	\$ 399,366	\$ 368,908
Common stock and additional paid-in capital	\$ 376,586	\$ 315,969	\$ 265,763	\$ 240,500	\$ 234,201
Total stockholders' equity	\$ 522,007	\$ 431,116	\$ 368,516	\$ 346,425	\$ 323,399
Working capital	\$ 383,253	\$ 330,063	\$ 288,645	\$ 271,051	\$ 253,304

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes which appear under Item 8 in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Overview

We are a leading semiconductor company that designs, develops and markets high-performance power solutions. Founded in 1997, MPS's core strengths include deep system-level and applications knowledge, strong analog design expertise and an innovative proprietary process technology. These combined strengths enable MPS to deliver highly integrated monolithic products that offer energy efficient, cost-effective, easy-to-use solutions for systems found in consumer, computing and storage, industrial, automotive and communications applications. Our mission is to reduce total energy consumption in our customers' systems with green, practical and compact solutions. We believe that we differentiate ourselves by offering solutions that are more highly integrated, smaller in size, more energy efficient, more accurate with respect to performance specifications and, consequently, more cost-effective than many competing solutions. We plan to continue to introduce new products within our existing product families, as well as in new innovative product categories.

We operate in the cyclical semiconductor industry where there is seasonal demand for certain products. We are not immune from current and future industry downturns, but we have targeted product and market areas that we believe have the ability to offer above average industry performance over the long term.

We work with third parties to manufacture and assemble our integrated circuits ("ICs"). This has enabled us to limit our capital expenditures and fixed costs, while focusing our engineering and design resources on our core strengths.

Following the introduction of a product, our sales cycle generally takes a number of quarters after we receive an initial customer order for a new product to ramp up. Typical lead time for orders is fewer than 90 days. These factors, combined with the fact that orders in the semiconductor industry can typically be cancelled or rescheduled without significant penalty to the customer, make the forecasting of our orders and revenue difficult.

We derive most of our revenue from sales through distribution arrangements and direct sales to customers in Asia, where our products are incorporated into end-user products. For the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, our revenue from sales to customers in Asia was 89%, 91% and 91%, respectively. We derive a majority of our revenue from the sales of our DC to DC converter products which serve the consumer, computing and storage, industrial, automotive and communications markets. We believe our ability to achieve revenue growth will depend, in part, on our ability to develop new products, enter new market segments, gain market share, manage litigation risk, diversify our customer base and continue to secure manufacturing capacity.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the U.S. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amount of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. We evaluate our estimates on an on-going basis, including those related to revenue recognition, stock-based compensation, inventories, income taxes, valuation of goodwill and intangible assets, and contingencies. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making the judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Estimates and judgments used in the preparation of our financial statements are, by their nature, uncertain and unpredictable, and depend upon, among other things, many factors outside of our control, such as demand for our products and economic conditions. Accordingly, our estimates and judgments may prove to be incorrect and actual results may differ, perhaps significantly, from these estimates.

We believe the following critical accounting policies reflect our more significant judgments used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements.

Revenue Recognition

Our revenue consists primarily of product sales of assembled and tested integrated circuits and dies in wafer form to the consumer, computing and storage, industrial, automotive and communications markets. The remaining revenue has not been significant historically and primarily includes royalties from licensing arrangements and revenue from wafer testing services for third parties.

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We recognize revenue based on the following four criteria: (1) persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists; (2) delivery has occurred or services have been rendered; (3) the fee is fixed or determinable; and (4) collectability is reasonably assured. Determination of criteria (3) and (4) is based on management's judgment regarding the fixed nature of the fees charged for products delivered and the collectability of those fees. The application of these criteria has resulted in us generally recognizing revenue upon shipment or delivery (when title and risk of loss have transferred to customers), including to most of the distributors, original equipment manufacturers and electronic manufacturing service providers.

For each of the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, 88% of our sales, respectively, were made through distribution arrangements with third parties. We generally recognize revenue upon shipment or delivery of products to the distributors based on the following considerations:

- (1) The price is fixed or determinable at the date of sale. We do not offer special payment terms (our normal payment terms are 30-45 days for our distributors) or price adjustments to distributors when we recognize revenue upon shipment or delivery.
- (2) The distributors are obligated to pay us and this obligation is not contingent on the resale of our products.
- (3) The distributors' obligation is unchanged in the event of theft or physical destruction or damage to the products.
- (4) The distributors have stand-alone economic substance apart from our relationship.
- (5) We do not have any obligations for future performance to directly bring about the resale of our products by the distributors.
- (6) The amount of future returns can be reasonably estimated.

Certain of our large distributors have contracts that include limited stock rotation rights that permit the return of a small percentage of the previous six months' purchases. We maintain a sales reserve for stock rotation rights, which is based on historical experience of actual stock rotation returns on a per-distributor basis and information related to products in the distribution channel. This reserve is recorded at the time of sale. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, our reserve for stock rotation rights was \$2.6 million and \$1.9 million, respectively.

If we enter into arrangements with distributors that have price adjustment or other rights that are not fixed or determinable, we recognize revenue under such arrangements only after the distributors have sold the products to end customers, at which time the price is no longer subject to adjustment and is fixed. Three of our U.S.-based distributors have such price adjustment rights and accordingly, we defer revenue recognition on these shipments until the products are sold to the end customers by the distributors. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, our deferred revenue balance before the price adjustments from these distributors was \$1.9 million and \$3.7 million, and the deferred costs were \$0.2 million and \$0.3 million, respectively.

On January 1, 2018, we adopted Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)*. The primary effects of the new standard for us related to the timing of revenue recognition with the three U.S.-based distributors with price adjustment rights. See "Recent Accounting Pronouncements Not Yet Adopted as of December 31, 2017" in Note 1 to our consolidated financial statements for further discussion.

Inventory Valuation

We value our inventory at the lower of the standard cost (which approximates actual cost on a first-in, first-out basis) or its current estimated net realizable value. We write down inventory for obsolescence or lack of demand, based on assumptions about future demand and market conditions. If actual market conditions are less favorable than those projected by management, additional inventory write-downs may be required. Conversely, if market conditions are more favorable, inventory may be sold that was previously reserved.

Valuation of Goodwill and Acquisition-Related Intangible Assets

We evaluate intangible assets with finite lives for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that an impairment may exist. We perform an annual impairment assessment for goodwill in the fourth quarter, or more frequently if indicators of potential impairment exist. Impairment of intangible assets is recognized based on the difference between the fair value of the assets and their carrying value. Impairment for goodwill occurs if the fair value of a reporting unit including goodwill is less than its carrying value and is recognized based on the difference between the implied fair value of the reporting unit's goodwill and the carrying value of the goodwill. The assumptions and estimates used to determine the fair value of goodwill and intangible assets are complex and subjective. They can be affected by various factors, including external factors such as industry and economic trends, and internal factors such as changes in our business strategy and revenue forecasts. If there is a significant adverse change in our business in the future, including macroeconomic and market conditions, we may be required to record impairment charges on our goodwill and acquisition-related intangible assets.

Accounting for Income Taxes

We recognize federal, state and foreign current tax liabilities or assets based on our estimate of taxes payable or refundable in the current fiscal year by tax jurisdiction. We also recognize federal, state and foreign deferred tax assets or liabilities for our estimate of future tax effects attributable to temporary differences and carryforwards. We record a valuation allowance to reduce any deferred tax assets by the amount of any tax benefits that, based on available evidence and judgment, are not expected to be realized.

Our calculation of current and deferred tax assets and liabilities is based on certain estimates and judgments and involves dealing with uncertainties in the application of complex tax laws. Our estimates of current and deferred tax assets and liabilities may change based, in part, on added certainty or finality or uncertainty to an anticipated outcome, changes in accounting or tax laws in the U.S. or foreign jurisdictions where we operate, or changes in other facts or circumstances. In addition, we recognize liabilities for potential U.S. and foreign income tax for uncertain income tax positions taken on our tax returns if it has less than a 50% likelihood of being sustained. If we determine that payment of these amounts is unnecessary or if the recorded tax liability is less than our current assessment, we may be required to recognize an income tax benefit or additional income tax expense in our financial statements in the period such determination is made. We have calculated our uncertain tax positions which were attributable to certain estimates and judgments primarily related to transfer pricing, cost sharing and our international tax structure exposure.

On December 22, 2017, the tax legislation commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the “2017 Tax Act”) was enacted, which significantly changed U.S. corporate income tax law. The 2017 Tax Act made the following material changes: (1) reduction of the corporate income tax rate effective January 1, 2018; (2) replacement of the worldwide tax system with a territorial tax regime, with a one-time mandatory tax on previously deferred foreign earnings; (3) amendment on the deductibility of executive performance-based compensation, and (4) creation of new taxes on certain foreign-sourced earnings.

As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, we had a valuation allowance of \$12.6 million and \$27.4 million, respectively, attributable to management’s determination that it is more likely than not that the deferred tax assets will not be realized. In the fourth quarter of 2017, management assessed the realizability of the deferred tax assets and concluded that a full valuation allowance would no longer be needed on the federal deferred tax assets, due principally to the enactment of the 2017 Tax Act. As a result, we released \$21.6 million of valuation allowance which was recorded as a benefit in the income tax provision. In the event we determine that it is more likely than not that we would be able to realize other deferred tax assets in the future in excess of our net recorded amount, an adjustment to the valuation allowance for the deferred tax asset would increase income in the period such determination was made. Likewise, should it be determined that additional amounts of the net deferred tax asset will not be realized in the future, an adjustment to increase the deferred tax asset valuation allowance will be charged to income in the period such determination is made.

Income tax effects resulting from changes in tax laws are accounted for in the period in which the law is enacted. As of December 31, 2017, we have not completed our accounting for the tax effects of the 2017 Tax Act, including the calculation of the deemed repatriation transition tax and the remeasurement of the deferred taxes. As permitted by Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 118 (“SAB 118”) issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 22, 2017, we recorded provisional amounts based on reasonable estimates for the year ended December 31, 2017. These provisional amounts are subject to revisions, possibly materially, as we perform further analysis of the 2017 Tax Act, collect and prepare necessary financial data, continue to assess our tax positions, and interpret any additional guidance issued by the U.S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”), Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”), and other standard-setting and regulatory bodies. Any subsequent adjustment to these amounts will be recorded to the income tax provision in the period when the analysis is complete. We expect to complete the analysis within the one-year measurement period ending December 21, 2018, pursuant to SAB 118.

Contingencies

We are a party to actions and proceedings in the ordinary course of business, including potential litigation regarding our shareholders and our intellectual property, challenges to the enforceability or validity of our intellectual property, claims that our products infringe on the intellectual property rights of others, and employment matters. The pending proceedings involve complex questions of fact and law and will require the expenditure of significant funds and the diversion of other resources to prosecute and defend. In addition, from time to time, we become aware that we are subject to other contingent liabilities. When this occurs, we will evaluate the appropriate accounting for the potential contingent liabilities to determine whether a contingent liability should be recorded. In making this determination, management may, depending on the nature of the matter, consult with internal and external legal counsel and technical experts. Based on the facts and circumstances in each matter, we use our judgment to determine whether it is probable that a contingent loss has occurred and whether the amount of such loss can be estimated. If we determine a loss is probable and estimable, we record a contingent loss. In determining the amount of a contingent loss, we take into account advice received from experts for each specific matter regarding the status of legal proceedings, settlement negotiations, prior case history and other factors. Should the judgments and estimates made by management need to be adjusted as additional information becomes available, we may need to record additional contingent losses that could materially and adversely impact our results of operations. Alternatively, if the judgments and estimates made by management are adjusted, for example, if a particular contingent loss does not occur, the contingent loss recorded would be reversed which could result in a favorable impact on our results of operations.

Stock-Based Compensation

We measure the cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments based on the grant-date fair value of the award. The fair value of restricted stock units (“RSUs”) with service conditions or performance conditions is based on the grant date share price. The fair value of RSUs with only market conditions, as well as RSUs containing both market and performance conditions, is estimated using a Monte Carlo simulation model. The fair value of stock options, shares issued under the employee stock purchase plan and RSUs with a purchase price feature is estimated using the Black-Scholes model.

Compensation expense related to awards with service conditions is recorded on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period. Compensation expense related to awards subject to market or performance conditions is recognized over the requisite service period for each separately vesting tranche. For awards with only market conditions, compensation expense is not reversed if the market conditions are not satisfied. For awards with only performance conditions, as well as awards containing both market and performance conditions, we recognize compensation expense when it becomes probable that the performance criteria will be achieved. Management performs the probability assessment on a quarterly basis by reviewing external factors, such as macroeconomic conditions and the analog industry forecasts, and internal factors, such as our business and operational objectives and revenue forecasts. Changes in the probability assessment of achievement of the performance conditions are accounted for in the period of change by recording a cumulative catch-up adjustment as if the new estimate had been applied since the service inception date. If the projected achievement was revised upward or if the actual results were higher than the projected achievement, additional compensation expense would be recorded for the awards due to the cumulative catch-up adjustment, which would have an adverse impact on our results of operations. Conversely, if the projected achievement was revised downward or if the actual results were lower than the projected achievement, previously accrued compensation expense would be reversed for the awards, which would have a favorable impact on our results of operations. As a result, our stock-based compensation expense is subject to volatility and may fluctuate significantly each quarter due to changes in our probability assessment or actual results being different from projections made by management.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Refer to Note 1 to our consolidated financial statements regarding recently adopted accounting pronouncements and recent accounting pronouncements not yet adopted as of December 31, 2017.

Results of Operations

The following table summarizes our results of operations:

	Year Ended December 31,					
	2017		2016		2015	
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Revenue	\$ 470,929	100.0%	\$ 388,665	100.0%	\$ 333,067	100.0%
Cost of revenue	212,646	45.2	177,792	45.7	152,898	45.9
Gross profit	<u>258,283</u>	<u>54.8</u>	<u>210,873</u>	<u>54.3</u>	<u>180,169</u>	<u>54.1</u>
Operating expenses:						
Research and development	82,359	17.5	73,643	18.9	65,787	19.8
Selling, general and administrative	97,257	20.7	83,012	21.4	72,312	21.7
Litigation expense (benefit), net	1,243	0.2	(229)	-	1,000	0.3
Total operating expenses	<u>180,859</u>	<u>38.4</u>	<u>156,426</u>	<u>40.3</u>	<u>139,099</u>	<u>41.8</u>
Income from operations	77,424	16.4	54,447	14.0	41,070	12.3
Interest and other income, net	5,520	1.2	2,817	0.7	1,421	0.5
Income before income taxes	82,944	17.6	57,264	14.7	42,491	12.8
Income tax provision	17,741	3.8	4,544	1.1	7,319	2.2
Net income	<u>\$ 65,203</u>	<u>13.8%</u>	<u>\$ 52,720</u>	<u>13.6%</u>	<u>\$ 35,172</u>	<u>10.6%</u>

Revenue

The following table summarizes our revenue by end market, based on management's assessment of available end market data:

End Market	Year Ended December 31,						Change	
	2017	% of Revenue	2016	% of Revenue	2015	% of Revenue	From 2016 to 2017	From 2015 to 2016
(in thousands, except percentages)								
Consumer	\$ 189,757	40.3%	\$ 153,732	39.5%	\$ 145,090	43.6%	23.4%	6.0%
Computing and storage	100,782	21.4	80,562	20.7	56,568	17.0	25.1%	42.4%
Industrial	62,896	13.4	55,685	14.4	45,933	13.8	12.9%	21.2%
Automotive	53,888	11.4	33,954	8.7	20,410	6.1	58.7%	66.4%
Communications	63,606	13.5	64,732	16.7	65,066	19.5	(1.7)%	(0.5)%
Total	\$ 470,929	100.0%	\$ 388,665	100.0%	\$ 333,067	100.0%	21.2%	16.7%

Revenue for the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$470.9 million, an increase of \$82.2 million, or 21.2%, from \$388.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2016. This increase was driven by higher sales in all of our end markets except for communications. Overall unit shipments increased by 9% due to higher market demand with current customers and design wins with new customers, and average sales prices increased by 12%.

Revenue from the consumer market for the year ended December 31, 2017 increased \$36.0 million, or 23.4%, from the same period in 2016. This increase was primarily driven by higher demand in gaming and home appliance products. Revenue from the computing and storage market increased \$20.2 million, or 25.1%, from the same period in 2016. This increase was primarily driven by strength in the solid-state drive storage, cloud computing and high-performance notebook markets. Revenue from the industrial market increased \$7.2 million, or 12.9%, from the same period in 2016. This increase was primarily driven by higher sales in power source products. Revenue from the automotive market increased \$19.9 million, or 58.7%, from the same period in 2016. This increase was primarily driven by higher sales of products for infotainment, safety and connectivity applications. Revenue from the communications market decreased \$1.1 million, or 1.7%, from the same period in 2016. This decrease was primarily driven by lower demand in wireless applications.

Revenue for the year ended December 31, 2016 was \$388.7 million, an increase of \$55.6 million, or 16.7%, from \$333.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2015. This increase was driven by higher sales in all of our end markets except for communications. Overall unit shipments increased by 19% due to higher market demand with current customers and design wins with new customers, which was partially offset by a 2% decrease in average sales prices.

Revenue from the consumer market for the year ended December 31, 2016 increased \$8.6 million, or 6.0%, from the same period in 2015. This increase was primarily driven by higher demand in battery management systems, home appliances and other high value consumer products. Revenue from the computing and storage market increased \$24.0 million, or 42.4%, from the same period in 2015. This increase was primarily driven by strength in the cloud computing, high-performance notebook and solid-state drive storage markets. Revenue from the industrial market increased \$9.8 million, or 21.2%, from the same period in 2015. This increase was primarily driven by higher sales in security, smart meter and power source products. Revenue from the automotive market increased \$13.5 million, or 66.4%, from the same period in 2015. This increase was primarily driven by higher sales of products for infotainment, safety and connectivity applications. Revenue from the communications market was essentially flat compared to the same period in 2015.

Cost of Revenue and Gross Margin

Cost of revenue primarily consists of costs incurred to manufacture, assemble and test our products, as well as warranty costs, inventory-related and other overhead costs, and stock-based compensation expenses. In addition, cost of revenue includes amortization for acquisition-related intangible assets.

	Year Ended December 31,			Change	
	2017	2016	2015	From 2016 to 2017	From 2015 to 2016
(in thousands, except percentages)					
Cost of revenue	\$ 212,646	\$ 177,792	152,898	19.6%	16.3%
As a percentage of revenue	45.2%	45.7%	45.9%		
Gross profit	\$ 258,283	\$ 210,873	180,169	22.5%	17.0%
Gross margin	54.8%	54.3%	54.1%		

Cost of revenue was \$212.6 million, or 45.2% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2017, and \$177.8 million, or 45.7% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2016. The \$34.8 million increase in cost of revenue was primarily due to a 9% increase in overall unit shipments, coupled with a 13% increase in the average direct cost of units shipped. The increase in cost of revenue was also driven by a \$3.5 million increase in inventory write-downs and warranty expenses.

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Gross margin was 54.8% for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared with 54.3% for the year ended December 31, 2016. The increase in gross margin was primarily due to lower labor and manufacturing overhead costs as a percentage of revenue, partially offset by higher inventory write-downs.

Cost of revenue was \$177.8 million, or 45.7% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2016, and \$152.9 million, or 45.9% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2015. The \$24.9 million increase in cost of revenue was primarily due to a 19% increase in overall unit shipments, which was partially offset by a 2% decrease in the average direct cost of units shipped. The increase in cost of revenue was also driven by a \$1.0 million increase in warranty expenses and inventory write-downs.

Gross margin was 54.3% for the year ended December 31, 2016, compared with 54.1% for the year ended December 31, 2015. The increase in gross margin was primarily due to lower labor and manufacturing overhead costs as a percentage of revenue, partially offset by the impact of certain manufacturing cost variances.

Research and Development

Research and development (“R&D”) expenses primarily consist of salary and benefit expenses, bonuses, stock-based compensation and deferred compensation expenses for design and product engineers, expenses related to new product development and supplies, and facility costs.

	Year Ended December 31,			Change	
	2017	2016	2015	From 2016 to 2017	From 2015 to 2016
	(in thousands, except percentages)				
R&D expenses	\$ 82,359	\$ 73,643	\$ 65,787	11.8%	11.9%
As a percentage of revenue	17.5%	18.9%	19.8%		

R&D expenses were \$82.4 million, or 17.5% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2017, and \$73.6 million, or 18.9% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2016. The \$8.8 million increase in R&D expenses was primarily due to an increase of \$3.8 million in compensation expenses, which include salary, benefits and bonuses, an increase of \$1.9 million in laboratory supplies, an increase of \$1.6 million in new product development expenses, an increase of \$0.8 million in stock-based compensation expenses mainly associated with the performance-based equity awards, and an increase of \$0.7 million in expenses related to changes in the value of the deferred compensation plan liabilities. Our R&D headcount was 629 employees as of December 31, 2017, compared with 578 employees as of December 31, 2016.

R&D expenses were \$73.6 million, or 18.9% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2016, and \$65.8 million, or 19.8% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2015. The \$7.8 million increase in R&D expenses was primarily due to an increase of \$2.9 million in stock-based compensation expenses mainly associated with the performance and market-based equity awards, an increase of \$2.2 million in cash compensation expenses, which include salary, benefits and bonuses, an increase of \$1.6 million in new product development expenses, and an increase of \$0.5 million in expenses related to changes in the value of the deferred compensation plan liabilities. Our R&D headcount was 578 employees as of December 31, 2016, compared with 506 employees as of December 31, 2015.

Selling, General and Administrative

Selling, general and administrative (“SG&A”) expenses primarily include salary and benefit expenses, bonuses, stock-based compensation and deferred compensation expenses for sales, marketing and administrative personnel, sales commissions, travel expenses, facilities costs, and professional service fees.

	Year Ended December 31,			Change	
	2017	2016	2015	From 2016 to 2017	From 2015 to 2016
	(in thousands, except percentages)				
SG&A expenses	\$ 97,257	\$ 83,012	\$ 72,312	17.2%	14.8%
As a percentage of revenue	20.7%	21.4%	21.7%		

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SG&A expenses were \$97.3 million, or 20.7% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2017, and \$83.0 million, or 21.4% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2016. The \$14.3 million increase in SG&A expenses was primarily due to an increase of \$3.9 million in stock-based compensation expenses mainly associated with the performance-based equity awards, an increase of \$3.7 million in compensation expenses, which include salary, benefits and bonuses, an increase of \$1.3 million in depreciation expense, an increase of \$1.0 million in expenses related to changes in the value of the deferred compensation plan liabilities, and an increase of \$0.4 million in commission expenses due to higher revenue. In addition, contributing to the increase in SG&A expenses in 2017 was a stock-based compensation credit of \$2.9 million which reduced SG&A expenses in 2016 due to the retirement of our then Chief Financial Officer. As the service or performance conditions for her outstanding restricted stock units had not been satisfied at the time of her departure, we reversed previously accrued stock-based compensation expenses of \$2.9 million associated with the unvested restricted stock units and the credit was reflected in SG&A expenses for year ended December 31, 2016. Our SG&A headcount was 389 employees as of December 31, 2017, compared with 355 employees as of December 31, 2016.

SG&A expenses were \$83.0 million, or 21.4% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2016, and \$72.3 million, or 21.7% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2015. The \$10.7 million increase in SG&A expenses was primarily due to an increase of \$3.0 million in stock-based compensation expenses mainly associated with the performance and market-based equity awards, an increase of \$2.9 million in cash compensation expenses, which include salary, benefits and bonuses, an increase of \$2.1 million in commission expenses due to higher revenue, and an increase of \$0.8 million in expenses related to changes in the value of the deferred compensation plan liabilities. In addition, contributing to the increase in SG&A expenses in 2016 was a credit of \$2.5 million related to the release of a contingent consideration liability which reduced SG&A expenses in 2015 (see below). These increases were partially offset by the stock-based compensation credit of \$2.9 million recorded in 2016 due to the retirement of our then Chief Financial Officer. Our SG&A headcount was 355 employees as of December 31, 2016, compared with 306 employees as of December 31, 2015.

Our acquisition of Sensima Technology SA (“Sensima”) in July 2014 included a contingent consideration arrangement which required us to pay up to an additional \$8.9 million to former Sensima shareholders if Sensima achieved a new product introduction as well as certain product revenue and direct margin targets in 2016. The fair value of the contingent consideration at the acquisition date was \$2.5 million, which was estimated based on a probability-weighted analysis of possible future revenue outcomes. The fair value of the contingent consideration was initially recorded in other long-term liabilities in the Consolidated Balance Sheets and was remeasured at the end of each reporting period, with any changes in fair value recorded in operating expense in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. As part of the quarterly assessment in the fourth quarter of 2015, management reviewed the sales forecast for the products and determined that the projected product revenue in 2016 would likely not meet the minimum target required to earn the contingent consideration, primarily because the product adoption process by customers would take longer than we had originally anticipated. Accordingly, the fair value of the contingent consideration was deemed to be \$0 as of December 31, 2015. The Company released the liability of \$2.5 million and recorded the credit in SG&A expenses for the year ended December 31, 2015.

Litigation Expense (Benefit), Net

Litigation expense was \$1.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared with a litigation benefit, net, of \$0.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2016. The increase in litigation expense was primarily due to an ongoing litigation. In addition, we recognized \$0.7 million of benefit in connection with two litigation settlements for the year ended December 31, 2016.

Litigation benefit, net, was \$0.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2016, compared with litigation expense of \$1.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2015. The net litigation benefit in 2016 was attributable to the recognition of \$0.7 million of benefit in connection with two litigation settlements, partially offset by \$0.5 million of litigation expenses.

Interest and Other Income, Net

Interest and other income, net, was \$5.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared with \$2.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2016. The increase was primarily due to an increase of \$2.9 million in interest income as a result of higher investment balances and higher yields, and an increase of \$1.3 million in income related to changes in the value of the deferred compensation plan investments, partially offset by an increase of \$1.0 million in amortization of premium on available-for-sale investments and an increase of \$0.6 million in foreign currency exchange loss.

Interest and other income, net, was \$2.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2016, compared with \$1.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2015. The increase was primarily due to an increase of \$1.6 million in income related to changes in the value of the deferred compensation plan investments and an increase of \$0.9 million in interest income as a result of higher yields and higher investment balances, partially offset by an increase of \$0.6 million in amortization of premium on available-for-sale investments and a decrease of \$0.5 million in foreign currency exchange gains.

Income Tax Provision

The income tax provision for the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$17.7 million, or 21.4% of pre-tax income. The effective tax rate differed from the federal statutory rate primarily because foreign income generated by our subsidiaries in Bermuda and China was taxed at lower rates, and because of the stock-based compensation deductions. In addition, the effective tax rate was impacted by the effects of the 2017 Tax Act and the release of the U.S. valuation allowance as discussed in details below.

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2017 U.S. Tax Reform:

Under Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) 740, *Income Taxes*, the effects of a new legislation are recognized upon enactment. Accordingly, we were required to recognize the tax effects of the 2017 Tax Act beginning in the fourth quarter of 2017.

On December 22, 2017, the Securities and Exchange Commission issued SAB 118, which addresses the application of ASC 740 in situations when a registrant does not have the necessary information available, prepared, or analyzed in reasonable detail to complete the accounting for certain income tax effects of the 2017 Tax Act. In accordance with SAB 118, for matters that have not been completed, we would recognize provisional amounts to the extent that they are reasonably estimable. If a reasonable estimate cannot be determined, we would not be required to report provisional amounts and would continue to apply ASC 740 based on the provisions of the tax laws that were in effect immediately before the enactment of the 2017 Tax Act.

As of December 31, 2017, we have not completed our accounting for the tax effects of the 2017 Tax Act and recorded certain provisional amounts, as discussed below, based on reasonable estimates for the year ended December 31, 2017. The provisional amounts are subject to revisions, possibly materially, as we perform further analysis of the 2017 Tax Act, collect and prepare necessary financial data, continue to assess our tax positions, and interpret any additional guidance issued by the U.S. Treasury Department, IRS, FASB, and other standard-setting and regulatory bodies. Any subsequent adjustment to these amounts will be recorded to the income tax provision in the period when the analysis is complete. We expect to complete the analysis within the one-year measurement period ending December 21, 2018, pursuant to SAB 118.

Corporate Tax Rate and Remeasurement of Deferred Taxes

The 2017 Tax Act reduces the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%, effective January 1, 2018. Because ASC 740 requires the effect of a change in tax laws to be recognized as of the date of enactment, we remeasured our deferred tax balance as of December 22, 2017 and recorded a provisional amount of \$9.8 million to the income tax provision as a result of the remeasurement for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Deemed Repatriation Transition Tax

The 2017 Tax Act mandates a one-time deemed repatriation transition tax of post-1986 undistributed foreign earnings and profits (“E&P”) on which U.S. income taxes were previously deferred. The rate applied varies depending on whether the E&P is held in liquid or non-liquid assets. A proportional deduction on the deemed repatriation results in a transition tax of 15.5% for cash and liquid assets and 8% for non-liquid assets. The transition tax is assessed regardless of whether we repatriate the earnings. The transition tax is determined on the greater of E&P as of two measurement dates (November 2, 2017 or December 31, 2017). The amount of cash and liquid assets is determined based on the greater of the amounts calculated using two alternative measurement periods.

For the year ended December 31, 2017, we recorded a provisional amount of \$41.9 million related to the transition tax expense. After the utilization of R&D tax credits of \$18.0 million, the transition tax payable is \$23.9 million. As permitted by the 2017 Tax Act, we have elected to pay the transition tax in installments over eight years. As a result, \$1.9 million was recorded in current accrued liabilities and \$22.0 million was recorded in long-term income tax liabilities as of December 31, 2017.

Undistributed Earnings of Subsidiaries

We previously considered the earnings in our non-U.S. subsidiaries to be indefinitely reinvested and, accordingly, recorded no deferred income taxes. Prior to the transition tax, we had an excess of the amount for financial reporting over the tax basis in our foreign subsidiaries including undistributed foreign earnings of \$390.2 million. While the transition tax resulted in the reduction of the excess of the amount for financial reporting over the tax basis in our foreign subsidiaries and subjected a provisional amount of \$119.7 million of undistributed foreign earnings to tax, an actual repatriation from our non-U.S. subsidiaries could be subject to additional foreign withholding taxes and U.S. state taxes.

We have analyzed our global working capital and cash requirements, and have determined that we plan to repatriate cash from our Bermuda subsidiary on an ongoing basis to fund our future U.S. based expenditures and dividends. For the other foreign subsidiaries, we expect to indefinitely reinvest undistributed earnings to fund foreign operations and their research and development. For those undistributed foreign earnings from which we were not able to make a reasonable estimate of the tax effects of such repatriation, we have not recorded any deferred taxes or accrued for any withholding taxes or state taxes as of December 31, 2017. We will record the tax effects of any change in our prior assertion with respect to those undistributed foreign earnings in the period that we are first able to make a reasonable estimate, no later than the end of the measurement period under SAB 118.

Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income

The 2017 Tax Act subjects a U.S. parent shareholder to taxation of its global intangible low-taxed income (“GILTI”), effective January 1, 2018. The GILTI inclusions will impact companies that have foreign earnings generated without a large aggregate foreign fixed asset base and whose earnings are being taxed at a low tax rate. GILTI is calculated based on foreign income in excess of a deemed return on tangible assets of foreign corporations. The income inclusion under GILTI is eligible for a deduction that is intended to lower the effective tax rate to 10.5% for taxable years 2018 to 2025, and rise to 13.125% for taxable years after 2025. The enactment of the GILTI tax will result in additional Subpart F income recognition for us in 2018 and onwards.

[Table of Contents](#)*Executive Compensation Deductions*

The 2017 Tax Act retains the \$1 million limitation on deductible compensation to covered employees, which include the Chief Executive Officer and four other highest paid officers, under IRC Section 162(m). However, it eliminates the exception for performance-based cash or stock compensation and expands the definition of covered employees to include the Chief Financial Officer. Accordingly, beginning January 1, 2018, the deductible compensation to covered employees will generally be subject to the \$1 million limitation.

Release of Valuation Allowance:

Management periodically evaluates the realizability of our deferred tax assets based on all available evidence. The realizability of our deferred tax assets is dependent on our ability to generate sufficient future taxable income during periods prior to the expiration of tax attributes to fully utilize these assets. We maintained a full valuation allowance on our U.S. deferred tax assets as of the third quarter of 2017. In the fourth quarter of 2017, we assessed the realizability of the deferred tax assets and concluded that it was more likely than not that our federal deferred tax assets would be realizable, due principally to the enactment of the 2017 Tax Act. In accordance with ASC 740, management considered all available evidence, both positive and negative, to determine whether, based on the weight of that evidence, a valuation allowance for deferred tax asset was needed. Our conclusion was primarily driven by the following positive evidence:

- We forecast taxable income in the U.S. in future periods. The enactment of GILTI will result in additional Subpart F income each year.
- Executive performance-based equity awards are now subject to the Section 162(m) deduction limitation.
- We have a history of utilizing all federal tax attributes before expiration.

As a result, we released \$21.6 million of valuation allowance on federal deferred tax assets, which was recorded as a benefit in the income tax provision in the fourth quarter of 2017. We continue to maintain a full valuation allowance on the deferred tax assets in California, primarily due to a low apportionment factor and the amount of R&D tax credits generated is greater than the amount utilized.

The income tax provision for the year ended December 31, 2016 was \$4.5 million, or 7.9% of pre-tax income. The effective tax rate differed from the federal statutory rate primarily because foreign income generated by our subsidiaries in Bermuda and China was taxed at lower rates. In addition, the effective tax rate was impacted by changes in valuation allowance and the stock-based compensation deductions.

The income tax provision for the year ended December 31, 2015 was \$7.3 million, or 17.2% of pre-tax income. We recorded a one-time net charge of \$2.7 million to the income tax provision related to the resolution of the income tax audits in the second quarter of 2015. In addition to the impact of this charge, the effective tax rate differed from the federal statutory rate primarily because foreign income generated by our subsidiaries in Bermuda and China was taxed at lower rates and from the release of an income tax reserve where the statute of limitations expired. In addition, the effective tax rate was impacted by changes in valuation allowance.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
	(in thousands, except percentages)	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 82,759	\$ 112,703
Short-term investments	216,331	155,521
Total cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments	<u>\$ 299,090</u>	<u>\$ 268,224</u>
Percentage of total assets	45.8%	52.5%
Total current assets	\$ 449,170	\$ 382,984
Total current liabilities	(65,917)	(52,921)
Working capital	<u>\$ 383,253</u>	<u>\$ 330,063</u>

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As of December 31, 2017, we had cash and cash equivalents of \$82.8 million and short-term investments of \$216.3 million, compared with cash and cash equivalents of \$112.7 million and short-term investments of \$155.5 million as of December 31, 2016. As of December 31, 2017, \$66.4 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$113.1 million of short-term investments were held by our international subsidiaries. After the enactment of the 2017 Tax Act, we currently plan to repatriate cash from our Bermuda subsidiary on an ongoing basis to fund our future expenditures in the U.S. and continue to indefinitely reinvest our earnings from other foreign subsidiaries. See the "Income Tax Provision" section for further discussion.

The significant components of our working capital are cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments, accounts receivable, inventories and other current assets, reduced by accounts payable, accrued compensation and related benefits, and other accrued liabilities. As of December 31, 2017, we had working capital of \$383.3 million, compared with working capital of \$330.1 million as of December 31, 2016. The \$53.2 million increase in working capital was due to a \$66.2 million increase in current assets, partially offset by a \$13.0 million increase in current liabilities. The increase in current assets was primarily due to an increase in short-term investments, accounts receivable, inventories and prepaid expenses, partially offset by a decrease in cash and cash equivalents. The increase in current liabilities was primarily due to an increase in accounts payable, accrued compensation and related benefits and other accrued liabilities.

Summary of Cash Flows

The following table summarizes our cash flow activities:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
		(in thousands)	
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 133,821	\$ 107,786	\$ 69,736
Net cash used in investing activities	(134,060)	(55,726)	(57,197)
Net cash used in financing activities	(31,325)	(28,127)	(46,652)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	1,620	(2,090)	(1,293)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ (29,944)</u>	<u>\$ 21,843</u>	<u>\$ (35,406)</u>

For the year ended December 31, 2017, net cash provided by operating activities was \$133.8 million, primarily due to our net income adjusted for certain non-cash items, including depreciation and amortization, stock-based compensation and deferred taxes, and a net increase of \$15.7 million from the changes in our operating assets and liabilities. The increase in deferred taxes was primarily due to the release of the U.S. valuation allowance, partially offset by the remeasurement of the deferred tax balance as a result of the 2017 Tax Act, in the fourth quarter of 2017. The increase in accounts receivable was primarily driven by higher sales. The increase in inventories was primarily driven by an increase in strategic wafer and die inventories as well as an increase in finished goods to meet current demand and future growth. The increase in accounts payable was primarily driven by increased inventory and capital asset purchases to meet future demand. The increase in accrued liabilities was primarily driven by an increase in employee contributions to the deferred compensation plan and warranty expenses. The increase in income tax liabilities was primarily driven by the one-time deemed repatriation transition tax liability recorded in the fourth quarter of 2017.

For the year ended December 31, 2016, net cash provided by operating activities was \$107.8 million, primarily due to our net income adjusted for certain non-cash items, including depreciation and amortization and stock-based compensation, and a net decrease of \$2.9 million from the changes in our operating assets and liabilities. The increase in other assets was primarily due to a prepaid wafer purchase agreement we funded during the year. The increase in inventories was primarily driven by increased purchases to meet current demand and future growth. The increase in accrued liabilities was primarily driven by an increase in employee contributions to the deferred compensation plan.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, net cash provided by operating activities was \$69.7 million, primarily due to our net income adjusted for certain non-cash items, including depreciation and amortization, stock-based compensation, a change in fair value of contingent consideration and a net decrease of \$12.6 million from the changes in our operating assets and liabilities. The increase in accounts receivable was primarily driven by increased sales. The increase in inventories was primarily driven by increased purchases to meet current demand and future growth. The increase in accrued liabilities was primarily driven by an increase in employee contributions to the deferred compensation plan.

For the year ended December 31, 2017, net cash used in investing activities was \$134.1 million, primarily due to purchases of property and equipment of \$65.8 million, net purchases of short-term investments of \$63.0 million, and net contributions to the deferred compensation plan of \$5.3 million. For the year ended December 31, 2016, net cash used in investing activities was \$55.7 million, primarily due to purchases of property and equipment of \$37.1 million, net purchases of investments of \$13.6 million, and net contributions to the deferred compensation plan of \$5.0 million. For the year ended December 31, 2015, net cash used in investing activities was \$57.2 million, primarily due to net purchases of investments of \$33.5 million, purchases of property and equipment of \$16.0 million, and net contributions to the deferred compensation plan of \$8.0 million.

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For the year ended December 31, 2017, we funded the purchases of land in Kirkland, Washington, office space in Shanghai and Hangzhou, China, and land and office space in Taipei, Taiwan for \$53.8 million. For the year ended December 31, 2016, we funded the purchases of a previously leased manufacturing facility in Chengdu, China, office space in Shenzhen, China, and land and office space in Taipei, Taiwan for \$17.5 million. For the year ended December 31, 2015, we spent \$5.4 million to purchase office space in Shanghai, China.

For the year ended December 31, 2017, net cash used in financing activities was \$31.3 million, primarily reflecting \$33.9 million used to pay dividends to our stockholders and dividend equivalents to our employees who hold RSUs, partially offset by \$2.9 million of cash proceeds from stock option exercises and issuance of shares through our employee stock purchase plan. For the year ended December 31, 2016, net cash used in financing activities was \$28.1 million, primarily reflecting \$33.1 million used to pay dividends to our stockholders and dividend equivalents to our employees who hold RSUs, partially offset by \$3.8 million of cash proceeds from stock option exercises and issuance of shares through our employee stock purchase plan. For the year ended December 31, 2015, net cash used in financing activities was \$46.7 million, primarily reflecting \$32.3 million used in repurchases of our common stock pursuant to our stock repurchase program and \$30.0 million used to pay dividends to our stockholders and dividend equivalents to our employees who hold RSUs, partially offset by \$10.0 million of cash proceeds from stock option exercises and issuance of shares through our employee stock purchase plan.

In July 2013, our Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase program that authorized us to repurchase up to \$100 million in the aggregate of our common stock. The program expired on December 31, 2015. In February 2016, our Board of Directors approved a new stock repurchase program that authorized us to repurchase up to \$50 million in the aggregate of our common stock. The program expired on December 31, 2017. For the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, we did not repurchase any shares. For the year ended December 31, 2015, we repurchased a total of 0.6 million shares for \$32.3 million, at an average price of \$50.05 per share.

In June 2014, our Board of Directors approved a dividend program pursuant to which we intend to pay quarterly cash dividends on our common stock. In addition, outstanding RSU awards contain rights to receive dividend equivalents, which entitle employees who hold RSUs to the same dividend value per share as holders of common stock. The dividend equivalents are accumulated and paid to the employees when the underlying RSUs vest. Dividend equivalents accumulated on the underlying RSUs are forfeited if the employees do not fulfill their service requirement and the awards do not vest. For the year ended December 31, 2017, we paid dividends and dividend equivalents totaling \$33.9 million. For the year ended December 31, 2016, we paid dividends and dividend equivalents totaling \$33.1 million. For the year ended December 31, 2015, we paid dividends and dividend equivalents totaling \$30.0 million.

In February 2018, our Board of Directors approved an increase in our quarterly cash dividends from \$0.20 per share to \$0.30 per share, effective for the first quarter of 2018.

We anticipate that cash used for future dividends and dividend equivalent payments, as well as payments for the one-time deemed repatriation transition tax, will come from our current domestic cash and cash generated from ongoing U.S. operations. As a result of the 2017 Tax Act, we also plan to repatriate cash from our Bermuda subsidiary on an ongoing basis to fund these and other future expenditures in the U.S. and continue to indefinitely reinvest our earnings from other foreign subsidiaries. See the "Income Tax Provision" section for further discussion.

Although cash requirements will fluctuate based on the timing and extent of many factors such as those discussed above, we believe that cash generated from operations, together with the liquidity provided by existing cash balances and short-term investments, will be sufficient to satisfy our liquidity requirements for the next 12 months.

In the future, in order to strengthen our financial position, respond to changes in our circumstance or unforeseen events or conditions, or fund our growth, we may need to discontinue paying dividends and dividend equivalents, and may need to raise additional funds by any one or a combination of the following: issuing equity securities, issuing debt or convertible debt securities, incurring indebtedness secured by our assets, or selling certain product lines and/or portions of our business. Accordingly, we cannot ensure that we will continue to pay dividends and dividend equivalents in the future, and there can be no guarantee that we will be able to raise additional funds on terms acceptable to us, or at all.

From time to time, we have engaged in discussions with third parties concerning potential acquisitions of product lines, technologies, businesses and companies, and we continue to consider potential acquisition candidates. Any such transactions could involve the issuance of a significant number of new equity securities, assumptions of debt, and/or payment of cash consideration. We may also be required to raise additional funds to complete any such acquisitions, through either the issuance of equity and debt securities or incurring indebtedness secured by our assets. If we raise additional funds or acquire businesses or technologies through the issuance of equity securities or convertible debt securities, our existing stockholders may experience significant dilution.

[Table of Contents](#)**Contractual Obligations**

The following table summarizes our contractual obligations at December 31, 2017:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Payment Due by Period</u>			
		<u>Less Than 1 Year</u>	<u>1 - 3 Years</u>	<u>3 - 5 Years</u>	<u>More Than 5 years</u>
			(in thousands)		
Operating leases	\$ 2,145	\$ 1,210	\$ 829	\$ 106	\$ -
Outstanding purchase commitments (1)	52,586	49,736	1,000	1,000	850
Transition tax liability (2)	23,934	1,915	3,829	3,829	14,361
Other long-term obligations (3)	31,910	-	6,576	8,749	16,585
Total	\$ 110,575	\$ 52,861	\$ 12,234	\$ 13,684	\$ 31,796

- (1) Outstanding purchase commitments primarily consist of wafer and other inventory purchases, assembly services and license arrangements.
- (2) The transition tax liability represents a one-time, mandatory deemed repatriation tax imposed on previously deferred foreign earnings under the 2017 Tax Act. As permitted by the 2017 Tax Act, we elected to pay the tax liability in installment over eight years: 8% in 2018, 8% in 2019, 8% in 2020, 8% in 2021, 8% in 2022, 15% in 2023, 20% in 2024, and 25% in 2025. See the “Income Tax Provision” section for further discussion.
- (3) Other long-term obligations include long-term liabilities reflected in our Consolidated Balance Sheets, which primarily consist of the deferred compensation plan liabilities and accrued dividend equivalents. Because of the uncertainty as to the timing of distributions related to a portion of the deferred compensation plan liabilities, we have excluded estimated obligations of \$1.1 million from the table above. In addition, because of the uncertainty as to the timing of payments related to our liabilities for unrecognized tax benefits, we have excluded estimated obligations of \$9.6 million from the table above.

Off Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of December 31, 2017, we had no off-balance sheet arrangements as defined in Item 303(a)(4) of the Securities and Exchange Commission’s Regulation S-K.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**Interest Rate Risk**

Our cash equivalents and investments are subject to market risk, primarily interest rate and credit risk. Our investments are managed by outside professional managers within investment guidelines set by management and approved by our Board of Directors. Such guidelines include security type, credit quality and maturity and are intended to limit market risk by restricting our investments to high quality debt instruments with relatively short-term maturities. A 10% decline in interest rates would impact our results of operations by approximately \$0.5 million in interest income.

We do not use derivative financial instruments in our investment portfolio. Investments in debt securities are classified as available-for-sale. For available-for-sale investments, no gains or losses are recognized in our results of operations due to changes in interest rates unless such securities are sold prior to maturity or are determined to be other-than-temporarily impaired. Available-for-sale investments are reported at fair value with the related unrealized gains or losses being included in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), a component of stockholders’ equity.

Long-Term Investments

As of December 31, 2017, our holdings in auction-rate securities, which have a fair value of \$5.3 million, have failed to reset as a result of current market conditions. A 10% decline in the fair value could impact our results of operations by approximately \$0.5 million if we determined the decline in value to be other-than-temporary.

Foreign Currency Exchange Risk

Our sales outside the United States are primarily transacted in U.S. dollars through our subsidiary in Bermuda. Accordingly, our sales are not generally impacted by foreign currency rate changes. The functional currency of the Company's offshore operations is generally the local currency, primarily including the Renminbi, the New Taiwan Dollar and the Euro. In addition, we incur foreign currency exchange gains or losses related to certain intercompany transactions between the U.S. and our foreign subsidiaries that are denominated in a currency other than the functional currency. Gains or losses from the settlement and remeasurement of the balances are reported in interest and other income. Fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates have not had a material impact on our results of operations in any of the periods presented.

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ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Stockholders and the Board of Directors of
Monolithic Power Systems, Inc.

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows, for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2017, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2017, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, based on criteria established in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated March 1, 2018, expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

San Jose, California
March 1, 2018

We have served as the Company's auditor since 1999.

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(in thousands, except par value)

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 82,759	\$ 112,703
Short-term investments	216,331	155,521
Accounts receivable, net	38,037	34,248
Inventories	99,281	71,469
Other current assets	12,762	9,043
Total current assets	449,170	382,984
Property and equipment, net	144,636	85,171
Long-term investments	5,256	5,354
Goodwill	6,571	6,571
Acquisition-related intangible assets, net	951	3,002
Deferred tax assets, net	15,917	633
Other long-term assets	30,068	27,411
Total assets	<u>\$ 652,569</u>	<u>\$ 511,126</u>
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 22,813	\$ 17,427
Accrued compensation and related benefits	15,597	12,578
Accrued liabilities	27,507	22,916
Total current liabilities	65,917	52,921
Income tax liabilities	31,621	3,870
Other long-term liabilities	33,024	23,219
Total liabilities	130,562	80,010
Commitments and contingencies (notes 12, 13 and 14)		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock and additional paid-in capital, \$0.001 par value; shares authorized: 150,000; shares issued and outstanding: 41,614 and 40,793 as of December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively	376,586	315,969
Retained earnings	143,608	119,362
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	1,813	(4,215)
Total stockholders' equity	522,007	431,116
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	<u>\$ 652,569</u>	<u>\$ 511,126</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(in thousands, except per share amounts)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Revenue	\$ 470,929	\$ 388,665	\$ 333,067
Cost of revenue	212,646	177,792	152,898
Gross profit	258,283	210,873	180,169
Operating expenses:			
Research and development	82,359	73,643	65,787
Selling, general and administrative	97,257	83,012	72,312
Litigation expense (benefit), net	1,243	(229)	1,000
Total operating expenses	180,859	156,426	139,099
Income from operations	77,424	54,447	41,070
Interest and other income, net	5,520	2,817	1,421
Income before income taxes	82,944	57,264	42,491
Income tax provision	17,741	4,544	7,319
Net income	\$ 65,203	\$ 52,720	\$ 35,172
Net income per share:			
Basic	\$ 1.58	\$ 1.30	\$ 0.89
Diluted	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.26	\$ 0.86
Weighted-average shares outstanding:			
Basic	41,350	40,436	39,470
Diluted	43,578	41,915	40,869
Cash dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.80

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(in thousands)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Net income	\$ 65,203	\$ 52,720	\$ 35,172
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax:			
Foreign currency translation adjustments, net of \$0 tax in 2017, 2016 and 2015	6,369	(5,033)	(4,166)
Change in unrealized loss on available-for-sale securities, net of \$0 tax in 2017, 2016 and 2015	(341)	(648)	(179)
Total other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax	6,028	(5,681)	(4,345)
Comprehensive income	<u>\$ 71,231</u>	<u>\$ 47,039</u>	<u>\$ 30,827</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
(in thousands)

	Common Stock and Additional Paid-in Capital		Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other	Total Stockholders' Equity
	Shares	Amount		Comprehensive Income (Loss)	
Balance as of January 1, 2015	38,832	\$ 240,500	\$ 100,114	\$ 5,811	\$ 346,425
Net income	-	-	35,172	-	35,172
Other comprehensive loss	-	-	-	(4,345)	(4,345)
Dividends and dividend equivalents declared	-	-	(33,999)	-	(33,999)
Exercise of stock options	498	7,744	-	-	7,744
Release of restricted stock units	948	-	-	-	-
Repurchase of common shares	(645)	(32,286)	-	-	(32,286)
Shares issued under the employee stock purchase plan	56	2,227	-	-	2,227
Stock-based compensation expense	-	41,650	-	-	41,650
Tax benefits from equity awards	-	5,928	-	-	5,928
Balance as of December 31, 2015	<u>39,689</u>	<u>265,763</u>	<u>101,287</u>	<u>1,466</u>	<u>368,516</u>
Net income	-	-	52,720	-	52,720
Other comprehensive loss	-	-	-	(5,681)	(5,681)
Dividends and dividend equivalents declared	-	-	(34,645)	-	(34,645)
Exercise of stock options	76	1,344	-	-	1,344
Release of restricted stock units	975	-	-	-	-
Shares issued under the employee stock purchase plan	53	2,463	-	-	2,463
Stock-based compensation expense	-	44,934	-	-	44,934
Tax benefits from equity awards	-	1,465	-	-	1,465
Balance as of December 31, 2016	<u>40,793</u>	<u>315,969</u>	<u>119,362</u>	<u>(4,215)</u>	<u>431,116</u>
Net income	-	-	65,203	-	65,203
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	6,028	6,028
Dividends and dividend equivalents declared	-	-	(35,816)	-	(35,816)
Exercise of stock options	9	150	-	-	150
Release of restricted stock units	772	-	-	-	-
Shares issued under the employee stock purchase plan	40	2,701	-	-	2,701
Stock-based compensation expense	-	52,625	-	-	52,625
Cumulative-effect adjustment from adoption of ASU No. 2016-09	-	5,141	(5,141)	-	-
Balance as of December 31, 2017	<u>41,614</u>	<u>\$ 376,586</u>	<u>\$ 143,608</u>	<u>\$ 1,813</u>	<u>\$ 522,007</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(in thousands)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income	\$ 65,203	\$ 52,720	\$ 35,172
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization of intangible assets	16,101	14,674	13,783
(Gain) loss on sales or write-off of property and equipment	(3)	57	(339)
Amortization of premium on available-for-sale investments	1,976	1,019	463
(Gain) loss on deferred compensation plan investments	(2,531)	(1,257)	133
Change in fair value of contingent consideration	-	-	(2,507)
Deferred taxes, net	(15,238)	(5)	42
Excess tax benefits from equity awards	-	(1,465)	(5,928)
Stock-based compensation expense	52,617	44,989	41,563
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable	(3,785)	(3,421)	(5,201)
Inventories	(27,795)	(8,323)	(22,210)
Other assets	1,603	(11,021)	(390)
Accounts payable	3,077	5,483	147
Accrued compensation and related benefits	2,397	3,136	1,068
Accrued liabilities	10,852	8,035	9,942
Income tax liabilities	29,347	3,165	3,998
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>133,821</u>	<u>107,786</u>	<u>69,736</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Property and equipment purchases	(65,773)	(37,112)	(16,024)
Proceeds from sales of property and equipment	3	-	340
Purchases of short-term investments	(140,531)	(236,912)	(223,018)
Proceeds from maturities and sales of short-term investments	77,502	223,344	189,549
Contributions to deferred compensation plan, net	(5,261)	(5,046)	(8,044)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(134,060)</u>	<u>(55,726)</u>	<u>(57,197)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Property and equipment purchased on extended payment terms	(250)	(300)	(300)
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	150	1,344	7,744
Proceeds from shares issued under the employee stock purchase plan	2,701	2,463	2,227
Repurchase of common shares	-	-	(32,286)
Dividends and dividend equivalents paid	(33,926)	(33,099)	(29,965)
Excess tax benefits from equity awards	-	1,465	5,928
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(31,325)</u>	<u>(28,127)</u>	<u>(46,652)</u>
Effect of change in exchange rates	1,620	(2,090)	(1,293)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	<u>(29,944)</u>	<u>21,843</u>	<u>(35,406)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	112,703	90,860	126,266
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	<u>\$ 82,759</u>	<u>\$ 112,703</u>	<u>\$ 90,860</u>
Supplemental disclosures for cash flow information:			
Cash paid for taxes and interest	\$ 3,619	\$ 1,234	\$ 3,322
Supplemental disclosures of non-cash investing and financing activities:			
Liability accrued for property and equipment purchases	\$ 3,061	\$ 787	\$ 2,184
Liability accrued for dividends and dividend equivalents	\$ 10,686	\$ 10,416	\$ 10,109

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Business

Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. (“MPS” or the “Company”) was incorporated in the State of California on August 22, 1997. On November 17, 2004, the Company was reincorporated in the State of Delaware. MPS designs, develops and markets integrated power semiconductor solutions and power delivery architectures. MPS’s mission is to provide innovative power solutions in the consumer, computing and storage, industrial, automotive and communications markets.

Basis of Presentation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. Intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Significant estimates and assumptions used in these consolidated financial statements primarily include those related to revenue recognition, inventory valuation, valuation of share-based awards, valuation of goodwill and acquisition-related intangible assets, contingencies and tax valuation allowances. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Certain Significant Risks and Uncertainties

Financial instruments which potentially subject the Company to concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents, short-term and long-term investments and accounts receivable. The Company’s cash consists of checking and savings accounts. The Company’s cash equivalents include short-term, highly liquid investments purchased with remaining maturities at the date of purchase of three months or less. The Company’s short-term investments consist of corporate debt securities and government agency bonds and treasuries, and the long-term investments consist of government-backed student loan auction-rate securities. The Company generally does not require its customers to provide collateral or other security to support accounts receivable. To manage credit risk, management performs ongoing credit evaluations of its customers’ financial condition. The Company requires cash in advance for certain customers in addition to ongoing credit evaluations. The Company did not record any allowance for doubtful accounts as of December 31, 2017 and 2016.

The Company participates in the dynamic high technology industry and believes that changes in any of the following areas could have a material adverse effect on its future financial position, results of operations or cash flows: advances and trends in new technologies and industry standards; competitive pressures in the form of new products or price reductions on current products; changes in product mix; changes in the overall demand for products offered by the Company; changes in third-party manufacturers; changes in key suppliers; changes in certain strategic relationships or customer relationships; litigation or claims against the Company based on intellectual property, patent, product, regulatory or other factors; fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates; risk associated with changes in government policies and regulations on trade restrictions and corporate taxes; availability of necessary components or sub-assemblies; availability of foundry capacity; ability to integrate acquired companies; and the Company’s ability to attract and retain employees necessary to support its growth.

Foreign Currency

In general, the functional currency of the Company’s international subsidiaries is the local currency. The primary subsidiaries are located in China and Taiwan, which utilize the Renminbi and the New Taiwan Dollar as their currencies, respectively. Accordingly, assets and liabilities of the foreign subsidiaries are translated using exchange rates in effect at the end of the period. Revenue and costs are translated using average exchange rates for the period. The resulting translation adjustments are presented as a separate component of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) in stockholders’ equity in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. In addition, the Company incurs foreign currency exchange gain or loss related to certain intercompany transactions between the U.S. and its foreign subsidiaries that are denominated in a currency other than the functional currency. In connection with the settlement and remeasurement of the balances, the Company recorded foreign currency exchange gain (loss) of \$(0.6) million, \$0.1 million and \$0.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively, which were reported in interest and other income, net, in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

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Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Company classifies all highly liquid investments with stated maturities of three months or less from date of purchase as cash equivalents.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Fair value is estimated by applying the following hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value into three levels and bases the categorization within the hierarchy upon the lowest level of input that is available and significant to the fair value measurement:

- Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets
- Level 2: Inputs other than the quoted prices in active markets that are observable either directly or indirectly
- Level 3: Significant unobservable inputs

The Company's financial instruments include cash and cash equivalents, and short-term and long-term investments. Cash equivalents are stated at cost, which approximates fair market value. The Company's short-term and long-term investments are classified as available-for-sale securities and are stated at their fair market value. Premiums and discounts are amortized or accreted over the life of the related available-for-sale securities. Interest income is recognized when earned.

The Company determines whether an impairment is temporary or other-than temporary. Unrealized gains or losses that are deemed to be temporary are recorded as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) in stockholders' equity in the Consolidated Balance Sheets, and changes in unrealized gains or losses are recorded in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income. The Company records an impairment charge in interest and other income, net, in the Consolidated Statements of Operations when an available-for-sale investment has experienced a decline in value that is deemed to be other-than-temporary. Other-than-temporary impairment exists when the Company either has the intent to sell the security, it will more likely than not be required to sell the security before anticipated recovery, or it does not expect to recover the entire amortized cost basis of the security.

As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the fair value of the Company's holdings in auction-rate securities was \$5.3 million and \$5.4 million, respectively, all of which was classified as long-term available-for-sale investments. The valuation of the auction-rate securities is subject to fluctuations in the future, which will depend on many factors, including the quality of the underlying collateral, estimated time to liquidity including potential to be called or restructured, underlying final maturity, insurance guaranty and market conditions, among others.

Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of standard cost (which approximates actual cost determined on a first-in first-out basis) and estimated net realizable value. The Company writes down excess and obsolete inventory based on its age and forecasted demand, which includes estimates taking into consideration the Company's outlook on market and economic conditions, technology changes, new product introductions and changes in strategic direction. Actual demand may differ from forecasted demand, and such differences may have a material effect on recorded inventory values. When the Company records a write-down on inventory, it establishes a new, lower cost basis for that inventory, and subsequent changes in facts and circumstances will not result in the restoration or increase in that newly established cost basis.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Buildings and building improvements have estimated useful lives of 20 to 40 years. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of the estimated useful lives or the lease period. Production equipment and software have estimated useful lives of three to seven years. Transportation equipment has estimated useful lives of 5 to 15 years. Furniture and fixtures have estimated useful lives of three to five years. Land is not depreciated.

Goodwill and Acquisition-Related Intangible Assets

Goodwill represents the excess of the fair value of purchase consideration over the fair value of net tangible and identified intangible assets as of the date of acquisition. In-process research and development ("IPR&D") assets represent the fair value of incomplete R&D projects that had not reached technological feasibility as of the date of acquisition. The IPR&D assets are initially capitalized at fair value as intangible assets with indefinite lives and assessed for impairment at each reporting period. When the IPR&D projects are completed, they are reclassified as amortizable intangible assets and are amortized over their estimated useful lives. Alternatively, if the IPR&D projects are abandoned, they are impaired and expensed to research and development.

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Acquisition-related intangible assets with finite lives consist of know-how and developed technologies. These assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of three to five years and the amortization expense is recorded in cost of revenue in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

The Company evaluates its long-lived assets other than goodwill for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. An impairment loss would be recognized when the sum of the undiscounted future net cash flows expected to result from the use of the asset and its eventual disposition is less than its carrying amount. Such impairment loss would be measured as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset and its fair value based on the present value of estimated future cash flows.

The Company tests goodwill for impairment at least annually in the fourth quarter of the year, or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that goodwill may be impaired. The Company has elected to first assess the qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of the reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. If the Company determines that it is more likely than not that its fair value is less than the carrying amount, then the two-step goodwill impairment test is performed. The first step compares the fair value of the reporting unit with its carrying amount. If the carrying amount exceeds its fair value, the second step measures the impairment loss by comparing the implied fair value of the goodwill with the carrying amount. No impairment of goodwill has been identified in any of the periods presented.

Other Long-Term Assets

Other assets primarily consist of investments related to the employee deferred compensation plan, intangible assets for the land use rights in Chengdu, China, and certain prepaid expenses. The Company amortizes the land use rights over 50 years.

Deferred Compensation Plan

The Company has a non-qualified, unfunded deferred compensation plan, which provides certain key employees, including executive management, with the ability to defer the receipt of compensation in order to accumulate funds for retirement on a tax deferred basis. The Company does not make contributions to the plan or guarantee returns on the investments. The Company is responsible for the plan's administrative expenses. Participants' deferrals and investment gains and losses remain as the Company's liabilities and the underlying assets are subject to claims of general creditors.

The liabilities for compensation deferred under the plan are recorded at fair value in each reporting period. Changes in the fair value of the liabilities are included in operating expense in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. The Company manages the risk of changes in the fair value of the liabilities by electing to match the liabilities with investments in corporate-owned life insurance policies and mutual funds that offset a substantial portion of the exposure. The investments are recorded at the cash surrender value of the corporate-owned life insurance policies and at the fair value of the mutual funds, which are classified as trading securities. Changes in the cash surrender value of the corporate-owned life insurance policies and the fair value of mutual fund investments are included in interest and other income, net in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. The following table summarizes the deferred compensation plan balances in the Consolidated Balance Sheets (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Deferred compensation plan asset components:		
Cash surrender value of corporate-owned life insurance policies	\$ 11,455	\$ 8,180
Fair value of mutual funds	16,625	12,108
Total	<u>\$ 28,080</u>	<u>\$ 20,288</u>
Deferred compensation plan assets reported in:		
Other long-term assets	<u>\$ 28,080</u>	<u>\$ 20,288</u>
Deferred compensation plan liabilities reported in:		
Accrued compensation and related benefits (short-term)	\$ 356	\$ 479
Other long-term liabilities	28,087	19,836
Total	<u>\$ 28,443</u>	<u>\$ 20,315</u>

Warranty Reserves

The Company generally provides a one to two-year warranty against defects in materials and workmanship and will either repair the goods or provide replacement products at no charge to the customer for defective products. Reserve requirements are recorded in the period of sale and are based on an assessment of the products sold with warranty and historical warranty costs incurred. Historically, the warranty expenses have not been material to the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Revenue Recognition

The Company's revenue consists primarily of product sales of assembled and tested integrated circuits and dies in wafer form to the consumer, computing and storage, industrial, automotive and communications markets. The remaining revenue has not been significant historically and primarily includes royalties from licensing arrangements and revenue from wafer testing services for third parties.

The Company recognizes revenue based on the following four criteria: (1) persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists; (2) delivery has occurred or services have been rendered; (3) the fee is fixed or determinable; and (4) collectability is reasonably assured. Determination of criteria (3) and (4) is based on management's judgment regarding the fixed nature of the fees charged for products delivered and the collectability of those fees. The application of these criteria has resulted in the Company generally recognizing revenue upon shipment or delivery (when title and risk of loss have transferred to customers), including to most of the distributors, original equipment manufacturers and electronic manufacturing service providers.

For each of the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, 88% of the Company's sales, respectively, were made through distribution arrangements with third parties. The Company generally recognizes revenue upon shipment or delivery of products to the distributors based on the following considerations:

- (1) The price is fixed or determinable at the date of sale. The Company does not offer special payment terms (the Company's normal payment terms are 30-45 days for its distributors) or price adjustments to distributors when the Company recognizes revenue upon shipment or delivery.
- (2) The distributors are obligated to pay the Company and this obligation is not contingent on the resale of the Company's products.
- (3) The distributors' obligation is unchanged in the event of theft or physical destruction or damage to the products.
- (4) The distributors has stand-alone economic substance apart from the Company's relationship.
- (5) The Company does not have any obligations for future performance to directly bring about the resale of its products by the distributors.
- (6) The amount of future returns can be reasonably estimated.

Certain of the Company's large distributors have contracts that included limited stock rotation rights that permit the return of a small percentage of the previous six months' purchases. The Company maintains a sales reserve for stock rotation rights, which is based on historical experience of actual stock rotation returns on a per-distributor basis and information related to products in the distribution channel. This reserve is recorded at the time of sale. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the reserve for stock rotation rights was \$2.6 million and \$1.9 million, respectively.

If the Company enters into arrangements with distributors that have price adjustment or other rights that are not fixed or determinable, the Company recognizes revenue under such arrangements only after the distributors have sold the products to end customers, at which time the price is no longer subject to adjustment and is fixed. Three of the Company's U.S.-based distributors have such price adjustment rights and accordingly, the Company defers revenue recognition on these shipments until the products are sold to the end customers by the distributors. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the deferred revenue balance before the price adjustments from these distributors was \$1.9 million and \$3.7 million, and the deferred costs were \$0.2 million and \$0.3 million, respectively.

On January 1, 2018, the Company adopted Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)*. The primary effects of the new standard for the Company related to the timing of revenue recognition with the three U.S.-based distributors with price adjustment rights. See "Recent Accounting Pronouncements Not Yet Adopted as of December 31, 2017" below for further discussion.

Stock-Based Compensation

The Company measures the cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments based on the grant-date fair value of the award. The fair value of restricted stock units ("RSUs") with service conditions or performance conditions is based on the grant date share price. The fair value of RSUs with only market conditions, as well as RSUs containing both market and performance conditions, is estimated using a Monte Carlo simulation model. The fair value of stock options, shares issued under the employee stock purchase plan and RSUs with a purchase price feature is estimated using the Black-Scholes model.

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Compensation expense related to awards with service conditions is recorded on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period. Compensation expense related to awards subject to market or performance conditions is recognized over the requisite service period for each separately vesting tranche. For awards with only market conditions, compensation expense is not reversed if the market conditions are not satisfied. For awards with only performance conditions, as well as awards containing both market and performance conditions, the Company recognizes compensation expense when it becomes probable that the performance criteria will be achieved. Management performs the probability assessment on a quarterly basis by reviewing external factors, such as macroeconomic conditions and the analog industry forecasts, and internal factors, such as the Company's business and operational objectives and revenue forecasts. Changes in the probability assessment of achievement of the performance conditions are accounted for in the period of change by recording a cumulative catch-up adjustment as if the new estimate had been applied since the service inception date. Any previously recognized compensation expense is reversed if the performance conditions are not expected to be satisfied.

Prior to January 1, 2017, the Company recognized stock-based compensation expense less an estimate for forfeitures. Upon the adoption of ASU No. 2016-09, *Compensation—Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting*, on January 1, 2017, the Company elected to account for forfeitures when they occur. See "Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncement" below for further discussion.

Research and Development

Costs incurred in research and development are expensed as incurred.

Accounting for Income Taxes

The Company recognizes federal, state and foreign current tax liabilities or assets based on its estimate of taxes payable or refundable in the current fiscal year by tax jurisdiction. The Company also recognizes federal, state and foreign deferred tax assets or liabilities for its estimate of future tax effects attributable to temporary differences and carryforwards. The Company records a valuation allowance to reduce any deferred tax assets by the amount of any tax benefits that, based on available evidence and judgment, are not expected to be realized.

The Company's calculation of current and deferred tax assets and liabilities is based on certain estimates and judgments and involves dealing with uncertainties in the application of complex tax laws. The Company's estimates of current and deferred tax assets and liabilities may change based, in part, on added certainty or finality or uncertainty to an anticipated outcome, changes in accounting or tax laws in the U.S. or foreign jurisdictions where the Company operates, or changes in other facts or circumstances. In addition, the Company recognizes liabilities for potential U.S. and foreign income tax for uncertain income tax positions taken on its tax returns if it has less than a 50% likelihood of being sustained. If the Company determines that payment of these amounts is unnecessary or if the recorded tax liability is less than its current assessment, the Company may be required to recognize an income tax benefit or additional income tax expense in its financial statements in the period such determination is made. The Company has calculated its uncertain tax positions which were attributable to certain estimates and judgments primarily related to transfer pricing, cost sharing and its international tax structure exposure.

On December 22, 2017, the tax legislation commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the "2017 Tax Act") was enacted, which significantly changed U.S. corporate income tax law. The 2017 Tax Act made the following material changes: (1) reduction of the corporate income tax rate effective January 1, 2018; (2) replacement of the worldwide tax system with a territorial tax regime, with a one-time mandatory tax on previously deferred foreign earnings; (3) amendment on the deductibility of executive performance-based compensation, and (4) creation of new taxes on certain foreign-sourced earnings.

Income tax effects resulting from changes in tax laws are accounted for by the Company in the period in which the law is enacted. See Note 12 for further discussion.

Litigation and Contingencies

The Company is a party to actions and proceedings in the ordinary course of business, including potential litigation regarding its shareholders and its intellectual property, challenges to the enforceability or validity of its intellectual property, claims that the Company's products infringe on the intellectual property rights of others, and employment matters. The pending proceedings involve complex questions of fact and law and will require the expenditure of significant funds and the diversion of other resources to prosecute and defend. In addition, from time to time, the Company becomes aware that it is subject to other contingent liabilities. When this occurs, the Company will evaluate the appropriate accounting for the potential contingent liabilities to determine whether a contingent liability should be recorded. In making this determination, management may, depending on the nature of the matter, consult with internal and external legal counsel and technical experts. Based on the facts and circumstances in each matter, the Company uses its judgment to determine whether it is probable that a contingent loss has occurred and whether the amount of such loss can be estimated. If the Company determines a loss is probable and estimable, the Company records a contingent loss. In determining the amount of a contingent loss, the Company takes into account advice received from experts for each specific matter regarding the status of legal proceedings, settlement negotiations, prior case history and other factors. Should the judgments and estimates made by management need to be adjusted as additional information becomes available, the Company may need to record additional contingent losses. Alternatively, if the judgments and estimates made by management are adjusted, for example, if a particular contingent loss does not occur, the contingent loss recorded would be reversed.

Litigation expense (benefit), net in the Consolidated Statements of Operations includes primarily patent infringement litigation and other business matters. The Company records litigation costs in the period in which they are incurred. Proceeds resulting from settlement of litigation or favorable judgments are recorded as a reduction against litigation expense.

Net Income per Share

Basic net income per share is computed by dividing net income by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted net income per share reflects the potential dilution that would occur if outstanding securities or other contracts to issue common stock were exercised or converted into common shares, and calculated using the treasury stock method. Contingently issuable shares, including equity awards with performance conditions or market conditions, are considered outstanding common shares and included in the basic net income per share as of the date that all necessary conditions to earn the awards have been satisfied. Prior to the end of the contingency period, the number of contingently issuable shares included in the diluted net income per share is based on the number of shares, if any, that would be issuable under the terms of the arrangement at the end of the reporting period.

The Company's outstanding RSUs contain forfeitable rights to receive cash dividend equivalents, which are accumulated and paid to the employees when the underlying RSUs vest. Dividend equivalents accumulated on the underlying RSUs are forfeited if the employees do not fulfill their service requirement and the awards do not vest. Accordingly, these awards are not treated as participating securities in the net income per share calculation.

Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income represents the change in the Company's net assets during the period from non-owner sources. Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) presented in the Consolidated Balance Sheets primarily consists of unrealized gains or losses related to available-for-sale investments and foreign currency translation adjustments.

Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncement

Stock-Based Compensation:

In March 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued ASU No. 2016-09, *Compensation—Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting*, which changed how entities account for certain aspects of share-based payment awards, including the accounting for excess tax benefits and tax deficiencies, forfeitures, statutory tax withholding requirements, as well as classification of excess tax benefits in the statements of cash flows. The Company adopted the standard on January 1, 2017 and the primary impact of the adoption was as follows:

- The Company elected to account for forfeitures of equity awards when they occur. The change was applied on a modified retrospective basis and the Company recorded a cumulative-effect adjustment of \$5.1 million to retained earnings on January 1, 2017, with a corresponding offset to additional paid-in capital.
- Excess tax benefits are recognized in the income tax provision in the Consolidated Statements of Operations prospectively, rather than in additional paid-in capital in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. The Company applied the modified retrospective method and there was no net impact on retained earnings on January 1, 2017, as the increase in deferred tax assets related to previously unrecognized excess tax benefits was fully offset by a valuation allowance.
- The Company is presenting excess tax benefits as an operating activity in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows on a prospective basis.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements Not Yet Adopted as of December 31, 2017

Revenue Recognition:

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)*, which outlines a single comprehensive model for entities to use in accounting for revenue arising from contracts with customers. The standard's core principle is that an entity will recognize revenue when it transfers promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The Company adopted the standard on January 1, 2018 using the modified retrospective method and prior-period results will not be restated. In the first quarter of 2018, the Company will record approximately \$0.8 million, before tax, to retained earnings related to the cumulative effect of adopting Topic 606, primarily due to the change in revenue recognition for its U.S.-based distributors as discussed below

Under Topic 606, the Company's product sales consist of a single performance obligation that is satisfied at a point in time. The Company recognizes product revenue from distributors and other customers when the products are shipped or delivered to the customers (based on the terms of the firm purchase orders and sales agreements), primarily because (a) the Company has transferred physical possession of the products, (b) the Company has a present right to payment, (c) the customers have legal title to the products, and (d) the customers bear significant risks and rewards of ownership of the products.

The primary change for the Company under Topic 606 relates to the timing of revenue recognition with three U.S.-based distributors. Sales to these distributors are transacted under the terms of agreements providing price adjustment and other rights. Prior to the adoption of Topic 606, revenue and costs related to these sales were deferred until the Company received notification from the distributors that products have been sold to the end customers and the amount of price adjustments was fixed and finalized. As of December 31, 2017, the deferred revenue balance before the price adjustments was \$1.9 million and the related deferred costs were \$0.2 million. Upon adoption of Topic 606, the transaction price takes into consideration the effect of variable consideration such as price adjustments, which are estimated and recorded at the time the promised goods are transferred to the customers. Accordingly, effective January 1, 2018, the Company recognizes revenue at the time of shipment or delivery to the distributors, adjusted for an estimate of the price adjustments based on management's review of historical data and other information available at the time.

Revenue from other U.S. and non-U.S. distributors, which make up the majority of the Company's total sales to distributors, was already recognized at the time of shipment or delivery to the distributors prior to the adoption of Topic 606 because these arrangements do not contain price adjustment rights. Accordingly, revenue recognition on arrangements with these distributors remains substantially unchanged upon adoption of Topic 606.

Other:

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, *Leases (Topic 842)*, which requires entities to recognize a right-of-use asset and a lease liability on the balance sheets for substantially all leases with a lease term greater than 12 months, including leases currently accounted for as operating leases. In addition, the standard applies to leases embedded in service arrangements. The standard requires modified retrospective adoption and will be effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018, with early adoption permitted. The Company is evaluating the impact of the adoption on its consolidated financial position, results of operations, cash flows and disclosures.

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-13, *Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments*, which introduces a model based on expected losses to estimate credit losses for most financial assets and certain other instruments. In addition, for available-for-sale debt securities with unrealized losses, the losses will be recognized as allowances rather than reductions in the amortized cost of the securities. The standard will be effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019, with early adoption permitted for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018. Entities will apply the standard by recording a cumulative-effect adjustment to retained earnings. The Company is evaluating the impact of the adoption on its consolidated financial position, results of operations, cash flows and disclosures.

In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU No. 2017-04, *Intangibles – Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Simplifying the Accounting for Goodwill Impairment*, which simplifies the accounting for goodwill impairment. The guidance removes step two of the goodwill impairment test, which requires a hypothetical purchase price allocation. A goodwill impairment will now be the amount by which a reporting unit's carrying value exceeds its fair value, not to exceed the carrying amount of goodwill. Entities will continue to have the option to perform a qualitative assessment to determine if a quantitative impairment test is necessary. The standard will be applied prospectively, and is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019. Early adoption is permitted. The Company is evaluating the impact of the adoption on its annual goodwill impairment test.

2. ACQUISITION

On July 22, 2014 (the “Acquisition Date”), the Company acquired 100% of the outstanding capital stock of Sensima Technology SA (“Sensima”) for total purchase consideration of \$14.2 million, which consisted of a cash payment of \$11.7 million and the fair value of contingent consideration of \$2.5 million.

The contingent consideration arrangement required the Company to pay up to an additional \$8.9 million to former Sensima shareholders if Sensima achieved a new product introduction as well as certain product revenue and direct margin targets in 2016. The fair value of the contingent consideration at the Acquisition Date was \$2.5 million, which was estimated based on a probability-weighted analysis of possible future revenue outcomes. The fair value of the contingent consideration was initially recorded in other long-term liabilities in the Consolidated Balance Sheets and was remeasured at the end of each reporting period, with any changes in fair value recorded in operating expense in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. As part of the quarterly assessment in the fourth quarter of 2015, management reviewed the sales forecast for the products and determined that the projected product revenue in 2016 would likely not meet the minimum target required to earn the contingent consideration, primarily because the product adoption process by customers would take longer than the Company had originally anticipated. Accordingly, the fair value of the contingent consideration was deemed to be \$0 as of December 31, 2015. The Company released the liability of \$2.5 million and recorded the credit in selling, general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2015.

On December 31, 2016, at the conclusion of the performance period, management affirmed that no contingent consideration was earned as the actual product revenue in 2016 did not meet the minimum target.

3. CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS

The following is a summary of the Company’s cash, cash equivalents and short-term and long-term investments (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Cash, cash equivalents and investments:		
Cash	\$ 75,125	\$ 87,747
Money market funds	7,134	24,956
Corporate debt securities	203,807	109,644
U.S. treasuries and government agency bonds	13,024	45,877
Auction-rate securities backed by student-loan notes	5,256	5,354
Total	\$ 304,346	\$ 273,578

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Reported as:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 82,759	\$ 112,703
Short-term investments	216,331	155,521
Long-term investments	5,256	5,354
Total	\$ 304,346	\$ 273,578

The contractual maturities of the Company’s short-term and long-term available-for-sale investments are as follows (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Due in less than 1 year	\$ 89,399	\$ 47,568
Due in 1 - 5 years	126,932	107,953
Due in greater than 5 years	5,256	5,354
Total	\$ 221,587	\$ 160,875

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The following tables summarize the unrealized gain and loss positions related to the Company's available-for sale investments (in thousands):

December 31, 2017					
	Amortized Cost	Unrealized Gains	Unrealized Losses	Total Fair Value	Fair Value of Investments in Unrealized Loss Position
Money market funds	\$ 7,134	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,134	\$ -
Corporate debt securities	204,789	17	(999)	203,807	197,564
U.S. treasuries and government agency bonds	13,092	-	(68)	13,024	13,024
Auction-rate securities backed by student-loan notes	5,570	-	(314)	5,256	5,256
Total	\$ 230,585	\$ 17	\$ (1,381)	\$ 229,221	\$ 215,844

December 31, 2016					
	Amortized Cost	Unrealized Gains	Unrealized Losses	Total Fair Value	Fair Value of Investments in Unrealized Loss Position
Money market funds	\$ 24,956	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,956	\$ -
Corporate debt securities	110,429	65	(850)	109,644	91,938
U.S. treasuries and government agency bonds	45,899	-	(22)	45,877	39,275
Auction-rate securities backed by student-loan notes	5,570	-	(216)	5,354	5,354
Total	\$ 186,854	\$ 65	\$ (1,088)	\$ 185,831	\$ 136,567

There were no redemptions of auction-rate securities for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015. The underlying maturities of the outstanding auction-rate securities are up to 30 years. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the impairment of \$0.3 million and \$0.2 million, respectively, was determined to be temporary based on the following management assessment:

- Management possesses both the intent and ability to hold these securities for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in fair value;
- Management believes that it is more likely than not that the Company will not have to sell these securities before recovery of its cost basis;
- Except for the credit loss of \$70,000 recognized in the year ended December 31, 2009, the Company does not believe that there is any additional credit loss associated with these securities because the Company expects to recover the entire amortized cost basis;
- The majority of the securities remain AAA, AA+ or Aaa rated;
- All scheduled interest payments have been made pursuant to the reset terms and conditions; and
- All redemptions of these securities to date, representing 87% of the original portfolio, have been at par.

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT

The following table details the fair value measurement of the financial assets (in thousands):

Fair Value Measurement at December 31, 2017					
	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
Money market funds	\$ 7,134	\$ 7,134	\$ -	\$ -	-
Corporate debt securities	203,807	-	203,807	-	-
U.S. treasuries and government agency bonds	13,024	-	13,024	-	-
Auction-rate securities backed by student-loan notes	5,256	-	-	5,256	-
Mutual funds under deferred compensation plan	16,625	16,625	-	-	-
Total	\$ 245,846	\$ 23,759	\$ 216,831	\$ 5,256	-

Fair Value Measurement at December 31, 2016					
	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
Money market funds	\$ 24,956	\$ 24,956	\$ -	\$ -	-
Corporate debt securities	109,644	-	109,644	-	-
U.S. treasuries and government agency bonds	45,877	-	45,877	-	-
Auction-rate securities backed by student-loan notes	5,354	-	-	5,354	-
Mutual funds under deferred compensation plan	12,108	12,108	-	-	-
Total	\$ 197,939	\$ 37,064	\$ 155,521	\$ 5,354	-

- Level 1—includes instruments with quoted prices in active markets for identical assets.
- Level 2—includes instruments for which the valuations are based upon quoted market prices in active markets involving similar assets or inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the assets. The market inputs used to value these instruments generally consist of market yields, recently executed transactions, broker/dealer quotes or alternative pricing sources with reasonable levels of price transparency. Pricing sources may include industry standard data providers, security master files from large financial institutions, and other third-party sources used to determine a daily market value.
- Level 3—includes instruments for which the valuations are based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement.



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The Company's level 3 assets consist of government-backed student loan auction-rate securities, which became illiquid in 2008. The following table provides a rollforward of the fair value of the auction-rate securities (in thousands):

Balance at January 1, 2016	\$ 5,361
Change in unrealized loss included in other comprehensive loss	(7)
Balance at December 31, 2016	5,354
Change in unrealized loss included in other comprehensive income	(98)
Balance at December 31, 2017	<u>\$ 5,256</u>

The Company determined the fair value of the auction-rate securities using a discounted cash flow model with the following assumptions:

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Time-to-liquidity (years)	2 - 3	2
Discount rate	4.5% - 9.6%	4.3% - 9.3%

5. BALANCE SHEET COMPONENTS

Inventories

Inventories consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Raw materials	\$ 20,573	\$ 14,599
Work in process	40,030	26,048
Finished goods	38,678	30,822
Total	<u>\$ 99,281</u>	<u>\$ 71,469</u>

Other Current Assets

Other current assets consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Prepaid wafer purchase	\$ 6,217	\$ 5,000
Other prepaid expense	2,742	2,249
Interest receivable	1,352	966
Value-added tax receivable	1,235	263
Other	1,216	565
Total	<u>\$ 12,762</u>	<u>\$ 9,043</u>

[Table of Contents](#)**Property and Equipment, Net**

Property and equipment, net, consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Production equipment and software	\$ 110,971	\$ 95,565
Buildings and improvements	100,990	48,964
Transportation equipment	11,443	11,291
Land	16,883	8,285
Furniture and fixtures	3,641	3,518
Leasehold improvements	3,321	2,838
Property and equipment, gross	247,249	170,461
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization	(102,613)	(85,290)
Total	<u>\$ 144,636</u>	<u>\$ 85,171</u>

Depreciation and amortization expense was \$14.0 million, \$12.6 million and \$12.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

Other Long-Term Assets

Other long-term assets consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Deferred compensation plan assets	\$ 28,080	\$ 20,288
Prepaid wafer purchase	-	5,000
Other prepaid expense	897	1,117
Other	1,091	1,006
Total	<u>\$ 30,068</u>	<u>\$ 27,411</u>

Accrued Liabilities

Accrued liabilities consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Dividends and dividend equivalents	\$ 9,248	\$ 8,946
Customer prepayments	4,742	3,246
Income tax payable	2,861	1,239
Stock rotation reserve	2,647	1,937
Warranty	2,416	1,030
Deferred income	1,845	3,553
Sales rebate	1,036	441
Commissions	938	1,008
Other	1,774	1,516
Total	<u>\$ 27,507</u>	<u>\$ 22,916</u>

Other Long-Term Liabilities

Other long-term liabilities consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Deferred compensation plan liabilities	\$ 28,087	\$ 19,836
Dividend equivalents	4,881	3,294
Other	56	89
Total	<u>\$ 33,024</u>	<u>\$ 23,219</u>

6. GOODWILL AND ACQUISITION-RELATED INTANGIBLE ASSETS, NET

There have been no changes in the goodwill balance for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016. The Company did not identify any goodwill impairment for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015.

Acquisition-related intangible assets consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 31, 2017		
	Gross Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Amount
Know-how	\$ 1,018	\$ (704)	\$ 314
Developed technologies	6,466	(5,829)	637
Total	\$ 7,484	\$ (6,533)	\$ 951

	December 31, 2016		
	Gross Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Amount
Know-how	\$ 1,018	\$ (500)	\$ 518
Developed technologies	6,466	(3,982)	2,484
Total	\$ 7,484	\$ (4,482)	\$ 3,002

Amortization expense is recorded in cost of revenue in the Consolidated Statements of Operations and totaled \$2.1 million, \$2.1 million and \$1.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

The estimated future amortization expense as of December 31, 2017 is as follows (in thousands):

2018	\$ 841
2019	110
Total	\$ 951

7. STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

2004 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2004 Plan")

The Board of Directors adopted the 2004 Plan in March 2004, and the stockholders approved it in November 2004. The 2004 Plan provided for annual increases in the number of shares available for issuance equal to the least of 5% of the outstanding shares of common stock on the first day of the year, 2.4 million shares, or a number of shares determined by the Board of Directors. The 2004 Plan expired on November 12, 2014, and equity awards can no longer be granted under the 2004 Plan. As of November 12, 2014, 2.9 million shares that were available for issuance expired under the 2004 Plan.

2014 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2014 Plan")

The Board of Directors adopted the 2014 Plan in April 2013, and the stockholders approved it in June 2013. In October 2014, the Board of Directors approved certain amendments to the 2014 Plan. The 2014 Plan, as amended, became effective on November 13, 2014 and provides for the issuance of up to 5.5 million shares. The 2014 Plan will expire on November 13, 2024. As of December 31, 2017, 3.2 million shares remained available for future issuance under the 2014 Plan.

Stock-Based Compensation Expense

The Company recognized stock-based compensation expense as follows (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Cost of revenue	\$ 1,654	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,166
Research and development	14,816	14,041	11,156
Selling, general and administrative	36,147	29,373	29,241
Total stock-based compensation expense	\$ 52,617	\$ 44,989	\$ 41,563
Tax benefit related to stock-based compensation	\$ 5,054	-	-

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In the first quarter of 2016, the Company's then Chief Financial Officer retired. As the service or performance conditions for her outstanding restricted stock units ("RSUs") had not been satisfied at the time of her departure, the Company reversed previously accrued stock-based compensation expenses of \$2.9 million associated with the unvested RSUs and this credit was reflected in selling, general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2016.

RSUs

The Company's RSUs include time-based RSUs, RSUs with only performance conditions ("PSUs"), RSUs with both market and performance conditions ("MPSUs"), and RSUs with only market conditions ("MSUs"). Vesting of all awards requires continued service for the Company. In addition, vesting of awards with performance conditions or market conditions is subject to the achievement of pre-determined performance goals. A summary of RSU activity is presented in the table below (in thousands, except per-share amounts):

	Time-Based RSUs	Weighted- Average Grant Date Fair Value Per Share	PSUs and MPSUs	Weighted- Average Grant Date Fair Value Per Share	MSUs	Weighted- Average Grant Date Fair Value Per Share	Total	Weighted- Average Grant Date Fair Value Per Share
Outstanding at January 1, 2015	589	\$ 28.48	1,659	\$ 28.11	1,800	\$ 23.57	4,048	\$ 26.14
Granted	271	\$ 49.82	927 (1)	\$ 47.61	-	\$ -	1,198	\$ 48.11
Released	(319)	\$ 26.56	(629)	\$ 23.40	-	\$ -	(948)	\$ 24.47
Forfeited	(42)	\$ 35.60	(24)	\$ 28.68	-	\$ -	(66)	\$ 33.06
Outstanding at December 31, 2015	499	\$ 40.75	1,933	\$ 38.99	1,800	\$ 23.57	4,232	\$ 32.64
Granted	133	\$ 63.00	1,216 (1)	\$ 41.12	-	\$ -	1,349	\$ 43.28
Released	(239)	\$ 36.43	(736)	\$ 29.71	-	\$ -	(975)	\$ 31.36
Forfeited	(27)	\$ 45.35	(129)	\$ 36.82	(180)	\$ 23.57	(336)	\$ 30.38
Outstanding at December 31, 2016	366	\$ 51.35	2,284	\$ 43.24	1,620	\$ 23.57	4,270	\$ 36.47
Granted	81	\$ 94.25	585 (1)	\$ 62.72	-	\$ -	666	\$ 66.56
Released	(175)	\$ 48.35	(597)	\$ 41.94	-	\$ -	(772)	\$ 43.39
Forfeited	(14)	\$ 61.80	(6)	\$ 49.82	-	\$ -	(20)	\$ 58.46
Outstanding at December 31, 2017	258	\$ 66.30	2,266	\$ 48.59	1,620	\$ 23.57	4,144	\$ 39.91

(1) Amount reflects the number of PSUs and MPSUs that may ultimately be earned based on management's probability assessment of the achievement of performance conditions at each reporting period. In addition, MPSUs are subject to the achievement of market conditions.

The intrinsic value related to RSUs released was \$74.0 million, \$62.9 million and \$49.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. As of December 31, 2017, the total intrinsic value of all outstanding RSUs was \$430.6 million, based on the closing stock price of \$112.36. As of December 31, 2017, unamortized compensation expense related to all outstanding RSUs was \$75.9 million with a weighted-average remaining recognition period of approximately three years.

Time-Based RSUs:

For the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors (the "Compensation Committee") granted 81,000, 133,000 and 271,000 RSUs, respectively, with time-based vesting conditions to employees and non-employee directors. The RSUs generally vest over three to four years for employees and one year for directors, subject to continued service with the Company.

2017 PSUs:

In February 2017, the Compensation Committee granted 200,000 PSUs to the executive officers, which represent a target number of shares to be awarded based on the Company's average two-year (2017 and 2018) revenue growth rate compared against the analog industry's average two-year revenue growth rate as published by the Semiconductor Industry Association ("2017 Executive PSUs"). The maximum number of shares that an executive officer can earn is 300% of the target number of the 2017 Executive PSUs. 50% of the 2017 Executive PSUs will vest in the first quarter of 2019 if the pre-determined performance goals are met during the performance period and approved by the Compensation Committee. The remaining 2017 Executive PSUs will vest over the following two years on a quarterly basis. Vesting is subject to the employees' continued employment with the Company. Assuming the achievement of the highest level of performance goals, the total stock-based compensation cost for the 2017 Executive PSUs is \$36.3 million.

In February 2017, the Compensation Committee granted 48,000 PSUs to certain non-executive employees, which represent a target number of shares to be awarded based on the Company's 2018 revenue goals for certain regions or product line divisions, or based on the Company's average two-year (2017 and 2018) revenue growth rate compared against the analog industry's average two-year revenue growth rate as published by the Semiconductor Industry Association ("2017 Non-Executive PSUs"). The maximum number of shares that an employee can earn is either 200% or 300% of the target number of the 2017 Non-Executive PSUs, depending on the job classification of the employee. 50% of the 2017 Non-Executive PSUs will vest in the first quarter of 2019 if the pre-determined performance goals are met during the performance period and approved by the Compensation Committee. The remaining 2017 Non-Executive PSUs will vest over the following two years on an annual or quarterly basis. Vesting is subject to the employees' continued employment with the Company. Assuming the achievement of the highest level of performance goals, the total stock-based compensation cost for the 2017 Non-Executive PSUs, excluding cancelled shares, is \$7.1 million.

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The 2017 Executive PSUs and the 2017 Non-Executive PSUs contain a purchase price feature, which requires the employees to pay the Company \$30 per share upon vesting of the shares. Shares that do not vest will not be subject to the purchase price payment. The Company determined the grant date fair value of the 2017 Executive PSUs and the 2017 Non-Executive PSUs using the Black-Scholes model with the following assumptions: stock price of \$89.37, expected term of 2.6 years, expected volatility of 28.6% and risk-free interest rate of 1.3%.

2016 PSUs:

In February 2016, the Compensation Committee granted 285,000 PSUs to the executive officers, which represented a target number of shares to be awarded based on the Company's average two-year (2016 and 2017) revenue growth rate compared against the analog industry's average two-year revenue growth rate as published by the Semiconductor Industry Association ("2016 Executive PSUs"). The maximum number of shares that an executive officer could earn was 300% of the target number of the 2016 Executive PSUs. 50% of the 2016 Executive PSUs would vest in the first quarter of 2018 if the pre-determined performance goals were met during the performance period and approved by the Compensation Committee. The remaining 2016 Executive PSUs would vest over the following two years on a quarterly basis. Vesting is subject to the employees' continued employment with the Company. In July 2016, the Compensation Committee granted 12,000 2016 Executive PSUs to the Company's new Chief Financial Officer.

In February 2018, the Compensation Committee approved the revenue achievement for the 2016 Executive PSUs and a total of 651,000 shares were earned by the executive officers. Based on the actual achievement of the performance goals, the total stock-based compensation cost for the 2016 Executive PSUs, excluding cancelled shares, is \$26.1 million.

In February 2016, the Compensation Committee granted 64,000 PSUs to certain non-executive employees, which represented a target number of shares to be awarded based on the Company's 2017 revenue goals for certain regions or product line divisions, or based on the Company's average two-year (2016 and 2017) revenue growth rate compared against the analog industry's average two-year revenue growth rate as published by the Semiconductor Industry Association ("2016 Non-Executive PSUs"). The maximum number of shares that an employee could earn was either 200% or 300% of the target number of the 2016 Non-Executive PSUs, depending on the job classification of the employee. 50% of the 2016 Non-Executive PSUs would vest in the first quarter of 2018 if the pre-determined performance goals were met during the performance period and approved by the Compensation Committee. The remaining 2016 Non-Executive PSUs would vest over the following two years on an annual or quarterly basis. Vesting is subject to the employees' continued employment with the Company.

In February 2018, the Compensation Committee approved the revenue achievement for the 2016 Non-Executive PSUs and a total of 128,000 shares were earned by the employees. Based on the actual achievement of the performance goals, the total stock-based compensation cost for the 2016 Non-Executive PSUs, excluding cancelled shares, is \$5.1 million.

The 2016 Executive PSUs and the 2016 Non-Executive PSUs contain a purchase price feature, which requires the employees to pay the Company \$20 per share upon vesting of the shares. Shares that do not vest will not be subject to the purchase price payment. The Company determined the grant date fair value of the 2016 Executive PSUs and the 2016 Non-Executive PSUs granted in February 2016 using the Black-Scholes model with the following assumptions: stock price of \$58.98, expected term of 2.6 years, expected volatility of 31.1% and risk-free interest rate of 0.9%. For the 2016 Executive PSUs granted in July 2016, the Company used the following assumptions: stock price of \$70.98, expected term of 2.3 years, expected volatility of 29.6% and risk-free interest rate of 0.7%.

2015 PSUs:

In February 2015, the Compensation Committee granted 172,000 PSUs to the executive officers, which represented a target number of shares to be awarded based on the Company's average two-year (2015 and 2016) revenue growth rate compared against the analog industry's average two-year revenue growth rate as published by the Semiconductor Industry Association ("2015 Executive PSUs"). The maximum number of shares that an executive officer could earn was 300% of the target number of the 2015 Executive PSUs. In February 2017, the Compensation Committee approved the revenue achievement for the 2015 Executive PSUs and a total of 432,000 shares were earned by the executive officers. 50% of the 2015 Executive PSUs vested in the first quarter of 2017. The remaining 2015 Executive PSUs vest over the following two years on a quarterly basis. Vesting is subject to the employees' continued employment with the Company. Based on the actual achievement of the performance goals, the total stock-based compensation cost for the 2015 Executive PSUs, excluding cancelled shares, is \$21.0 million.

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In February 2015, the Compensation Committee granted 58,000 PSUs to certain non-executive employees, which represented a target number of shares to be awarded based on the Company's 2016 revenue goals for certain regions or product line divisions, or based on the Company's average two-year (2015 and 2016) revenue growth rate compared against the analog industry's average two-year revenue growth rate as published by the Semiconductor Industry Association ("2015 Non-Executive PSUs"). The maximum number of shares that an employee could earn was either 200% or 300% of the target number of the 2015 Non-Executive PSUs, depending on the job classification of the employee. In February 2017, the Compensation Committee approved the revenue achievement for the 2015 Non-Executive PSUs and a total of 118,000 shares were earned by the non-executive employees. 50% of the 2015 Non-Executive PSUs vested in the first quarter of 2017. The remaining 2015 Non-Executive PSUs vest over the following two years on an annual or quarterly basis. Vesting is subject to the employees' continued employment with the Company. Based on the actual achievement of the performance goals, the total stock-based compensation cost for the 2015 Non-Executive PSUs, excluding cancelled shares, is \$5.7 million.

2015 MPSUs:

On December 31, 2015, the Compensation Committee granted 86,000 MPSUs to the executive officers and 41,000 MPSUs to certain non-executive employees, which represent a target number of shares to be awarded upon achievement of both market conditions and performance conditions ("2015 MPSUs"). The maximum number of shares that an employee can earn is 500% of the target number of the 2015 MPSUs. The 2015 MPSUs consist of four separate tranches with various performance periods ending on December 31, 2019. The first tranche contains market conditions only, which require the achievement of five stock price targets ranging from \$71.36 to \$95.57 with a performance period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2019. As of September 30, 2017, all five price targets for the first tranche have been achieved and approved by the Compensation Committee.

The second, third and fourth tranches contain both market conditions and performance conditions. Each tranche requires the achievement of five stock price targets measured against a base price equal to the greater of: (1) the average closing stock price during the 20 consecutive trading days immediately before the start of the performance period for that tranche, or (2) the closing stock price immediately before the start of the performance period for that tranche. The stock price targets for the second tranche range from \$89.56 to \$106.81 with a performance period from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019. As of December 31, 2017, all five price targets for the second tranche have been achieved and approved by the Compensation Committee. The stock price targets for the third tranche range from \$120.80 to \$135.48 with a performance period from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019. The stock price targets for the fourth tranche will be determined on December 31, 2018 with a performance period from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.

In addition, each of the second, third and fourth tranches requires the achievement of one of following six operating metrics:

1. Successful implementation of full digital solutions for certain power products.
2. Successful implementation, and adoption by a key customer, of an integrated, software-based field-oriented control with sensors to motor drivers.
3. Successful implementation of certain advanced power analog processes.
4. Successful design wins and achievement of a specific level of revenue with a global networking customer.
5. Achievement of a specific level of revenue with a global electronics manufacturer.
6. Achievement of a specific level of market share with certain core power products.

As of December 31, 2017, none of the operating metrics have been achieved.

Subject to the employees' continued employment with the Company, the 2015 MPSUs will fully vest on January 1, 2020 if the pre-determined individual market and performance goals in each tranche are met during the performance periods and approved by the Compensation Committee. In addition, the 2015 MPSUs contain sales restrictions on the vested shares by employees for up to two years.

The Company determined the grant date fair value of the 2015 MPSUs using a Monte Carlo simulation model with the following weighted-average assumptions: stock price of \$61.35, expected volatility of 33.2%, risk-free interest rate of 1.3%, and an illiquidity discount of 7.8% to account for the post-vesting sales restrictions. Assuming the achievement of all of the required market and performance goals, the total stock-based compensation cost for the 2015 MPSUs, excluding cancelled shares, is \$24.6 million (\$8.3 million for the first tranche, \$4.5 million for the second tranche, \$5.2 million for the third tranche, and \$6.6 million for the fourth tranche).

For the first tranche, stock-based compensation expense is being recognized over the requisite service period. For the second, third and fourth tranches, stock-based compensation expense for each tranche is recognized depending upon the number of the operating metrics management deems probable of being achieved during the performance periods in each reporting period. As of December 31, 2017, based on management's quarterly assessment, three of the six operating metrics were considered probable of being achieved during the performance periods. Accordingly, stock-based compensation expense is being recognized for the second, third and fourth tranches over the requisite service period.

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2014 PSUs:

In February 2014, the Compensation Committee granted 252,000 PSUs to the executive officers, which represented a target number of shares to be awarded based on the Company's average two-year (2014 and 2015) revenue growth rate compared against the analog industry's average two-year revenue growth rate as published by the Semiconductor Industry Association ("2014 Executive PSUs"). The maximum number of shares that an executive officer could earn was 300% of the target number of the 2014 Executive PSUs. In February 2016, the Compensation Committee approved the revenue achievement for the 2014 Executive PSUs and a total of 694,000 shares were earned by the executive officers. 50% of the 2014 Executive PSUs vested in the first quarter of 2016. The remaining 2014 Executive PSUs vest over the following two years on a quarterly basis. Vesting is subject to the employees' continued employment with the Company. Based on the actual achievement of the performance goals, the total stock-based compensation cost for the 2014 Executive PSUs, excluding cancelled shares, is \$20.7 million.

In April 2014, the Compensation Committee granted 61,000 PSUs to certain non-executive employees, which represented a target number of shares to be awarded based on the Company's 2015 revenue goals for certain regions or product line divisions, or based on the Company's average two-year (2014 and 2015) revenue growth rate compared against the analog industry's average two-year revenue growth rate as published by the Semiconductor Industry Association ("2014 Non-Executive PSUs"). The maximum number of shares that an employee could earn was either 200% or 300% of the target number of the 2014 Non-Executive PSUs, depending on the job classification of the employee. In February 2016, the Compensation Committee approved the revenue achievement for the 2014 Non-Executive PSUs and a total of 103,000 shares were earned by the non-executive employees. 50% of the 2014 Non-Executive PSUs vested in the second quarter of 2016. The remaining 2014 Non-Executive PSUs vest over the following two years on an annual or quarterly basis. Vesting is subject to the employees' continued employment with the Company. Based on the actual achievement of the performance goals, the total stock-based compensation cost for the 2014 Non-Executive PSUs, excluding cancelled shares, is \$3.7 million.

In connection with the acquisition of Sensima in July 2014, the Compensation Committee granted \$2.0 million of PSUs (or 47,000 shares) to key Sensima employees who became employees of the Company, with the right to earn up to four equal tranches totaling \$8.0 million based on the achievement of certain cumulative Sensima product revenue targets during the performance period from the acquisition date to July 2019. 50% of the awards subject to each revenue goal will vest immediately when the revenue goal is met during the performance period and approved by the Compensation Committee. The remaining shares will vest over the following two years. The vesting is subject to the employees' continued employment with the Company. These equity awards are considered arrangements for post-acquisition services and the compensation cost for the four tranches is recognized over the requisite service period if it is probable that the performance goals will be met. As of December 31, 2017, stock-based compensation expense of \$2.0 million for the first tranche was being recognized over the requisite service period. Stock-based compensation expense for the other tranches was not being recognized as their achievement was deemed not probable as of December 31, 2017.

2013 PSUs:

In February 2013, the Compensation Committee granted 220,000 PSUs to the executive officers, which represented a target number of shares to be awarded upon achievement of certain pre-determined revenue targets in 2014 ("2013 Executive PSUs"). The maximum number of shares that an executive officer could earn was 300% of the target number of the 2013 Executive PSUs. In February 2015, the Compensation Committee approved the revenue achievement for the 2013 Executive PSUs and a total of 622,000 shares were earned by the executive officers. 50% of the 2013 Executive PSUs vested in the first quarter of 2015 and the remaining shares vested over the following two years on a quarterly basis. Vesting was subject to the employees' continued employment with the Company. Based on the actual achievement of the performance goals, the total stock-based compensation cost for the 2013 Executive PSUs, excluding cancelled shares, was \$15.0 million.

In February 2013, the Compensation Committee granted 91,000 PSUs to certain non-executive employees, which represented a target number of shares to be awarded upon achievement of certain pre-determined revenue targets for the Company as a whole, certain regions or product-line divisions in 2014 ("2013 Non-Executive PSUs"). The maximum number of shares that an employee could earn was either 200% or 300% of the target number of 2013 Non-Executive PSUs, depending on the job classification of the employee. In February 2015, the Compensation Committee approved the revenue achievement for the 2013 Non-Executive PSUs and a total of 154,000 shares were earned by the non-executive employees. 50% of the 2013 Non-Executive PSUs vested in the first quarter of 2015 and the remaining shares vested over the following two years on an annual or quarterly basis. Vesting was subject to the employees' continued employment with the Company. Based on the actual achievement of the performance goals, the total stock-based compensation cost for the 2013 Non-Executive PSUs, excluding cancelled shares, was \$3.0 million.

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2013 MSUs:

In December 2013, the Compensation Committee granted 276,000 MSUs to the executive officers and 84,000 MSUs to certain non-executive employees, which represented a target number of shares that would be awarded upon achievement of five stock price targets ranging from \$40.00 to \$56.00 during a five-year performance period from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018 (“2013 MSUs”). The maximum number of shares that an employee could earn was 500% of the target number of the 2013 MSUs. As of December 31, 2015, all five stock price targets have been achieved and approved by the Compensation Committee, and the employees earned a total of 1.8 million shares. The 2013 MSUs will vest quarterly from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023. Vesting is subject to the employees’ continued employment with the Company.

The Company determined the grant date fair value of the 2013 MSUs using a Monte Carlo simulation model with the following assumptions: stock price of \$31.73, expected volatility of 38.7% and risk-free interest rate of 1.6%. The total stock-based compensation cost for the 2013 MSUs, excluding cancelled shares, is \$38.2 million.

Stock Options

No stock options were granted for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015. A summary of stock option activity is presented in the table below:

	Shares (in thousands)	Weighted- Average Exercise Price	Weighted- Average Remaining Contractual Term (in years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in thousands)
Outstanding at January 1, 2015	590	\$ 15.80	1.2	\$ 20,039
Exercised	(498)	\$ 15.55		
Forfeited and expired	(2)	\$ 6.10		
Outstanding at December 31, 2015	90	\$ 17.50	1.3	\$ 4,134
Exercised	(76)	\$ 17.80		
Outstanding at December 31, 2016	14	\$ 15.88	1.0	\$ 921
Exercised	(9)	\$ 16.79		
Outstanding at December 31, 2017	5	\$ 13.89	0.4	\$ 465
Exercisable at December 31, 2017	5	\$ 13.89	0.4	\$ 465

Total intrinsic value of options exercised was \$0.7 million, \$3.7 million and \$18.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. Proceeds from stock option exercises were \$0.1 million, \$1.3 million and \$7.7 million for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. At December 31, 2017, there was no unamortized compensation expense.

2004 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (“ESPP”)

Under the ESPP, eligible employees may purchase common stock through payroll deductions. Participants may not purchase more than 2,000 shares in a six-month offering period or stock having a value greater than \$25,000 in any calendar year as measured at the beginning of the offering period in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code and applicable Treasury Regulations. The ESPP provides for an annual increase by an amount equal to the least of 1.0 million shares, 2% of the outstanding shares of common stock on the first day of the year, or a number of shares as determined by the Board of Directors. As of December 31, 2017, 4.6 million shares were available for future issuance. The ESPP will expire in November 2024.

For the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, 40,000, 53,000 and 56,000 shares, respectively, were issued under the ESPP. The intrinsic value of the shares issued was \$1.0 million, \$1.0 million and \$0.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. The unamortized expense as of December 31, 2017 was \$92,000, which will be recognized through the first quarter of 2018. The Black-Scholes model was used to value the employee stock purchase rights with the following weighted-average assumptions:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Expected term (years)	0.5	0.5	0.5
Expected volatility	23.5%	28.6%	30.3%
Risk-free interest rate	0.9%	0.4%	0.2%
Dividend yield	0.9%	1.2%	1.4%

Cash proceeds from the shares issued under the ESPP were \$2.7 million, \$2.5 million and \$2.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

8. STOCK REPURCHASE PROGRAMS

In July 2013, the Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase program (the “2013 Program”) that authorized the Company to repurchase up to \$100 million in the aggregate of its common stock through June 30, 2015. In April 2015, the Board of Directors approved an extension of the 2013 Program through December 31, 2015. The 2013 Program expired on December 31, 2015 with a remaining unused balance of \$5.9 million. Shares were retired upon repurchase under the 2013 Program.

In February 2016, the Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase program (the “2016 Program”) that authorized the Company to repurchase up to \$50 million in the aggregate of its common stock through December 31, 2016. In December 2016, the Board of Directors approved an extension of the 2016 Program through December 31, 2017. The 2016 Program expired on December 31, 2017 with a remaining unused balance of \$50 million.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, the Company repurchased a total of 0.6 million shares for \$32.3 million, at an average price of \$50.05 per share under the 2013 Program. No shares were repurchased for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016.

9. DIVIDENDS AND DIVIDEND EQUIVALENTS

Cash Dividend Program

In June 2014, the Board of Directors approved a dividend program pursuant to which the Company intends to pay quarterly cash dividends on its common stock. Based on the Company’s historical practice, stockholders of record as of the last business day of the quarter are entitled to receive the quarterly cash dividends when and if declared by the Board of Directors, which are payable to the stockholders in the following month. The Board of Directors declared the following cash dividends (in thousands, except per-share amounts):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Dividend declared per share	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.80
Total amount	\$ 33,145	\$ 32,434	\$ 31,618

As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, accrued dividends totaled \$8.3 million and \$8.2 million, respectively.

The declaration of any future cash dividends is at the discretion of the Board of Directors and will depend on, among other things, the Company’s financial condition, results of operations, capital requirements, business conditions, statutory requirements of Delaware law, compliance with the terms of future indebtedness and credit facilities and other factors that the Board of Directors may deem relevant, as well as a determination that cash dividends are in the best interests of the stockholders.

The Company anticipates that cash used for future dividend payments will come from its current domestic cash and cash generated from ongoing U.S. operations. In addition, the Company currently plans to repatriate cash from its Bermuda subsidiary to fund future dividends and continue to indefinitely reinvest its earnings from other foreign subsidiaries. See Note 12 for further discussion.

Cash Dividend Equivalent Rights

Under the Company’s stock plans, outstanding RSUs contain rights to receive cash dividend equivalents, which entitle employees who hold RSUs to the same dividend value per share as holders of common stock. The dividend equivalents are accumulated and paid to the employees when the underlying RSUs vest. Dividend equivalents accumulated on the underlying RSUs are forfeited if the employees do not fulfill their service requirement and the awards do not vest. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, accrued dividend equivalents totaled \$5.8 million and \$4.1 million, respectively.

10. INTEREST AND OTHER INCOME, NET

The components of interest and other income, net are as follows (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Interest income	\$ 5,353	\$ 2,488	\$ 1,608
Amortization of premium on available-for-sale investments	(1,976)	(1,019)	(463)
Gain (loss) on deferred compensation plan investments	2,531	1,257	(375)
Foreign currency exchange gain (loss)	(550)	65	608
Other	162	26	43
Total	<u>\$ 5,520</u>	<u>\$ 2,817</u>	<u>\$ 1,421</u>

11. NET INCOME PER SHARE

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted net income per share (in thousands, except per share amounts):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Numerator:			
Net income	<u>\$ 65,203</u>	<u>\$ 52,720</u>	<u>\$ 35,172</u>
Denominator:			
Weighted-average outstanding shares used to compute basic net income per share	41,350	40,436	39,470
Effect of dilutive securities	2,228	1,479	1,399
Weighted-average outstanding shares used to compute diluted net income per share	<u>43,578</u>	<u>41,915</u>	<u>40,869</u>
Net income per share:			
Basic	<u>\$ 1.58</u>	<u>\$ 1.30</u>	<u>\$ 0.89</u>
Diluted	<u>\$ 1.50</u>	<u>\$ 1.26</u>	<u>\$ 0.86</u>

Anti-dilutive common stock equivalents were not material in any of the periods presented.

12. INCOME TAXES

The components of income before income taxes are as follows (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
United States	\$ (19,115)	\$ (14,431)	\$ (247)
Foreign	102,059	71,695	42,738
Total income before income taxes	<u>\$ 82,944</u>	<u>\$ 57,264</u>	<u>\$ 42,491</u>

The components of the income tax provision are as follows (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Current:			
Federal	\$ 31,025	\$ 2,527	\$ 6,042
State	2	-	2
Foreign	1,967	2,013	1,213
Deferred:			
Federal	(15,426)	-	-
Foreign	173	4	62
Total income tax provision	<u>\$ 17,741</u>	<u>\$ 4,544</u>	<u>\$ 7,319</u>

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The effective tax rate differs from the applicable U.S. statutory federal income tax rate as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
U.S. statutory federal tax rate	35.0%	34.0%	34.0%
Settlement with tax authorities	-	-	6.2
Foreign income at lower rates	(41.2)	(41.1)	(43.1)
Impact of the 2017 Tax Act:			
One-time deemed repatriation transition tax	50.5	-	-
Remeasurement of deferred taxes	11.8	-	-
Changes in valuation allowance	(36.2)	11.0	17.6
Stock-based compensation	2.2	2.2	-
Other adjustments	(0.7)	1.8	2.5
Effective tax rate	<u>21.4%</u>	<u>7.9%</u>	<u>17.2%</u>

The components of net deferred tax assets consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Deferred tax assets:		
R&D tax credits	\$ 10,331	\$ 9,817
Stock-based compensation	9,157	7,283
Deferred compensation	5,505	6,752
Depreciation and amortization	191	161
Net operating losses	1,377	-
Other expenses not currently deductible	1,924	3,974
Total deferred tax assets	28,485	27,987
Valuation allowance	(12,568)	(27,354)
Net deferred tax assets	<u>\$ 15,917</u>	<u>\$ 633</u>

2017 U.S. Tax Reform

Under Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) 740, *Income Taxes*, the effects of a new legislation are recognized upon enactment. Accordingly, the Company was required to recognize the tax effects of the 2017 Tax Act beginning in the fourth quarter of 2017.

On December 22, 2017, the Securities and Exchange Commission issued Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 118 (“SAB 118”), which addresses the application of ASC 740 in situations when a registrant does not have the necessary information available, prepared, or analyzed in reasonable detail to complete the accounting for certain income tax effects of the 2017 Tax Act. In accordance with SAB 118, for matters that have not been completed, the Company would recognize provisional amounts to the extent that they are reasonably estimable. If a reasonable estimate cannot be determined, the Company would not be required to report provisional amounts and would continue to apply ASC 740 based on the provisions of the tax laws that were in effect immediately before the enactment of the 2017 Tax Act.

As of December 31, 2017, the Company has not completed its accounting for the tax effects of the 2017 Tax Act and recorded certain provisional amounts, as discussed below, based on reasonable estimates for the year ended December 31, 2017. The provisional amounts are subject to revisions, possibly materially, as the Company performs further analysis of the 2017 Tax Act, collects and prepares necessary financial data, continues to assess its tax positions, and interprets any additional guidance issued by the U.S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”), FASB, and other standard-setting and regulatory bodies. Any subsequent adjustment to these amounts will be recorded to the income tax provision in the period when the analysis is complete. The Company expects to complete the analysis within the one-year measurement period ending December 21, 2018, pursuant to SAB 118.

Corporate Tax Rate and Remeasurement of Deferred Taxes:

The 2017 Tax Act reduces the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%, effective January 1, 2018. Because ASC 740 requires the effect of a change in tax laws to be recognized as of the date of enactment, the Company remeasured its deferred tax balance as of December 22, 2017 and recorded a provisional amount of \$9.8 million to the income tax provision as a result of the remeasurement for the year ended December 31, 2017.

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Deemed Repatriation Transition Tax:

The 2017 Tax Act mandates a one-time deemed repatriation transition tax of post-1986 undistributed foreign earnings and profits (“E&P”) on which U.S. income taxes were previously deferred. The rate applied varies depending on whether the E&P is held in liquid or non-liquid assets. A proportional deduction on the deemed repatriation results in a transition tax of 15.5% for cash and liquid assets and 8% for non-liquid assets. The transition tax is assessed regardless of whether the Company repatriates the earnings. The transition tax is determined on the greater of E&P as of two measurement dates (November 2, 2017 or December 31, 2017). The amount of cash and liquid assets is determined based on the greater of the amounts calculated using two alternative measurement periods.

For the year ended December 31, 2017, the Company recorded a provisional amount of \$41.9 million related to the transition tax expense. After the utilization of R&D tax credits of \$18.0 million, the transition tax payable is \$23.9 million. As permitted by the 2017 Tax Act, the Company has elected to pay the transition tax in installments over eight years. As a result, \$1.9 million was recorded in current accrued liabilities and \$22.0 million was recorded in long-term income tax liabilities as of December 31, 2017.

Undistributed Earnings of Subsidiaries:

The Company previously considered the earnings in its non-U.S. subsidiaries to be indefinitely reinvested and, accordingly, recorded no deferred income taxes. Prior to the transition tax, the Company had an excess of the amount for financial reporting over the tax basis in its foreign subsidiaries including undistributed foreign earnings of \$390.2 million. While the transition tax resulted in the reduction of the excess of the amount for financial reporting over the tax basis in its foreign subsidiaries and subjected a provisional amount of \$119.7 million of undistributed foreign earnings to tax, an actual repatriation from its non-U.S. subsidiaries could be subject to additional foreign withholding taxes and U.S. state taxes.

The Company has analyzed its global working capital and cash requirements, and has determined that it plans to repatriate cash from its Bermuda subsidiary on an ongoing basis to fund its future U.S. based expenditures and dividends. For the other foreign subsidiaries, the Company expects to indefinitely reinvest undistributed earnings to fund foreign operations and their research and development. For those undistributed foreign earnings from which the Company was not able to make a reasonable estimate of the tax effects of such repatriation, the Company has not recorded any deferred taxes or accrued for any withholding taxes or state taxes as of December 31, 2017. The Company will record the tax effects of any change in its prior assertion with respect to those undistributed foreign earnings in the period that it is first able to make a reasonable estimate, no later than the end of the measurement period under SAB 118.

Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income:

The 2017 Tax Act subjects a U.S. parent shareholder to taxation of its global intangible low-taxed income (“GILTI”), effective January 1, 2018. The GILTI inclusions will impact companies that have foreign earnings generated without a large aggregate foreign fixed asset base and whose earnings are being taxed at a low tax rate. GILTI is calculated based on foreign income in excess of a deemed return on tangible assets of foreign corporations. The income inclusion under GILTI is eligible for a deduction that is intended to lower the effective tax rate to 10.5% for taxable years 2018 to 2025, and rise to 13.125% for taxable years after 2025. The enactment of the GILTI tax will result in additional Subpart F income recognition for the Company in 2018 and onwards.

Executive Compensation Deductions:

The 2017 Tax Act retains the \$1 million limitation on deductible compensation to covered employees, which include the Chief Executive Officer and four other highest paid officers, under IRC Section 162(m). However, it eliminates the exception for performance-based cash or stock compensation and expands the definition of covered employees to include the Chief Financial Officer. Accordingly, beginning January 1, 2018, the deductible compensation to covered employees will generally be subject to the \$1 million limitation.

Release of Valuation Allowance

Management periodically evaluates the realizability of the Company’s deferred tax assets based on all available evidence. The realizability of the Company’s net deferred tax assets is dependent on its ability to generate sufficient future taxable income during periods prior to the expiration of tax attributes to fully utilize these assets. The Company maintained a full valuation allowance on its U.S. deferred tax assets as of the third quarter of 2017. In the fourth quarter of 2017, the Company assessed the realizability of the deferred tax assets and concluded that it was more likely than not that its federal deferred tax assets would be realizable, due principally to the enactment of the 2017 Tax Act.

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In accordance with ASC 740, management considered all available evidence, both positive and negative, to determine whether, based on the weight of that evidence, a valuation allowance for deferred tax asset was needed. The Company's conclusion was primarily driven by the following positive evidence:

- The Company forecasts taxable income in the U.S. in future periods. The enactment of GILTI will result in additional Subpart F income each year.
- Executive performance-based equity awards are now subject to the Section 162(m) deduction limitation.
- The Company has a history of utilizing all federal tax attributes before expiration.

As a result, the Company released \$21.6 million of valuation allowance on federal deferred tax assets, which was recorded as a benefit in the income tax provision in the fourth quarter of 2017. The Company continues to maintain a full valuation allowance on the deferred tax assets in California, primarily due to a low apportionment factor and the amount of R&D tax credits generated is greater than the amount utilized.

Other Income Tax Provision Matters

As of December 31, 2017, the Company did not have federal net operating loss carryforwards. As of December 31, 2017, the state net operating loss carryforwards for income tax purposes were \$19.7 million, which will expire beginning in 2028.

As of December 31, 2017, the Company had R&D tax credit carryforwards of \$0.8 million for federal income tax purposes, which will begin to expire in 2037, and \$21.0 million for state income tax purposes, which can be carried forward indefinitely.

Upon adoption of ASU No. 2016-09, *Compensation—Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting*, on January 1, 2017, all excess tax benefits and deficiencies related to equity awards are recognized in the income tax provision in the Consolidated Statements of Operations prospectively, rather than in additional paid-in-capital in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. In addition, the standard eliminates the requirement to defer recognition of excess tax benefits until they are realized through a reduction to income taxes payable. The Company applied the modified retrospective method and there was no net adjustment to retained earnings as of January 1, 2017, as the deferred tax assets related to the previously unrecognized excess tax benefits were fully offset by a valuation allowance. The Company expects increased volatility to the income tax provision in future periods dependent upon, among other variables, the price of its common stock and the timing and volume of equity award vesting.

In the event of a change in ownership, as defined under federal and state tax laws, the Company's net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards could be subject to annual limitations. The annual limitations could result in the expiration of the net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards prior to utilization.

On July 27, 2015, in *Altera Corp. v. Commissioner*, the U.S. Tax Court issued an opinion related to the treatment of stock-based compensation expense in an intercompany cost-sharing arrangement. A final decision was issued in December 2015, and the IRS appealed the decision in February 2016. At this time, the U.S. Department of the Treasury has not withdrawn the requirement from its regulations to include stock-based compensation in the cost pool to be shared under a cost-sharing arrangement. Due to the uncertainty surrounding the status of the current regulations, questions related to the scope of potential benefits, and the risk of the Tax Court's decision being overturned upon appeal, the Company has not recorded any adjustments as of December 31, 2017. The Company will continue to monitor developments related to this opinion and the potential impact on its financial statements.

At December 31, 2017, the Company had \$16.3 million of unrecognized tax benefits, \$9.1 million of which would affect its effective tax rate if recognized after considering the valuation allowance. At December 31, 2016, the Company had \$14.4 million of unrecognized tax benefits, \$3.5 million of which would affect its effective tax rate if recognized after considering the valuation allowance.

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A reconciliation of the gross unrecognized tax benefits is as follows (in thousands):

Balance as of January 1, 2015	\$	16,406
Increase for tax position of current year		1,964
Decrease related to settlement with tax authorities		(4,162)
Decrease due to lapse of statute of limitation		(669)
Decrease for tax position of prior year		(1,446)
Balance as of December 31, 2015		12,093
Increase for tax position of prior year		243
Increase for tax position of current year		2,095
Balance as of December 31, 2016		14,431
Increase for tax position of prior year		169
Increase for tax position of current year		2,360
Decrease due to lapse of statute of limitation		(688)
Balance as of December 31, 2017	\$	16,272

The Company recognizes interest and penalties, if any, related to uncertain tax positions in its income tax provision. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the Company has \$0.5 million and \$0.3 million, respectively, of accrued interest related to uncertain tax positions, which were recorded in long-term income tax liabilities in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Uncertain tax positions relate to the allocation of income and deductions among the Company's global entities and to the determination of the research and development tax credit. It is reasonably possible that over the next twelve-month period, the Company may experience increases or decreases in its unrecognized tax benefits. However, it is not possible to determine either the magnitude or the range of increases or decreases at this time.

The Company currently has reduced tax rates in its subsidiaries in Chengdu and Hangzhou, China for performing research and development activities through 2020 and 2019, respectively. In addition, the Company currently has a tax holiday in Switzerland, which allows for tax-free operations through 2018. The tax holiday and tax incentives had an insignificant impact on earnings per share for the periods presented.

Income Tax Examinations

The Company is subject to examination of its income tax returns by the IRS and other tax authorities. The Company's U.S. Federal income tax return for the year ended December 31, 2014 was under examination by the IRS in 2016. In January 2017, the IRS completed its examination with no adjustments.

The Company's U.S. Federal income tax returns for the years ended December 31, 2005 through December 31, 2007 were under examination by the IRS. In April 2011, the Company received from the IRS a Notice of Proposed Adjustment ("NOPA") relating to a cost-sharing agreement entered into by the Company and its international subsidiaries on January 1, 2004. In the NOPA, the IRS objected to the Company's allocation of certain litigation expenses between the Company and its international subsidiaries and the amount of "buy-in payments" made by the international subsidiaries to the Company in connection with the cost-sharing agreement, and proposed to increase the Company's U.S. taxable income according to a few alternative methodologies. In February 2012, the Company received a revised NOPA from the IRS ("Revised NOPA"). In this Revised NOPA, the IRS raised the same issues as in the NOPA issued in April 2011 but under a different methodology. Under the Revised NOPA, the largest potential federal income tax payment, if the IRS were to prevail on all matters in dispute, was \$10.5 million, plus interest and penalties, if any. The Company responded to the Revised NOPA in May 2012. In June 2013, the IRS responded and continued to disagree with the Company's rebuttal. The Company met with the IRS Office of Appeals in 2014 and both parties engaged in continuous discussions for a resolution of the matter in the first quarter of 2015. Meanwhile, the Company granted the IRS an extension of the statute of limitations for taxable years 2005 through 2007 to September 30, 2015.

The IRS also audited the research and development credits carried forward into year 2005 and the credits generated in the years 2005 through 2007. The Company received a NOPA from the IRS in February 2011, proposing to reduce the research and development credits generated in years 2005 through 2007 and the carryforwards, which would then reduce the value of such credits carried forward to subsequent tax years.

In April 2015, the Company reached a final resolution with the IRS in connection with the income tax audits for the years 2005 through 2007. Under the agreement, the Company made a one-time buy-in payment of \$1.2 million for taxes related primarily to the revaluation of a license for certain intellectual property rights of the Company to one of its international subsidiaries. This buy-in payment was final and no additional payment would be required with respect to the intellectual property license for the years under examination or for a previous or subsequent tax year. In addition, the Company made an interest payment of \$1.0 million as well as a tax payment of \$0.1 million for the tax years 2008 to 2013 in 2015. There were no penalties assessed on the Company as a result of the audits.

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For the second quarter of 2015, the Company's income tax provision included a one-time net charge of \$2.7 million reflecting the taxes and interest, partially offset by the reversal of previously accrued tax liabilities and valuation allowances. Of the \$2.7 million charge, \$1.6 million was related to taxes and \$1.1 million was related to interest.

13. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Lease Obligations

As of December 31, 2017, future minimum payments under the non-cancelable operating leases were as follows (in thousands):

2018	\$	1,210
2019		636
2020		193
2021		55
2022		51
Total	\$	<u>2,145</u>

The Company leases warehouse space, sales and marketing, and research and development offices in China, India, Japan, Korea, the United States and Europe. Certain of the Company's facility leases provide for periodic rent increases. Rent expense for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 was \$1.5 million, \$1.7 million and \$1.8 million, respectively.

Warranty and Indemnification Provisions

The changes in warranty reserves are as follows (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 1,030	\$ 289	\$ 240
Warranty provision for product sales	1,912	1,102	333
Settlements made	(40)	(68)	(158)
Unused warranty provision	(486)	(293)	(126)
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 2,416</u>	<u>\$ 1,030</u>	<u>\$ 289</u>

The Company provides indemnification agreements to certain direct or indirect customers. The Company agrees to reimburse these parties for any damages, costs and expenses incurred by them as a result of legal actions taken against them by third parties for infringing upon their intellectual property rights as a result of using the Company's products and technologies. These indemnification provisions are varied in their scope and are subject to certain terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions. In addition, the Company has entered into indemnification agreements with its directors and officers.

It is not possible to predict the maximum potential amount of future payments under these agreements due to the limited history of indemnification claims and the unique facts and circumstances involved in each particular agreement. There were no indemnification liabilities incurred in any of the periods presented. However, there can be no assurances that the Company will not incur any financial liabilities in the future as a result of these obligations.

14. LITIGATION

The Company is a party to actions and proceedings in the ordinary course of business, including potential litigation initiated by its shareholders, challenges to the enforceability or validity of its intellectual property, claims that the Company's products infringe on the intellectual property rights of others, and employment matters. These proceedings often involve complex questions of fact and law and may require the expenditure of significant funds and the diversion of other resources to prosecute and defend. The Company defends itself vigorously against any such claims. As of December 31, 2017, there were no material pending legal proceedings to which the Company was a party.

15. EMPLOYEE 401(k) PLAN

The Company sponsors a 401(k) retirement savings plan for all employees in the United States who meet certain eligibility requirements. Participants may contribute up to the amount allowable as a deduction for federal income tax purposes. The Company is not required to contribute and did not contribute to the plan for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015.

16. SIGNIFICANT CUSTOMERS

The Company sells its products primarily through third-party distributors and value-added resellers, and directly to original equipment manufacturers, original design manufacturers and electronic manufacturing service providers. The following table summarizes those customers with sales equal to or greater than 10% of the Company's total revenue or with accounts receivable balances greater than 10% of the Company's total accounts receivable:

Customer	Revenue			Accounts Receivable		
	Year Ended December 31,			December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015	2017	2016	2015
A (distributor)	17%	22%	24%	16%	19%	19%
B (distributor)	*	*	*	*	*	17%
C (distributor)	10%	*	*	*	*	*
D (value-added reseller)	*	*	*	15%	*	*

* Represents less than 10%.

The Company's agreements with these third-party distributors and value-added reseller were made in the ordinary course of business and may be terminated with or without cause by these customers with advance notice. Although the Company may experience a short-term disruption in the distribution of its products and a short-term decline in revenue if its agreement with any of these customers was terminated, the Company believes that such termination would not have a material adverse effect on its financial statements because it would be able to engage alternative distributors, resellers and other distribution channels to deliver its products to end customers within a short period following the termination of the agreement with the customer.

17. SEGMENT AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The Company operates in one reportable segment that includes the design, development, marketing and sale of high-performance analog solutions for the consumer, computing and storage, industrial, automotive and communications markets. The Company's chief operating decision maker is its Chief Executive Officer, who reviews financial information presented on a consolidated basis for purposes of allocating resources and evaluating financial performance. The Company derives a majority of its revenue from sales to customers located outside North America, with geographic revenue based on the customers' ship-to locations.

The following is a summary of revenue by geographic regions (in thousands):

Country or Region	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
China	\$ 257,787	\$ 245,169	\$ 213,119
Taiwan	83,357	45,414	41,521
Europe	38,140	27,554	22,603
Korea	34,155	27,710	20,519
Southeast Asia	25,755	19,645	18,592
Japan	20,187	14,318	9,727
United States	11,113	8,567	6,732
Other	435	288	254
Total	\$ 470,929	\$ 388,665	\$ 333,067

The following is a summary of revenue by major product families (in thousands):

Product Family	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
DC to DC	\$ 431,861	\$ 350,930	\$ 299,726
Lighting Control	39,068	37,735	33,341
Total	\$ 470,929	\$ 388,665	\$ 333,067

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The following is a summary of long-lived assets by geographic regions (in thousands):

Country	December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
China	\$ 89,472	\$ 45,728	\$ 40,738
United States	65,618	50,242	40,405
Taiwan	17,238	8,919	126
Bermuda	7,522	9,573	11,624
Other	388	571	431
Total	<u>\$ 180,238</u>	<u>\$ 115,033</u>	<u>\$ 93,324</u>

18. ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

The following table summarizes the changes in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) (in thousands):

	Unrealized Losses on Available-for- Sale Securities	Foreign Currency Translation Adjustments	Total
Balance as of January 1, 2016	\$ (375)	\$ 1,841	\$ 1,466
Other comprehensive loss before reclassifications	(623)	(5,033)	(5,656)
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	(25)	-	(25)
Net current period other comprehensive loss	(648)	(5,033)	(5,681)
Balance as of December 31, 2016	<u>(1,023)</u>	<u>(3,192)</u>	<u>(4,215)</u>
Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications	(343)	6,369	6,026
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	2	-	2
Net current period other comprehensive income (loss)	(341)	6,369	6,028
Balance as of December 31, 2017	<u>\$ (1,364)</u>	<u>\$ 3,177</u>	<u>\$ 1,813</u>

The amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) were recorded in interest and other income, net, in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

19. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

In February 2018, the Company's Board of Directors approved an increase in its quarterly cash dividend from \$0.20 per share to \$0.30 per share, effective for the first quarter of 2018.

20. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (UNAUDITED)

	Three Months Ended			
	December 31, 2017	September 30, 2017	June 30, 2017	March 31, 2017
	(in thousands, except per share amounts)			
Revenue	\$ 129,430	\$ 128,939	\$ 112,198	\$ 100,362
Cost of revenue	58,269	58,083	50,773	45,520
Gross profit	71,161	70,856	61,425	54,842
Operating expenses:				
Research and development	21,730	21,442	20,292	18,894
Selling, general and administrative	24,038	25,255	25,873	22,092
Litigation expense, net	340	327	290	286
Total operating expenses	46,108	47,024	46,455	41,272
Income from operations	25,053	23,832	14,970	13,570
Interest and other income, net	1,647	1,255	1,237	1,381
Income before income taxes	26,700	25,087	16,207	14,951
Income tax provision	14,629	1,445	1,193	474
Net income	<u>\$ 12,071</u>	<u>\$ 23,642</u>	<u>\$ 15,014</u>	<u>\$ 14,477</u>
Net income per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.57	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.35
Diluted	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.54	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.33
Weighted-average shares outstanding:				
Basic	41,574	41,458	41,323	41,047
Diluted	44,610	43,486	43,397	43,268
Cash dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.20

	Three Months Ended			
	December 31, 2016	September 30, 2016	June 30, 2016	March 31, 2016
	(in thousands, except per share amounts)			
Revenue	\$ 103,618	\$ 106,456	\$ 94,079	\$ 84,512
Cost of revenue	47,107	48,531	43,153	39,002
Gross profit	56,511	57,925	50,926	45,510
Operating expenses:				
Research and development	17,974	20,472	17,876	17,321
Selling, general and administrative	21,316	22,397	21,531	17,768
Litigation expense (benefit), net	(321)	55	(8)	45
Total operating expenses	38,969	42,924	39,399	35,134
Income from operations	17,542	15,001	11,527	10,376
Interest and other income, net	897	780	597	543
Income before income taxes	18,439	15,781	12,124	10,919
Income tax provision	1,866	1,408	926	344
Net income	<u>\$ 16,573</u>	<u>\$ 14,373</u>	<u>\$ 11,198</u>	<u>\$ 10,575</u>
Net income per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.26
Diluted	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.34	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.25
Weighted-average shares outstanding:				
Basic	40,739	40,590	40,387	40,028
Diluted	42,404	41,895	41,716	41,646
Cash dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.20

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Rule 13a-15(e) and Rule 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of December 31, 2017, our disclosure controls and procedures are designed at a reasonable assurance level and are effective to provide reasonable assurance that information we are required to disclose in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Our management conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in *Internal Control—Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this evaluation, management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2017. Management reviewed the results of its assessment with our Audit Committee.

Our independent registered public accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche LLP, which audited the consolidated financial statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, has issued an attestation report on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the quarter ended December 31, 2017 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Limitations on Effectiveness of Controls and Procedures

In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives. In addition, the design of disclosure controls and procedures must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints and that management is required to apply its judgment in evaluating the benefits of possible controls and procedures relative to their costs.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Stockholders and the Board of Directors of
Monolithic Power Systems, Inc.

Opinion on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2017, based on criteria established in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, based on criteria established in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by COSO.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017, of the Company and our report dated March 1, 2018, expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

The Company’s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management’s Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Definition and Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

A company’s internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company’s internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company’s assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

San Jose, California
March 1, 2018

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Reference is made to the information regarding directors and nominees, code of ethics, corporate governance matters and disclosure relating to compliance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 appearing under the captions “Election of Directors” and “Compliance with Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” in the Company’s Proxy Statement for its 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the “2018 Annual Meeting”), which information is incorporated in this Annual Report on Form 10-K by reference. Information regarding executive officers is set forth under the caption “Executive Officers of the Registrant” in Part I of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information required by this item will be set forth under “Executive Officer Compensation” in the Company’s Proxy Statement for the 2018 Annual Meeting, and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The information required by this item will be set forth under the captions “Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management” and “Equity Compensation Plan Information” in the Company’s Proxy Statement for the 2018 Annual Meeting, and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information required by this item will be set forth under the captions “Certain Relationships and Related Transactions” and “Election of Directors” in the Company’s Proxy Statement for the 2018 Annual Meeting, and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

The information required by this item will be set forth under the caption “Audit and Other Fees” in the Company’s Proxy Statement for the 2018 Annual Meeting, and is incorporated herein by reference.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES.

(a) Documents filed as part of this report

(1) All financial statements

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
Consolidated Balance Sheets
Consolidated Statements of Operations
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income
Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(2) Financial Statement Schedules

All schedules have been omitted because the required information is not present or not present in amounts sufficient to require submission of the schedules, or because the information required is included in the consolidated financial statements or notes thereto.

(3) Exhibits

Exhibit Number	Description
3.1 (1)	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation.
3.2 (2)	Amended and Restated Bylaws.
10.1+(3)	Registrant's 2004 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and form of subscription agreement.
10.2+(4)	Form of Directors' and Officers' Indemnification Agreement.
10.3+(5)	Employment Agreement with Michael Hsing, and Amendment thereof.
10.4+(6)	Employment Agreement with Maurice Sciammas, and Amendment thereof.
10.5+(7)	Employment Agreement with Jim Moyer.
10.6+(8)	Employment Agreement with Deming Xiao, and Amendment thereof.
10.7+(9)	Letter Agreement with Victor Lee.
10.8+(10)	Letter Agreement with Karen A. Smith Bogart.
10.9+(11)	Letter Agreement with Jeff Zhou.
10.10+(12)	Employment Agreement with Meera P. Rao and Saria Tseng and Amendment thereof.

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10.11+	
(13)	Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. Master Cash Performance Bonus Plan.
10.12+	
(14)	Letter Agreement with Eugen Elmiger.
10.13+	
(15)	Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. 2004 Equity Incentive Plan, as Amended, and Form of Grant Agreement.
10.14+	
(16)	Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. 2014 Equity Incentive Plan, as Amended, and Form of Grant Agreement.
10.15+(17)	Employment Agreement with Bernie Blegen.
21.1	Subsidiaries of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc.
23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
24.1	Power of Attorney (included on Signature page to this Form 10-K).
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1*	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.INS	XBRL Instance
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation

+ Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

- * This exhibit shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filings under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language in any filings.
- (1) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-117327), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 15, 2004.
 - (2) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.4 of the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-117327), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 15, 2004.
 - (3) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-117327), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 13, 2004.
 - (4) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-117327), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 15, 2004.
 - (5) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 of the Registrant’s annual report on Form 10-K (File No. 000-51026), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 11, 2008 and Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant’s current report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-51026), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 19, 2008.
 - (6) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8 of the Registrant’s annual report on Form 10-K (File No. 000-51026), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 11, 2008 and Exhibit 10.3 of the Registrant’s current report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-51026), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 19, 2008.
 - (7) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 of the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-117327), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 13, 2004.
 - (8) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 of the Registrant’s annual report on Form 10-K (File No. 000-51026), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 11, 2008 and Exhibit 10.4 of the Registrant’s current report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-51026), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 19, 2008.

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- (9) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-51026), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 14, 2006.
- (10) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-51026), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 25, 2007.
- (11) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-51026), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 3, 2010.
- (12) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.33 of the Registrant's annual report on Form 10-K (File No. 000-51026), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 4, 2011.
- (13) Incorporated by reference to Annexure C of the Registrant's Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A (File No. 000-51026), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 30, 2013.
- (14) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.36 of the Registrant's annual report on Form 10-K (File No), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 10, 2014.
- (15) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 of the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration No.), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 3, 2014.
- (16) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.6 of the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration No.), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 3, 2014.
- (17) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-51026), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 22, 2016.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) 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.

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.

Date: March 1, 2018

By: /s/ Michael Hsing
Michael Hsing
President and Chief Executive Officer

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Michael Hsing and T. Bernie Blegen, jointly and severally, his attorneys-in-fact, each with the power of substitution, for him in any and all capacities, to sign any amendments to this report, and to file the same, with exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, hereby ratifying and confirming all that each of said attorneys-in-fact, or his substitute or substitutes, may do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below on March 1, 2018 by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities indicated:

<u>/s/ MICHAEL HSING</u> Michael Hsing	President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director (Principal Executive Officer)
<u>/s/ T. BERNIE BLEGEN</u> T. Bernie Blegen	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)
<u>/s/ HERBERT CHANG</u> Herbert Chang	Director
<u>/s/ EUGEN ELMIGER</u> Eugen Elmiger	Director
<u>/s/ VICTOR K. LEE</u> Victor K. Lee	Director
<u>/s/ JAMES C. MOYER</u> James C. Moyer	Director
<u>/s/ JEFF ZHOU</u> Jeff Zhou	Director

Subsidiaries of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc.

MPS International Ltd. (Bermuda)

MPS International Ltd. (Shanghai)

Chengdu Monolithic Power Systems Co., Ltd.

MPS International Korea Co., Ltd.

MPS Japan G.K.

MPS Japan K.K.

MPS Europe Sarl

Hangzhou MPS Semiconductor Technology Ltd.

MPS International Ltd. (Taiwan)

Monolithic Power Systems Pte. Ltd. (Singapore)

MPS Germany GmbH

MPS Tech Switzerland Sarl

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statement Nos. 333-199782, 333-198856, 333-187117, 333-180047, 333-172013, 333-164673, 333-157095, 333-149027, 333-120886, 333-132411, and 333-140563 on Form S-8 of our reports dated March 1, 2018 relating to the consolidated financial statements of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. and subsidiaries (the “Company”), and the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting appearing in this annual report on Form 10-K of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2017.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

San Jose, California
March 1, 2018

**CERTIFICATION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PURSUANT TO
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT RULES 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Michael Hsing, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc.;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:

(a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

(b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

(c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

(d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

(a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

(b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 1, 2018

/s/ Michael Hsing

Michael Hsing
Chief Executive Officer

**CERTIFICATION OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER PURSUANT TO
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT RULES 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, T. Bernie Blegen, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc.;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:

(a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

(b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

(c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

(d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

(a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

(b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 1, 2018

/s/ T. Bernie Blegen

T. Bernie Blegen
Chief Financial Officer

The following certification shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language in any filings.

**CERTIFICATION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, for the year ended December 31, 2017, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, each of the undersigned officers of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. certifies pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

(1) the accompanying report on Form 10-K of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2017, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Report”), fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and

(2) the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. for the periods presented therein.

Date: March 1, 2018

/s/ Michael Hsing
Michael Hsing
Chief Executive Officer

Date: March 1, 2018

/s/ T. Bernie Blegen
T. Bernie Blegen
Chief Financial Officer

