

LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd.  
Form 20-F  
March 28, 2018  
[Table of Contents](#)

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

**FORM 20-F**

(Mark One)

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR 12(g) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**OR**

**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**

**OR**

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

Date of event requiring this shell company report

**For the transition period from** \_\_\_\_\_ **to** \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 001-35942

# LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

**Cayman Islands**

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**Tower 2, Area D, Diantong Square**

**No. 7 Jiuxianqiao North Road**

**Chaoyang District, Beijing 100015**

**People's Republic of China**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**Quji (Alan) Guo, Chief Executive Officer**

**Telephone: +(86-10) 5692-0099**

**Facsimile: +(86-10) 5908-0270**

**Tower 2, Area D, Diantong Square**

**No. 7 Jiuxianqiao North Road**

**Chaoyang District, Beijing 100015**

**People's Republic of China**

(Name, Telephone, E-mail and/or Facsimile number and Address of Company Contact Person)

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

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Ordinary Shares, par value \$0.000067 per share American Depositary Shares, each representing two Ordinary Shares	New York Stock Exchange

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

Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act: None

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

### Table of Contents

Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the annual report: 135,664,877 ordinary shares

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes  No

If this report is an annual or transition report, indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

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 Securities Exchange Act of 1934 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

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company that prepares its financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, 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.

The term new or revised financial accounting standard refers to any update issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board to its Accounting Standards Codification after April 5, 2012.

Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

Indicate by check mark which basis of accounting the registrant has used to prepare the financial statements included in this filing:

U.S. GAAP

International Financial Reporting Standards as issued  
by the International Accounting Standards Board

Other

If  Other has been checked in response to the previous question, indicate by check mark which financial statement item the registrant has elected to follow.

Item 17  Item 18

If this is an annual report, indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934).

Yes  No

(APPLICABLE ONLY TO ISSUERS INVOLVED IN BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed all documents and reports required to be filed by Sections 12, 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 subsequent to the distribution of securities under a plan confirmed by a court.

Yes  No

---

Table of Contents

**Table of Contents**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>PART I</u>	1
<u>ITEM 1. IDENTITY OF DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND ADVISERS</u>	1
<u>ITEM 2. OFFER STATISTICS AND EXPECTED TIMETABLE</u>	1
<u>ITEM 3. KEY INFORMATION</u>	1
<u>ITEM 4. INFORMATION ON THE COMPANY</u>	38
<u>ITEM 4A. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS</u>	67
<u>ITEM 5. OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS</u>	67
<u>ITEM 6. DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES</u>	84
<u>ITEM 7. MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS</u>	92
<u>ITEM 8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	95
<u>ITEM 9. THE OFFER AND LISTING</u>	96
<u>ITEM 10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>	97
<u>ITEM 11. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK</u>	105
<u>ITEM 12. DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES OTHER THAN EQUITY SECURITIES</u>	106
<u>PART II</u>	109
<u>ITEM 13. DEFAULTS, DIVIDEND ARREARAGES AND DELINQUENCIES</u>	109
<u>ITEM 14. MATERIAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE RIGHTS OF SECURITY HOLDERS AND USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	109
<u>ITEM 15. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES</u>	109
<u>ITEM 16A. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT</u>	110
<u>ITEM 16B. CODE OF ETHICS</u>	110
<u>ITEM 16C. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES</u>	110
<u>ITEM 16D. EXEMPTIONS FROM THE LISTING STANDARDS FOR AUDIT COMMITTEES</u>	111
<u>ITEM 16E. PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY THE ISSUER AND AFFILIATED PURCHASERS</u>	111
<u>ITEM 16F. CHANGE IN REGISTRANT'S CERTIFYING ACCOUNTANT</u>	112
<u>ITEM 16G. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>	112
<u>ITEM 16H. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURE</u>	112
<u>PART III</u>	113
<u>ITEM 17. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	113
<u>ITEM 18. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	113
<u>ITEM 19. EXHIBITS</u>	113

Table of Contents

**CONVENTIONS THAT APPLY TO THIS ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 20-F**

Unless where the context otherwise requires, references in this annual report on Form 20-F to:

- ADRs are to the American depositary receipts, which, if issued, evidence the ADSs;
- ADSs are to the American depositary shares, each of which represents two ordinary shares;
- China and the PRC are to the People's Republic of China, excluding, for the purposes of this annual report only, Taiwan and the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau;
- shares or ordinary shares are to our ordinary shares, par value \$0.000067 per share;
- North America are to, for the purposes of this annual report only, the United States and Canada;
- Our number of customers are to the number of customer accounts that have purchased at least once from our company during the relevant period;
- repeat customers are to customers who have purchased products from us more than once since our inception;
- RMB and Renminbi are to the legal currency of China;
- we, us, our company and our are to LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd., its consolidated subsidiaries and its variable interest entities, or VIEs, including Lanting Huitong, Lanting Gaochuang and Shanghai Ouku, the subsidiary of Lanting Huitong; and

- \$, dollars and U.S. dollars are to the legal currency of the United States.

Our reporting and functional currency is the U.S. dollar. In addition, this annual report also contains translations of certain foreign currency amounts into U.S. dollars for the convenience of the reader. Unless otherwise stated, all translations of Renminbi into U.S. dollars were made at RMB6.5063 to \$1.00, the noon buying rate on December 29, 2017 as set forth in the H.10 statistical release of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board. We make no representation that the Renminbi or U.S. dollar amounts referred to in this annual report could have been or could be converted into U.S. dollars or Renminbi, as the case may be, at any particular rate or at all. On March 23, 2018, the noon buying rate for Renminbi was RMB6.3110 to \$1.00.

### FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This annual report on Form 20-F contains statements of a forward-looking nature. All statements other than statements of historical facts are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are made under the safe harbor provision under Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, and as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. In some cases, these forward-looking statements can be identified by words or phrases such as may, will, expect, anticipate, aim, estimate, intend, plan, believe, potential, other similar expressions. These forward-looking statements relate to, among others:

- our growth strategies;
- our future business development, results of operations and financial condition;
- trends in online consumer retailing;

Table of Contents

- trends in Chinese manufacturing;
- expected changes in our revenues and certain cost and expense items; and
- assumptions underlying or related to any of the foregoing.

We have based these forward-looking statements largely on our current expectations and projections about future events and financial trends that we believe may affect our financial condition, results of operations, business strategy and financial needs.

You should read these statements in conjunction with the risks disclosed in Item 3.D. Risk Factors of this annual report and other risks outlined in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. Moreover, we operate in an emerging and evolving environment. New risks may emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for our management to predict all risks, nor can we assess the impact of such risks on our business or the extent to which any risk, or combination of risks, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements made in this annual report relate only to events or information as of the date on which the statements are made in this annual report. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which the statements are made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. You should read this annual report and the documents that we have referred to in this annual report, completely and with the understanding that our actual future results may be materially different from what we expect.



Table of Contents**PART I****ITEM 1. IDENTITY OF DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND ADVISERS**

Not Applicable.

**ITEM 2. OFFER STATISTICS AND EXPECTED TIMETABLE**

Not Applicable.

**ITEM 3. KEY INFORMATION****A. Selected Financial Data.**

The selected consolidated statements of operations data for 2015, 2016 and 2017, and the selected consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2015 and 2016 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report on Form 20-F. Our selected consolidated statements of operations data for 2013 and 2014 and the selected consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2013, 2014 and 2015 has been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements not included in this annual report on Form 20-F. Our audited consolidated financial statements are prepared and presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States, or U.S. GAAP. The following selected consolidated financial data for the periods and as of the dates indicated are qualified by reference to and should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes and Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects, both of which are included elsewhere in this annual report.

Our historical results for any prior period do not necessarily indicate our results to be expected for any future period.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
(U.S. dollars in thousands, except per share data)					
<b>Selected Consolidated Statements of Operations Data</b>					
Net revenues					
Product sales	\$ 292,417	\$ 382,282	\$ 312,332	\$ 262,083	\$ 293,951
Services		125	11,431	30,404	25,930
Total net revenues	292,417	382,407	323,763	292,487	319,881

Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

Cost of revenues					
Product sales	165,267	236,982	196,753	160,566	189,816
Services		113	10,601	28,371	24,445
Total cost of revenues	165,267	237,095	207,354	188,937	214,261
Gross profit	127,150	145,312	116,409	103,550	105,620
Operating expenses					
Fulfillment	15,963	23,926	22,419	17,052	17,291
Selling and marketing	84,245	105,186	91,614	61,090	68,891
General and administrative	31,929	46,916	41,535	34,492	29,605
Loss from operations	(4,987)	(30,716)	(39,159)	(9,084)	(10,167)
Net loss	(4,819)	(29,987)	(39,407)	(8,723)	(9,548)
Accretion for Series C convertible redeemable preferred shares					
	1,621				
Net loss attributable to ordinary shareholders	(6,440)	(29,987)	(39,407)	(8,723)	(9,548)
Weighted average number of shares used in calculating net loss					
Basic	71,555,449	99,001,560	94,970,054	127,180,801	137,641,562
Diluted	71,555,449	99,001,560	94,970,054	127,180,801	137,641,562
Net loss per ordinary share					
Basic	(0.09)	(0.30)	(0.41)	(0.07)	(0.07)
Diluted	(0.09)	(0.30)	(0.41)	(0.07)	(0.07)
Other Consolidated Financial Data					
Gross Margin(1)	43.5%	38.0%	36.0%	35.4%	33.0%

(1) Gross margin represents gross profit as a percentage of total net revenues.

Table of Contents

	2013	2014	Year Ended December 31, 2015		2016	2017
			(U.S. dollars in thousands)			
Summary Consolidated Balance Sheet Data						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 23,745	\$ 75,358	\$ 30,901	\$ 89,517	\$ 68,441	
Term deposit	79,958	5,802				
Inventories	7,081	9,845	11,261	10,587	11,841	
Total current assets	121,293	99,156	49,741	113,738	100,984	
Total assets	125,891	104,467	55,493	118,201	108,737	
Total current liabilities	44,500	61,284	57,616	52,365	53,267	
Total liabilities	44,500	61,284	57,616	52,365	53,267	
Total shareholders equity (deficit)	81,391	43,183	(2,123)	65,836	55,470	

**B. Capitalization and Indebtedness**

Not Applicable.

**C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds**

Not Applicable.

**D. Risk Factors****Risks Related to Our Business and Industry**

*We face a number of challenges in the operation and expansion of our business.*

We face risks and difficulties frequently experienced by companies in our industry, including our potential inability to:

- implement our business model and strategy and adapt and modify them as needed;

- increase awareness of our brands, protect our reputation and develop customer loyalty;
- acquire customers cost-effectively;
- manage our expanding operations and offerings, including the integration of any future acquisitions;
- anticipate and adapt to changing conditions in online retail industry globally and in China;
- anticipate and adapt to changes in government regulations, industry consolidation, technological developments and other significant competitive and market dynamics;
- manage risks related to intellectual property rights;
- upgrade our technology or infrastructure to support increased user traffic and product offerings; and
- manage relationships with a growing number of suppliers and couriers.

*The online retail industry is intensely competitive and we may not compete successfully against new and existing competitors, which may materially and adversely affect our results of operations.*

The market for products sold on our websites and mobile applications is intensely competitive. Consumers have many choices online and offline, including global, regional and local retailers. For example, our current and potential competitors include global and regional online retailers such as other China-based global online retail companies, retail chains, specialty retailers, and sellers on online marketplaces. In the future, we may also face competition from new entrants, consolidations of existing competitors or companies spun off from our larger competitors.

Table of Contents

We face a variety of competitive challenges, including sourcing products efficiently, pricing our products competitively, maintaining optimal inventory levels, selling our products effectively, maintaining the quality of our products, anticipating and responding quickly to changing consumer demands and preferences, building our customer base, conducting effective marketing activities and maintaining favorable recognition of our brands, websites and products. In addition, as we further develop our business, we will face increasing challenges to compete for and retain high quality suppliers. If we cannot properly address these challenges, our business and prospects could be materially and adversely affected.

Some of our current and potential competitors have significantly more established brands or greater financial, sourcing, marketing, operational or other resources than we do. In addition, other online retailers may be acquired by, receive investments from or enter into strategic relationships with well-established and well-financed companies or investors, which would help enhance their competitive positions. Certain of our competitors may be able to secure more favorable terms with suppliers, devote greater resources to marketing campaigns, adopt more aggressive pricing or inventory policies and devote substantially more resources to infrastructure development. Increased competition may reduce our gross and operating margins, market share and brand recognition. We may not be able to compete successfully against current and future competitors, and competitive pressures may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

*Our failure to quickly identify and adapt to changing industry conditions may have a material and adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.*

The online and offline retail industries are subject to changing consumer preferences and industry conditions. This is particularly true with respect to products such as apparel, small accessories and gadgets, electronics and communication devices and home and garden products. Consequently, we must stay abreast of emerging fashion, lifestyle, design, technological and other industry and consumer trends. This requires timely collection of market feedback, accurate assessments of market trends, deep understanding of industry dynamics and flexible manufacturing capabilities.

We must also maintain relationships with suppliers who can adapt to fast-changing consumer preferences. If one or more of our existing suppliers cannot meet these requirements effectively, we will need to source from new suppliers, which may be costly and time-consuming. We or our suppliers may overestimate customer demand, face increased overhead expenditures without a corresponding increase in product sales and incur inventory write-downs, which will adversely affect our results of operations.

If we cannot offer appealing products on our websites or our mobile applications, our customers may purchase fewer products from us, stop purchasing products from us, visit our websites or our mobile applications less often or stop visiting our websites or our mobile applications all together. Our reputation may also be negatively impacted. If we do not anticipate, identify and respond effectively to consumer preferences or changes in consumer trends at an early stage, we may not be able to generate our desired level of product sales. Failure to properly address these challenges may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

*Any failure to manage our growth or execute our strategies effectively may materially and adversely affect our business and prospects.*

We anticipate spending significant resources on marketing, supply chain management, fulfillment infrastructure, technology and other business expenditures as our business continues to grow. We will need to continue to expand, train, manage and motivate our workforce and manage our

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

relationships with customers, suppliers, wholesalers and third-party service providers. To accommodate our future growth, we plan to implement a variety of new and upgraded operational and financial systems, procedures and controls, including the improvement of our accounting and other internal management systems, although we have not yet entered into any commitments related to such plan. Our historical growth and expansion has placed, and will continue to place, a significant strain on our management and resources. If we are not successful in managing our growth or executing our strategies effectively, our business may be materially and adversely affected.

Table of Contents

As part of our growth strategy, we intend to broaden the range of our product offerings, which will require us to introduce new products, work with different suppliers and address the needs of different kinds of consumers. We may incur significant costs in trying to expand our offerings into these new products, or fail to introduce new products that meet anticipated consumer demand. For example, we launched our own brand of fast fashion apparel for women, Three Seasons, our own brands of wedding dresses and special occasion dresses, *TS* and *Lanting Bride* and our own brand of electronics, *WAZA*, as well as our own brand of faucets, *Sprinkle*, but it is currently uncertain whether these brands will be competitive in the marketplace, reach broad consumer acceptance and become profitable in the long run.

***We have incurred net losses since our inception and experienced negative cash flow from operating activities in the past. We may continue to incur net losses and experience negative cash flow from operating activities and, as a result, we may need to obtain additional capital in the future.***

We incurred net losses attributable to our ordinary shareholders of \$39.4 million, \$8.7 million and \$9.5 million in 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively, and we may continue to incur losses in the future. In addition, although we generated positive cash flow from operating activities of \$15.2 million in 2013, we experienced negative cash flow from operating activities of \$37.9 million, \$15.3 million and \$14.8 million in 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively, and we may continue to experience negative cash flows in the future.

We expect our costs and expenses, especially our selling and marketing expenses, to increase as we expand our operations. Our ability to achieve and maintain profitability and positive cash flow from operating activities depends on various factors, including but not limited to, the acceptance of our products by consumers, the growth and maintenance of our customer base, our ability to control our costs and expenses and grow our revenues and the effectiveness of our selling and marketing activities. We may not be able to achieve or sustain profitability or positive cash flow from operating activities, and if we achieve positive operating cash flow, it may not be sufficient to satisfy our anticipated capital expenditures and other cash needs. As such, we may not be able to fund our operating expenses and expenditures and may be unable to fulfill our financial obligations as they become due, which may result in voluntary or involuntary dissolution or liquidation proceeding of our Company and a total loss of your investment.

We have financed our operations to date primarily with proceeds from the sale of equity securities and convertible notes. As of December 31, 2017, we had approximately \$70.0 million in cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash. We expect that our existing cash and restricted cash will be sufficient to fund our capital requirements for at least the next 12 months. However, we may need to raise additional capital to fund our continued operations. We cannot be certain that additional funding will be available on acceptable terms, or at all. Our failure to obtain sufficient capital or sufficient capital on acceptable terms could significantly harm our business, financial condition and prospects.

***Products manufactured by our suppliers may be defective or inferior in quality or infringe on the intellectual property rights of others, which may materially and adversely affect our business and our reputation.***

We source our products from over 4,800 selected active suppliers in China. Some of the products provided by our suppliers may be defective or of inferior quality. Such products may also infringe on the intellectual property rights of third parties. Defective, inferior or infringing products may adversely affect consumer perceptions of our company or the products we sell, which may lead to negative reviews that could harm our reputation. Although we have adopted internal policies and guidelines during our procurement process to make sure our suppliers and products

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

we offer do not infringe on third-party intellectual property rights, we may receive, from time to time, notices claiming that our products have infringed on the intellectual property rights of others. If we determine that products sold on our websites and mobile applications are infringing on intellectual property rights, we will remove them from our websites and mobile applications. We are also involved in several intellectual property rights claims related to certain products sold on our website and mobile applications. Although we are not currently a party to any legal proceeding or investigation which, in the opinion of our management, is likely to have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. we cannot assure you that future claims will not have a material impact on our business and financial condition.



Table of Contents

Irrespective of the validity of such allegations or claims, we may experience lost product sales or incur significant costs and efforts in defending against or settling such allegations or claims. If there is a successful claim against us, we may be required to refrain from further sale of the relevant products or pay substantial damages, and we may be unable to recoup our losses from our suppliers. In addition, since our products are sold to customers in many different countries and regions, we are subject to numerous different legal regimes governing mandatory product standards, intellectual property and tort. Such regimes may impose burdensome legal obligations, which may increase the costs and complexity of compliance. Regardless of whether we successfully defend against such claims, our reputation could be severely damaged. Any of these events could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations .

***We may have difficulties managing our marketing efforts and may face increased competition in our marketing efforts, which could materially and adversely affect our business and growth prospects.***

We may have difficulty managing our marketing efforts as our business expands. Currently, we actively manage millions of keywords in 23 languages and display advertising on over 800,000 publisher sites. In addition, we actively engage with our users on social networking sites. However, given the rapid changes of Internet advertising, consumer preferences, the development of new forms of Internet marketing and the different forms of social media in each of our target countries and regions, we may have difficulties adapting our marketing techniques quickly and we may not sustain our customer acquisition rates, which may have a material and adverse effect on our business prospects.

We are highly dependent on our continuing relationships with our affiliate websites and major search engines around the world. Our advertising publishing partners for our affiliate marketing programs may cease, suspend or change the business terms in which we work with them. Search engines may introduce new products and features or modify their page ranking algorithms, which may make our marketing efforts more challenging and costly, or reduce our web traffic. They may also modify existing features or interfere with our ability to advertise on their platforms or to change the business terms on which we advertise. The occurrence of any such event could materially and adversely affect our ability to acquire new customers and thus negatively impact our business, growth prospects, financial condition and results of operations. Furthermore, as search engine marketing is based on a bidding system, other online advertisers may outbid us on our chosen advertising keywords, which may cause us to increase our marketing expenses and adversely affect our results of operations.

***We currently derive our revenues from a limited number of product categories and any event that adversely affects the demand for our products in those product categories may harm our growth strategies and business prospects.***

In 2017, we derived 33.7% and 66.3% of our net revenues of product sales from the sale of apparel and other general merchandise, respectively. A decrease in the demand for any of these product categories could have a material and adverse effect on our business prospects. While we have expanded and diversified our product offerings and revenue sources, sales in new products may not reach a level that would reduce our dependence on our existing product categories. In addition, if we are unable to deliver consistently high quality products in our new products, the number of customers for our products may decline. Our failure to successfully introduce new products may have a material and adverse effect on our business prospects and limit our growth.

***Our expansion may lower our profit margins and materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

We have traditionally focused on the sale of apparel and electronics and communication devices and derived a large percentage of our total net revenues from such products. We have since expanded our offerings by increasing the number of products in our other general merchandise product category, with a particular focus on small accessories and gadgets and home and garden, as well as beauty and sports and outdoor. We have also operated websites which focus on certain specific products, such as our *www.miniinthebox.com* website for the sale of small accessories and gadgets and launched mobile applications that offer a rich shopping experience across all product categories. This has required improvements to our technology and logistics infrastructure and increased marketing spending. We intend to continue to expand our product offerings and increase the variety and customization options of the products we offer in each of our categories.

Table of Contents

These new businesses involve risks and challenges different from the sale of our traditional products. The introduction of other products imposes additional complications in logistics, supply chain management and marketing. For example, home and garden products introduced new complications due to shipping heavier and more fragile products. Furthermore, we may have to deal with customers in demographics that we have previously not targeted. We also face inventory risks and other challenges when addressing changing consumer demands and preferences. We may introduce new products, which may increase the risks of inventory write-downs and financing costs. As a result, we may not be able to compete successfully in these new markets, our costs may increase and our revenues and profit margins may decrease, all of which may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***We may not be able to successfully adopt new technologies or adapt our websites, mobile applications and systems to consumer requirements or emerging industry standards, which may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

The Internet and the online retail industry are characterized by rapid technological evolution. Changes in user and consumer preferences and the emergence of new industry standards and practices may render our existing proprietary technologies and systems obsolete. To remain competitive, we must enhance our technology infrastructure and adapt to the evolving online retail landscape. Not only do we need to constantly improve our user experience through personal computers, but we also need to enhance our user experience through mobile phones, handheld tablets or other devices. As new platforms and new devices are continually being released, it is difficult to predict the problems we may encounter to reach customers. If we are unable to adapt to changing market conditions or customer requirements in a cost-effective and timely manner, whether for technical, financial or other reasons, our business prospects, financial condition and results of operations may be materially adversely affected.

***We use third-party couriers to deliver products and their failure to provide high quality delivery services or our failure to effectively manage our relationships with them may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

We use a network of third-party courier companies to deliver parcels to over 200 countries and territories. Interruptions to or failures in these third parties' shipping services could prevent the timely or successful delivery of our products or the products of small business customers with whom we provide logistics services. These interruptions may be due to unforeseen events such as inclement weather, natural disasters, import or export restrictions, or labor unrest, which may be beyond our control or the control of these third-party couriers. For example, our distribution network is sensitive to fluctuation in oil prices, which may result in increased shipping costs from third-party courier companies, which may, in turn, increase the prices of our products and services and render our products and services less competitive.

If we do not deliver products to our customers in a timely manner or deliver damaged products, our customers may refuse to accept our products and become less confident in us. Many of our bestselling products, such as apparel, may be especially sensitive to delivery delays given that they are often purchased in anticipation of a specific date. Other products, such as electronics and fast fashion apparel for women, have a limited shelf-life and become quickly outdated. Certain products may not be delivered through certain couriers or may not be delivered to certain countries or regions. As a result, certain products may not be deliverable to certain customers or they may not be deliverable at a sufficiently low cost. In addition, if we are unable to ensure the delivery of products of the small businesses in which we provide logistics services to in a timely manner or such products became damaged during delivery, our business customers may no longer utilize services that we provide. Our third-party couriers may also offer us less favorable terms, which may increase our shipping cost and materially and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. Furthermore, if our third-party couriers terminate their cooperation with us or do not renew their agreements with us on terms acceptable to us upon the expiry of the existing agreements, we may not be able to find alternative couriers to provide delivery services in a timely and reliable manner, or at all, which may materially and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. We may not be able to promptly and successfully deliver products to consumers, which may result in the loss of their business and a material and adverse effect on our financial condition and reputation.



Table of Contents

***Our websites, mobile applications or product offerings may not receive positive market recognition and wide acceptance, which may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, negative publicity, including negative Internet and blog postings from anonymous sources, about our company, our business, our management or our products could have a material adverse effect on our business, our reputation and the trading price of our ADSs.***

Maintaining and enhancing the level of customer visits to and volume of customer purchases on our websites and mobile applications are critical to our ability to compete effectively. We intend to enhance the recognition of our websites and mobile applications and product offerings by expending significant time and resources on marketing and customer relations. However, we may not be able to achieve our goals in a short period of time and our marketing efforts may not achieve expected results.

Such efforts may also be jeopardized if we fail to maintain high product quality, fulfill orders for popular items, maintain and enhance high customer experience, provide high quality customer services, or offer efficient and reliable delivery. In addition, any negative publicity or disputes regarding our products, company, management or affiliated individuals or other online retailers in China may also materially and adversely affect our websites or branded products. For example, certain products sold on our websites were the subject of intellectual property right disputes, we have had difficulties receiving customer orders due to disruptions to the fiber optic cable connections out of China and there have been certain negative online reviews of our company, our websites and some of the products we sell. Furthermore, if our customer service representatives fail to satisfy the individual needs of customers, our reputation and customer loyalty could be negatively affected and we may lose potential or existing customers and experience a decrease in product sales. Failure to successfully promote and maintain positive consumer experience and awareness of our websites and mobile applications, damage to our reputation or brands or loss of consumer confidence could materially and adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

Factors important to maintaining and increasing the sales volumes of goods purchased from our websites and mobile applications include:

- our ability to maintain a convenient and reliable user experience as consumer preferences evolve and as we expand into new products and new business lines;
- our ability to increase repeat purchases by customers;
- our ability to increase purchase by mobile application users;
- our ability to provide high quality customer services;
- our ability to offer products of sufficient quality at competitive prices;

- our ability to manage new and existing technologies and sales channels;
- our ability to increase website awareness among existing and potential consumers through various means of marketing and promotional activities;
- our ability to assure our customers of the security of our websites and mobile applications for online purchases; and
- the efficiency, reliability and service quality of our logistics and payment service providers.

Any failure to properly manage these factors could negatively impact our websites and mobile applications. Such failures may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Table of Contents

In addition, we have from time to time received negative publicity, including negative Internet and blog postings from anonymous sources, and anonymous allegations about our company, our business, our management and our products. We cannot assure you that we will not receive similar negative publicity, negative Internet or blog postings or anonymous allegations in the future. Any such negative publicity, negative Internet or blog postings or anonymous allegations, regardless of veracity, may have a material adverse effect on our business, our reputation and the trading price of our ADSs.

***Failure to protect confidential information of our customers and our network against security breaches could damage our reputation and substantially harm our business and results of operations.***

A significant challenge to online commerce and communications is the secure transmission of confidential information over public networks. Currently, product orders and payments for products we offer are made through our websites and mobile applications, except for certain orders and payments related to the sale of our products to customer in China. In addition, some online payments for our products are settled through third-party electronic platforms. In such transactions, maintaining complete security for the transmission of confidential information, such as our customers' credit card information, personal information and billing addresses, on our websites and mobile applications are essential to maintain consumer confidence. We have no control over the security measures of third-party electronic payment service providers. We also hold certain other private information about our customers, such as their names, addresses, phone numbers and browsing and purchasing records.

We may not be able to prevent third parties, such as hackers or criminal organizations, from stealing information provided by our customers to us through our websites and mobile applications. Furthermore, our third-party logistics and payment service providers may accidentally or purposefully disclose information about our customers. We may also accidentally disclose such information due to employee negligence.

Significant capital and other resources may be required to protect against security breaches or to alleviate problems caused by such breaches. The methods used by hackers and others engaged in online criminal activities are increasingly sophisticated and constantly evolving. Even if we successfully adapt to and prevent new security breaches, any perception by the public that online commerce and transactions are becoming increasingly unsafe could inhibit the growth of e-commerce and other online services generally, which, in turn, may reduce the number of purchase orders we receive. Any compromise of our security or third-party service providers' security could materially and adversely affect our reputation, business, prospects, financial condition and results of operations.

***We derive our revenues from products that represent discretionary spending and changes in global macroeconomic conditions may decrease the demand for our products and adversely affect our growth strategies and business prospects.***

Many of our products may be viewed as discretionary items rather than necessities. Consequently, our results of operations tend to be sensitive to changes in macroeconomic conditions that impact consumer discretionary spending. During an economic downturn similar to the economic downturn in 2008 and 2009, customers may be less willing to purchase products that we offer. Challenging macroeconomic conditions also impact our customers' ability to obtain consumer credit. While growth in the Europe, which represented the largest region to which our products were sold in 2015, 2016 and 2017, reached 5.9% on an annual basis in 2017, the highest level since 2007, growth in this region may experience fluctuations in the future. It is difficult to predict household spending patterns in light of the global economic challenges and the European Central Bank's attempts to stimulate growth in the Eurozone. Other factors, including consumer confidence, employment levels, interest rates, tax rates, consumer debt levels and fuel and energy costs, could reduce consumer spending or change consumer purchasing habits.

*We rely on third-party suppliers for our products and any deterioration in such business relationships or the quality of those products may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.*

We source our products from selected third-party suppliers. Our continued growth will increase our product demands, which will require us to increase our ability to source products of commercial quality on reasonable terms.



Table of Contents

Our suppliers may:

- cease selling merchandise to us on terms acceptable to us;
- fail to deliver goods that meet consumer demands;
- encounter financial difficulties;
- terminate our relationships or enter into agreements with our competitors;
- have economic or business interests or goals that are inconsistent with ours and take actions contrary to our instructions, requests or objectives;
- be unable or unwilling to fulfill their obligations, including their obligations to meet our production deadlines, quality standards and product specifications;
- fail to expand their production capacities to meet our demands;
- encounter raw material or labor shortages or increases in raw material or labor costs, which may impact our procurement costs; or
- engage in other activities or employment practices that may harm our reputation.

Furthermore, agreements with our suppliers do not typically establish a fixed price for the purchase of products. As a result, we may be subject to price fluctuations based on changes in our suppliers' businesses, cost structures or other factors. The occurrence of any of these events, alone or together, may have a material and adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. For example, suppliers in the coastal areas of eastern and southern China experienced labor shortages in 2010. Although our suppliers were not significantly affected by this event and managed to complete our orders in a timely manner, similar events may happen again in the future and our suppliers and, in turn, we, may be adversely impacted. In addition, our agreements with some of our suppliers do not contain non-compete clauses that would prevent those

suppliers from producing similar products for any other third party. Any breakdown in our supplier relationships or our failure to timely resolve disputes with or complaints from our suppliers, could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***Our business and profitability depend, to a significant extent, on international trade relationships between China and other countries and consumer confidence in Chinese products and any trade restrictions or losses in consumer confidence may materially and adversely affect our results of operations.***

We are a China-based online retail company selling goods to consumers globally. As a result, if our consumers lose confidence in Chinese products or sovereign nations restrict trade with Chinese companies, we may suffer a competitive disadvantage. For example, such countries could support locally produced goods with subsidies, which may render our goods relatively more expensive. In addition, such countries could place quotas or taxes, such as retaliatory tariffs and anti-dumping restrictions, on goods produced in China, which would restrict our ability to export products to such countries. Consumers may also develop the presumption that products made in China are inferior in quality, more likely to be defective or more likely to violate intellectual property rights.

Such policies and attitudes could target Chinese companies in general, Chinese companies that export to foreign countries in specific or our company individually. We may not be able to affect the implementation of governmental policies or the prevalence of such biases and such policies and biases may reflect political relationships between the countries in which we conduct our businesses rather than any action taken by our company. To the extent that we suffer a competitive disadvantage as a result of restrictions in free trade or adverse consumer perceptions, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected.

Table of Contents

***We plan to expand our warehouses and distribution network. If we are not able to manage such expansion successfully, we may suffer a material and adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

We believe our strategically located warehouses and our distribution network are essential to our success. We intend to expand our warehouses and distribution network in China and internationally to accommodate more purchase orders and provide better coverage of our target markets. We cannot assure you that we will be able to lease suitable facilities at commercially acceptable terms in accordance with our expansion plan. In addition, the expansion of our warehouses and distribution network will put pressure on our managerial, financial, operational and other resources, especially for warehouses outside of China. If we are unable to secure new facilities or effectively manage our expanded logistics operations and control increasing costs, our growth potential, results of operations and business could be materially and adversely affected. Furthermore, since the fourth quarter of 2011, we have entered into arrangements with certain suppliers under which the suppliers store their products at our warehouses. Such products are referred to in this annual report as co-location inventory. We record these products as inventory only when all liabilities and rights of ownership of the products are passed on to us upon the confirmation of orders by our customers. However, we bear the costs and expenses incurred related to the storage of co-location inventory in our warehouses, which increases our costs and expenses and reduces our profit and the warehousing spaces available for our own inventory. In addition, we are responsible for loss of and damages to such products in certain circumstances prior to the confirmation of orders by our customers, such as in the event of theft, but are not responsible for any loss of and damages to such products as a result of a force majeure event.

***Increases in labor costs or restrictions in the supply of labor in China may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

We source our products primarily from third-party suppliers in China. With the rapid development of the Chinese economy, the cost of labor has risen and may continue to rise. Our results of operations will be materially and adversely affected if the labor costs of our suppliers increase. In addition, even if labor costs do not increase, we and our suppliers may not be able to find a sufficient number of workers to produce the products we offer.

Furthermore, pursuant to the new PRC labor contract law that became effective in 2008 and was amended on December 28, 2012, employers in China are subject to stricter requirements when signing labor contracts, paying remuneration, determining the term of employees' probation and unilaterally terminating labor contracts. The new labor contract law and related regulations impose greater liabilities on employers and may significantly increase the costs of workforce reductions. If we or our suppliers decide to significantly change or reduce our workforces, the new labor contract law could adversely affect our ability to make such changes in a timely, favorable and effective manner. Any of these events may adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***The proper functioning of our information infrastructure is essential to our business and any failure to maintain the satisfactory performance, security and integrity of our information infrastructure may materially and adversely affect our business, reputation, financial condition and results of operations.***

Our net revenues from product sales depend on the number of visitors who purchase products on our websites and mobile applications and the volume of orders we fulfill. Telecommunications failures, errors encountered during system upgrades or system expansions, failures related to imbedded social networking functions, computer viruses, attempts to harm our systems, or any inability to maintain, develop and upgrade our existing information infrastructure may damage our hardware and software systems and database, interrupt access to our websites and mobile applications, disrupt our business activities, reveal confidential customer information, slow response times, degrade customer service, increase shipping and handling costs or delay order fulfillment, which may individually or collectively materially and adversely affect our business,

reputation, financial condition and results of operations. For example, disruptions in the fiber optic cables used to connect computers located in the United States and China rendered us temporarily unable to receive orders placed by customers, which caused delays in our ability to process and deliver products to customers.

Our technology infrastructure may not function properly as a result of third-party action, employee error, malfeasance or otherwise and resulting in unauthorized access to our customers' data. In addition, our domain names may not point to our IP address correctly due to malfeasance or neglect by our hosting solutions or domain name registries. For example, they may determine that we have violated contractual, civil or criminal duties and, as a result, suspend our domain names. Such errors would render our sites inaccessible for a period of time. Additionally, third parties may attempt to fraudulently induce employees or consumers into disclosing sensitive information such as user names, passwords or other information in order to gain access to our or our consumers' data.

Table of Contents

Even if we are successful in preventing security breaches, any perception by the public that online commercial transactions, or the privacy of user information, are increasingly unsafe or vulnerable to attack could inhibit the growth of online retailers and other online services generally, which, in turn, may have a material adverse effect on our business, reputation, financial condition and results of operations.

***Taxation risks could materially and adversely affect our business and financial condition.***

We generally do not collect product sales or other taxes on shipments of our goods to most countries in the world except mainland China, Hong Kong and Poland. However, since we are deepening our penetration of geographic markets globally, we may be subject to tax regulations in other geographic markets. In addition, we may become subject to new regulations as regional and national governments may impose new tax laws or revise existing tax laws, especially with regards to Internet sales.

Levy of sales taxes may increase the costs of our products to our consumers and reduce our competitive advantage over our competitors that do not collect such sales taxes. The imposition by regional or national governments of various taxes upon Internet commerce could create administrative burdens for us, put us at a competitive disadvantage if they do not impose similar obligations on all of our online competitors and decrease our future product sales. A successful assertion by one or more foreign countries that we should collect sales or other taxes on the sale of merchandise or services could result in substantial tax liabilities for past product sales, decrease our competitiveness with local retailers, and materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, we may be required to incorporate corporate entities in different jurisdictions around the world in order to deliver our products to such jurisdictions, which may have uncertain tax implications.

***Our growth depends on expanding in various geographic markets and such expansion may pose new logistical, operational and marketing challenges that may materially and adversely affect our business prospects.***

We plan to further increase the sales of our products by deepening our penetration of geographic markets globally. Although our products are sold to customers in over 200 countries and territories, we still have relatively little experience in many countries in the world. It is costly to establish, develop and maintain international operations and websites and mobile applications and promote our brand internationally. The expansion of product sales into such geographic markets may not be profitable on a sustained basis for many reasons including, but not limited to:

- local economic and political conditions;
- government regulation of online retail, other online services and electronic devices and restrictive governmental actions (such as trade protection measures, including export duties and quotas and custom duties and tariffs), nationalization and restrictions on foreign ownership;

- restrictions on sales or distribution of certain products or services and uncertainty regarding intellectual property rights and liability for products, services and content on our websites and mobile applications or social marketing channels;
- business licensing or certification requirements, such as for imports, exports and electronic devices;
- limited fulfillment and technology infrastructure;

Table of Contents

- laws and regulations regarding consumer protection, import and export requirements, duties, tariffs, other trade-related barriers or restrictions, data protection, privacy, network security, encryption and restrictions on pricing or discounts;
- lower levels of Internet use;
- lower levels of consumer spending and fewer growth opportunities compared to our current geographic markets;
- lower levels of credit card usage and increased payment risk; and
- difficulty in staffing, developing and managing foreign operations as a result of language and cultural differences.

As we expand the sale of our products to other countries, competition will intensify. Local companies may have a substantial competitive advantage because of their greater understanding of, and focus on, local consumers, as well as their more established local brand names. This may benefit from reduced logistics costs and marketing. We may not be able to hire, train, retain and manage required personnel, which may limit our international growth.

As new markets have different business practices and consumer demand may vary significantly by region, our experience in the geographic markets on which we currently focus may not be applicable in other parts of the world. For example, we may need to build infrastructure in foreign countries to remain competitive in such markets. Furthermore, deepening our geographic penetration entails increased complexity for our managers and employees including, but not limited to, difficulties associated with managing a more diverse customer base, the challenges of meeting different regulatory regimes and requirements, partnering with different local logistics providers and other business partners, managing more complex marketing efforts and providing customer support in different languages.

We currently derive only a small portion of our product sales from customers in China, but we may expand our operations in China in the future. We will encounter new challenges in operations, marketing and logistics. Our ability to operate competitively in international markets may not render us similarly competitive in the market in China. For example, our logistics networks will need to be optimized locally. To the extent that we cannot increase our market share in China, we may incur costs that we may not recover. Even if we are successful in increasing our market share in China, we may suffer from increased competition from other Chinese companies. We may not compete successfully against companies with stronger brands, greater financial resources, greater political support or more attractive terms for their suppliers, managers or employees.

In addition, our expansion into China may suffer due to uncertainties and various factors affecting the development of online retail in China. For example, Internet and broadband use and penetration may decline, consumer confidence in online shopping may decrease, the quality of

alternative retail channels may increase, sufficiently reliable or secure logistic or payment methods may not be available or the Chinese economy may deteriorate.

To the extent that we cannot successfully expand our operations in other geographic markets, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected.

*Fluctuations in currency exchange rates may make us less competitive and may make our growth and future prospects uncertain and difficult to evaluate.*

We are exposed to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. We sell to customers in over 200 countries and territories. Many of our customers pay for our products in currencies other than U.S. dollars but we report our financial results in U.S. dollars and, as a result, our financial results may be impacted by fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. Since January 2015, the U.S. Dollar Index, a measure of the value of the U.S. dollars against a basket of six major world currencies, has appreciated almost 7%. In particular, Europe represented the largest region to which our products were sold in 2017 and our net revenues generated from Europe were 48.1% of our total net revenues for the same year. Since January 2015, the U.S. dollar has, until recently, been appreciating against the Euro and in December 2016, the Euro fell to a 13-year low against the U.S. dollar with 1 Euro equating to 1.04 U.S. dollars. If the U.S. dollar continues to appreciate against foreign currencies, our translation of foreign currency denominated transactions will result in lower total net revenues, operating expenses and net income. As we are deepening our penetration of geographic markets globally, our exposure to exchange rate fluctuations has increased. We have no hedges against currency risk. Fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates could significantly impact our financial results, which may result in an impact on our share price.



Table of Contents

***Our business depends substantially on the continued efforts of our executive officers and our business may be severely disrupted if we lose their services.***

Our future success depends substantially on the continued efforts of our executive officers. Competition for senior management and other key personnel is intense, and the pool of suitable candidates is very limited. We may not be able to retain the services of our senior executives or other key personnel, or attract and retain senior executives or key personnel in the future. If one or more of our executive officers are unable or unwilling to continue their employment with us, we may not find replacements in a timely manner, or at all, our business may be severely disrupted and our financial condition and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected. We may also incur additional expenses to recruit and retain qualified replacements.

If any of our executive officers joins a competitor or forms a competing company, we may lose customers, suppliers, partners and know-how. Each of our executive officers has entered into an employment agreement with us, which contains confidentiality and non-compete provisions. However, if any dispute arises between our executive officers and us, we may not be able to enforce these non-compete provisions in China, where these executive officers reside, in light of uncertainties with China's legal system.

***If we are unable to attract, train and retain qualified personnel, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected.***

Our business is supported and enhanced by a team of highly skilled employees who are critical to maintaining the quality and consistency of our business and reputation. It is important for us to attract qualified employees, especially marketing personnel, designers, supply chain managers, or engineers with high levels of experience in creative design, software development and Internet-related services. Competition for these employees is intense. In order to attract prospective employees and retain current employees, we may have to increase our employee compensation by a larger amount and at a faster pace than expected, which would increase our operating expenses. In addition, we must hire and train qualified employees in a timely manner to keep pace with our growth while maintaining the quality of our operations in various geographic locations.

We must also provide continuous training to our employees so that they have up-to-date knowledge of various aspects of our operations and can meet our demand for high quality services. If we fail to do so, the quality of our services may deteriorate in one or more of the markets where we operate, which may cause a negative perception of our brand and adversely affect our business. Finally, disputes between us and our employees may arise from time to time and if we are not able to properly handle our relationship with our employees, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected.

***Our branding efforts for our products may be costly and may not obtain positive market recognition which may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

We have launched our own branded product lines, which require more research, design and marketing costs than our private label products. These costs may not be recovered from sufficient sales of these branded products. These brands may not receive or maintain positive market recognition. Furthermore, it may take time and additional expenditures before we realize that our branding efforts have been unsuccessful. As a result of these efforts to develop branded products, we may incur costs without corresponding increases in revenues which may materially and

adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Table of Contents

***Our results of operations are subject to quarterly fluctuations due to a number of factors that could adversely affect our business and the trading price of the ADSs.***

We experience seasonality in our business, reflecting seasonal fluctuations in online and offline retail patterns in general and for our products. For example, product sales may be higher in the fourth quarter of a calendar year due to the Christmas holidays. Our product mix may experience quarterly shifts which may cause our margins to fluctuate from quarter to quarter.

Due to the foregoing factors, our operating results in one or more future quarters may fall below the expectations of securities analysts and investors. In such event, the trading price of the ADSs may be materially and adversely affected.

***We may not be able to prevent unauthorized use of our intellectual property, which could harm our business and competitive position.***

We regard our trademarks, service marks, domain names, trade secrets, proprietary technologies and similar intellectual property critical to our success and we currently rely on a mix of trademark law, trade secret protection and confidentiality and license agreements with our employees, suppliers, partners and others to protect our proprietary rights. Our trademarks and service marks may be invalidated, circumvented or challenged. Trade secrets are difficult to protect and our trade secrets may be leaked or otherwise become known or be independently discovered by competitors. Confidentiality agreements may be breached and we may not have adequate remedies for any breach.

It is often difficult to create and enforce intellectual property rights in China. Even where adequate laws exist in China, it may not be possible to obtain swift and equitable enforcement of such laws, or to obtain enforcement of a court judgment or an arbitration award delivered in another jurisdiction and, accordingly, we may not be able to effectively protect our intellectual property rights or enforce agreements in China. Preventing any unauthorized use of our intellectual property is difficult and costly and the steps we have taken may be inadequate to prevent the misappropriation of our technologies.

***We are subject to payment-related risks which may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

Our customers may choose from a wide range of payment methods. As we offer new payment options to our customers, we may be subject to additional regulations, compliance requirements and fraud.

We rely on third parties, such as PayPal, WorldPay and Global Collect, to provide certain payment processing services, including the processing of credit card and debit card transactions. Our business may be disrupted if these companies become unwilling or unable to provide these services to us. We are also subject to payment card association operating rules, certification requirements and rules governing electronic funds transfers, which could change or be reinterpreted to make it difficult or impossible for us to comply. If we fail to comply with these rules or requirements, we may be subject to fines and higher transaction fees and lose our ability to accept credit and debit card payments from our customers, process electronic funds transfers, or facilitate other types of online payments and our business and operating results could be adversely affected.

Under current credit card practices, we are liable for fraudulent credit card transactions because we do not require a cardholder's signature. We do not currently carry insurance against this risk. Although we have only experienced minimal losses from credit card fraud, we face the risk of significant losses from this type of fraud as our net product sales increase and as we expand internationally. Our failure to adequately control fraudulent credit card transactions could damage our reputation and brand and substantially harm our business and results of operations. Additionally, for certain payment transactions, including credit and debit cards, we pay interchange and other fees. These fees may increase over time, which would raise our operating costs and lower our operating margins.

Table of Contents

***Our business is subject to the laws of various jurisdictions, many of which are unsettled and still developing and could subject us to claims or otherwise harm our business.***

We are subject to a variety of laws in various jurisdictions, including Hong Kong, China, the United States and other countries, including laws regarding data retention, privacy and consumer protection, that are continuously evolving and developing. The scope and interpretation of the laws that are or may be applicable to us are often uncertain and may be conflicting. For example, laws relating to the liability of providers of online services for activities of their users and other third parties are currently being tested by a number of claims, including actions based on invasion of privacy and other torts, unfair competition, copyright and trademark infringement and other theories based on the nature and content of the materials searched, the advertisements posted, or the content provided by users. In addition, regulatory authorities around the world are considering a number of legislative and regulatory proposals concerning data protection and other matters that may be applicable to our business. It is also likely that as our business grows and evolves and our solutions are used in a greater number of countries, we will become subject to laws and regulations in additional jurisdictions. It is difficult to predict how existing laws will be applied to our business and the new laws to which we may become subject.

If we are not able to comply with these laws or regulations or if we become liable under these laws or regulations, we could be directly harmed and we may be forced to implement new measures to reduce our exposure to this liability. This may require us to expend substantial resources or to discontinue certain solutions. In addition, the increased attention focused upon liability issues as a result of lawsuits and legislative proposals could harm our reputation or otherwise impact the growth of our business. Any costs incurred as a result of this potential liability could harm our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***We do not have any business liability, disruption or litigation insurance and any business disruption or litigation we experience might result in our incurring substantial costs and diversion of resources.***

As the insurance industry in China is still in an early stage of development, insurance companies in China currently offer limited business insurance products. We have determined that the difficulties associated with acquiring product liability or business interruption insurance coverage in China on commercially reasonable terms make it impractical for us to have such insurance. As such, we currently only have limited insurance covering certain of our warehouses. Any product liability claims or business disruption, natural disaster could result in our incurring substantial costs and diversion of resources, which would have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***If we fail to maintain an effective system of internal control over financial reporting, we may be unable to accurately report our financial results or prevent fraud and investor confidence in our company and the market price of the ADSs may be adversely affected.***

In preparing our consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017 included in our annual report on Form 20-F for 2017, we identified certain control deficiencies in our internal control over financial reporting. We have taken a variety of measures to address these control deficiencies. With these measures over the identified deficiencies, we concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2017. See also Item 15. Controls and Procedures Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. We cannot assure you that we will be able to continue to implement an effective system of internal control, or that we will not identify material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in the future.

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

As a public company in the United States, we are subject to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, or the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Our independent registered public accounting firm will be required to attest to the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting beginning with our annual report on Form 20-F following the date on which we cease to qualify as an emerging growth company, which may be up to five full fiscal years following the date of our initial public offering in June 2013. Even if our management concludes that our internal control over financial reporting is effective, our independent registered public accounting firm, after conducting its own independent testing, may issue a report that is qualified if it is not satisfied with our internal controls or the level at which our controls are documented, designed, operated or reviewed, or if it interprets the relevant requirements differently from us. As a public company, our reporting obligations may place a significant strain on our management, operational and financial resources and systems for the foreseeable future. See also Item 15. Controls and Procedures Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting.

Table of Contents

In addition, if we fail to maintain the adequacy of our internal control over financial reporting, as these standards are modified, supplemented or amended from time to time, we may not be able to conclude on an ongoing basis that we have effective internal control over financial reporting in accordance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. If we fail to achieve and maintain an effective internal control environment, we could suffer material misstatements in our financial statements and fail to meet our reporting obligations, which would likely cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information. This could in turn limit our access to capital markets, harm our results of operations, and lead to a decline in the trading price of our ADSs. Additionally, ineffective internal control over financial reporting could expose us to increased risk of fraud or misuse of corporate assets and subject us to potential delisting from the stock exchange on which we list, regulatory investigations and civil or criminal sanctions.

*As an emerging growth company, we will not be required to have auditor attestation of the effectiveness of our internal controls.*

We are an emerging growth company as defined in the JOBS Act, and we intend to take advantage of certain exemptions from various requirements that are applicable to other public companies that are not emerging growth companies including, most significantly, not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act for so long as we are an emerging growth company, which may be for as long as five years following our initial public offering in June 2013. As a result of our current status as an emerging growth company, our investors may not have access to certain information that they may deem important.

The JOBS Act also provides that an emerging growth company need not comply with any new or revised financial accounting standard until such date that a non-reporting company is required to comply with such new or revised accounting standard. However, we have elected to opt out of this provision and, as a result, we will comply with new or revised accounting standards as required when they are adopted for public companies. This decision to opt out of the extended transition period under the JOBS Act is irrevocable.

*We may engage in acquisitions that may present integration challenges, disrupt our business and lower our operating results and the value of your investment.*

As part of our business strategy, we regularly evaluate investments in, mergers with or acquisitions of, complementary businesses, joint ventures, services and technologies. For example, in May 2010, Lanting Huitong acquired Shanghai Ouku, which operates [www.ouku.com](http://www.ouku.com), for \$2.2 million (RMB14.3 million). In addition, we acquired the fashion focused site business from Ador, Inc. in December 2013. In February 2015, we made a minority investment in Shantou Demon Network Technology Co., Ltd., which owns an online website that specialized in cross-border packages tracking, for \$2.1 million (RMB12.9 million). In May 2017, we completed an investment of \$3.0 million (RMB20.0 million) in Maikailai Technologies Co., Ltd., or Maikailai, which provides brand design, channel development and personnel training services to foreign businesses entering the Chinese consumer market. Acquisitions and investments involve numerous risks, including:

- potential failure to achieve the expected benefits of the combination or acquisition;
- difficulties in and the cost of integrating operations, technologies, services and personnel; and

- potential write-offs of acquired assets or investments.

Furthermore, as a result of Lanting Huitong's acquisition of Shanghai Ouku, we have recorded goodwill as well as certain acquired intangibles. Such goodwill and intangible assets are tested for impairment by us. In 2011, we recorded an impairment loss on goodwill and intangible assets of \$1.9 million.



Table of Contents

In addition, if we finance acquisitions by issuing equity or convertible debt securities, our existing shareholders may be diluted, which could affect the market price of the ADSs. Further, if we fail to properly evaluate and execute acquisitions or investments, our business and prospects may be seriously harmed and the value of your investment may decline.

Furthermore, we may fail to identify or secure suitable acquisition opportunities or our competitors may capitalize on such opportunities before we do, which could impair our ability to compete with our competitors and adversely affect our growth prospects and results of operations.

***Any catastrophe, including outbreaks of health pandemics and other extraordinary events, could severely disrupt our business operations.***

Our operations are vulnerable to interruption and damage from natural and other types of catastrophes, including earthquakes, fire, floods, hail, windstorms, severe winter weather (including snow, freezing water, ice storms and blizzards), environmental accidents, power loss, communications failures, explosions, man-made events such as terrorist attacks and similar events. Due to their nature, we cannot predict the incidence, timing and severity of catastrophes. In March 2011, Japan was struck by a 9.0-magnitude earthquake. In May 2008 and April 2013, Sichuan Province in southwest China experienced severe earthquakes. Although the Japan earthquake together with the resulting tsunami and the Sichuan Province earthquakes did not materially affect our business, other occurrences of natural disasters, as well as accidents and incidents of adverse weather in or around our warehouses, sourcing offices or suppliers may materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations. We may also be particularly vulnerable to catastrophes in Europe and North America, where most of our customers are located. In addition, the recent uncertainty on the Korean Peninsula may also have an adverse impact on our business operations.

Changing climate conditions, primarily rising global temperatures, may be increasing, or may in the future increase, the frequency and severity of natural catastrophes. If any such catastrophe or extraordinary event occurs in the future, our ability to operate our business could be seriously impaired. Such events could make it difficult or impossible for us to deliver our services and products to our consumers and could decrease demand for our products. Because we only have limited insurance covering certain of our warehouses and do not maintain insurance for all of our properties, significant time could be required to resume our operations and our financial position and operating results could be materially and adversely affected in the event of any major catastrophic event.

In addition, our business could be materially and adversely affected by the outbreak of influenza A (H1N1), commonly referred to as swine flu, avian influenza, including H7N9, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Ebola virus disease or other pandemics. Any occurrence of these pandemic diseases or other adverse public health developments in China or elsewhere could severely disrupt our staffing or the staffing of our suppliers and couriers and otherwise reduce the activity levels of our work force and the work force of our suppliers and couriers, causing a material and adverse effect on our business operations.

***Failure to renew the lease of our existing premises or to renew such leases at acceptable terms could materially and adversely affect our business.***

All of our offices and warehouses are presently located on leased premises. At the end of each lease term, we may not be able to negotiate an extension of the lease and may therefore be forced to move to a different location, or the rent we pay may increase significantly. This could disrupt our operations and adversely affect our profitability. A number of our leases will expire in the near future and are subject to renewal at market prices, which could result in a substantial increase in the rent at the time of renewal. We compete with other businesses for premises at

certain locations or of desirable sizes and some landlords may have entered into long-term leases with our competitors for such premises. We may not be able to obtain new leases at desirable locations or renew our existing leases on acceptable terms or at all, which could materially and adversely affect our business.

Table of Contents

*We rely on certain individuals and their affiliates to register at and receive funds from some of our supplemental online outlets.*

In addition to the sale of our products through our websites and mobile applications, we also sell through outlets on other high traffic online marketplace platforms. In addition to such supplemental online outlets registered under our company name, some of our employees have also registered for online outlets in their own name to sell our products and hold the title to these online outlets on the marketplace platforms and in certain cases, their associated bank accounts. We enter into contractual relationships with such employees to obligate them to transfer to us payments corresponding to amounts they receive from customers for the sale of our products on these supplemental online outlets. Prior to our receipt of such payments, we classify cash held in these accounts in our prepaid expenses and other current assets. If such employees choose not to perform their contractual obligations with us, we may incur costs to recover such payments and we may not be able to recover these cash balances.

*We are exempted from certain corporate governance requirements of the New York Stock Exchange.*

We are exempted from certain corporate governance requirements of the New York Stock Exchange by virtue of being a foreign private issuer. We are required to provide a brief description of the significant differences between our corporate governance practices and the corporate governance practices required to be followed by U.S. domestic companies under the New York Stock Exchange. The standards applicable to us are considerably different than the standards applied to U.S. domestic issuers. For instance, we are not required to:

- have a majority of the board be independent (other than due to the requirements for the audit committee under the Exchange Act);
- have a minimum of three members in our audit committee;
- have a compensation committee, a nominating or corporate governance committee;
- have regularly scheduled executive sessions with only independent directors;
- have executive session of solely independent directors each year; or
- adopt and disclose a code of business conduct and ethics for directors, officers and employees.

We have relied on and intend to continue to rely on some of these exemptions. As a result, you may not be provided with the benefits of certain corporate governance requirements of the New York Stock Exchange.

### **Risks Related to Our Corporate Structure**

*Substantial uncertainties exist with respect to the enactment timetable, final scope, interpretation and implementation of the draft PRC Foreign Investment Law recently published for public comments, including how it may impact the viability of our current corporate structure, corporate governance and business operations.*

The PRC Ministry of Commerce published a discussion draft of the proposed Foreign Investment Law in January 2015 aiming to, upon its enactment, replace the trio of existing laws regulating foreign investment in China, namely, the Sino-foreign Equity Joint Venture Enterprise Law, the Sino-foreign Cooperative Joint Venture Enterprise Law and the Wholly Foreign-invested Enterprise Law, together with their implementation rules and ancillary regulations. The draft Foreign Investment Law embodies an expected PRC regulatory trend to rationalize its foreign investment regulatory regime in line with prevailing international practice and the legislative efforts to unify the corporate legal requirements for both foreign and domestic investments. The Ministry of Commerce solicited comments on this draft in 2015, but no timetable as to when it will be enacted has been published so far. As such, substantial uncertainties exist with respect to its enactment timetable, final scope, interpretation and implementation. The draft Foreign Investment Law, if enacted as proposed, may materially impact the viability of our current corporate structure, corporate governance and business operations in several ways.

Table of Contents

Among other things, the draft Foreign Investment Law expands the definition of foreign investment and introduces the principle of actual control in determining whether a company is considered a foreign-invested enterprise, or FIE. The draft Foreign Investment Law specifically provides that entities established in China but controlled by foreign investors will be treated as FIEs, whereas an entity set up in a foreign jurisdiction would nonetheless be, upon market entry clearance by the Ministry of Commerce, treated as a PRC domestic investor provided that the entity is controlled by PRC entities and/or citizens. In this connection, control is broadly defined in the draft law to cover the following summarized categories: (i) holding 50% or more of the voting rights of the subject entity; (ii) holding less than 50% of the voting rights of the subject entity but having the power to secure at least 50% of the seats on the board or other equivalent decision making bodies, or having the voting power to materially influence the board, the shareholders meeting or other equivalent decision making bodies; or (iii) having the power to exert decisive influence, via contractual or trust arrangements, over the subject entity's operations, financial matters or other key aspects of business operations. Once an entity is determined to be an FIE, it will be subject to the foreign investment restrictions or prohibitions set forth in a negative list, to be separately issued by the State Counsel at a later time, if the FIE is engaged in an industry included on the negative list. Unless the underlying business of the FIE falls within the negative list, which calls for market entry clearance by the Ministry of Commerce, prior approval from the government authorities as mandated by the existing foreign investment legal regime would no longer be required for establishment of the FIE.

The VIE structure has been adopted by many PRC-based companies, including us, to obtain necessary licenses and permits in industries that are currently subject to foreign investment restrictions in China. See We conduct certain aspects of our businesses in China through our VIEs by means of contractual arrangements. If the PRC government determines that these contractual arrangements do not comply with applicable regulations, our business could be materially and adversely affected. and Item 4. Information on the Company C. Organizational Structure. Under the draft Foreign Investment Law, VIEs that are controlled via contractual arrangements would also be deemed FIEs, if they are ultimately controlled by foreign investors. Therefore, for any companies with a VIE structure in an industry category that is on the negative list, the VIE structure may be deemed legitimate only if the ultimate controlling person(s) is/are of PRC nationality (either PRC companies or PRC citizens). Conversely, if the actual controlling person (s) is/are of foreign nationalities, then the variable interest entities will be treated as FIEs and any operation in the industry category on the negative list without market entry clearance may be considered illegal. There are uncertainties as to whether the Foreign Investment Law, once it is enacted, will have retrospective effect on existing VIE structures such as ours, or whether it will grant real and full grandfathering and grace periods for such existing VIE structures.

The draft Foreign Investment Law has not taken a position on what actions will be taken with respect to existing companies with a VIE structure, whether or not these companies are controlled by Chinese parties, and the Ministry of Commerce is soliciting comments from the public on this point. Moreover, it is uncertain whether the Internet industry, in which our VIEs operate, will be subject to the foreign investment restrictions or prohibitions set forth in the negative list to be issued. The value-added telecommunications services (e-commerce) that we conduct through our VIEs are no longer subject to foreign investment restrictions as set forth in the Catalogue for the Guidance of Foreign Investment Industries issued by the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Commerce in March 2015, or the Catalogue. It is unclear whether the new negative list will be different from the Catalogue. If the enacted version of the Foreign Investment Law and the final negative list mandate further actions, such as Ministry of Commerce market entry clearance or certain restructuring of our corporate structure and operations, to be completed by companies with existing VIE structure like us, we face substantial uncertainties as to whether these actions can be timely completed, or at all, and our business and financial condition may be materially and adversely affected.

The draft Foreign Investment Law, if enacted as proposed, may also materially impact our corporate governance practice and increase our compliance costs. For instance, the draft Foreign Investment Law imposes stringent ad hoc and periodic information reporting requirements on foreign investors and the applicable FIEs. Aside from investment implementation report and investment amendment report that are required at each investment and alteration of investment specifics, an annual report is mandatory, and large foreign investors meeting certain criteria are required to report on a quarterly basis. Any company found to be non-compliant with these information reporting obligations may potentially be subject to fines and/or administrative or criminal liabilities, and the persons directly responsible may be subject to criminal liabilities.



Table of Contents

***We conduct certain aspects of our businesses in China through our VIEs by means of contractual arrangements. If the PRC government determines that these contractual arrangements do not comply with applicable regulations, our business could be materially and adversely affected.***

We conduct the operation of our domestic websites as well as certain technology research and development and other supporting functions through Lanting Huitong and its subsidiary, Shanghai Ouku, and conduct certain technology research and development functions through Lanting Gaochuang in China. We receive substantially all of the economic benefits of Lanting Huitong and Lanting Gaochuang as their primary beneficiary through contractual arrangements with them and their shareholders. For a description of these contractual arrangements, see Item 4. Information on the Company C. Organizational Structure.

Although we believe we comply and will continue to comply with current PRC regulations, the PRC government may not agree that these contractual arrangements comply with PRC licensing, registration or other regulatory requirements, with existing requirements or policies or with requirements or policies that may be adopted in the future, particularly with regards to Lanting Huitong as a key operator of our domestic websites. If the PRC government determines that we are not in compliance with applicable laws, it may revoke our business and operating licenses, require us to discontinue or restrict our operations, restrict our right to collect revenues, block our websites, require us to restructure our operations, impose additional conditions with which we may not be able to comply, impose restrictions on our business operations or on our customers, or take other regulatory or enforcement actions against us that could be harmful to our business.

***We rely on contractual arrangements with Lanting Huitong and its shareholders for the operation of our domestic websites as well as conduct certain technology research and development and other supporting functions in China and contractual arrangements with Lanting Gaochuang and its shareholders for certain technology research and development functions, which may not be as effective as direct ownership. If Lanting Huitong and its shareholders or Lanting Gaochuang and its shareholders fail to perform their obligations under these contractual arrangements, we may have to resort to litigation or arbitration to enforce our rights, which may be time-consuming, unpredictable, expensive and damaging to our operations and reputation.***

We have relied and expect to continue to rely on contractual arrangements with Lanting Huitong to operate our domestic websites as well as conduct certain technology research and development and other supporting functions in China and contractual arrangements with Lanting Gaochuang to perform certain technology research and development functions. For a description of these contractual arrangements, see Item 4. Information on the Company C. Organizational Structure. These contractual arrangements provide us with effective control over these entities and allow us to obtain economic benefits from them. Although we have been advised by our PRC counsel, TransAsia Lawyers, that these contractual arrangements are in compliance with current PRC laws, these contractual arrangements may not be as effective in providing control as direct ownership. For example, Lanting Huitong and its shareholders could breach their contractual arrangements with us by failing to operate our online retail business in an acceptable manner or taking other actions that are detrimental to our interests. In addition, if the shareholders of Lanting Huitong or Lanting Gaochuang refuse to transfer their equity interests in Lanting Huitong or Lanting Gaochuang to us or our designee when we exercise our call option pursuant to these contractual arrangements, we may have to take legal actions to compel them to perform their contractual obligations.

If we were the controlling shareholder of our VIEs with direct ownership, we would be able to exercise our rights as shareholders, rather than our rights under the powers of attorney, to effect changes to their boards of directors, which in turn could implement changes at the management and operational level. However, under the current contractual arrangements, as a legal matter, if our VIEs or their respective shareholders fail to perform their obligations under these contractual arrangements, we may incur substantial costs to enforce such arrangements and rely on legal remedies under PRC law, which may not be sufficient or effective.

All of these contractual arrangements are governed by PRC law and provide for the resolution of disputes through arbitration in the PRC. Accordingly, these contracts would be interpreted in accordance with PRC law and any disputes would be resolved in accordance with PRC legal procedures. The legal system in the PRC is not as developed as in other jurisdictions, such as the United States. As a result, uncertainties in the PRC legal system could limit our ability to enforce these contractual arrangements. Under PRC law, rulings by arbitrators are final, parties cannot appeal the arbitration results in court and the prevailing parties may only enforce the arbitration awards in PRC courts through arbitration award recognition proceedings, which would incur additional expenses and delay. If we are unable to enforce these contractual arrangements, we may not be able to exert effective control over our VIEs and our ability to conduct our businesses may be negatively affected.



Table of Contents

If we are unable to enforce these contractual arrangements, or if we suffer significant delay or other obstacles in the process of enforcing these contractual arrangements, our business and operations in China could be disrupted, which could materially and adversely affect our results of operations and damage our reputation. See Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Doing Business in China Uncertainties with respect to the Chinese legal system could adversely affect us.

***The shareholders of Lanting Huitong and Lanting Gaochuang have potential conflicts of interest with us, which may adversely affect our business.***

Certain of our founding shareholders, Mr. Quji (Alan) Guo, Mr. Xin (Kevin) Wen and Mr. Liang Zhang, who collectively owned 9.9% of the shares of our company as of March 22, 2018, are also the shareholders of Lanting Huitong. Mr. Guo also holds 51% of Lanting Gaochuang. Thus, conflicts of interest between their duties to our company and their interests as the controlling shareholders of Lanting Huitong or Lanting Gaochuang may arise. They may not act entirely in our interests when conflicts of interest arise and conflicts of interest may not be resolved in our favor. In addition, Mr. Guo, Mr. Wen and Mr. Zhang could violate their non-competition or employment agreements with us or their legal duties by diverting business opportunities from us. If we are unable to resolve any such conflicts, or if we suffer significant delays or other obstacles as a result of such conflicts, our business and operations could be severely disrupted, which could materially and adversely affect our results of operations and reputation. See Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Doing Business in China Uncertainties with respect to the Chinese legal system could adversely affect us.

***We may lose the ability to use and enjoy assets held by Lanting Huitong and its subsidiary or assets held by Lanting Gaochuang that are important to the operations of our business if such entity goes bankrupt or becomes subject to a dissolution or liquidation proceeding.***

Lanting Huitong and its subsidiary, Shanghai Ouku, manage [www.ouku.com](http://www.ouku.com) and other websites targeting consumers in China. Lanting Gaochuang performs certain research and development functions. Both hold certain assets and perform certain functions that are important to the operations of our business. If Lanting Huitong, Shanghai Ouku or Lanting Gaochuang go bankrupt and all or part of their assets become subject to liens or rights of third-party creditors, we may be unable to continue some or all of our business activities, which could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. If Lanting Huitong, Shanghai Ouku or Lanting Gaochuang undergoes a voluntary or involuntary dissolution or liquidation proceeding, third-party creditors may claim rights to some or all of these assets, thereby hindering our ability to operate our business in the PRC, which may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***If Lanting Huitong, Shanghai Ouku or Lanting Gaochuang fail to obtain and maintain the requisite assets, licenses and approvals required under the complex regulatory environment for Internet-based businesses in China, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected.***

The Internet industry in China is highly regulated by the PRC government and numerous regulatory authorities of the central PRC government are empowered to issue and implement regulations governing various aspects of the Internet industry. See Item 4. Information on the Company B. Business Overview Regulation. Lanting Huitong and Shanghai Ouku, due to their operation of our domestic websites, are required to obtain and maintain certain assets relevant to their business as well as applicable licenses and approvals from different regulatory authorities in order to provide their current services. These assets and licenses are essential to our business operations in China and are generally subject to annual review by the relevant governmental authorities. Furthermore, Lanting Huitong, Shanghai Ouku or Lanting Gaochuang may be required to obtain additional licenses other than those currently in place. If they fail to obtain or maintain any of the requisite assets, licenses or approvals, their continued business operations in the Internet industry may subject them to various penalties, such as confiscation of illegal total net

revenues, fines and the discontinuation or restriction of their operations. Any such disruption in the business operations of Lanting Huitong, Shanghai Ouku or Lanting Gaochuang may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Table of Contents

***Contractual arrangements with Lanting Huitong or Lanting Gaochuang may result in adverse tax consequences.***

Under PRC laws and regulations, an arrangement or transaction among related parties may be subject to audit or challenge by the PRC tax authorities within ten years after the taxable year when the arrangement or transaction takes place. If this occurs, the PRC tax authorities could request that Lanting Huitong or Lanting Gaochuang adjust their taxable income in the form of a transfer pricing adjustment for PRC tax purposes if contractual arrangements among related parties do not represent arm's length prices. Such a pricing adjustment could adversely affect us by increasing Lanting Huitong or Lanting Gaochuang's tax expenses without a corresponding reduction in our tax expenses, which, in turn, could subject Lanting Huitong or Lanting Gaochuang to late payment fees and other penalties for underpayment of taxes. As a result, our contractual arrangements with Lanting Huitong or Lanting Gaochuang may result in adverse tax consequences to us. In 2017, Lanting Huitong was subject to PRC income tax at an effective rate of 15%. If the PRC tax authorities decide to make transfer pricing adjustments on Lanting Huitong's net income in the future, our results of operations may be adversely affected. In addition, if Lanting Huitong or Lanting Gaochuang generate net income from transactions with our PRC subsidiary under the contractual arrangements in the future and the PRC tax authorities decide to make transfer pricing adjustments on their net incomes, our consolidated net income may be adversely affected.

**Risks Related to Doing Business in China**

***We may be adversely affected by the uncertainties and changes in the PRC regulations and policies of cross-border business activities.***

We are a China-based global online retailer. The PRC government extensively regulates the Internet industry and cross-border business activities. While the PRC government has been encouraging the export industry, such policy may change in the future. Currently laws and regulations relating to online retail, including export online retail, are still evolving and the interpretation and enforcement of these laws and regulations are subject to significant uncertainties. As a result, in certain circumstances, it may be difficult to determine what actions or omissions may be deemed to be in violation of applicable laws or regulations. Issues, risks and uncertainties relating to PRC regulation of export online retail include, but are not limited to:

- how our online retail activities are subject to the laws and regulations pertaining to traditional cross-border transactions or international trade, especially those related to customs declarations, statutory inspections, couriers and commodities export payments; and
- new regulations, or new interpretations of existing regulations, requiring additional licenses, declarations or inspections for our products.

The varying interpretations and applications of existing PRC laws, regulations and policies, along with possible new laws, regulations or policies relating to cross-border online retail, create substantial uncertainty regarding the licenses, customs declarations and inspections that may be required for our products. We cannot guarantee that all of the licenses, customs clearances and/or approvals for commodity inspections currently required, or in the future may be required, will be obtained.

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

For example, we work with third-party couriers to ship and export merchandise purchased by our customers around the world as articles or product samples on a parcel-by-parcel basis in accordance with procedures applicable to articles or product samples. This differs from the customs declaration, clearance and inspection procedures for traditional large-scale export shipments. Despite that the current PRC regulatory regime on customs declaration and inspection being formulated, interpreted and enforced primarily with the regulation of traditional large-scale exports in mind, the regulatory regime could technically be interpreted as being applicable to the shipment of merchandise on a parcel-by-parcel basis.

If the relevant PRC governmental authorities determine that we or our sourcing agents, suppliers or third-party couriers do not comply with the applicable laws and regulations, they could:

Table of Contents

- require us, or our sourcing agents, suppliers or third-party couriers, to restructure business operations, including a possible change to our current method and manner of contracting with such sourcing agents, suppliers or third-party couriers, or require us or third-party couriers to go through customs declaration, clearance and inspection procedures for the merchandise sold to our customer under our business arrangements in accordance with procedures for goods rather than for articles;
- impose fines or confiscate income from our PRC subsidiary or the operations of the affiliates of our sourcing agents, suppliers or third-party couriers that are subject to PRC jurisdiction; and
- impose additional conditions or requirements with which we may not be able to comply or take other regulatory or enforcement actions against us.

*Substantial uncertainties exist with respect to the interpretation and implementation of Cyber Security Law as well as any impact it may have on our business operations.*

On July 1, 2015, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress issued the National Security Law, which came into effect on the same day. The National Security Law provides that the state shall safeguard its sovereignty, security and cybersecurity development interests, and that the government shall establish a national security review and supervision system to review, among other things, foreign investment, key technologies, internet and information technology products and services, and other important activities that are likely to impact the national security of China.

On November 7, 2016, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress issued the Cyber Security Law, which came into effect on June 1, 2017. This is the first Chinese law that focuses exclusively on cyber security. The Cyber Security Law provides that network operators must set up internal security management systems that meets the requirements of a classified protection system for cybersecurity, including appointing dedicated cybersecurity personnel, taking technical measures to prevent computer viruses, network attacks and intrusions, taking technical measures to monitor and record network operation status and cybersecurity incidents, and taking data security measures such as data classification, backups and encryption. The Cyber Security Law also imposes a relatively vague but broad obligation to provide technical support and assistance to the public and state security authorities in connection with criminal investigations or for reasons of national security. The Cyber Security Law also requires network operators that provide network access or domain name registration services, landline or mobile phone network access, or that provide users with information publication or instant messaging services, to require users to provide a real identity when they sign up.

The Cyber Security Law sets high requirements for the operational security of facilities deemed to be part of the PRC's critical information infrastructure. These requirements include data localization, i.e., storing personal information and important business data in China, and national security review requirements for any network products or services that may have an impact on national security. Among other factors, critical information infrastructure is defined as critical information infrastructure, that will, in the event of destruction, loss of function or data leak, result in serious damage to national security, the national economy and people's livelihood, or the public interest. Specific reference is made to key sectors such as public communication and information services, energy, transportation, water-resources, finance, public service and e-government. However, no official guidelines as to the scope of critical information infrastructure have been formally issued.

We do not believe that we are an operator of critical information infrastructure as defined in the Cyber Security Law. However, there is no assurance that we may not be considered an operator of critical information infrastructure in the future as the definition is not precise, and there are substantial uncertainties as to the ultimate interpretation and implementation of the Cyber Security Law. The Cyber Security Law, if enacted as proposed, could cause us to incur substantial costs or require us to change our business practices in a manner materially adverse to our business.

Table of Contents

***Regulation and censorship of information distribution over the Internet in China may adversely affect our business and we may be liable for information displayed on, retrieved from or linked to our websites.***

China has enacted laws and regulations governing Internet access and the distribution of products, services, news, information, audio-video programs and other content through the Internet. In the past, the PRC government has prohibited the distribution of information through the Internet that it deems to be in violation of PRC laws and regulations. If any of our Internet content were deemed by the PRC government to violate any content restrictions, we would not be able to continue to display such content and could become subject to penalties, including confiscation of income, fines, suspension of business and revocation of required licenses, which could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. We may also be subject to potential liability for any unlawful actions of our consumers or users of our websites or for content we distribute that is deemed inappropriate. It may be difficult to determine the type of content that may result in liability to us and if we are found to be liable, we may be prevented from operating our websites in China, which would materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***Changes in China's political, economic or social conditions or government policies could have a material adverse effect on our business and operations.***

Most of our suppliers and some of our business operations are located in China. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may be influenced by political, economic and social conditions in China generally and by continued economic growth in China as a whole.

The Chinese economy differs from the economies of most developed countries in many respects, including the level of government involvement, level of development, growth rate, control of foreign exchange and allocation of resources. Although the PRC government has implemented measures since the late 1970s emphasizing the utilization of market forces for economic reform, the reduction of state ownership of productive assets and the establishment of improved corporate governance in business enterprises, a substantial portion of productive assets in China is still owned by the Chinese government. In addition, the PRC government continues to play a significant role in regulating industry development by imposing industry policies. The Chinese government also exercises significant control over China's economic growth through allocating resources, controlling payment of foreign currency-denominated obligations, setting monetary policy and providing preferential treatment to particular industries or companies. From 2003 to mid-2008, the PRC government implemented a number of measures, such as increasing the deposit reserve ratio requirements for banks and imposing commercial bank lending guidelines, designed to slow the growth of the PRC economy. In response to the global financial crisis, in 2008, the PRC government began instituting policies aimed at expanding credit and stimulating the economy, including an announced RMB4.0 trillion stimulus spending program. More recently, as the PRC economy has shown signs of recovering quickly from the global financial crisis, the PRC government has again begun implementing policies aimed at slowing the PRC economy, including raising interest rates and tightening fiscal expenditures.

While the PRC economy has experienced significant growth over the past decades, growth has been uneven, both geographically and among various sectors of the economy. The PRC government has implemented various measures to encourage economic growth and guide the allocation of resources. Some of these measures benefit the overall Chinese economy, but may also have a negative effect on us. For example, our financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected by government control over capital investments or changes in tax regulations. In addition, in the past the PRC government has implemented certain measures, including interest rate increases, to control the pace of economic growth. These measures may increase the costs of business activities for us and our suppliers in China and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, China's social and political conditions are not as stable as those of the United States and other developed countries. Any sudden changes in China's political system, the occurrence of widespread social unrest, or a significant deterioration in its relations with its neighbors could negatively affect the Chinese economy and our business.



Table of Contents

***Uncertainties with respect to the Chinese legal system could adversely affect us.***

The PRC legal system is based on written statutes. Unlike under common law systems, decided legal cases have little value as precedents in subsequent legal proceedings. In 1979, the PRC government began to promulgate a comprehensive system of laws and regulations governing economic matters in general and forms of foreign investment (including in respect of wholly foreign owned enterprises) in particular. These laws, regulations and legal requirements are relatively new and are often changing, and their interpretation and enforcement depend to a large extent on relevant government policy and involve significant uncertainties that could limit the reliability of the legal protections available to us. We cannot predict the effects of future developments in government policy or the PRC legal system in general. We may be required in the future to procure additional permits, authorizations and approvals for our existing and future operations, which may not be obtainable in a timely fashion or at all, or may involve substantial costs and unforeseen risks. An inability to obtain, or the incurrence of substantial costs in obtaining, such permits, authorizations and approvals may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***We may be adversely affected by the complexity and uncertainties of and changes in PRC regulation of Internet business and related companies.***

The PRC government extensively regulates the Internet industry, including with respect to foreign ownership of and licensing and permit requirements pertaining to companies in the Internet industry. These Internet-related laws and regulations are relatively new and evolving and their interpretation and enforcement involve significant uncertainties. As a result, in certain circumstances, it may be difficult to determine what actions or omissions may be deemed to be in violation of applicable laws and regulations. Issues, risks and uncertainties relating to PRC regulation of Internet businesses include, but are not limited to:

- have contractual control over our websites that target consumers in China as compared to legal title over our websites that target consumers outside of China. Due to restrictions on foreign investment in businesses providing value-added telecommunication services in China, including Internet content provision services, we do not own *www.ouku.com*, *www.kuailebox.com* and other affiliated websites which target consumers in China. This may significantly disrupt our business, subject us to sanctions, compromise enforceability of related contractual arrangements, or have other harmful effects on us.
- there are uncertainties relating to the regulation of Internet businesses in China, including evolving licensing practices. This means that permits, licenses or operations at some of our companies may be subject to challenge, or we may fail to obtain permits or licenses that may be deemed necessary for our operations, or we may not be able to obtain or renew certain permits or licenses.
- the evolving PRC regulatory system for the Internet industry may lead to the establishment of new regulatory agencies. For example, the Cyberspace Administration of China was established in 2014, as the central Internet censorship, oversight and control agency for the PRC. Further, new laws, regulations or policies may be promulgated or announced that will regulate Internet activities, including the online video and online advertising businesses. If these new laws, regulations or policies are promulgated, additional licenses may be required for our operations. If our

operations do not comply with these new regulations after they become effective, or if we fail to obtain any licenses required under these new laws and regulations, we could be subject to penalties.

The interpretation and application of existing PRC laws, regulations and policies and possible new laws, regulations or policies relating to the Internet industry have created substantial uncertainties regarding the legality of existing and future foreign investments in and the businesses and activities of, Internet businesses in China, including our business. We cannot assure you that we have obtained all the permits or licenses required for conducting our business in China or will be able to maintain our existing licenses or obtain any new licenses required under any new laws or regulations. There are also risks that we may be found to violate the existing or future laws and regulations given the uncertainty and complexity of China's regulation of Internet business.

Table of Contents

***Fluctuations in the value of the Renminbi may have a material adverse effect on your investment.***

Most of our revenues are denominated in U.S. dollars while most expenses are denominated in Renminbi. As a result, there are certain mismatches between our revenues in U.S. dollars and costs denominated in Renminbi. In addition, most of our suppliers are based in China and their operating costs are denominated in Renminbi. If the Renminbi appreciates relative to the U.S. dollar, the cost of our products will become more expensive in U.S. dollar terms, the currency in which we price our products. We have no hedges against currency risk. Consequently, any increase in the value of the Renminbi against the U.S. dollar may reduce our margins, reduce our competitiveness against retailers who source their products from suppliers with costs denominated in U.S. dollars or other currencies or render us unable to meet our costs.

The value of the Renminbi against the U.S. dollar and other currencies may fluctuate and is affected by, among other things, changes in political and economic conditions and the foreign exchange policy adopted by the PRC government. On July 21, 2005, the PRC government changed its policy of pegging the value of the Renminbi to the U.S. dollar. Under the current policy, the Renminbi is permitted to fluctuate within a narrow and managed band against a basket of certain foreign currencies. Following the removal of the U.S. dollar peg, the Renminbi appreciated more than 20% against the U.S. dollar over the following three years. During the period between July 2008 and June 2010, the Renminbi has traded stably within a narrow range against the U.S. dollar. Since June 2010, the Renminbi has appreciated further against the U.S. dollar, though there have been periods, especially during 2014, when the U.S. dollar has appreciated against the Renminbi as well. Since August 2015, the U.S. dollar has also started to gradually appreciate against the Renminbi. It is difficult to predict how market forces or PRC or U.S. government policy may impact the exchange rate between the Renminbi and the U.S. dollar in the future.

There remains significant international pressure on the PRC government to adopt an even more flexible currency policy, which could result in a further and more significant appreciation of the Renminbi against foreign currencies. Any significant fluctuations in the exchange rate between the Renminbi and the U.S. dollar may materially and adversely affect our cash flows, revenues, earnings and financial position and the amount of and any dividends we may pay on the ADSs in U.S. dollars. Any fluctuations in the exchange rate between the Renminbi and the U.S. dollar could also result in foreign currency translation losses for financial reporting purposes.

***PRC regulations relating to the establishment of offshore special purpose companies by PRC domestic residents and registration requirements for employee stock ownership plans or share option plans may subject our PRC resident beneficial owners or the plan participants to personal liability, limit our ability to inject capital into our PRC subsidiary, limit our PRC subsidiary's ability to increase their registered capital or distribute profits to us, or may otherwise adversely affect us.***

On July 4, 2014, SAFE promulgated the Notice on Relevant Issues Concerning Foreign Exchange Control of Domestic Residents' Overseas Investment and Financing and Round-trip Investment through Offshore Special Purpose Vehicles, or SAFE Circular No. 37, which replaced the former Notice on Relevant Issues Concerning Foreign Exchange Administration for PRC Residents to Engage in Financing and Inbound Investment via Overseas Special Purpose Vehicles (generally known as SAFE Circular No. 75) promulgated by SAFE on October 21, 2005.

SAFE Circular No. 37 requires PRC residents to register with local branches of SAFE in connection with their direct establishment or indirect control of an offshore entity, for the purpose of overseas investment and financing, with such PRC residents' legally owned assets or equity interests in domestic enterprises or offshore assets or interests, which is referred to in SAFE Circular No. 37 as a special purpose vehicle. SAFE Circular No. 37 further requires amendment to the registration in the event of any significant changes with respect to the special purpose vehicle, such as an increase or decrease of capital contributed by PRC residents, share transfer or exchange, merger, division or other material events. In the event that a PRC resident holding interests in a special purpose vehicle fails to complete the required SAFE registration, the PRC subsidiaries of that special purpose vehicle may be prohibited from making profit distributions to the offshore parent and from carrying out

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

subsequent cross-border foreign exchange activities and the special purpose vehicle may be restricted in its ability to contribute additional capital into its PRC subsidiaries. Furthermore, failure to comply with the various SAFE registration requirements described above could result in liability under PRC law for evasion of foreign exchange controls.

Table of Contents

We have requested PRC residents that, to our knowledge, hold direct or indirect interest in our company to make the necessary applications, filings and amendments as required under the SAFE regulations. Mr. Quji (Alan) Guo, Mr. Xin (Kevin) Wen and Mr. Liang Zhang, all of whom are PRC domestic residents and hold interests in our company, have registered with the Shenzhen SAFE branch.

We may not be fully informed of the identities of all of our beneficial owners who are PRC residents, we do not have control over our beneficial owners and we cannot provide any assurances that all of our shareholders who are PRC residents will make or obtain any applicable registrations or approvals required by these SAFE regulations. The failure or inability of our PRC resident shareholders and beneficial owners to comply with the registration procedures set forth above may subject us to fines and legal sanctions, restrict our cross-border investment activities or limit our PRC subsidiary's ability to distribute dividends or obtain foreign-exchange-denominated loans for our company.

As it is uncertain how the SAFE regulations will be interpreted or implemented, we cannot predict how these regulations will affect our business operations or future strategy. For example, we may be subject to more stringent review and approval processes with respect to our foreign exchange activities, such as remittance of dividends and foreign-currency-denominated borrowings, which may adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition. In addition, if we decide to acquire a PRC company, we or the owners of such company will be able to obtain the necessary approvals or complete the necessary filings and registrations required by the SAFE regulations. This may restrict our ability to acquire PRC companies and could adversely affect our business and prospects.

In December 2006, the People's Bank of China promulgated the Implementation Rules of the Administrative Measures for Individual Foreign Exchange, or the Individual Foreign Exchange Rules, setting forth the respective requirements for foreign exchange transactions by PRC individuals under either the current account or the capital account. In January 2007, the SAFE issued implementing rules for the Individual Foreign Exchange Rules, which, among other things, specified approval requirements for certain capital account transactions, such as a PRC citizen's participation in the employee stock ownership plans or stock option plans of an overseas publicly-listed company. On March 28, 2007, the SAFE promulgated the Application Procedure of Foreign Exchange Administration for Domestic Individuals Participating in Employee Stock Holding Plan or Stock Option Plan of Overseas-Listed Company, or the Stock Option Rule. In February 2012, the SAFE promulgated the Notice on the Administration of Foreign Exchange Matters for Domestic Individuals Participating in the Stock Incentive Plans of Overseas Listed Companies, or the Stock Option Notice. This Stock Option Notice replaced the previous Stock Option Rules. The Stock Option Notice simplifies the requirements and procedures for the registration of stock incentive plan participants, especially with respect to the required application documents and the absence of strict requirements on offshore and onshore custodian banks that were stipulated in the Stock Option Rules. Under the Stock Option Notice, PRC resident individuals who are granted stock options by an overseas publicly-listed company are required, through a PRC agent or PRC subsidiary of such overseas publicly-listed company, to register with the SAFE and complete certain other procedures. As a public company listed in the United States, we and our PRC employees who have been granted stock options are subject to the Stock Option Notice. If we or our PRC optionees fail to comply with these regulations, we or our PRC optionees may be subject to fines and legal sanctions. See Item 4. Information on the Company B. Business Overview Regulation Regulations on Employee Stock Option Plans.

***PRC regulation of loans and direct investment by offshore holding companies to PRC entities may delay or prevent us from using the proceeds of our initial public offering and private placements to make loans or additional capital contributions to our PRC subsidiary.***

In utilizing the proceeds of our initial public offering and private placements, as an offshore holding company of our PRC operating subsidiary, we may make loans or additional capital contributions to our PRC subsidiary. Any loans to our PRC subsidiary, which is a FIE, cannot exceed statutory limits, being the difference between the registered capital and the investment amount of the PRC subsidiary as approved by the MOFCOM or its local branches and must be approved by and registered with the SAFE or its local branches. In addition, our PRC subsidiary is required to pay withholding tax at the rate of 10% (or a maximum of 7% if the interest is paid to a Hong Kong resident) on our behalf on any interest paid under such shareholder loan. See Item 4. Information on the Company B. Business Overview Regulation Regulations Relating to Foreign Currency Exchange Foreign Exchange Relating to FIEs.



Table of Contents

We may also decide to finance our PRC subsidiary by means of capital contributions. According to the relevant PRC regulations on FIEs in China, depending on the nature of the business conducted by the relevant subsidiary, capital contributions to FIEs in China are subject to approval by the MOFCOM or its local branches. We may not obtain these government approvals or registrations on a timely basis, if at all, with respect to future loans and capital contributions by us to our PRC subsidiary. If we fail to receive such approvals or registrations, our ability to use the proceeds of our initial public offering and private placements and to capitalize our PRC operations may be negatively affected, which could adversely affect our liquidity and our ability to fund and expand our business.

On August 29, 2008, the SAFE promulgated the Circular on the Relevant Operating Issues Concerning the Improvement of the Administration of the Payment and Settlement of Foreign Currency Capital of Foreign-Invested Enterprises, or SAFE Circular 142, regulating the conversion by a FIE of foreign currency registered capital into Renminbi by restricting how the converted Renminbi may be used. SAFE Circular 142 provides that the Renminbi capital converted from foreign currency registered capital of a FIE may only be used for purposes within the business scope approved by the applicable governmental authority and unless otherwise provided by law, such Renminbi capital may not be used for equity investments within the PRC. In addition, the SAFE strengthened its oversight of the flow and use of the Renminbi capital converted from foreign currency registered capital of a foreign-invested company. The use of such Renminbi capital may not be altered without the SAFE's approval and such Renminbi capital may not in any case be used to repay Renminbi loans if the proceeds of such loans have not been used. Violations of SAFE Circular 142 could result in severe monetary or other penalties. We expect that if we convert the net proceeds we receive from our initial public offering into Renminbi, our use of Renminbi funds will be for purposes within the approved business scope of our PRC subsidiary in compliance with SAFE Circular 142. However, we may not be able to use such Renminbi funds to make equity investments in the PRC through our PRC subsidiary.

Furthermore, the SAFE promulgated the Notice on Relevant Issues Concerning Strengthening the Administration of Foreign Exchange Business, or Circular 59, on November 19, 2010, which requires the government to closely examine the authenticity of settlement of net proceeds from offshore offerings and the net proceeds to be settled in the manner described in the offering documents. Circular 142 and Circular 59 may significantly limit our ability to transfer the net proceeds from our initial public offering to Lanting Jishi (as defined below) and our VIEs and convert such net proceeds into Renminbi, which may adversely affect our liquidity and our ability to fund and expand our business in the PRC.

***We may be deemed a PRC resident enterprise under the New EIT Law and be subject to PRC taxation on our income.***

Under the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC, or the New EIT Law, which was issued in 2007 and amended in 2017, and its implementation rules which were issued in 2007, an enterprise established outside of the PRC with de facto management bodies within the PRC is considered a resident enterprise and will be subject to the enterprise income tax at the rate of 25% on its global income. The implementation rules define the term de facto management bodies as establishments that carry out substantial and overall management and control over the manufacturing and business operations, personnel, accounting, properties, etc. of an enterprise. The State Administration of Taxation, or the SAT, issued the Notice Regarding the Determination of Chinese-Controlled Offshore Incorporated Enterprises as PRC Tax Resident Enterprises on the Basis of De Facto Management Bodies, or Circular 82, on April 22, 2009. Circular 82 provides certain specific criteria for determining whether the de facto management body of a Chinese-controlled offshore-incorporated enterprise is located in China. Further to Circular 82, on July 27, 2011, the SAT issued the Administrative Measures of Enterprise Income Tax of Chinese-controlled Offshore Incorporated Resident Enterprises (Trial), or Bulletin No. 45, which took effect on September 1, 2011, to provide more guidance on the implementation of Circular 82. See Item 4. Information on the Company B. Business Overview Regulation Regulations on Tax PRC Enterprise Income Tax.

According to Circular 82, a Chinese-controlled offshore-incorporated enterprise will be regarded as a PRC tax resident by virtue of having a de facto management body in China and will be subject to PRC enterprise income tax on its worldwide income only if all of the following conditions set forth in Circular 82 are met: (i) the primary location of the day-to-day operational management is in the PRC; (ii) decisions relating to the enterprise's financial and human resource matters are made or

are subject to approval by organizations or personnel in the PRC; (iii) the enterprise's primary assets, accounting books and records, company seals and board and shareholder resolutions are located or maintained in the PRC; and (iv) at least 50% of voting board members or senior executives habitually reside in the PRC. In addition, Bulletin No. 45 provides clarification on the resident status determination, post-determination administration and competent tax authorities. It also specifies that when provided with a copy of a PRC resident determination certificate from a resident Chinese-controlled offshore- incorporated enterprise, the payer should not withhold 10% income tax when paying certain Chinese- sourced income such as dividends, interest and royalties to the Chinese-controlled offshore-incorporated enterprise.



Table of Contents

Although both the circular and the bulletin only apply to offshore enterprises controlled by PRC enterprises and not those by PRC individuals, the determination criteria set forth in the circular and administration clarification made in the bulletin may reflect the SAT's general position on how the de facto management body test should be applied in determining the tax residency status of offshore enterprises and the administration measures should be implemented, regardless of whether they are controlled by PRC enterprises or PRC individuals.

Although we do not believe that our legal entities organized outside of the PRC constitute PRC resident enterprises or meet all of the conditions above, it is possible that the PRC tax authorities could reach a different conclusion. In such case, we may be considered a resident enterprise and may therefore be subject to enterprise income tax at a rate of 25% on our global income. If we are considered a resident enterprise and earn income other than dividends from our PRC subsidiary, a 25% enterprise income tax on our global income could significantly increase our tax burden and materially and adversely affect our cash flow and profitability.

Pursuant to the New EIT Law and its implementation rules, dividends generated after January 1, 2008 and payable by a FIE in China to its foreign investors, which are non-PRC tax resident enterprises without an establishment in China, or whose income has no connection with their institutions and establishments inside China, are subject to withholding tax at a rate of 10%, unless any such foreign investor's jurisdiction of incorporation has a tax treaty with China that provides for a different withholding arrangement. We are a Cayman Islands holding company and we plan to conduct substantially all of our business in China through Lanting Jishi, which is 100% owned by Light In the Box Limited, our wholly owned subsidiary located in Hong Kong. According to the Mainland and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Arrangements on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, or the Double Taxation Avoidance Arrangement, dividends that Light In The Box Limited receives from Lanting Jishi may be subject to withholding tax at a rate of 5%, provided that: (a) Light In The Box Limited is determined by the relevant PRC tax authorities to be a non-resident enterprise under the New EIT Law; (b) Light In The Box Limited is the beneficial owner of the PRC sourced income; (c) Light In The Box Limited holds at least 25% of the equity interest of Lanting Jishi and (d) all other conditions and requirements under the Double Taxation Avoidance Arrangement shall be satisfied. Light In The Box Limited has not obtained the approval for a withholding tax rate of 5% from the local tax authority and does not plan to obtain such approval in the near future, as Lanting Jishi has not paid dividends in the past and does not plan to pay dividends in the future as it may continue to incur losses. In addition, as described above, our company or our Hong Kong subsidiary may be considered a PRC resident enterprise for PRC enterprise income tax purposes, in which case dividends received by it, as the case may be, from our PRC subsidiary would be exempt from the PRC withholding tax because such income is exempt under the New EIT Law for a PRC resident enterprise recipient.

As uncertainties remain regarding the interpretation and implementation of the New EIT Law and its implementation rules, we cannot assure you that if we are regarded as a PRC resident enterprise, any dividends to be distributed by us to our non-resident enterprise shareholders and ADS holders would not be subject to any PRC withholding tax at a rate of up to 10%. Similarly, any gain recognized by such non-resident enterprise shareholders or ADS holders on the sale of shares or ADSs, as applicable, may also be subject to PRC withholding tax. Furthermore, if we are considered a PRC resident enterprise and the competent PRC tax authorities consider dividends we pay with respect to our shares or ADSs and the gains realized from the transfer of our shares or ADSs to be income derived from sources within the PRC, such dividends and gains earned by non-resident individuals may be subject to PRC individual income tax at a rate of 20%, unless any such non-resident individuals jurisdiction has a tax treaty with China that provides for a preferential tax rate or a tax exemption. It is also unclear whether, if we are considered a PRC resident enterprise, holders of our shares or ADSs would be able to claim the benefit of income tax treaties or agreements entered into between China and other countries or areas. If we are required under PRC law to withhold PRC income tax on our dividends payable to our non-PRC shareholders and ADS holders, or the PRC authorities tax gain recognized by such non-PRC shareholders or ADS holders, such investors' investment in our ordinary shares or ADSs may be materially and adversely affected.

Table of Contents

***The labor contract law and its implementation regulations may increase our operating expenses and may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

As the PRC Labor Contract Law, or Labor Contract Law, and the Implementation Regulation for the PRC Labor Contract Law, or Implementation Regulation, have been enforced for only a relatively short period of time, the interpretation and implementation of these laws and regulations are still evolving, substantial uncertainty remains as to its potential impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations. See Item 4. Information on the Company B. Business Overview Regulation Labor Laws and Social Insurance. The implementation of the Labor Contract Law and the Implementation Regulation may increase our operating expenses, in particular our human resources costs and our administrative expenses.

In addition, as the interpretation and implementation of these regulations are still evolving, we cannot assure you that our employment practices will at all times be deemed to be in full compliance with the law. In the event that we decide to significantly modify our employment or labor policy or practice, or reduce the number of our sales professionals, the labor contract law may limit our ability to effectuate the modifications or changes in the manner that we believe to be most cost-efficient or otherwise desirable, which could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. If we are subject to severe penalties or incur significant liabilities in connection with labor disputes or investigations, our business and results of operations may be adversely affected. In the event that we decide to significantly modify our employment or labor policy or practice, or reduce the number of our sales professionals, the labor contract law may limit our ability to effectuate the modifications or changes in the manner that we believe to be most cost-efficient or otherwise desirable, which could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***PRC labor-related laws and individual income tax obligations expose us to potential penalty risks.***

Companies operating in China are generally required to contribute to the mandatory social insurance and housing funds. Lanting Jishi, Lanting Huitong and Shanghai Ouku have not fully contributed to the employee benefit plans as required by applicable PRC regulations. While we believe we have made adequate provisions for any payments due on our audited consolidated financial statements, our prior failure to make payments may constitute a violation of the applicable PRC regulations and, as of December 31, 2017, we were potentially subject to late fees, fines and penalties for up to a maximum of \$28 million related to employee benefit plans. In addition, we have previously not withheld appropriate amounts of individual income taxes as required by applicable PRC regulations. However, such amounts were substantially paid by us on a voluntary basis in March 2013 to the relevant tax authority. Although as of the date of this annual report, no action has been initiated by the relevant authorities against us, future fines or levies may materially and adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

***Failure to obtain prior approval required under the M&A Rules and/or any other regulations promulgated by relevant PRC regulatory agencies in the future could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations as well as the trading price of the ADSs.***

On August 8, 2006, six PRC regulatory agencies, including the Ministry of Commerce, the State- Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, the SAT, the State Administration of Industry and Commerce, or the SAIC, the China Securities Regulatory Commission, or the CSRC, and the SAFE, jointly adopted the Regulations on Mergers and Acquisitions of Domestic Enterprises by Foreign Investors, or the M&A Rules, which came into effect on September 8, 2006 and was amended on June 22, 2009. The M&A Rules, among other things, include provisions that purport to require that an offshore special purpose vehicle formed for the purpose of an overseas listing of a PRC company obtain the approval of the CSRC prior to the listing and trading of such special purpose vehicle's securities on an overseas stock exchange. On September 21, 2006, the CSRC published on its official website procedures regarding its approval of overseas listings by special purpose

vehicles. However, substantial uncertainty remains regarding the scope and applicability of the M&A Rules to offshore special purpose vehicles.

Table of Contents

The application of the M&A Rules with respect to our initial public offering and our corporate structure established under contractual arrangements remains unclear. Our PRC counsel, TransAsia Lawyers, has advised us that we were not required to apply to the relevant PRC regulatory agencies, including the CSRC and the Ministry of Commerce, for approval of our initial public offering or our current corporate structure because:

- the CSRC currently has not issued any definitive rule or interpretation concerning whether international public offerings like ours under our prospectus are subject to this regulation;
- we established our PRC subsidiary by means of direct investment rather than by merger or acquisition of the equity or assets of PRC domestic companies; and
- no provision in this regulation clearly classified contractual arrangements as a type of transaction subject to its regulation.

However, we cannot assure you that relevant PRC government agencies, including the CSRC, would reach the same conclusion as our PRC counsel. If prior approval is required but not obtained, we may face regulatory actions or other sanctions from the CSRC or other PRC regulatory agencies. These regulatory agencies may impose fines and penalties on our operations in China, limit our operating privileges in China, delay or restrict the repatriation of the proceeds from our initial public offering into China or take other actions that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects, as well as the trading price of the ADSs. In addition, if the CSRC or other regulatory agencies later promulgate new rules or explanations requiring that we obtain their approvals for our initial public offering, we may be unable to obtain a waiver of such approval requirements, if and when procedures are established to obtain such a waiver. Any uncertainties and/or negative publicity regarding such approval requirement could have a material adverse effect on the trading price of the ADSs.

***We may rely on dividends and other cash distributions on equity paid by our subsidiaries to fund future cash and financing requirements we may have, and any limitation on the ability of our subsidiaries to make payments to us could have a material adverse effect on our ability to conduct our businesses.***

We are a holding company, and we may rely on dividends and cash distributed by our Hong Kong subsidiary and may, in the future, rely on dividends and cash distributed by our PRC subsidiary through our Hong Kong subsidiary for our cash requirements. However, current PRC regulations permit our PRC subsidiary to pay dividends only out of its accumulated profits, if any, determined in accordance with Chinese accounting standards and regulations. In addition, under applicable PRC laws, rules and regulations, our PRC subsidiary is required to set aside at least 10% of its accumulated after-tax profits each year, if any, to fund certain statutory reserves until the accumulative amount of such reserves reaches 50% of the respective subsidiary's registered capital. These reserves are not distributable as cash dividends. Furthermore, if our PRC subsidiary incurs debt on its own behalf in the future, the instruments governing the debt may restrict their ability to pay dividends or make other payments to us or our Hong Kong subsidiary. If we or our Hong Kong subsidiary require dividends and cash contributions from our PRC subsidiary in the future, any limitation on the ability of our PRC subsidiary to distribute dividends or other payments to us or our Hong Kong subsidiary could materially and adversely limit our ability to grow, make investments or acquisitions that could be beneficial to our businesses, pay dividends, or otherwise fund and conduct our businesses.

*The audit report included in this annual report is prepared by auditors who are not inspected by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and, as such, you are deprived of the benefits of such inspection.*

Our independent registered public accounting firm that issues the audit reports included in this annual report, as auditors of companies that are traded publicly in the United States and a firm registered with the US Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), or the PCAOB, is required by the laws of the United States to undergo regular inspections by the PCAOB to assess its compliance with the laws of the United States and professional standards. Because our auditors are located in the Peoples Republic of China, a jurisdiction where the PCAOB is currently unable to conduct inspections without the approval of the Chinese authorities, our auditors are not currently inspected by the PCAOB.

Table of Contents

Inspections of other firms that the PCAOB has conducted outside China have identified deficiencies in those firms' audit procedures and quality control procedures, which may be addressed as part of the inspection process to improve future audit quality. This lack of PCAOB inspections in China prevents the PCAOB from regularly evaluating our auditors' audits and its quality control procedures. As a result, investors are deprived of the benefits of PCAOB inspections.

The inability of the PCAOB to conduct inspections of auditors in China makes it more difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of our auditors' audit procedures or quality control procedures as compared to auditors outside of China that are subject to PCAOB inspections. Investors may lose confidence in our reported financial information and procedures and the quality of our financial statements.

***If additional remedial measures are imposed on the big four PRC-based accounting firms, including our independent registered public accounting firm, in administrative proceedings brought by the SEC alleging the firms' failure to meet specific criteria set by the SEC with respect to requests for the production of documents, we could be unable to timely file future financial statements in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act.***

Starting in 2011 the Chinese affiliates of the big four accounting firms, (including our independent registered public accounting firm) were affected by a conflict between United States and Chinese law. Specifically, for certain listed companies in the United States operating and audited in mainland China, the SEC and the PCAOB sought to obtain from these Chinese accounting firms access to their audit work papers and related documents. These accounting firms were, however, advised and directed that under China law they could not respond directly to the United States regulators on those requests, and that requests by foreign regulators for access to such papers in China had to be channeled through the CSRC.

In late 2012 the SEC commenced administrative proceedings under Rule 102(e) of its Rules of Practice and also under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act against the Chinese accounting firms (including our independent registered public accounting firm). In July 2013, the SEC's internal administrative court issued an adverse judgment against these firms and the administrative law judge's proposed penalties on the firms included a temporary suspension of their right to practice before the SEC, although that proposed penalty did not take effect pending review by the Commissioners of the SEC, or the Commissioners. On February 6, 2015, before a review by the Commissioner had taken place, these firms reached a settlement with the SEC. Under the settlement, the SEC accepts that future requests by the SEC for the production of documents will normally be made to the CSRC. These accounting firms will receive matching Section 106 requests, and are required to abide by a detailed set of procedures with respect to such requests, which in substance require them to facilitate production of documents via the CSRC. If they fail to meet specified criteria, the SEC retains authority to impose a variety of additional remedial measures on these accounting firms depending on the nature of the failure. Remedies for any future noncompliance could include, as appropriate, an automatic six-month bar on a single firm's performance of certain audit work, commencement of a new proceeding against a firm, or in extreme cases the resumption of the current proceeding against all four accounting firms. If additional remedial measures are imposed on the Chinese affiliates of the big four accounting firms, including our independent registered public accounting firm, in administrative proceedings brought by the SEC alleging the firms' failure to meet specific criteria set by the SEC with respect to requests for the production of documents, we could be unable to timely file future financial statements in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act.

In the event that the SEC restarts the administrative proceedings, depending upon the final outcome, listed companies in the United States with major PRC operations may find it difficult or impossible to retain auditors in respect of their operations in the PRC, which could result in financial statements being determined to not be in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act, including possible delisting. Moreover, any negative news about any such future proceedings against these accounting firms may cause investor uncertainty regarding China-based companies listed in the United States and the market price of our ADSs may be adversely affected.

If our independent registered public accounting firm were denied, even temporarily, the ability to practice before the SEC and we were unable to timely find another registered public accounting firm to audit and issue an opinion on our financial statements, our financial statements could be determined not to be in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act. Such a determination could ultimately lead to the delisting of our ordinary shares from the NYSE or deregistration with the SEC, or both, which would substantially reduce or effectively terminate the trading of our ADSs in the United States.

Table of Contents

**Risks Related to the ADS**

*The market price for the ADSs has fluctuated and may be volatile.*

The market price for our ADSs has fluctuated since we listed our ADSs. Since our ADSs became listed on the NYSE on June 6, 2013, the trading price of our ADSs have ranged from US\$1.61 to US\$23.38 per ADS, and the last reported trading price on March 27, 2018 was US\$2.23 per ADS. In addition to the volatility in the price of the ADSs which could be caused by the materialization of any of the risks described in this section, the securities markets in the United States, China and elsewhere have from time to time experienced significant price and volume fluctuations that are not related to the operating performance of particular companies. These market fluctuations may also materially and adversely affect the market price of our ADSs.

The securities of some China-based companies that have listed their securities in the United States have experienced significant volatility since their initial public offerings in recent years, including, in some cases, substantial declines in the trading prices of their securities. The trading performances of these companies' securities after their offerings may affect the attitudes of investors towards Chinese companies listed in the United States in general, which consequently may impact the trading performance of our ADSs, regardless of our actual operating performance. In addition, any negative news or perceptions about inadequate corporate governance practices or fraudulent accounting, corporate structure or other matters of other Chinese companies may also negatively affect the attitudes of investors towards Chinese companies in general, including us, regardless of whether we have engaged in any inappropriate activities. In particular, the global financial crisis and the ensuing economic recessions in many countries have contributed and may continue to contribute to extreme volatility in the global stock markets. These broad market and industry fluctuations may adversely affect the market price of our ADSs. Volatility in our ADS price may also adversely affect our ability to retain key employees, most of whom have been granted options or other equity incentives.

*Our voting structure limits your ability to influence matters related to change of control and could discourage others from pursuing any change of control transactions that holders of our common shares and ADSs may view as beneficial.*

We have one class of ordinary shares, and each holder of our ordinary shares is entitled to one vote per share. However, in matters related to change of control, pursuant to our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, certain founding shareholders, namely Wincore Holdings Limited, a British Virgin Islands company wholly owned by Mr. Quji (Alan) Guo, Vitz Holdings Limited, a British Virgin Islands company wholly owned by Mr. Xin (Kevin) Wen, and Clinet Investments Limited, a British Virgin Islands company wholly owned by Mr. Liang Zhang, are entitled to three votes per share in matters related to a change of control. As of March 22, 2018, each of Wincore Holdings Limited, Vitz Holdings Limited and Clinet Investments Limited held 5.5%, 2.5% and 1.9% of the shares of our company, respectively, entitling them to 13.8%, 6.4% and 4.7% of voting rights, respectively, and an aggregate of 24.9% of voting rights in such matters related to a change of control, assuming all the ADSs owned by such founding shareholders were converted into ordinary shares of the Company. This voting structure could limit your ability to influence matters related to change of control and could discourage others from pursuing any potential merger, takeover or other change of control transactions that you or other ordinary shareholders may view as beneficial.

*We may need additional capital, and the sale of additional ADSs or other equity securities or incurrence of additional indebtedness could result in additional dilution to our shareholders or increase our debt service obligations.*



Historically, we have relied principally on the issuance of our preferred shares, convertible notes and ADRs to fund our operations and capital expansion needs. We may require additional cash resources due to changed business conditions or other future developments, including any investments or acquisitions we may pursue. If our resources are insufficient to satisfy our cash requirements, we may seek to sell additional equity, equity-linked or debt securities or enter into a credit facility. The sale of additional equity securities could result in additional dilution to our shareholders. The incurrence of indebtedness would result in increased debt service obligations and could result in operating and financing covenants that would restrict our operations. It is uncertain whether financing will be available in amounts or on terms acceptable to us, if at all.

Table of Contents

***Substantial future sales of the ADSs in the public market, or the perception that these sales could occur, could cause the price of the ADSs to decline.***

Additional sales of our ordinary shares in the public market, or the perception that these sales could occur, could cause the market price of the ADSs to decline. As of December 31, 2017, we had 135,664,877 ordinary shares outstanding, including 36,120,960 ordinary shares represented by ADSs. All our ordinary shares represented by ADSs were freely transferable by persons other than our affiliates without restriction or additional registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or Securities Act. The remaining ordinary shares will be available for sale subject to volume and other restrictions as applicable under Rules 144 and 701 under the Securities Act.

In addition, certain holders of our ordinary shares have the right to cause us to register the sale of those shares under the Securities Act. Registration of these shares under the Securities Act would result in these shares becoming freely tradable without restriction under the Securities Act immediately upon the effectiveness of the registration. Sales of these registered shares in the public market could cause the price of the ADSs to decline.

***You may not have the same voting rights as the holders of our ordinary shares and may not receive voting materials in time to be able to exercise your right to vote.***

Except as described in the deposit agreement, holders of the ADSs are not able to exercise voting rights attaching to the shares evidenced by the ADSs. You have a right to instruct the depository how to exercise those voting rights. However, the depository or its nominee may not successfully comply with your instructions or intentions. You may not receive voting materials in time to instruct the depository to vote, and it is possible that you, or persons who hold their ADSs through brokers, dealers or other third parties, will not have the opportunity to exercise a right to vote.

***You may not be able to participate in rights offerings and may experience dilution of your holdings as a result.***

We may from time to time distribute rights to our shareholders, including rights to acquire our securities. Under the deposit agreement for the ADSs, the depository will not offer those rights to ADS holders unless both the rights and the underlying securities to be distributed to ADS holders are either registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, or exempt from registration under the Securities Act with respect to all holders of ADSs. We are under no obligation to file a registration statement with respect to any such rights or underlying securities or to endeavor to cause such a registration statement to be declared effective. In addition, we may not be able to take advantage of any exemptions from registration under the Securities Act. Accordingly, holders of the ADSs may be unable to participate in our rights offerings and may experience dilution in their holdings as a result.

***You may be subject to limitations on transfer of your ADSs.***

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

Your ADSs are transferable on the books of the depositary. However, the depositary may close its transfer books at any time or from time to time when it deems expedient in connection with the performance of its duties. In addition, the depositary may refuse to deliver, transfer or register transfers of ADSs generally when our books or the books of the depositary are closed, or at any time if we or the depositary deem it advisable to do so because of any requirement of law or of any government or governmental body, or under any provision of the deposit agreement, or for any other reason.

Table of Contents

*You may face difficulties in protecting your interests and your ability to protect your rights through the U.S. federal courts may be limited, because we are incorporated under Cayman Islands law, primarily operate our business from mainland China and Hong Kong and a majority of our officers reside outside the United States.*

We are incorporated in the Cayman Islands and primarily conduct our operations through our subsidiaries in Hong Kong and mainland China and through our VIEs, Lanting Huitong and its subsidiary, Shanghai Ouku, and Lanting Gaochuang, in China. Most of our directors and officers reside outside the United States and all or a substantial portion of their assets are located outside of the United States. As a result, it may be difficult or impossible for you to effect service of process within the United States upon us or these persons, or to bring an original action against us or against these individuals in a Cayman Islands or PRC court in the event that you believe that your rights have been infringed under the U.S. federal securities laws or otherwise. Even if you are successful in bringing an action of this kind, the laws of the Cayman Islands and of China may render you unable to enforce a judgment against our assets or the assets of our directors and officers.

There is no statutory enforcement in the Cayman Islands of judgments obtained in the federal or state courts of the United States (and the Cayman Islands are not a party to any treaties for the reciprocal enforcement or recognition of such judgments), a judgment obtained in such jurisdiction will be recognized and enforced in the courts of the Cayman Islands at common law, without any re-examination of the merits of the underlying dispute, by an action commenced on the foreign judgment debt in the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands, provided such judgment (a) is given by a foreign court of competent jurisdiction, (b) imposes on the judgment debtor a liability to pay a liquidated sum for which the judgment has been given, (c) is final, (d) is not in respect of taxes, a fine or a penalty, and (e) was not obtained in a manner and is not of a kind the enforcement of which is contrary to natural justice or the public policy of the Cayman Islands. However, the Cayman Islands courts are unlikely to enforce a judgment obtained from the U.S. courts under civil liability provisions of the U.S. federal securities law if such judgment is determined by the courts of the Cayman Islands to give rise to obligations to make payments that are penal or punitive in nature. Because such a determination has not yet been made by a court of the Cayman Islands, it is uncertain whether such civil liability judgments from U.S. courts would be enforceable in the Cayman Islands.

Our corporate affairs are governed by our memorandum and articles of association, as amended and restated from time to time, and by the Companies Law (2018 Revision) and common law of the Cayman Islands. The rights of shareholders to take legal action against our directors and us, actions by minority shareholders and the fiduciary duties of our directors to us under Cayman Islands law are to a large extent governed by the common law of the Cayman Islands. The common law of the Cayman Islands is derived in part from comparatively limited judicial precedent in the Cayman Islands as well as from English common law, which has persuasive, but not binding, authority on a court in the Cayman Islands. The rights of our shareholders and the fiduciary duties of our directors under Cayman Islands law are not as clearly established as they would be under statutes or judicial precedents in the United States. In particular, the Cayman Islands have a less developed body of securities laws as compared to the United States, and provide significantly less protection to investors. In addition, shareholders of Cayman Islands companies may not have standing to initiate a shareholder derivative action before the federal courts of the United States. As a result, your ability to protect your interests if you are harmed in a manner that would otherwise enable you to sue in a United States federal court may be limited to direct shareholder lawsuits.

As a result of all of the above, our public shareholders may have more difficulty in protecting their interests through actions against our management, directors or major shareholders than would shareholders of a corporation incorporated in a jurisdiction in the United States.

*We are an emerging growth company and we cannot be certain if the reduced disclosure requirements applicable to emerging growth companies will make our ADSs less attractive to investors.*

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

We are a foreign private issuer, as such term is defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act, and are not required to comply with certain periodic disclosure and current reporting requirements of the Exchange Act. In addition, we are an emerging growth company, as defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012, and we may take advantage of certain exemptions from various reporting requirements that are applicable to other public companies that are not emerging growth companies including, but not limited to, not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2012 for up to five fiscal years after the date of our initial public offering. Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 requires our independent registered public accounting firm to attest to and report on the effectiveness of the internal control structure and procedures for financial reporting.

Table of Contents

In addition, Section 107(b) of the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012 provides that an emerging growth company can take advantage of the extended transition period provided in Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act for complying with new or revised accounting standards. In other words, an emerging growth company can delay the adoption of certain accounting standards until those standards would otherwise apply to private companies. We have elected to take advantage of the extended transition period. Although as of the date of this annual report, we have not delayed the adoption of any accounting standard, as a result of this election, our future financial statements may not be comparable to other public companies that comply with the public company effective dates for these new or revised accounting standards.

We will cease to be an emerging growth company upon the earliest of: (i) the last day of the fiscal year during which we have gross revenues of \$1 billion or more, (ii) the last day of the fiscal year following the fifth anniversary of the date of our initial public offering, (iii) the date on which we have issued more than \$1 billion in non-convertible debt during the previous three-year period, or (iv) when we become a large accelerated filer, as defined in Rule 12b-2 under the Exchange Act.

***We have incurred increased costs as a result of becoming a public company, and our compliance costs may continue to increase in the future.***

As a public company, we have incurred significant legal, accounting and other expenses that we did not have as a private company prior to our initial public offering. In addition, new rules and regulations relating to information disclosure, financial reporting and control and corporate governance, which could be adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, the New York Stock Exchange and other regulatory bodies and exchange entities from time to time, could result in a significant increase in legal, accounting and other compliance costs and to make certain corporate activities more time-consuming and costly, which could materially affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***We have no present plan to pay dividends in the foreseeable future, and you may only rely on price appreciation of our ADSs for return on your investment.***

Since our inception, we have not declared or paid any dividends on our ordinary shares. Since we intend to retain most, if not all, of our available funds and any future earnings to operate and expand our business, we have no present plan to pay any dividends on our ordinary shares in the foreseeable future. Therefore, you should not rely on an investment in our ADSs as a source for any future dividend income.

Any future determination to pay dividends will be made at the sole discretion of our board of directors and may be based on a number of factors, including our future operations and earnings, capital requirements and surplus, general financial condition, contractual restrictions and other factors that the board of directors may deem relevant. If we pay any dividends, we will pay the ADS holders to the same extent as holders of our ordinary shares, subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, including the fees and expenses payable thereunder. See Item 12. Description of Securities Other Than Equity Securities - D. American Depositary Shares. Accordingly, the return on your investment in our ADSs will likely depend entirely upon any future price appreciation of our ADSs. There is no guarantee that our ADSs will appreciate in value or even maintain the price at which you purchased the ADSs. You may not realize a return on your investment in our ADSs and you may even lose your entire investment in our ADSs.

*We may become a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, which could result in adverse United States tax consequences to United States investors.*

Based on the composition of our income and assets, and the valuation of our assets, including goodwill, we do not believe that we were a passive foreign investment company (a PFIC ) for 2017. The determination of whether or not we are a PFIC is made on an annual basis and will depend on the composition of our income and assets from time to time. Specifically, for any taxable year we will be classified as a PFIC for United States federal income tax purposes if either (i) 75% or more of our gross income in that taxable year is passive income or (ii) the average percentage of our assets by value in that taxable year which produce or are held for the production of passive income (which includes cash) is at least 50%. The calculation of the value of our assets will be based, in part, on the quarterly market value of our ADSs, which is subject to change. Due to the volatility of the market price of our ADSs, we may become a PFIC in the future. See Item 10. Additional Information E. Taxation Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Table of Contents

In addition, there is uncertainty as to the treatment of our corporate structure and ownership of our VIEs for United States federal income tax purposes. If it is determined that we do not own the stock of our VIEs for United States federal income tax purposes, we may be treated as a PFIC.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which you hold the ADSs or ordinary shares, such characterization could result in adverse United States federal income tax consequences to you if you are a United States Holder, as defined under Item 10. Additional Information E. Taxation Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations. For example, if we are or become a PFIC, you may become subject to increased tax liabilities under United States federal income tax laws and regulations, and will become subject to burdensome reporting requirements. See Item 10. Additional Information E. Taxation Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations. We cannot assure you that we were not a PFIC for 2017 or that we will not be a PFIC for 2018 or any future taxable year. Moreover, the determination of our PFIC status is based on an annual determination that cannot be made until the close of a taxable year, and involves extensive factual investigation, including ascertaining the fair market value of all of our assets on a quarterly basis and the character of each item of income we earn, as discussed under Item 10. Additional Information E. Taxation Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations Passive Foreign Investment Company. Our United States counsel expresses no opinion with respect to our PFIC status.

***Our fourth amended and restated memorandum and articles of association contain anti-takeover provisions that could have a material adverse effect on the rights of holders of our ordinary shares and ADSs.***

Our fourth amended and restated memorandum and articles of association contains provisions limiting the ability of others to acquire control of our company or cause us to engage in change-of-control transactions. These provisions could have the effect of depriving our shareholders of an opportunity to sell their shares at a premium over prevailing market prices by discouraging third parties from seeking to obtain control of our company in a tender offer or similar transaction. For example, under our fourth amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, on a resolution relating to (a) a merger, amalgamation, consolidation or similar transaction involving our company, (b) the filing of a petition for a scheme of arrangement involving our company, or the giving of consent to such a filing or the co-operation by our company in the making of such filing, and (c) a sale, transfer or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of our company, Wincore Holdings Limited, a British Virgin Islands company wholly owned by Mr. Quji (Alan) Guo, Vitz Holdings Limited, a British Virgin Islands company wholly owned by Mr. Xin (Kevin) Wen, and Clinet Investments Limited, a British Virgin Islands company wholly owned by Mr. Liang Zhang, are entitled to three votes per share held by them, and the remaining shareholders are entitled to one vote per share held.

Furthermore, our board of directors has the authority, without further action by our shareholders, to issue preferred shares in one or more series and to fix their designations, powers, preferences, privileges, and relative participating, optional or special rights and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption and liquidation preferences, any or all of which may be greater than the rights associated with our ordinary shares, in the form of ADSs or otherwise. Preferred shares could be issued quickly with terms calculated to delay or prevent a change in control of our company or make removal of management more difficult. If our board of directors decides to issue preferred shares, the price of the ADSs may fall and the voting and other rights of the holders of our ordinary shares and ADSs may be materially and adversely affected.



Table of Contents

**ITEM 4. INFORMATION ON THE COMPANY**

**A. History and Development of the Company**

We were founded in June 2007 by Mr. Quji (Alan) Guo, Mr. Xin (Kevin) Wen, Mr. Liang Zhang, Mr. Jun Liu and Mr. Chit Jeremy Chau. We operated our business at the time through Light In The Box Limited. In March 2008, we incorporated LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd., which, through a corporate restructuring, became our ultimate holding company.

We currently conduct our businesses primarily through the following wholly owned subsidiaries and affiliated entities:

- Light In The Box Limited, our wholly owned subsidiary incorporated in Hong Kong, that primarily engages in product sourcing, marketing and the operation of our websites and mobile applications and the sale of our products targeted towards consumers outside of China. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, we derived 96.6%, 89.6% and 82.9%, respectively, of our consolidated total net revenues from Light In The Box Limited;
- Lightinthebox Trading (Shenzhen) Co. Ltd., previously Lanting Jishi Trade (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd., or Lanting Jishi, our wholly owned subsidiary incorporated in the PRC, that primarily engages in providing supplier and warehouse management services for Light In The Box Limited. In 2015, we derived 0.1% of our consolidated total net revenues from Lanting Jishi. We derived \$nil and \$nil consolidated net revenues from Lanting Jishi in 2016 or 2017;
- Shenzhen Lanting Huitong Technologies Co. Ltd., or Lanting Huitong, a company incorporated in the PRC by certain of our directors and executive officers which is our consolidated VIE through a series of contractual arrangements. Lanting Huitong primarily engages in technology research and development and support, the operation of certain of our websites in China and the general operations of our business in China;
- Shanghai Ouku Network Technologies Co., Ltd., or Shanghai Ouku, a PRC incorporated company that was acquired from its then shareholders for \$2.2 million (RMB14.3 million) and is wholly owned by Lanting Huitong. Shanghai Ouku primarily engages in the product sourcing, marketing, fulfillment and the operation of our websites targeted towards consumers in China. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, we did not derive any consolidated net revenues from Lanting Huitong and Shanghai Ouku;

- Beijing Lanting Gaochuang Technologies Co., Ltd., or Lanting Gaochuang, a company incorporated in the PRC by Mr. Guo, and Lanting Huitong, our consolidated VIE through a series of contractual arrangements. Lanting Gaochuang primarily engages in technology research and development. We have not derived any consolidated net revenues from Lanting Gaochuang since its inception, and we do not expect to derive any significant contributions to our consolidated net revenues from Lanting Gaochuang going forward, if at all;
- Lanting International Holding Limited, or Lanting International, our wholly owned subsidiary incorporated in Hong Kong as an intermediary holding company for our U.S. subsidiary, LITB, Inc.;
- LITB, Inc., our wholly owned subsidiary incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, USA, that primarily engages in marketing and software development and technology support . We have not derived any consolidated net revenues from LITB, Inc. since its inception;
- LightInTheBox International Logistic Co., Limited, or Lightinthebox Logistics, our wholly owned subsidiary incorporated in Hong Kong that primarily focuses on the expansion of our warehouses and distribution network outside of China. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, we derived an aggregate of 3.4%, 10.0% and 7.8% of our consolidated total net revenues from Lightinthebox Logistics, respectively;

Table of Contents

- LITB Netherlands B.V., our wholly owned subsidiary incorporated in the Netherlands that primarily engages in marketing in Europe;
- Light In The Box (Chengdu) Technology Co. Limited, our wholly owned subsidiary incorporated in the PRC that primarily engages in mobile application software development and information technology support;
- Light In The Box (Suzhou) Trading Co., Limited, our wholly owned subsidiary incorporated in the PRC that primarily engages in providing supplier and warehouse management services for Light In The Box Limited. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, we did not derive any consolidated net revenues from Light In The Box (Suzhou) Trading Co., Limited; and
- Each of Light Square Limited, or Light Square, Light Hill Limited, or Light Hill, Light Linnet Limited, or Light Linnet, Light Xiao Limited, or Light Xiao, and Fashion Easy-go International Trading Co., Ltd. or Fashion Easy-go, our wholly owned subsidiary incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong that primarily engages or expected to be engaged in the wholesale business distribution of products. The entire share capital of these subsidiaries are registered in the name of our employees who hold such shares on trust for the benefit of Light In The Box Limited pursuant to the respective declarations of trust executed on various dates in June and July 2016. As of the date of this annual report, the business operation of each of Light Hill, Light Linnet, Light Xiao and Fashion Easy-go remain inactive. In 2016 and 2017, we derived an aggregate of 0.3% and 9.3%, respectively, of our consolidated total net revenues from Light Square.

Our principal executive offices are located at Tower 2, Area D, Diantong Square, No. 7 Jiuxianqiao North Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100015, People's Republic of China. Our telephone number at this address is +(86-10) 5692-0099. Our registered office in the Cayman Islands is located at the office of Offshore Incorporations (Cayman) Limited, Scotia Centre, 4th Floor, P.O. Box 2804, George Town, Grand Cayman KY1-1112, Cayman Islands. Our telephone number at this address is +1 345 949 2648. Our agent for service of process in the United States is Law Debenture Corporate Services Inc., 400 Madison Avenue, 4th Floor, New York, New York 10017.

**Initial Public Offering**

In June 2013, we completed our initial public offering, in which we offered and sold 19,090,000 ordinary shares in the form of ADSs, raising \$75.0 million in proceeds before expenses to us. Our ADSs are listed on the NYSE under the symbol LITB.

**ADS Repurchases**

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

On December 16, 2013, we announced the implementation of a share repurchase program of up to \$20.0 million worth of our outstanding ADSs, each representing two ordinary shares, on the open market at prevailing market prices or in privately negotiated transactions through December 15, 2014. On December 16, 2014, we extended this share repurchase program for an additional 12-month period from December 16, 2014 to December 15, 2015 with all terms and conditions of the share repurchase program remaining unchanged. As of August 31, 2015, we had completed the \$20.0 million share repurchase program.

On June 8, 2016, we announced the implementation of a share repurchase program of up to \$10.0 million worth of our outstanding ADSs, each representing two of ordinary shares, on the open market at prevailing market prices or in privately negotiated transactions from June 15, 2016 through June 14, 2017. Our board of directors subsequently extended the existing share repurchase program for an additional twelve month period, to June 14, 2018. See Item 16E. Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers.

### **Private Placement**

In July 2015, AOGANG International (Hong Kong) Corporation Limited, or AOGANG International, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zhejiang Aokang Shoes Co., Ltd. (SSE: 603001), or AoKang, one of the leading shoes and leather products companies in China, has completed the acquisition of a strategic equity interest in the Company from certain existing shareholders of the Company at \$6.30 per ADS.

Table of Contents

In March 2016, we completed the issuance of 42,500,000 ordinary shares to Zall Cross-border E-commerce Investment Company Limited, or Zall E-Commerce, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Zall Group Ltd., or Zall Group, a developer and operator of large-scale consumer-focused product wholesale shopping malls in China, at \$1.80 per ordinary share, which amounted to \$76.5 million in proceeds. In addition, we issued a warrant to Zall E-Commerce pursuant to which Zall E-Commerce was able to subscribe for up to 7,455,000 ordinary shares of our company, equivalent to 3,727,500 ADSs, accounting for an additional 5% equity interest in our company on a fully diluted basis, at an exercise price of \$2.75 per ordinary share, equivalent to \$5.50 per ADS, pursuant to the terms and conditions of such warrant. The warrant was exercisable starting from September 30, 2016 and will terminate on March 30, 2018 if it is not exercised prior to such date. Furthermore, Zall E-Commerce was granted certain registration and anti-dilution rights under the terms and conditions of the transaction.

**B. Business Overview**

**Overview**

LightInTheBox is a global online retail company that delivers products directly to consumers around the world. We offer customers a convenient way to shop for a wide selection of products at attractive prices through [www.lightinthebox.com](http://www.lightinthebox.com), [www.miniinthebox.com](http://www.miniinthebox.com) and our other websites as well as mobile applications, which are available in 23 major languages and cover more than 80.0% of Internet users globally, according to Internet World Stats. Our innovative data-driven business model allows us to offer customized products at scale through optimal merchandising, marketing and fulfillment. We have built an effective business model whereby we source many of our products directly from China-based manufacturers and we work closely with them to re-engineer their manufacturing processes to achieve faster time-to-market with a greater variety of products. We acquire customers primarily through the Internet and serve our customers primarily from our cost-effective locations in mainland China and Hong Kong.

We target products where consumers value choice or customization, such as apparel and home and garden products. We also offered a wide range of other products in our other general merchandise product category. The products of our core categories generally require design specificity, thus giving us more pricing flexibility and allowing us to capture higher margin potentials. For example, at any time, a customer shopping for a special occasion dress on our site can have her dress made-to-measure, choosing from more than 37,000 distinctive designs. As of December 31, 2017, we had more than 580,000 product listings. In 2017, we added an average of more than 70,000 new product listings each month.

We serve consumers globally without incurring the costs and complexities associated with establishing a traditional multinational retail infrastructure. Our major markets are Europe and North America. We use global online marketing platforms such as Google and Facebook to reach our consumers, we accept payments through all major credit cards and electronic payment platforms such as PayPal, WorldPay and Global Collect and we deliver our goods through major international couriers, including DHL, UPS and EMS.

In recent years, leveraging our growing operation scale, including our established relationships with major international couriers, we also begun to provide logistics and other value-added services, such as marketing services, primarily to small businesses in China and our suppliers.

We believe that being a China-based company provides important advantages in supply chain management. We strive to source high quality products directly from some of the most competitive manufacturers in the strongest supply ecosystems. By locating our sourcing offices near

some of the most competitive factories, we realize cost advantages and inventory efficiency as we create effective supplier competition while maximizing the quality of our products in many cases. Our suppliers benefit from working closely with our in-house manufacturing experts to re-engineer their manufacturing processes to achieve faster time-to-market for our products and enable large scale production of individually customized products. We are also in the process of building our global supply chain and sourcing strategy.

## Table of Contents

To acquire and retain customers across diverse geographic markets, we have developed proprietary technologies to manage and optimize our marketing operations. In addition, we have established a specialized social marketing team to engage online users. We provide a user-friendly online shopping experience to facilitate purchasing decisions.

We have developed a proprietary technology platform that integrates every aspect of our business operation, including global marketing, online shopping platforms, supply chain management, fulfillment and logistics and customer service. Our founders have extensive experience and expertise in software development. We have made significant investments in software research and development to improve operational efficiency and enable business innovation.

## **Our Websites and Mobile Applications**

We operate our business primarily through [www.lightinthebox.com](http://www.lightinthebox.com) and [www.miniinthebox.com](http://www.miniinthebox.com), offering customized apparel, small accessories and gadgets, home and garden, electronics and communication devices and other products. Our [www.lightinthebox.com](http://www.lightinthebox.com) website is currently available in 23 major languages.

We have established additional websites for more specific products and geographic regions, including [www.ouku.com](http://www.ouku.com) for products targeting our Chinese customer base. All of our websites and mobile applications are supported by a common back-end technology platform, allowing for centralized inventory management across all of our websites.

We have made our websites and mobile applications easily accessible by users on their mobile devices. We believe this provides our customers with greater flexibility and convenience as to when and where they shop and provide us with the ability to attract even more customers. Our dedicated shopping application works with the iPhone™, the iPad™ and the Android™ to enhance the mobile shopping experience of our users. As the number of customers making purchases through our mobile apps continues to increase, our mobile revenue increased to 44.6% of net revenues from product sales in 2017, compared with 38.4% and 33.5% in 2016 and 2015, respectively.

Our websites and mobile applications offer consumers a rich shopping experience and includes comprehensive information on our entire line of products such as detailed descriptions, rich media presentation, size and color availabilities and customer reviews. We have multilingual copywriter teams to ensure we translate important information on our websites and mobile applications in different languages accurately and in a timely fashion. Users may search and view our products by category, style and other popular features. They may also search by product name, code or keyword. We offer users social media tools on our websites and mobile applications to share information about our products on the world's major social networking sites. We have also established online communities to foster customer peer sharing. Furthermore, we have introduced other functionalities to our sites, such as flash sale featuring our fashion apparel.

## **Supplemental Online Outlets**

In addition to our own websites and mobile applications, we also experiment with selling through outlets on other high traffic online marketplace platforms such as Amazon.com and eBay.com. These other online outlets provide us with additional channels for the sale of our products and

market intelligence to optimize our product offerings.

### **Our Product Offerings**

We primarily offer customers products through our websites and mobile applications. We have historically focused on apparel and electronics and communication devices. In recent years, we have introduced other products, with a particular focus on small accessories and gadgets and home and garden, as well as beauty and sports and outdoor. We intend to continue to expand our product offerings and increase the variety and customization options of the products we offer in each of our categories.



Table of Contents

Our product offerings include:

- *Apparel.* This category includes customized, special occasion apparel and fast fashion.
- *Other general merchandise.* This category includes small accessories and gadgets, home and garden, electronics and communication devices and other products.

We have established dedicated retail management teams with strong expertise in their individual categories. We focus on products with strong market demand and large market size, supply chain feasibility, Chinese cost advantages, online marketing efficiency, logistical feasibility and cost saving potentials. After products are selected, we conduct frequent real-time customer behavior analysis and seek customer feedback through surveys to improve and tailor our offerings. This allows us to quickly make adjustments and improvements to our products or the presentation of such products. For wedding apparel, we have established our own design teams. Such internal design expertise allows us to create distinctive product designs and provide design feedback to suppliers as to the latest fashions and trends. Our design teams also assist us with our product selection and product presentation to maximize the appeal of our product offerings.

Net revenues from our product sales accounted for 96.5%, 89.6% and 91.9% of our total net revenues in 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively.

**Our Services Offering**

In recent years, leveraging our growing operation scale, including our established relationships with major international couriers, we also began to provide logistics and other value-added services, such as marketing services, primarily to small businesses in China and our suppliers. Our logistics services include product collection, packaging and labeling, shipment and delivery of products from our warehouses to locations designated by such small business customers. Our other value-added services primarily relates to the provision of marketing services to our suppliers to promote their brands and products on our websites and mobile applications.

Net revenues from services accounted for a very limited portion of our total net revenues in revenues from services accounted for 3.5%, 10.4% and 8.1% of our total net revenues in 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively.

**Our Relationship with Suppliers**

We source many of our products directly from factories in China. In addition, we source products outside of China, such as from South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand. We have a comprehensive supplier qualification system and have over 4,800 selected active

suppliers in China, accordingly. We are also in the process of building out our global supply chain and sourcing strategy. We select our suppliers based on a range of factors, including product quality, price, reliability, financial strength, reputation, ability to meet our delivery timeline and production capacity, ability to increase their production capacity along with the increase in our business and historical relationship. We employ a bidding process for the selection of our suppliers to encourage competition.

While we do not have manufacturing operations ourselves, we have in-house manufacturing experts who work closely with our suppliers. This provides us with visibility into the manufacturing process, which allows us to efficiently manage capacity and quality and enables continuous improvements and business innovations. Typically we enter into supply framework agreements with our suppliers and specify in each purchase order the product type, unit price, quantity, delivery timeline and other detailed items. As the manufacturing processes of some of our products, such as apparel and certain electronics, require a variety of delicate parts and materials, we usually require our suppliers to procure key materials from our designated raw material suppliers in case of raw material shortages and to ensure prompt fulfillment for popular items. We may also require our suppliers to produce custom fabrics and other materials in accordance with certain design and specification. Our suppliers are liable for problems and costs associated with custom clearance.

Table of Contents

We believe that being a China-based company provides important advantages in supply chain management. We have established a supply network that is characterized by on-demand procurement with low lead time. We have established seven sourcing offices in China. We work with some of our suppliers to re-engineer their manufacturing process that enables us to place orders in relatively small batches. This provides us with the advantage to quickly adjust the design of our products, in each batch if needed, based on customer feedback. For example, for our made-to-measure products, such as customized apparel, we place orders with our suppliers only when our customers have placed an order, and such products are delivered to our warehouses by our suppliers within 10 to 14 days from the time when we place an order. For non-customized products, we adopt a frequent procurement strategy characterized with short refill cycles from suppliers that are, in most cases, within 48 hours. Our supply chain management system has been efficient in managing inventory while also reducing production waste for our suppliers, which we believe increases the desire for suppliers to work with us.

Starting from the fourth quarter of 2011, we have entered into arrangements with certain suppliers under which the suppliers store their products at our warehouses. Such products are referred to in this annual report as co-location inventory. Such co-location inventory products are delivered to our warehouses by our suppliers at their own costs, and we do not record these products as our inventory until all liabilities and rights of ownership of these products are passed on to us upon the confirmation of orders by our customers. We have the right to ask the suppliers to remove the co-location inventory from our warehouses at any time, generally at the suppliers' own costs. However, we may from time to time pay the transportation cost associated with returning such products to suppliers. In addition, certain agreements with our suppliers require them to remove unsold co-location inventory within 90 days after these products are delivered. The costs and expenses incurred related to the storage of co-location inventory in our warehouses, such as rentals, are generally paid by us.

Purchases from our suppliers accounted for 63.0%, 61.3% and 68.3% of our total cost of product sales in 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively.

**Pricing**

In general, we aim to set our products at competitive prices. We price our products to reflect the savings associated with direct sourcing, low inventory levels and optimized logistics. We set the price of our products based on consumer demand and feedback, sourcing costs, delivery costs and existing market prices for similar products. As we perform extensive data analysis on our product presentation and customer purchasing decisions, we believe we can effectively conduct targeted promotional activities, identify optimal pricing points for each product and generate strong product sales and gross-margin performance.

**Payment and Order Fulfillment**

*Payment*

Our customers may choose from a wide range of payment methods. For our customers on *www.lightinthebox.com* and other sites targeting customers outside of China, operated by Light In The Box Limited, available payment options include online payment through all major credit and debit cards, including Visa, MasterCard and American Express, and electronic payment platforms such as PayPal, World Pay and Global Collect, money transfer through Western Union and wire transfer. However, available payment options may differ depending on the country or region in which the customers are based.

For customers on our *www.ouku.com* and other sites operated by Lanting Huitong and Shanghai Ouku targeting customers in China, payment options include cash on delivery, online payment, wire transfer and postal remittance. We also allow our customers to pay online with credit cards and debit cards issued by major banks in China, or through popular third-party electronic payment platforms.

### ***Order Fulfillment***

We have established strategically located warehouses in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province and Shenzhen, Guangdong Province in China. We also established a warehouse in Warsaw, Poland in March 2014, a warehouse in Hong Kong in July 2014 and a warehouse in Reno, Nevada in the United States in January 2015. In total, our warehouses measure over 51,690 square meters and have the capacity to handle over 30,000 orders per day. As we grow our business, we build incremental capacity to reduce our capital expenditures. Our warehouses are currently leased.

## Table of Contents

Generally, orders placed by our customers are transmitted via our information technology system to one of our warehouses. As a result of our unique supply network, we have generally maintained a low inventory level and, in many cases, do not keep many products in stock. Rather, we transmit orders to our suppliers for fulfillment only when such orders are received from our customers or on a daily basis in small batches. Products are then delivered from our suppliers to our warehouses for quality inspection before being shipped out to our customers by third-party couriers. We regularly monitor our order fulfillment process and solicit customer feedback to ensure fulfillment accuracy.

We offer a wide range of delivery options to our customers. We work with major international couriers such as DHL, UPS and EMS, for international deliveries. We also work with various local couriers for deliveries in China.

## ***Refund and Exchange***

We have implemented refund and exchange policies specific to each of our product categories. Generally, for products sold through our *www.lightinthebox.com*, *www.miniinthebox.com* and other sites targeting customers outside of China, if the product is returned for quality issues, damage during shipping, failure to conform to specifications, allergic reactions, we generally provide a full refund if the customer submits a return-request form to one of our customer service representatives within 14 days of receiving the product. Customized apparel return requests are subject to additional restrictions due to the personalized nature of such products. Customers in the United States and Europe can return products to our outsourced collection centers in these areas. For products sold through our *www.ouku.com* and other sites targeting customers in China, refunds are generally provided within seven days of purchase for quality issues. Customers in China who choose to make payment on delivery can inspect products and reject the delivery in part or in whole prior to paying for the goods.

## **Quality Control**

We believe that our ability to offer quality products is essential to our continued growth and success. Therefore, we emphasize quality control and, as of December 31, 2017, we had built a quality control department with approximately 40 employees.

As we source all of our products from suppliers, we have implemented a series of quality control measures to ensure that the products they provide meet our specifications and standards. We communicate actively with our suppliers to clarify our requirements, conduct onsite inspections both to ensure compliance with specifications on particular items as well as for regular quality concerns and share customer feedback. We thoroughly examine product prototypes or initial samples before production begins or agreements with the suppliers are entered into. We examine products when they arrive at our warehouses and we thoroughly inspect most of our products just prior to delivery to our customers.

## **Marketing**

We focus our marketing activities on effective customer acquisition through targeted performance marketing. We primarily employ search engine marketing on a cost-per-click basis. Users are shown our advertisements when they conduct searches using designated keywords or phrases. Under our cost-per-click arrangements, we pay a fixed fee for each time a user clicks on our advertisements, with a higher fee for

common keywords with a high correlation to purchase intention. Under our cost-per-acquisition arrangements, we pay each time a user purchases a product after clicking on an advertisement. We employ a combination of our own proprietary technology and advanced third-party infrastructure to manage and optimize our cost-per-click advertising and to discover long-tail multilingual keywords that are most likely to offer a positive return on investment.

Table of Contents

We display contextual advertising through major search engines' advertising networks on a cost-per-click basis. We measure the cost of customer acquisition and constantly adjust our keyword selection combinations, advertising copies and landing pages to increase the likelihood of customer purchases once they visit our websites and mobile applications. We also engage in an affiliate marketing program where we offer affiliated websites commissions for directing customer traffic to our websites and mobile applications through embedded hyperlinks. As of the date of this annual report, we actively managed millions of keywords in 23 languages and display advertising on over 800,000 publisher sites around the world. Furthermore, we have established a specialized social marketing team to promote our brand and presence across major global social networking platforms through viral marketing campaigns, such as exclusive deals to stimulate customer purchases.

We are also focused on providing our customers with a rich shopping experience, which drives customer recommendations, foster customer sharing and encourages repeat customer visits. We engage in direct marketing campaigns through personalized electronic direct marketing newsletters to our customers. We believe that our data analysis capabilities facilitate repeat purchases as we are able to send targeted notices to customers highlighting products they may find relevant and attractive. In addition, we have established a specialized customer relationship management team to enhance our customer experience.

**Customer Service**

We believe our growth in past years and success in attracting a large customer base is partially attributable to our effort to provide excellent customer service. We have a team of highly trained customer service representatives to address customer inquiries, educate potential customers about our products and services and monitor order progress. We also pay close attention to reviews of our business or products on our or third-party websites in order to promptly address customer complaints and to improve our shopping experience and product offerings. Our full-time and part-time customer service representatives are able to provide customer services in 23 languages, up from 16 languages in 2012, and most of these representatives have overseas working experience.

We primarily provide customer services for our *www.lightinthebox.com*, *www.miniinthebox.com* and other sites targeting customers outside of China through electronic communications, including real-time online chat, e-mails and messages posted on our websites and mobile applications or through social media networks. Customer service for our *www.ouku.com* and other sites targeting customers in China are provided through toll-free call centers and electronic communications.

Our websites and mobile applications also offer a variety of self-help features. These features help our customers to track the status of their orders in real time. Customers may also cancel or modify their orders or contact our customer service representatives for exchange or return of products. We collect customer feedback to improve our responses and utilize such feedback to update our knowledge base to better address customers' needs.

For discussion as to our product exchange and return policy, see **Payment and Order Fulfillment** **Refund and Exchange**.

**Technology**

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

We have focused on and will continue to invest in our information technology infrastructure and applications. We have built a proprietary modularized and scalable technology infrastructure, which enables us to quickly expand system capacity and add new features and functionalities in response to our business needs and evolving customer demand without affecting our existing operations or incurring significant costs.

Our systems are mainly composed of front-end and back-end modules with different functions. Each module operates independently and is not affected by the performance of other modules. The following describes the functionality of our front-end and back-end modules:

- *Front-end Modules* . Our front-end modules support the operation of our user-interface websites, including user account management, website homepages, search functions, category browsing, product display pages, online shopping carts, checkout and order management functions.



Table of Contents

- **Back-end Modules** . Our back-end modules support our business operations, including our marketing system, order processing system, inventory management system, sourcing system (which is connected to systems of many of our suppliers for order placement and tracking), product fulfillment system (which is tied to our warehouses), product recommendation system, e-mail delivery system and customer support system. Many of our back-end systems work with each other and our financial operations systems and can generate up-to-date inventory reports and automatically place customized orders with our manufacturers.

A critical component of our business model is our data analysis capabilities. We have a dedicated data analysis team to track, analyze and forecast customer purchase and browsing behaviors. This enables us to anticipate market demand, arrange for production, rearrange website layouts and product placement, product presentation and supports our supply network. Our systems are integrated to allow a seamless communication of data regarding our customers, their orders, product availability information and logistics information.

Our open application programming interface approach allows us to integrate and work with third- party websites including social network sites, electronic payment platforms, other online distribution outlets and analytic systems. We have also adopted rigorous security policies and measures, including our dual-key and server-specific encryption technology, to protect customer privacy. Customers are protected by their own unique passwords and by our advanced data security software.

## **Competition**

The retail market for our products is intensely competitive. Consumers have many product choices online and offline offered by global, regional and local retailers. Our current or potential competitors include online retailers such as other China-based global online retail companies, retail chains, specialty retailers and sellers on online marketplaces. Each of our competitors has unique strengths that depend on their demographic, product and geographic focus. We may also in the future face competition from new entrants, consolidations of existing competitors or companies created through spin-offs of our larger competitors. For information in relation to the competitive challenges that we face, see Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Business and Industry The online retail industry is intensely competitive and we may not compete successfully against new and existing competitors, which may materially and adversely affect our results of operations.

We compete on the basis of characteristics such as sourcing products efficiently, technology innovation, pricing our products competitively, maintaining the quality of our products and services, anticipating and responding quickly to changing consumer demands, conducting strong and effective marketing activities and maintaining favorable brand recognition. We believe that our primary competitive advantages are our technology-enabled infrastructure, our differentiated product offerings, direct sourcing from cost competitive and flexible suppliers in China, strong online marketing capabilities, favorable prices, effective customer service, and a strong management team.

## **Intellectual Property**

We rely on a combination of trademark, trade secret, patent and other intellectual property laws as well as confidentiality agreements with our employees, manufacturers and others to protect our intellectual property. We have registered domain names for all of our websites, including [www.lightinthebox.com](http://www.lightinthebox.com), [www.ouku.com](http://www.ouku.com), and [www.miniinthebox.com](http://www.miniinthebox.com) and trademarks and service marks in China, Hong Kong and the European

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

Union, including for Lightinthebox and MiniInTheBox. We also have 19 registered computer software copyrights in China and one registered computer software copyright in the United States. In addition, we have filed additional trademark applications in China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Brazil, Russia, Austria, the European Union and the United States, as well as patent applications in China and the United States.

In addition to the protection of our intellectual property, we are also focused on ensuring that our product offerings do not infringe the intellectual property of others. We have adopted internal policies and guidelines during product design and procurement process to make sure our suppliers and products we offer do not infringe on third-party intellectual property rights. All our supplier agreements contain provisions to safeguard against potential intellectual property infringement by our suppliers and impose severe penalties in the event of any infringement. We will also refuse to work with or terminate our relationship with suppliers in the event of intellectual property right violations. In addition, we have also engaged third-party advisors to assist us in ensuring compliance with third-party intellectual property rights.

Table of Contents

Despite our best efforts, however, we cannot be certain that third parties will not infringe or misappropriate our intellectual property rights and that products sold on our websites and mobile applications do not infringe or misappropriate the intellectual property rights of others. For information in relation to the challenges we face protecting our intellectual property, see Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Business and Industry We may not be able to prevent unauthorized use of our intellectual property, which could harm our business and competitive position. For information in relation to the challenges we face in relation to preventing our infringement of the intellectual property rights of others, see Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Business and Industry Products manufactured by our suppliers may be defective or inferior in quality or infringe on the intellectual property rights of others, which may materially and adversely affect our business.

**Seasonality**

We experience seasonality in our business, reflecting seasonal fluctuations in online and offline retail patterns in general and for our products. For example, product sales may be higher in the fourth quarter of a calendar year due to the Christmas holidays. Our product mix may experience quarterly shifts which may cause our margins to fluctuate from quarter to quarter. See Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Business and Industry Our results of operations are subject to quarterly fluctuations due to a number of factors that could adversely affect our business and the trading price of the ADSs.

**Insurance**

We participate in government sponsored social security programs including pension, unemployment insurance, childbirth insurance, work-related injury insurance, medical insurance and housing fund. We currently have limited insurance covering certain of our warehouses but do not maintain insurance for all of our properties. In addition, as is typical in China, we do not maintain business interruption insurance, or general third-party liability insurance, general product liability insurance, or key-man life insurance. See Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Business and Industry We do not have any business liability, disruption or litigation insurance and any business disruption or litigation we experience might result in our incurring substantial costs and diversion of resources.

**Regulation**

We sell our products to customers around the world, and as such we are subject to a number of foreign and domestic laws and regulations that affect companies conducting global online retail businesses, many of which are still evolving and could be interpreted in ways that could harm our business. For example, we are subject to laws protecting the privacy of customer non-public information and regulations prohibiting unfair and deceptive trade practices. Other laws in which we may be subject include issues such as user privacy, the tracking of consumer activities, marketing e-mails and communications, other advertising and promotional practices, content and quality of products and services, sales and other taxes, import and export laws, electronic contracts and other communications and mandatory data retention.

For example, tax authorities in a number of states in the United States are currently reviewing the appropriate tax treatment of companies engaged in online commerce, and new state tax regulations may subject us to additional state sales and income taxes. New legislation or regulations, the application of laws and regulations from jurisdictions whose laws do not currently apply to our business or the application of existing laws and regulations to the Internet and commercial online services could result in significant additional taxes or regulatory restrictions

on our business.

Table of Contents

Many states in the United States have passed laws requiring notification to subscribers when there is a security breach of personal data. There are also a number of legislative proposals pending before Congress, various state legislative bodies and foreign governments concerning data protection. In addition, data protection laws in Europe and other jurisdictions outside the United States may be more restrictive, and the interpretation and application of these laws are still uncertain. It is possible that these laws may be interpreted and applied in a manner that is inconsistent with our data practices. If so, in addition to the possibility of fines, this could result in an order requiring that we change our data practices, which could have an adverse effect on our business. Complying with these various laws could cause us to incur substantial costs or require us to change our business practices in a manner adverse to our business.

Although our products are sold all over the world, our operations are based primarily in China, and as such, we are primarily governed by and especially sensitive to the laws and regulations of China, including the following:

***Regulations Relating to Cross-border Trading***

The Customs Law, effective as of July 1, 1987 and amended on July 8, 2000, June 29, 2013, December 28, 2013, November 17, 2016 and November 4, 2017, divides imported and exported items into goods and articles based upon the nature and purpose of such items. Under the Customs Law, goods and articles are not defined. However, this concept is clarified in the Rules for the Implementation of Administrative Punishments Under the Customs Law, effective as of November 1, 2004. These Rules describes articles as postal items and travelers luggage that are brought in and out of the PRC on an individual's person or luggage. When the quantity of articles is higher than a reasonable amount for personal use, it will be regarded as goods. Personal use means that the traveler or consignee will use the items themselves or give the items as gifts, rather than selling or renting the items. Reasonable amount means the regular amount determined in accordance with the traveler or consignee's situation, purpose of travel and duration of stay. Product samples are also categorized as goods, but customs declaration, clearance and inspection procedures for the export of product samples are handled differently from the export of other goods.

The Foreign Trade Law, effective as of July 1, 2004 and amended on November 7, 2016, governs international trade in services and the import and export of goods and technologies. Under this law, goods and technologies are categorized as (i) permitted, which may be freely imported and exported, (ii) restricted, which require advance approval or (iii) prohibited, which may not be imported or exported at all. Currently, all merchandise we export is categorized as permitted. Furthermore, an import and export trader, or any company or individual engaging in the import or export of goods or technologies, must register with the administrative department of foreign trade under the State Council or any of its authorized bodies in order to be qualified as a foreign trade business operator. According to current foreign trade laws, the Ministry of Commerce and its competent local branches are the authorized bodies to conduct qualification filings and registrations for foreign trade business operators.

The Customs Law requires that importers and exporters make true declarations of their goods and technologies to customs. The Imported and Exported Merchandise Inspection Law, issued February 21, 1989 and amended on April 28, 2002 and June 29, 2013, also requires that certain items listed in the Catalogue of Import and Export Commodities for Inspection, or the Customers Catalogue, must be inspected by a commodity inspection organization authorized by the State Administration for Commodity Inspection before they can be exported. For import and export commodities not listed in the Customers Catalogue, the commodity inspection authorities may conduct random inspections pursuant to the Measures for the Administration of Random Inspection of Import and Export Commodities, issued as of December 31, 2002. Further, the Ministry of Commerce and General Administration of Customs jointly adopted a mandatory licensing system for the export of certain merchandise, which exporters must comply with depending on the commodities they export.

The customs declaration, clearance and inspection procedures for goods and articles are different. The declaration of import or export of goods may be made by the consignees or consigners themselves or by customs brokers that have registered with the permission of the customs. The consignees, consigners or customs brokers shall make true declarations and submit the import or export license for restricted goods and relevant documentation to the customs for inspection. Where the commodities are imported or exported by means of express delivery, the consignees or consignor shall entrust an entry-exit express delivery enterprise with the inspection declaration, pursuant to the Regulations on the Implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Import and Export Commodity Inspection, effective as December 1, 2005 and most recently amended on March 1, 2017 and Announcement of General Administration of Customs on the Regulation of Imported and Exported Goods Retailed through Cross-Border E-Commerce which came into effect as April 8, 2016. In addition, a new clearance system for express delivery consignments was established on March 24, 2016, allowing express delivery operators to declare goods valued no more than RMB5,000 online. The Imported and Exported Merchandise Inspection Law also requires that certain goods must be inspected by a commodity inspection organization before they can be exported, while other exported articles are generally exempted from inspection unless otherwise required by law.

Table of Contents

We work with third-party couriers to ship the merchandise purchased by our global customers on a parcel-by-parcel basis and to go through customs declaration, clearance and inspection procedures for the export of these merchandise. The customs declaration, clearance and inspection procedures for the merchandise which are packaged and shipped in parcels are handled in accordance with procedures for articles or product samples. If the PRC government determines that our custom declaration practice do not comply with applicable laws and regulations and the merchandise we sell to our global customers shall be exported as goods instead of articles or product samples, it may take regulatory or enforcement actions against us. See Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Doing Business in China We may be adversely affected by the uncertainties and changes in the PRC regulations and policies of cross-border business activities.

***Corporate Laws and Industry Catalogue Relating to Foreign Investment***

The establishment, operation and management of corporate entities in China are governed by the Company Law of the PRC, or the Company Law, effective in 1994 and as amended in 1999, 2004, 2005, and 2013 respectively. The Company Law is applicable to our PRC subsidiary, our VIEs and Shanghai Ouku unless the PRC laws on foreign investment have stipulated otherwise.

The establishment, approval, filing, registered capital requirement and day-to-day operational matters of wholly foreign owned enterprises, such as our PRC subsidiary, Lanting Jishi, are regulated by the Wholly Foreign owned Enterprise Law of the PRC, effective in 1986 and as amended in 2000 and 2016, and the Implementation Rules of the Wholly Foreign Owned Enterprise Law of the PRC, effective in 1990, as amended in 2001 and 2014. Under those rules, in those cases where the establishment of a given wholly foreign-owned enterprise does not involve any special restriction under applicable PRC regulations, the establishment, breakup, merger or any other major change to such wholly foreign-owned enterprise will be subject to record-filing requirements.

Investment activities in the PRC by foreign investors are principally governed by the Guidance Catalogue of Industries for Foreign Investment, or the Catalogue, which was promulgated and is amended from time to time by the Ministry of Commerce and the National Development and Reform Commission. The Catalogue divides industries into three categories: encouraged, restricted and prohibited. Industries not listed in the Catalogue are generally open to foreign investment unless specifically restricted by other PRC regulations.

Establishment of wholly foreign owned enterprises is generally permitted in encouraged industries. Some restricted industries are limited to equity or contractual joint ventures, while in some cases Chinese partners are required to hold the majority interests in such joint ventures. In addition, restricted category projects are also subject to higher-level government approvals. Foreign investors are not allowed to invest in industries in the prohibited category.

***Regulations Relating to Telecommunications Services***

The Telecommunications Regulations were promulgated by the State Council in 2000 and revised in 2014 and 2016, respectively. The Telecom Regulations draw a distinction between basic telecommunication services and value-added telecommunication services. On December 25, 2015, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (currently the MIIT) published the Classification Catalogue of Telecommunications Services (the 2015 Catalogue), which took effect on March 1, 2016. The first catalogue was published in September 2000 and was subsequently amended in 2001 and 2003, respectively. Under the 2015 Catalogue, value-added telecommunication services was further classified into two sub-categories and ten items. Internet content provision services, or ICP services, is a subcategory of value-added telecommunications

businesses. Under the Telecom Regulations, commercial operators of value-added telecommunications services must first obtain an operating license from the MIIT or its provincial level counterparts.



Table of Contents

On September 25, 2000, the State Council issued the Administrative Measures on Internet Information Services, or the Internet Measures, which was subsequently amended on January 9, 2011. According to the Internet Measures, commercial ICP service operators must obtain a value-added telecommunications license for Internet information service or an ICP license from the relevant government authorities before engaging in any commercial ICP operations within the PRC.

On December 26, 2001, the MIIT promulgated the Administrative Measures on Telecommunications Business Operating License, or the Telecom License Measures. On March 1, 2009, the MIIT issued the revised Telecom License Measures, which took effect on April 10, 2009. On July 3, 2017, Telecom License Measures was further revised and it took effect on September 1, 2017. The Telecom License Measures set forth the types of licenses required to operate value-added telecommunications services and the qualifications and procedures for obtaining such licenses. For example, an ICP operator providing value-added services in multiple provinces is required to obtain an inter-regional license, whereas an ICP operator providing the same services in one province is required to obtain a local license.

***Regulations Relating to Foreign Investment in Value-Added Telecommunications Industry***

According to the Administrative Rules for Foreign Investment in Telecommunications Enterprises issued by the State Council effective in January 2002, as amended in September 2008 and 2016, respectively, a foreign investor may hold no more than a 50% equity interest in a value-added telecommunications services provider in China and such foreign investor must have experience in providing value-added telecommunications services overseas and maintain a good track record.

The Circular on Strengthening the Administration of Foreign Investment in and Operation of Value-added Telecommunications Business, or the Circular, issued by the former Ministry of Information Industry in July 2006, reiterated the regulations on foreign investment in telecommunications businesses, which require foreign investors to set up FIEs and obtain an ICP license to conduct any commercial ICP business in China. Under the Circular, a domestic company that holds an ICP license is prohibited from leasing, transferring or selling the license to foreign investors in any form and from providing any assistance, including providing resources, sites or facilities, to foreign investors that conduct value-added telecommunications business illegally in China. Furthermore, certain relevant assets, such as the relevant trademarks and domain names that are used in the value-added telecommunications business must be owned by the local ICP license holder or its shareholders. The Circular further requires each ICP license holder to have the necessary facilities for its approved business operations and to maintain such facilities in the regions covered by its license. In addition, all value-added telecommunications service providers are required to maintain network and information security in accordance with the standards set forth under relevant PRC regulations. If an ICP license holder fails to comply with the requirements in the Circular and also fails to remedy such non-compliance within a specified period of time, the MIIT or its local counterparts have the discretion to take administrative measures against such license holder, including revoking its ICP license.

In March 2015, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Commerce issued the updated Catalogue, which further relaxed market access restrictions. Among these changes, foreign investors will now be allowed to own up to 100% of the equity interests in an e-commerce business. The Catalogue became effective on April 10, 2015 and was further updated in June 2017. However, there are still uncertainties as to how the Catalogue will be enforced in regards to e-commerce business, especially through the MIIT which has authority over the Internet industry.

***Regulations Relating to Internet Information Services and Content of Internet Information***

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

On September 25, 2000, the State Council issued the Administrative Measures on Internet Information Services, or the Internet Measures, to regulate the provision of information services to online users through the Internet, which was subsequently amended on January 9, 2011. According to the Internet Measures, entities engaged in the provision of Internet information services within the PRC should obtain either (i) an Internet Content Provider license issued by the MIIT or its local bureau (ICP License), if the services in question are regarded as commercial Internet information services ; or (2) an ICP filing with the local MIIT bureau (ICP Filing), if the services in question are regarded to as non-commercial services . The former refers to information, web page creation and other services provided to Internet users via the Internet for consideration , while the latter refers to services that provide information of a publicly available and accessible nature to Internet users via the Internet for gratis .

Table of Contents

The Internet Measures further specify that Internet information services regarding, among others, news, publication, education, medical and health care, pharmacy and medical appliances are required to be examined, approved and regulated by the relevant authorities. Internet content providers are prohibited from providing services beyond that included in the scope of their business license or other required licenses or permits. Furthermore, the Internet Measures clearly specify a list of prohibited content. Internet content providers must monitor and control the information posted on their websites. If any prohibited content is found, they must remove the offending content immediately, keep a record and report to the relevant authorities.

On February 4, 2015, the China Internet Network Information Center promulgated the Administrative Provisions on Account Names of Internet Users, or the Account Names Provisions, which became effective as of March 1, 2015. The Account Name Provisions require all Internet information service provider users to authenticate their real identity information for registration of accounts and to commit to complying with the seven basic requirements, including observing the laws and regulations, upholding the socialist regime, protecting state interests, as well as ensuring the authenticity of any information they provide. Relevant Internet information service providers are responsible for protecting users privacy, the consistency between user information, such as account names, avatars, and the requirements contemplated in the Account Names Provisions, making reports to the competent authorities regarding any violation of the Account Names Provisions, and taking appropriate measures to stop any such violations, such as, notifying users to make corrections within a specified time and suspending or closing accounts in the event of continued noncompliance by users.

***Regulation Relating to E-Commerce***

China's e-commerce industry is at an early stage of development and there are few PRC laws or regulations specifically regulating the e-commerce industry. In January 2014, the SAIC issued the Administrative Measures on Online Trading, or the Administrative Measures. The Administrative Measures regulate online trading, including selling items and providing services through the Internet. In addition to basic requirements that online sellers and service provider, or together the Operator, should abide by the requirements of the PRC Consumer Rights and Interests Protection Law and similar rules, the Administrative Measures emphasize that an Operator is responsible for personal data protection. In this respect, Operators are obliged to (i) seek consumers' prior consent for collecting and using their personal data, (ii) keep the collected data confidential and secured, and (iii) take effective measures to remedy any leakage or loss of personal data. In addition, the Administrative Measures set specific requirements for operators of third party platforms that provide a web space for parties to transact business. These requirements include authenticating the Operator's identification, signing a contract with the Operator for the use of the platform, setting rules for online trading, security and dispute resolution, cooperation with the local administrations of industry and commerce, taking measures to protect trademark rights and corporate name rights, distinguishing its own products or service from those of other Operators, and keep online trading records for at least two years.

On December 24, 2014, the MOFCOM issue the Provisions on the Procedures for Formulating Transaction Rules of Third-party Platforms for Internet Retail (for Trial Implementation), or the Procedures Provisions, effective as of April 1, 2015. The Procedures Provisions were promulgated to promote the healthy development of Internet retail, protect the legitimate rights and interests of various parties involved in Internet retail activities based on third-party platforms, safeguard the public interest, and strengthen public information services. It specifies the duties of operators of third-party platforms for Internet retail, which are to make relevant transactions rules public and recorded, solicit public opinions when such operators formulate or revise their transaction rules, adapt reasonable transitional measures if the transaction rules that are formulated, revised or enforced by them have a material impact on Internet retail operators and consumers, and similar measures. In addition, the Procedure Provisions also give the power to the local competent commerce authorities to impose penalties on operators where there is a violation.

Table of Contents

Under prior laws, foreign investors outside of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (subject to certain conditions) are not allowed to own more than 50% of the equity interests in a value-added telecommunications service provider, and any such foreign investor must have experience in providing value-added telecommunications services overseas and maintain a good track record. In March 2015, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Commerce issued the updated Catalogue, which further relaxed market access restrictions. Among these changes, foreign investors will now be allowed to own up to 100% of the equity interests in an e-commerce business. However, such foreign investor must have experience in providing value-added telecommunications services overseas and maintain a good track record. The Catalogue became effective on April 10, 2015 and was further updated in June 2017.

The Administrative Measures, the Procedures Provisions and the Catalogue are new and there are still uncertainties as to their interpretation and implementation.

Lanting Huitong and its subsidiary, Shanghai Ouku, manage www.ouku.com and other websites targeting consumers in China. In the event of any clarifications or interpretations that may be issued in the future regarding the Administrative Measures, the Procedures Provisions and/or the Catalogue, we might need to adjust our operational or contracting practices accordingly.

***Regulations Relating to Privacy Protection***

In recent years, the PRC government authorities have enacted legislation on Internet use to protect personal information from any unauthorized disclosure. Current PRC laws do not prohibit ICP operators from collecting and using personal information from their users with consent. However, the Internet Measures prohibit an ICP operator from insulting or slandering a third party or infringing the lawful rights and interests of a third party. Pursuant to the BBS Measures, ICP operators that provide electronic messaging services must keep users' personal information confidential and must not disclose such personal information to any third party without their consent or unless required by law. The regulations further authorize the relevant telecommunications authorities to order ICP operators to rectify their unauthorized disclosure. ICP operators are subject to legal liability if the unauthorized disclosure results in damages or losses to users. The PRC government, however, has the power and authority to order ICP operators to turn over personal information if an Internet user posts any prohibited content or engages in illegal activities on the Internet. On December 29, 2011, the MIIT promulgated the Several Provisions on Regulating the Market Order of Internet Information Services, effective as of March 15, 2012. It stipulates that ICP operators may not, without a user's consent, collect the user's information that can be used alone or in combination with other information to identify the user and may not provide any such information to third parties without the user's prior consent. ICP operators may only collect users' personal information that is necessary to provide their services and must expressly inform the users of the method, content and purpose of the collection and using of such personal information. In addition, an ICP operator may only use users' personal information for the stated purposes under the ICP operator's scope of service. ICP operators are also required to ensure the proper security of users' personal information, and take immediate remedial measures if users' personal information is suspected to have been inappropriately disclosed. If the consequences of any such disclosure are expected to be serious, ICP operators must immediately report the incident to the telecommunications regulatory authority and cooperate with the authorities in their investigations. On December 28, 2012, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC issued the Decision on Strengthening the Protection of Online Information. Most requirements under this decision relevant to ICP operators are consistent with the requirements already established under the MIIT provisions discussed above, but are often stricter and broader. Under this decision, ICP operators are required to take such technical and other measures necessary to safeguard the information against inappropriate disclosure. To further implement this decision and relevant rules, MIIT issued the Regulation of Protection of Telecommunication and Internet User Information on July 16, 2013, which became effective on September 1, 2013.

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

On November 7, 2016, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress issued the Cyber Security Law, which came into effect on June 1, 2017. The Cyber Security Law imposes certain data protection obligations on network operators, including that network operators may not disclose, tamper with, or damage users' personal information that they have collected, and are obligated to delete unlawfully collected information and to amend incorrect information. Moreover, Internet operators may not provide users' personal information to others without consent. Exempted from these rules is information irreversibly processed to preclude identification of specific individuals. Also, the Cyber Security Law imposes breach notification requirements that will apply to breaches involving personal information.

Table of Contents

We believe that we are currently in compliance with these regulations in all material aspects.

***Regulations on Intellectual Property Rights***

China has adopted legislation governing intellectual property rights, including trademarks, patents and copyrights. China is a signatory to the major international conventions on intellectual property rights and became a member of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights upon its accession to the World Trade Organization in December 2001.

***Patent***

The National People's Congress adopted the Patent Law in 1984, which was subsequently amended in 1992, 2000 and 2008. The purpose of the Patent Law is to protect lawful interests of patent holders, encourage invention, foster applications of invention, enhance innovative capabilities and promote the development of science and technology. To be patentable, invention or utility models must meet three conditions: novelty, inventiveness and practical applicability. Patents cannot be granted for scientific discoveries, rules and methods for intellectual activities, methods used to diagnose or treat diseases, animal and plant breeds, substances obtained by means of nuclear transformation or a design which has major marking effect on the patterns or colors of graphic print products or a combination of both patterns and colors. The Patent Office under the State Intellectual Property Office is responsible for administering patents in the PRC. A patent is valid for a term of 20 years in the case of an invention and a term of ten years in the case of utility models and designs, each starting from application date. A third-party user must obtain consent or a proper license from the patent owner to use the patent. Otherwise, the use constitutes an infringement of patent rights.

China follows a "first to file" principle for patents. When more than one person files a patent application for the same invention, the patent will be granted to the person who first filed the application. In addition, the PRC requires absolute novelty in order for an invention to be patentable. Pursuant to this requirement, generally, with limited exceptions, any prior written or oral publication in or outside the PRC, demonstration or use in the PRC before the patent application filing prevents an invention from being patented in the PRC. Patents issued in the PRC are not enforceable in Hong Kong, Taiwan or Macau, each of which has an independent patent system. The fact that a patent application is pending is no guarantee that a patent will be granted and, even if granted, the scope of a patent may not be as broad as that of the initial application.

When a patent infringement dispute arises, the patent holder or an interested party who believes the patent is being infringed may either file a civil lawsuit or file a complaint with the relevant authorities in charge of the patent administration. A PRC court may grant the patent holder's or the interested party's request for a preliminary injunction before the legal proceeding. Pursuant to the Patent Law, an infringer shall be subject to various civil liabilities, which include ceasing the infringement and compensating the actual loss suffered by patent owners. If it is difficult to calculate the actual loss suffered by the patent owner, the illegal income received by the infringer as a result of the infringement or if it is difficult to calculate the illegal income, a reasonable amount calculated with reference to the patent royalties shall be deemed as the actual loss. The compensation amount shall also include the reasonable expenses incurred by the patent owner for stopping the infringement. If damages cannot be established by any of the above methods the court can decide the amount of the actual loss up to RMB1,000,000. In addition, an infringer who counterfeits patents of third parties shall be subject to administrative penalties or criminal liabilities if applicable. Typically, a patent holder in the PRC has the burden of proving that the patent is being infringed. However, if the holder of a production process patent alleges infringement of such patent, the alleged infringing party which produces the same kind of products has the burden of proving that there has been no infringement.

We have applied for two patent registrations in China, one of which is now undergoing substantive examination and the other one was successfully registered.

*Copyright*

Copyrights are protected by the Copyright Law of the PRC which was promulgated in 1990 and amended in 2001 and February 2010 and the Regulation for the Implementation of the Copyright Law of the PRC which came into effect in September 2002 and was amended in January 2011 and further amended in January 2013. The amended Copyright Law extends copyright protection to Internet activities, products disseminated over the Internet and software products. In addition, there is a voluntary registration system administered by local Copyright Bureaus and the China Copyright Protection Center. The amended Copyright Law also requires registration of a copyright pledge.

Table of Contents

Copyrights shall vest on the authors, unless otherwise provided under the laws. If a work constitutes work for hire, the employer, instead of the employee, is considered the legal author of the work and will enjoy the copyrights of such work for hire other than rights of authorship. Works for hire include, (1) drawings of engineering designs and product designs, maps, computer software and other categories, which are created mainly with the materials and technical resources of the legal entity or organization with responsibilities being assumed by such legal entity or organization; (2) those works the copyrights of which are, in accordance with the laws or administrative regulations or under contractual arrangements, enjoyed by a legal entity or organization. The actual creator may enjoy the rights of authorship of such work for hire. A copyright owner may transfer its copyrights to others or permit others to use its copyrighted works. Use of copyrighted works of others generally requires a licensing contract with the copyright owner. The protection period for copyrights in the PRC varies, with 50 years as the minimum. The protection period for a work for hire where a legal entity or organization owns the copyright (except for the right of authorship) is 50 years, expiring on December 31 of the fiftieth year after the first publication of such work.

In China, holders of computer software copyrights enjoy protections under the Copyright Law. Various regulations relating to the protection of software copyrights in China have promulgated. Under these regulations, computer software that is independently developed and exists in a physical form is protected, and software copyright owners may license or transfer their software copyrights to others. Registration of software copyrights, exclusive licensing and transfer contracts with the Copyright Protection Center of China or its local branches is encouraged. Such registration is not mandatory under Chinese law, but can enhance the protections available to the registered copyrights holders.

Where copyright or a copyright-related right is infringed, the infringer shall make compensation according to the actual losses incurred by the right owner. Where the actual losses are difficult to calculate, the compensation may be paid according to the illegal incomes obtained by the infringer. The compensation amount shall also include the reasonable expenses incurred by the right owner for preventing the infringement. Where neither the actual losses incurred by the right owner nor the illegal gains obtained by the infringer is determinable, the court may render a ruling to award compensation in an amount not more than RMB500,000.

We have 19 registered computer software copyrights in China.

*Trademark*

Trademarks are protected by the PRC Trademark Law adopted in 1982 and subsequently amended in 1993, 2001 and 2013 as well as the Implementation Regulation of the PRC Trademark Law adopted by the State Council in 2002 was amended in 2014. The Trademark Office under the SAIC handles trademark registrations and grants a term of ten years to registered trademarks and another ten years if requested upon expiry of the first or any renewed ten year term. Trademark license agreements must be filed with the Trademark Office for record. The PRC Trademark Law has adopted a first-to-file principle with respect to trademark registration. Where a trademark for which a registration has been made is identical or similar to another trademark which has already been registered or been subject to a preliminary examination and approval for use on the same kind of or similar commodities or services, the application for registration of such trademark may be rejected. Any person applying for the registration of a trademark may not prejudice the existing right first obtained by others, nor may any person register in advance a trademark that has already been used by another party and has already gained a sufficient degree of reputation through such party's use. Trademark license agreements must be filed with the Trademark Office or its regional offices.



Table of Contents

Under the Trademark Law, any of the following acts is deemed as an infringement to the right to exclusive use of a registered trademark: (i) using a trademark identical to the registered trademark for the same kind of commodities without a license from the registrant of that trademark; (ii) using a trademark that is similar to a registered trademark for the same goods, or using a trademark that is identical or similar to a registered trademark for similar goods in a way that could be confusing, without a license from the registrant of that trademark; (iii) selling commodities that infringe upon the right to exclusive use of a registered trademark; (iv) forging or manufacturing without authorization the marks of a registered trademark of another, or selling the marks of a registered trademark that has been forged or manufactured without authorization; (v) changing a registered trademark and putting commodities with the changed trademark into the market without the consent of the registrant of that trademark; (vi) providing conveniences to intentionally facilitate trademark infringement; or (vii) causing other damage to the right to exclusive use of a registered trademark of another person. In the event of any of the foregoing acts, the infringer may be fined, and ordered to stop the infringement acts immediately and pay the infringed party compensation. The compensation shall be equal to the amount of (i) the losses suffered by the infringed party; (ii) the benefits gained by the infringing party if the losses suffered by the infringed party are difficult to determine, or (iii) a multiple of the royalty for a relevant trademark license if both of the foregoing are difficult to determine, including any reasonable expenses incurred by the infringed party in stopping the infringement. For seriously malicious infringement, the amount of compensation may be one to three times the foregoing amounts. If it is difficult to determine the amount of the benefits gained by the infringing party, the losses suffered by the infringed party or the relevant royalty for a trademark license, the court may render a judgment awarding damages not more than RMB 3.0 million.

Selling goods without awareness of such goods' infringement of the exclusive right to use a trademark shall be exempted from liability for compensation insofar as the seller is able to prove that the goods were lawfully obtained and can indicate the supplier's identity.

We have registered our logos as trademarks in China, including Lightinthebox and ouku.

*Domain Names*

In September 2002, China Internet Network Information Center, or the CNNIC, issued the Implementing Rules for Domain Name Registration setting forth detailed rules for registration of domain names. On August 24, 2017, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China, or the MIIT, promulgated the Administrative Measures for Internet Domain Names, or Internet Domain Name Measures. The Domain Name Measures regulate the registration of domain names, such as the first tier domain name .cn. In 2009, China Internet Network Information Center, or the CNNIC, issued the Implementing Rules for Domain Name Registration setting forth detailed rules for registration of domain names, which was amended in 2012. In September 2002, CNNIC issued the Measures on Domain Name Disputes Resolution and its procedure rules, or Domain Name Disputes Resolutions Measures and Procedure Rules of Domain Name Disputes Resolutions Measures, both of which were amended in 2006 and further amended in 2012. Pursuant to Domain Name Disputes Resolutions Measures, which CNNIC can authorize a domain name dispute resolution institution to decide disputes. These regulations require owners of Internet domain names to register their domain names with qualified domain name registrars approved by the MIIT and obtain registration certificates from such registration agencies. A registered domain name owner has the exclusive right to use its domain name. Unregistered domain names may not receive proper legal protections and may be misappropriated by unauthorized third parties.

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

We and our VIEs have registered domain names for all of our websites, including [www.lightinthebox.com](http://www.lightinthebox.com) and [www.miniinthebox.com](http://www.miniinthebox.com).

### *Anti-unfair Competition.*

Under the Anti-Unfair Competition Law, effective in 1993 and revised in 2017, a business operator is prohibited from carrying out acts intending to cause confusion, which would mislead others into thinking that its products belong to another party or that there is an association with another party, by:

- using without permission, a mark that is identical with or similar to product names, packaging or decoration of others with a certain degree of influence;

Table of Contents

- using without permission, the name of an enterprise, a social organization or an individual with a certain degree of influence;
- using without permission, the main element of a domain name, website name or webpage with a certain degree of influence;
- carrying out confusing acts that are intended to mislead others into thinking that a product belongs to another party or there is an affiliation with another party.

*Regulations Relating to Foreign Currency Exchange*

*Foreign Exchange Relating to Export Businesses*

Foreign exchange activities relating to import and export trading in China are primarily governed by the following regulations:

- the Foreign Exchange Administration Rules (2008), or the Exchange Rules;
- the Administration Rules for the Settlement, Sale and Payment of Foreign Exchange (1996), or the Administration Rules; and
- Circular of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Standardizing the Verification of Electronic Receipt and Payment Documents for Trade in Goods.

These foreign exchange regulations, along with certain other ancillary notices issued by the SAFE, lay out the legal framework for the administration of foreign exchange for the export of commodities in international trade. Under these foreign exchange regulations, the exporter, in order to receive the proceeds of the export in foreign exchange and settle the same into Renminbi, must apply with the local branch of the SAFE for a certificate of verification and cancellation of export proceeds in foreign exchange unless otherwise provided under the applicable laws and regulations. The exporter must also apply with the competent tax authorities for a tax exemption or refund where a tax exemption or refund is applicable.

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

We source many of our products from suppliers in the PRC. Our payments are in most cases made to the suppliers' entities located in Hong Kong and in some cases are made to sourcing agents located in Hong Kong for further settlement with our suppliers. Our payments are made directly to such Hong Kong entities and thus are not subject to the PRC foreign exchange laws and regulations. Following receipt of the payment in foreign exchange either from the agents to the PRC suppliers or from suppliers' own entities located in Hong Kong to the suppliers' entities in mainland China, the PRC suppliers shall go through the relevant procedures with the local branch of the SAFE as mentioned above to settle the foreign exchange into Renminbi. However, we cannot assure you that all our sourcing agents or the PRC suppliers will fully comply with these foreign exchange laws and regulations.

### *Foreign Exchange Relating to FIEs*

Under current Chinese regulations, Renminbi are freely convertible for trade and service-related transactions denominated in foreign currency, but not for direct investment, loans or investments in securities outside China without the prior approval of the SAFE or its local branches.

FIEs in China may execute foreign exchange transactions without the SAFE approval for trade and service-related transactions denominated in foreign currency by providing commercial documents evidencing these transactions. They may also retain foreign currency, subject to a cap approved by the SAFE, to satisfy foreign currency-denominated liabilities or to pay dividends. Foreign exchange transactions related to direct investment, loans and investment in securities outside China are still subject to limitations and require approval from the SAFE.

Table of Contents

On March 30, 2015, SAFE issued the SAFE Circular 19, which became effective on June 1, 2015. Pursuant to SAFE Circular 19, foreign-invested enterprises may either continue to follow the current payment-based foreign currency settlement system or choose to follow the conversion-at-will system for foreign currency settlement. Where a foreign-invested enterprise follows the conversion-at-will system for foreign currency settlement, it may convert part or all of the amount of the foreign currency in its capital account into Renminbi at any time. The converted Renminbi will be kept in a designated account labeled as settled but pending payment, and if the foreign-invested enterprise needs to make payment from such designated account, it still needs to go through the review process with its bank and provide necessary supporting documents. SAFE Circular 19, therefore, has substantially lifted the restrictions on the usage by a foreign-invested enterprise of its Renminbi registered capital converted from foreign currencies. There remains substantial uncertainties with respect to the interpretation and implementation of this circular by relevant authorities.

***Regulations on Dividend Distributions***

The principal regulations governing dividend distributions of wholly foreign owned companies in China include:

- the Companies Law (2013);
- the Wholly Foreign Owned Enterprise Law (2016); and
- the Wholly Foreign Owned Enterprise Law Implementing Rules (2014).

Under these regulations, wholly foreign owned companies in China may pay dividends only out of their accumulated profits, if any, as determined in accordance with PRC accounting standards and regulations. In addition, wholly foreign owned companies are required to set aside at least 10% of their respective accumulated profits each year, if any, to fund certain reserve funds, until the aggregate amount of these funds reaches 50% of the company's registered capital. Wholly foreign owned companies may, at their discretion, allocate a portion of their after-tax profits based on PRC accounting standards to staff welfare and bonus funds. These reserve funds and staff welfare and bonus funds are not distributable as cash dividends.

***Regulations on Tax***

*PRC Enterprise Income Tax*

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

The PRC enterprise income tax is calculated based on the taxable income determined under the applicable Enterprise Income Tax Law and its implementation rules. On March 16, 2007, the National People's Congress of China enacted the New EIT Law, which became effective on January 1, 2008. On December 6, 2007, the State Council promulgated the implementation rules to the New EIT Law, which also became effective on January 1, 2008. On December 26, 2007, the State Council issued the Notice on Implementation of Enterprise Income Tax Transition Preferential Policy under the New EIT Law, or the Transition Preferential Policy Circular, which became effective simultaneously with the New EIT Law. The New EIT Law was further amended on February 24, 2017. The New EIT Law imposes a uniform enterprise income tax rate of 25% on all resident enterprises in China, including FIEs and domestic enterprises, unless they qualify for certain exceptions, and terminates most of the tax exemptions, reductions and preferential treatments available under the old Enterprise Income Tax Law and regulations. Under the New EIT Law and the Transition Preferential Policy Circular, qualified enterprises established before March 16, 2007 that already enjoyed preferential tax treatments will continue to enjoy them (i) in the case of preferential tax rates, for a maximum of five years starting from January 1, 2008 and during the five-year period, the tax rate will gradually increase from their current preferential tax rate to 25%, or (ii) in the case of preferential tax exemption or reduction for a specified term, until the expiration of such term. For enterprises that are not profitable enough to enjoy the preferential tax exemption or reduction referred to in (ii) above, the preferential duration shall commence from 2008.

Prior to the effectiveness of the New EIT Law on January 1, 2008, domestic companies were generally subject to an enterprise income tax at a statutory rate of 33%.

Table of Contents

The New EIT Law and its implementation rules permit high and new technology enterprises strongly supported by the state holding independent ownership of core intellectual property and meeting certain other criteria, as stipulated in the implementation rules and other regulations, to enjoy a reduced enterprise income tax rate of 15%. The State Administration of Taxation, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Finance jointly issued the Administrative Rules for the Certification of High and New Technology Enterprises delineating the specific criteria and procedures for the certification of high and new technology enterprises on April 14, 2008. The New EIT Law and its implementation rules also provide that software enterprises enjoy a two-year income tax exemption starting from the first profit making year, followed by a reduced tax rate of 12.5% for the subsequent three years.

Uncertainties exist with respect to how the New EIT Law applies to our tax residency status. Under the New EIT Law, an enterprise established outside of the PRC with de facto management bodies within the PRC is considered a resident enterprise, which means that it can be treated in a manner similar to a Chinese enterprise for enterprise income tax purposes, although the dividends paid to one resident enterprise from another may qualify as tax-exempt income. Though the implementation rules of the New EIT Law define de facto management bodies as establishments that carry out substantial and overall management and control over the manufacturing and business operations, personnel, accounting, properties, etc. of an enterprise, the only detailed guidance currently available for the definition of de facto management body as well as the determination of an offshore incorporated PRC tax resident and its administration are set forth in Circular 82 and Bulletin No. 45 issued by the SAT, which provide guidance on the administration as well as determination of the tax residency status of a Chinese-controlled offshore-incorporated enterprise, defined as an enterprise that is incorporated under the law of a foreign country or territory and that has a PRC enterprise or PRC enterprise group as its primary controlling shareholder. Although we do not have a PRC enterprise or enterprise group as our primary controlling shareholder and are therefore not a Chinese-controlled offshore-incorporated enterprise within the meaning of Circular 82, in the absence of guidance specifically applicable to us, we have applied the guidance set forth in Circular 82 to evaluate the tax residency status of our legal entities organized outside the PRC.

According to Circular 82, a Chinese-controlled offshore-incorporated enterprise will be regarded as a PRC tax resident by virtue of having its de facto management body in China and will be subject to PRC enterprise income tax on its global income only if all of the following conditions set forth in Circular 82 are met:

- the primary location of the day-to-day operational management is in the PRC;
- decisions relating to the enterprise's financial and human resource matters are made or are subject to approval by organizations or personnel in the PRC;
- the enterprise's primary assets, accounting books and records, company seals and board and shareholder resolutions are located or maintained in the PRC; and
- 50% or more of voting board members or senior executives habitually reside in the PRC.

In addition, Bulletin No. 45 provided clarification on the resident status determination, post-determination administration, and competent tax authorities. It also specifies that when provided with a copy of a PRC resident determination certificate from a resident Chinese-controlled

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

offshore- incorporated enterprise, the payer should not withhold 10% income tax when paying certain PRC- sourced income such as dividends, interest and royalties to the Chinese-controlled offshore- incorporated enterprise.

Although both the circular and the bulletin only apply to offshore enterprises controlled by PRC enterprises and not those by PRC individuals, the determination criteria set forth in the circular and administration clarification made in the bulletin may reflect the SAT's general position on how the de facto management body test should be applied in determining the tax residency status of offshore enterprises and the administration measures should be implemented, regardless of whether they are controlled by PRC enterprises or PRC individuals.



Table of Contents

We do not believe that we meet all of the conditions above. We are a company incorporated outside the PRC. As a holding company, our key assets and records, including the resolutions of our board of directors and the resolutions of their respective shareholders, are located and maintained outside the PRC. In addition, we are not aware of any offshore holding companies with a corporate structure similar to ours that has been deemed a PRC resident enterprise by the PRC tax authorities. Therefore, we believe that we should not be treated as a resident enterprise for PRC tax purposes if the criteria for de facto management body as set forth in the Circular 82 were deemed applicable to us. However, as the tax residency status of an enterprise is subject to determination by the PRC tax authorities and uncertainties remain with respect to the interpretation of the term de facto management body as applicable to our offshore entities, we will continue to monitor our tax status. See Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Doing Business in China We may be deemed a PRC resident enterprise under the New EIT Law and be subject to PRC taxation on our income.

Although we believe we are not a PRC resident enterprise for enterprise income tax purposes, substantial uncertainty regarding our status still exists. In the event that our company or our Hong Kong subsidiary is considered to be a PRC resident enterprise, (1) our company or our Hong Kong subsidiary would be subject to the PRC enterprise income tax at the rate of 25% on worldwide income; and (2) dividend income that our Hong Kong subsidiary receives from our PRC subsidiary, however, may be exempt from the PRC withholding tax since such income is exempted under the New EIT Law for PRC resident enterprise recipients. See Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Doing Business in China We may rely on dividends and other cash distributions on equity paid by our subsidiaries to fund future cash and financing requirements we may have, and any limitation on the ability of our subsidiaries to make payments to us could have a material adverse effect on our ability to conduct our businesses.

On February 3, 2015, the SAT issued SAT Notice on the Collection of Corporate Income Tax by Indirect Transfer of Assets by Non-Resident Companies, or SAT Circular 7. Pursuant to SAT Circular 7, except for a few circumstances falling into the scope of the safe harbor provided by SAT Circular 7, such as open market trading of stocks in public companies listed overseas, if a non-PRC resident enterprise indirectly transfers PRC taxable properties (i.e. properties of an establishment or a place in the PRC, real estate properties in the PRC or equity investments in a PRC tax resident enterprise) by disposing of equity interests or other similar rights in an overseas holding company, without a reasonable commercial purpose and resulting in the avoidance of PRC enterprise income tax, such indirect transfer should be deemed as a direct transfer of PRC taxable properties and gains derived from such indirect transfer may be subject to the PRC withholding tax at a rate of up to 10%. SAT Circular 7 sets out several factors to be taken into consideration by tax authorities in determining whether an indirect transfer has a reasonable commercial purpose, such as whether the main value of equity interests in an overseas holding company is derived directly or indirectly from PRC taxable properties. An indirect transfer satisfying all the following criteria will be deemed to lack reasonable commercial purpose and be taxable under PRC law without considering other factors set out by SAT Circular 7: (i) 75% or more of the equity value of the intermediary enterprise being transferred is derived directly or indirectly from the PRC taxable properties; (ii) at any time during the one-year period before the indirect transfer, 90% or more of the asset value of the intermediary enterprise (excluding cash) is comprised directly or indirectly of investments in the PRC, or 90% or more of its income is derived directly or indirectly from the PRC; (iii) the functions performed and risks assumed by the intermediary enterprise and any of its subsidiaries that directly or indirectly hold the PRC taxable properties are limited and are insufficient to prove their economic substance; and (iv) the foreign tax payable on the gain derived from the indirect transfer of the PRC taxable properties is lower than the potential PRC income tax on the direct transfer of such assets. SAT Circular 7 also introduces an interest regime by providing that where a transferor fails to file and pay tax on time, and where a withholding agent fails to withhold the tax, interest will be charged on a daily basis. If the transferor has provided the required documents and information or has filed and paid the tax within 30 days from the date that the share transfer contract or agreement is signed, then interest shall be calculated based on the benchmark interest rate; otherwise, the benchmark interest rate plus 5% will apply. Both the foreign transferor and the transferee, and the PRC tax resident enterprise whose equity interests are being transferred, may voluntarily report the transfer by submitting the documents required in SAT Circular 7. SAT Circular 7 is new and there are still uncertainties as to its interpretation and implementation. It brings challenges to both the foreign transferor and transferee of the indirect transfer as they are required to make self-assessment on whether the transaction should be subject to PRC tax and to file or withhold the PRC tax accordingly. Further, the PRC tax authorities have discretion under SAT Circular 7 to make adjustments to the taxable capital gains based on the difference between the fair value of the equity interests transferred and the cost of investment.



Table of Contents

*Value Added Tax*

Our PRC subsidiary, VIEs and Shanghai Ouku are subject to value added tax, or VAT, at a rate of 17% on revenue from sale of products in the PRC and are entitled to a refund for VAT already paid or borne on the goods purchased by them and utilized in the production of goods that have generated gross sales proceeds.

*Dividends Withholding Tax*

Under the old Enterprise Income Tax Law effective prior to January 1, 2008, dividends paid to foreign investors by FIEs would be exempt from PRC withholding tax. We are a Cayman Islands holding company and substantially all of our income may come from dividends we receive from our subsidiary, Light In The Box Limited, a Hong Kong registered company and its PRC subsidiary and VIEs. Substantially none of our total net revenues in 2017 were generated from product sales via our websites and third-party online marketplace platforms targeting consumers in China. Pursuant to the New EIT Law and its implementation rules, dividends generated after January 1, 2008 and distributed to us by Lanting Jishi, our PRC subsidiary directly held by Light In The Box Limited, may be subject to withholding tax at a rate of up to 10%. Pursuant to the Double Taxation Avoidance Arrangement, dividends that Light in The Box Limited receives from Lanting Jishi may be subject to withholding tax at a rate of 5%, provided that the conditions and requirements under the Double Taxation Avoidance Arrangement have been satisfied, and subject to the assessment and approval of our relevant local tax authority.

*Regulations on Offshore Investment by PRC Residents*

On July 4, 2014, the SAFE promulgated the Notice on Relevant Issues Concerning Foreign Exchange Control of Domestic Residents' Overseas Investment and Financing and Round-trip Investment through Offshore Special Purpose Vehicles, or SAFE Circular 37, which replaced the former Notice on Relevant Issues Concerning Foreign Exchange Administration for PRC Residents to Engage in Financing and Inbound Investment via Overseas Special Purpose Vehicles, or SAFE Circular 75, promulgated by the SAFE in 2005.

SAFE Circular 37 requires PRC residents to register with local branches of SAFE in connection with their direct establishment or indirect control of an offshore entity, for the purpose of overseas investment and financing, with such PRC residents' legally owned assets or equity interests in domestic enterprises or offshore assets or interests, which is referred to in SAFE Circular 37 as a special purpose vehicle. SAFE Circular 37 further requires amendment to the registration in the event of any significant changes with respect to the special purpose vehicle, such as an increase or decrease of capital contributed by PRC residents, share transfer or exchange, merger, division or other material events. In the event that a PRC resident holding interests in a special purpose vehicle fails to complete the required SAFE registration, the PRC subsidiaries of that special purpose vehicle may be prohibited from making profit distributions to the offshore parent and from carrying out subsequent cross-border foreign exchange activities, and the special purpose vehicle may be restricted in its ability to contribute additional capital into its PRC subsidiaries. Furthermore, failure to comply with the various SAFE registration requirements described above could result in liability under PRC law for evasion of foreign exchange controls. See Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Doing Business in China PRC regulations relating to the establishment of offshore special purpose companies by PRC domestic residents and registration requirements for employee stock ownership plans or share option plans may subject our PRC resident beneficial owners or the plan participants to personal liability, limit our ability to inject capital into our PRC subsidiary, limit our PRC subsidiary's ability to increase its registered capital or distribute profits to us, or may otherwise adversely affect us.

In addition, PRC subsidiaries of an offshore special purpose company are required to coordinate and supervise the filing of foreign exchange registrations by the offshore holding company's shareholders who are PRC residents in a timely manner. If these shareholders fail to comply, the PRC subsidiaries of the offshore parent company may be prohibited from distributing their profits and proceeds from any reduction in capital, share transfer or liquidation to their offshore parent company and the offshore parent company may be restricted in its ability to contribute additional capital into its PRC subsidiaries. Moreover, failure to comply with the above foreign exchange registration requirements could result in liabilities for such PRC subsidiaries under PRC laws for evasion of foreign exchange restrictions, including (i) requirement by the SAFE to return the foreign exchange remitted overseas within a period specified by the SAFE, with a fine of up to 30% of the total amount of foreign exchange remitted overseas and deemed evasive and (ii) in circumstances involving serious violations, a fine of no less than 30% of and up to the total amount of remitted foreign exchange deemed evasive. Furthermore, the persons-in-charge and other persons at such PRC subsidiaries who are held directly liable for the violations may be subject to administrative sanctions.

Table of Contents

*Regulations on Employee Stock Option Plans*

In December 2006, the People's Bank of China promulgated the Administrative Measures of Foreign Exchange Matters for Individuals, setting forth the respective requirements for foreign exchange transactions by individuals (both PRC and non-PRC citizens) under either the current account and the capital account. In January 2007, the SAFE issued implementing rules for the Administrative Measures of Foreign Exchange Matters for Individuals, which, among other things, specified the approval requirements for certain capital account transactions, such as a PRC citizen's participation in employee stock ownership plans or share option plans of overseas listed companies, and it was further amended on May 29, 2016. On March 28, 2007, the SAFE promulgated the Stock Option Rules. In February 2012, the SAFE promulgated the Stock Option Notice. This Stock Option Notice replaced the previous Stock Option Rules. The Stock Option Notice simplifies the requirements and procedures for the registration of stock incentive plan participant, especially in respect of the required application documents and the absence of strict requirements on offshore and onshore custodian banks, as were stipulated in the Stock Option Rules. The purpose of the Stock Option Notice is to regulate the foreign exchange administration of PRC resident individuals who participate in employee stock incentive plans of overseas listed companies.

According to the Stock Option Notice, if a PRC resident individual participates in stock incentive plans of an overseas listed company, which includes employee stock ownership plan share option plan and other incentive plans permitted by relevant laws and regulations, a PRC domestic qualified agent or the PRC subsidiary of such overseas listed company must, among other things, file, on behalf of such resident, an application with the SAFE or its local counterpart to obtain approval for an annual allowance with respect to the purchase of foreign exchange in connection with stock holding or share option exercises as PRC resident individuals may not directly use overseas funds to purchase shares or exercise share options. With the approval from the SAFE or its local counterpart, the PRC domestic qualified agent or the PRC subsidiary shall open a special foreign exchange account at a PRC domestic bank to hold the funds required in connection with the stock purchase or option exercise, any returned principal or profits upon sales of shares, any dividends issued on the stock and any other income or expenditures approved by the SAFE or its local counterpart. In addition, within three months after any substantial changes to any such stock incentive plan, including, for example, any changes due to a merger or acquisition or changes to the domestic or overseas custodian agent, the domestic agent must update the registration with SAFE.

Under the Foreign Currency Administration Rules (1996), as amended in 2008, the foreign exchange proceeds of domestic entities and individuals can be remitted into China or deposited abroad, subject to the terms and conditions to be issued by the SAFE. However, to date, the SAFE has not issued any implementing rules in respect of depositing the foreign exchange proceeds abroad. Currently, the foreign exchange proceeds from the sales of shares can be converted into Renminbi or transferred to such individuals' foreign exchange savings account after the proceeds have been remitted back to the special foreign exchange account opened at the PRC domestic bank. If share options are exercised on a noncash basis, the PRC domestic individuals are required to remit the proceeds to special foreign exchange accounts.

Furthermore, a notice concerning the individual income tax on earnings from employee stock options jointly issued by the Ministry of Finance and the SAT, and its implementing rules, provide that domestic companies that implement employee share option programs shall (1) file the employee share option plans and other relevant documents to the local tax authorities having jurisdiction over them before implementing such employee share option plans; (2) file share option exercise notices and other relevant documents with the local tax authorities having jurisdiction over them before exercise by the employees of the share options and clarify whether the shares issuable under the employee share options mentioned in the notice are the shares of publicly listed companies; and (3) withhold taxes from the PRC employees in connection with the PRC individual income tax.

Table of Contents

On October 27, 2008, our board of directors adopted the Amended and Reinstated 2008 Share Incentive Plan, pursuant to which we may issue employee stock options to our qualified employees and directors on a regular basis. We and our PRC employees who have participated in the Amended and Reinstated 2008 Share Incentive Plan are subject to the Stock Option Rules as our company is an overseas listed company. However, we cannot assure you that our PRC individual beneficiary owners and the stock options holders can successfully register with the SAFE in full compliance with Stock Option Rules. See Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Doing Business in China PRC regulations relating to the establishment of offshore special purpose companies by PRC domestic residents and registration requirements for employee stock ownership plans or share option plans may subject our PRC resident beneficial owners or the plan participants to personal liability, limit our ability to inject capital into our PRC subsidiary, limit our PRC subsidiary ability to increase their registered capital or distribute profits to us, or may otherwise adversely affect us.

*Labor Laws and Social Insurance*

Pursuant to the PRC Labor Law and the PRC Labor Contract Law, employers must execute written labor contracts with full-time employees in order to establish an employment relationship. All employers must compensate their employees equal to at least the local minimum wage standards. All employers are required to establish a system for labor safety and sanitation, strictly abide by state rules and standards and provide employees with appropriate workplace safety training. Violations of the PRC Labor Contract Law and the PRC Labor Law may result fines or other administrative sanctions or, in the case of serious violations, criminal liability.

In addition, employers in China are obliged to provide employees with welfare schemes covering pension insurance, unemployment insurance, maternity insurance, work-related injury insurance, medical insurance and housing funds.

*Regulations on Overseas Listing*

In 2006, six PRC regulatory agencies jointly adopted the Regulations on Mergers and Acquisitions of Domestic Enterprises by Foreign Investors, or the M&A Rules which was amended in 2009. This rule requires that, if an overseas company established or controlled by PRC domestic companies or citizens intends to acquire equity interests or assets of any other PRC domestic company affiliated with the PRC domestic companies or citizens, such acquisition must be submitted to the Ministry of Commerce, rather than local regulators, for approval. In addition, this regulation requires that an overseas special purpose vehicle, or SPV, formed for overseas listing purposes and controlled by PRC companies or individuals, to obtain the approval of CSRC prior to publicly listing their securities on an overseas stock exchange.

While the application of the new regulations remain unclear, based on their understanding of current PRC laws, regulations and new procedures announced on September 21, 2006, our PRC counsel, TransAsia Lawyers, has advised us that:

- the CSRC currently has not issued any definitive rule or interpretation concerning whether offerings like ours are subject to this regulation;

- we established our PRC subsidiary by means of direct investment other than by merger or acquisition of the equity or assets of PRC domestic companies; and
- no provision in this regulation clearly classified contractual arrangements as a type of transaction subject to its regulation.

See Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Doing Business in China Failure to obtain prior approval required under the M&A Rules and/or any other regulations promulgated by relevant PRC regulatory agencies in the future could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations as well as the trading price of the ADSs.

***Regulations on Concentration in Merger and Acquisition Transactions***

The M&A Rules also establish procedures and requirements that could make some merger and acquisitions of Chinese companies by foreign investors more time-consuming and complex. These rules require, among other things, that the Ministry of Commerce be notified in advance of any change-of-control transaction in which a foreign investor will take control of a PRC domestic enterprise or a foreign company with substantial PRC operations, if certain thresholds under the Provisions on Thresholds for Prior Notification of Concentrations of Undertakings issued by the State Council on August 3, 2008 are triggered.

Table of Contents

According to the Implementing Rules Concerning Security Review on the Mergers and Acquisitions by Foreign Investors of Domestic Enterprises issued by the Ministry of Commerce in August 2011, mergers and acquisitions by foreign investors involved in an industry related to national security are subject to strict review by the Ministry of Commerce. These rules also prohibit any transactions attempting to bypass such security review, including controlling entities through contractual arrangements.

**C. Organizational Structure**

The following diagram illustrates our corporate structure as of the date of this annual report:

---

(1) Such arrangements include exclusive technical and consulting service agreements, business operation agreements, equity disposal agreements, share pledge agreements, powers of attorney, spousal consent letters (applicable only to Lanting Huitong) and a loan agreement (applicable only to Lanting Gaochuang).



(2) Include five subsidiaries each of which is a limited liability company incorporated in Hong Kong that are primarily engaged or expected to be engaged in the wholesale distribution of products. These five subsidiaries are Light Square, Light Hill, Light Linnet, Light Xiao and Fashion Easy-go. Light In The Box Limited is the beneficial owner of each of these companies. The entire share capital of each of these subsidiaries are registered in the name of our employees who hold such shares on trust for the benefit of Light In The Box Limited pursuant to the respective declaration of trust executed on various dates in June and July of 2016. As of the date of this annual report, the business operations of each of Light Linnet, Light Xiao and Fashion Easy-go remain inactive.

(3) Mr. Quji (Alan) Guo holds the other 51% of the equity interest in Lanting Gaochuang.

(4) The shareholders of Lanting Huitong are Mr. Quji (Alan) Guo, our co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer, Mr. Liang Zhang, our co-founder and executive vice president, and Mr. Xin (Kevin) Wen, our co-founder and advisory consultant. In April 2014, one of our co-founders, Mr. Jun Liu entered into an equity transfer agreement to transfer his shares of Lanting Huitong to Mr. Quji (Alan) Guo, Mr. Xin (Kevin) Wen and Mr. Liang Zhang. We have completed the registration of this transfer with the local branch of the SAIC.

Table of Contents

**Contractual Arrangements Among Lanting Jishi, our VIEs and the Respective Shareholders of our VIEs**

Foreign ownership of Internet-based businesses is subject to significant restrictions under current PRC laws and regulations. The PRC government regulates Internet access and the distribution of online information through strict business licensing requirements and other government regulations. Under prior laws, foreign investors outside of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (subject to certain conditions) are not allowed to own more than 50% of the equity interests in a value-added telecommunications service provider, and any such foreign investor must have experience in providing value-added telecommunications services overseas and maintain a good track record. In March 2015, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Commerce issued the updated Catalogue, which further relaxed market access restrictions. Among these changes, foreign investors will now be allowed to own up to 100% of the equity interests in an e-commerce business. However, such foreign investor must have experience in providing value-added telecommunications services overseas and maintain a good track record. We are a Cayman Islands company and our wholly owned PRC subsidiary, Lanting Jishi, is a wholly foreign owned enterprise and is restricted from holding the relevant licenses that are essential to the operations of our PRC business. Accordingly, we conduct the operation of our domestic websites in China primarily through Lanting Huitong, which we control through a series of contractual arrangements, and its subsidiary, Shanghai Ouku. The registered shareholders of Lanting Huitong are our co-founders, including Mr. Quji (Alan) Guo, Mr. Xin (Kevin) Wen and Mr. Liang Zhang. In April 2014, one of our co-founders, Mr. Jun Liu has entered into an equity transfer agreement to transfer his shares of Lanting Huitong to Mr. Quji (Alan) Guo, Mr. Xin (Kevin) Wen and Mr. Liang Zhang. We have completed the registration of this transfer with the local branch of the SAIC and Mr. Quji (Alan) Guo, Mr. Xin (Kevin) Wen and Mr. Liang Zhang currently hold 42.14%, 28.93% and 28.93% of the equity interests of Lanting Huitong, respectively.

We conduct certain research and development functions through Lanting Gaochuang, which we control through similar contractual arrangements. Mr. Quji (Alan) Guo and Lanting Huitong hold 51% and 49% of Lanting Gaochuang, respectively. Lanting Gaochuang's ownership structure enables it to join a special economic zone within the Wangjing Hi-Tech Industry Zone, the China Beijing Wangjing Overseas Students Pioneer Park, or the Wangjing Pioneer Park, which is reserved for domestic enterprises that are held by Chinese nationals who have previously studied overseas. As Lanting Gaochuang is majority-owned by Mr. Guo, a Chinese national who has studied overseas, Lanting Gaochuang enjoys certain benefits provided by the Wangjing Pioneer Park, which include reduced rents and other benefits aimed to encourage the development of technically innovative companies. In addition, Lanting Gaochuang was qualified as a software enterprise in 2012, 2013 and 2014 which entitles it to certain tax benefits. See Item 4. Information on the Company B. Business Overview Regulation Regulations on Tax PRC Enterprise Income Tax for more information regarding tax benefits provided to software enterprises.

Through contractual arrangements with our VIEs and their respective shareholders, we receive substantially all of the economic benefits of our VIEs as their primary beneficiary. The financial results of our VIEs are consolidated into our financial statements despite the lack of our equity interest in them. We did not derive consolidated net revenues from Lanting Huitong and Shanghai Ouku from 2015 to 2017. We have not derived any consolidated net revenues from Lanting Gaochuang since its inception in December 2011, and we do not expect to derive any significant contributions to our consolidated net revenues from Lanting Gaochuang going forward, if at all. We believe the consolidation is necessary to fairly present the financial position and results of operations of our company because of the existence of a parent-subsidiary relationship through contractual arrangements, which enables us to:

- exercise effective control over our VIEs;
- receive substantially all of the economic benefits from our VIEs; and

- have an exclusive option to purchase all or part of the equity interest in our VIEs when and to the extent permitted by PRC law.

The following is a summary of the currently effective contractual arrangements among Lanting Jishi, our VIEs, and the shareholders of our VIEs:

Table of Contents

*Agreements that provide Lanting Jishi effective control over the VIEs*

**Powers of attorney:** Each registered shareholder of our VIEs has executed a power of attorney appointing Lanting Jishi to be his or her attorney, and irrevocably authorizing them to vote on his or her behalf on all of the matters concerning our VIEs that may require shareholders' approval, including nominating and electing directors, general managers and other executive officers. The powers of attorney will be valid as long as the registered shareholders remain as shareholders of our VIEs.

**Equity disposal agreements:** Under the Equity Disposal Agreements entered into among Lanting Jishi, our VIEs, and the shareholders of our VIEs, Lanting Jishi or its designated party has exclusive options to purchase, when and to the extent permitted under PRC law, all or part of the equity interest in our VIEs. The exercise price for the options to purchase all or part of the equity interest will be the minimum amount of consideration permissible under the then applicable PRC law. The agreements will be valid until Lanting Jishi or its designated party purchases all the shares from shareholders of our VIEs.

**Spousal consent letters:** Under the spousal consent letters, the spouses of certain shareholders of Lanting Huitong acknowledged that a certain percentage of the equity interest in Lanting Huitong held by and registered in the name of their respective spouse will be disposed of pursuant to the equity disposal agreement and share pledge agreement. These spouses understand that such equity interest is held by their respective spouse on behalf of Lanting Jishi, and they will not take any action to interfere with the disposition of such equity interests, including, without limitation, claiming that such equity interest constitute communal property of marriage. The spousal consent letters will be valid until the liquidation of Lanting Huitong, unless terminated earlier at Lanting Jishi's sole discretion.

**Loan agreement:** Under the loan agreement entered into in December 2011 between Lanting Jishi and Mr. Quji (Alan) Guo, Lanting Jishi extended a loan in the amount of RMB255,000 (\$40,492) to Mr. Guo for his contribution of 51% of the registered capital of Lanting Gaochuang. Under this agreement, Mr. Guo agreed that without prior written consent from Lanting Jishi, Lanting Gaochuang may not enter into any transaction that could materially affect its assets, liabilities, interests or operations, and there will be no earnings distribution in any form by Lanting Gaochuang before such loan has been repaid. Mr. Guo also agreed that at the request of Lanting Jishi, all or part of the equity interests held in Lanting Gaochuang shall be promptly and unconditionally transferred to Lanting Jishi or a designated third party in accordance with PRC law. This loan can only be repaid by transferring all of Mr. Guo's equity interest in Lanting Gaochuang to Lanting Jishi or a third party designated by Lanting Jishi, and submitting all proceeds from such transaction to Lanting Jishi. The loan agreement has a term of ten years and will be extended automatically, unless indicated otherwise by Lanting Jishi in writing three months prior to the expiration date.

**Agreements that transfer economic benefits to Lanting Jishi Business operation agreements:** Under the Business Operation Agreements entered into among Lanting Jishi, our VIEs, and the shareholders of our VIEs, the registered shareholders

of our VIEs and our VIEs agreed that our VIEs may not enter into any transaction that could materially affect their assets, liabilities, interests or operations without prior written consent from Lanting Jishi or other party designated by Lanting Jishi, including entry into any loan or other debtor-creditor relationship with any third party or the making of any equity investment in any third party, the sale or purchase of any asset or right to or from any third party or creation of guarantees or any other security on any of its assets in favor of any third party, or creation of any other obligation on any of its assets. In addition, directors, supervisors, chairman, general managers, financial controllers or other senior managers of our VIEs must be Lanting Jishi's nominees. Furthermore, our VIEs and their registered shareholders have agreed to accept and stringently implement proposals set forth by Lanting Jishi regarding employment and business and financial management. Lanting Jishi is entitled to any dividends declared by our VIEs. The business operation agreements will be valid until the liquidation of our VIEs, unless terminated earlier at Lanting Jishi's sole discretion.

*Exclusive technical support and consulting service agreements:* Under the Exclusive Technical Support and Consulting Service Agreements entered into between Lanting Jishi and our VIEs, Lanting Jishi agreed to provide our VIEs with technology support and consulting services, including the maintenance of computer rooms and websites, the provision of technology platforms required for operations, provision and maintenance of office networks, the conception, configuration, design, updating and maintenance of web pages, the maintenance of customer service platforms, employee training, advertisements, publicity and promotions, and provision of logistics support for product sales and services. Our VIEs agreed to pay a service fee equal to substantially all of their net income, an amount equivalent to the amount of the respective VIEs' operating revenue for the then current quarter after the deduction of: (1) working capital necessary for the maintaining of the daily operations of the respective VIEs; and (2) the amount of cash required for the respective VIEs' capital expenditures. The exclusive technical support and consulting service agreements will be valid until the liquidation of our VIEs, unless terminated earlier at Lanting Jishi's sole discretion.

Table of Contents

**Share pledge agreements:** Under the Share Pledge Agreements entered into among Lanting Jishi, our VIEs, and the shareholders of our VIEs, the registered shareholders of our VIEs pledged all of their respective equity interest in favor of Lanting Jishi to secure our VIEs and their shareholders' obligations under the various contractual agreements, including the business operation agreements and the exclusive technical support and consulting service agreements described above. If our VIEs or any of their respective registered shareholders breach any of their respective contractual obligations under these agreements, Lanting Jishi, as pledgee, will be entitled to certain rights, including the right to sell the pledged equity interest. The registered shareholders of our VIEs agreed not to transfer, sell, pledge, dispose of or otherwise create any new encumbrance on their respective equity interest in our VIEs, without Lanting Jishi's prior written consent. Unless terminated at Lanting Jishi's sole discretion, the share pledge agreements will be valid until our VIEs and their shareholders fulfill all contractual obligations under the business operation agreements, the exclusive technical support and consulting service agreements and the equity disposal agreements. Our PRC counsel, TransAsia Lawyers, has advised us that the pledges on the equity interest of our VIEs were created and are effective as such pledges have already been registered with the relevant local branch of the SAIC in accordance with the PRC Property Rights Law.

**Arrangements between our Hong Kong subsidiary, Lanting Jishi and Lanting Huitong**

Our Hong Kong subsidiary, Light In The Box Limited, and its PRC subsidiary, Lanting Jishi, have entered into and performed several business information and logistics services agreements, pursuant to which our Hong Kong subsidiary paid service fees to our PRC subsidiary for certain information and logistics services. In addition, our Hong Kong subsidiary and our VIE, Lanting Huitong, entered into and performed a consulting service agreement and several software development service agreements, pursuant to which our Hong Kong subsidiary paid service fees to Lanting Huitong for the consulting and software development services.

**D. Property, Plant and Equipment**

We currently lease all properties for our operations. Our corporate headquarters are located in Beijing, China. We have established sourcing offices in Beijing, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, Shanghai, Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province and Yiwu, Zhejiang Province. In addition, we have an overseas office in Seattle, Washington in the United States. We maintain warehouses in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province and Shenzhen, Guangdong Province in China, and had established warehouses in Warsaw, Poland, Hong Kong and Reno, Nevada in the United States. We have also established one photo studio in Beijing. The following table sets forth a summary of our leased properties as of the date of this annual report:

Location	Size (in square meters)	Usage of Property
Beijing	3,837	Office space, data center, sourcing office and photo studio
Shenzhen, Guangdong Province	30,633	Warehouses, sourcing office and office space
Suzhou, Jiangsu Province	15,301	Warehouse and sourcing office
Shanghai	967	Sourcing office and office space
Guangzhou, Guangdong Province	494	Sourcing office
Yiwu, Zhejiang Province	114	Sourcing office
Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province	145	Sourcing office

Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

Chengdu, Sichuan Province	531	Office space, data center
Hong Kong	500	Warehouse
Warsaw, Poland	5,271	Warehouse
Amsterdam, Netherlands	32	Office space
Reno, Nevada, United States	2,415	Warehouse
Seattle, Washington, United States	604	Office space

Table of Contents

We believe that our existing facilities are adequate for our current business operations and we will be able to enter into lease arrangements on commercially reasonable terms for future expansion.

**ITEM 4A. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

**ITEM 5. OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS**

You should read the following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations in conjunction with our audited consolidated financial statements and the related notes included elsewhere in this annual report. This discussion contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results and the timing of selected events could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including those set forth under Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors and elsewhere in this annual report.

**A. Operating Results**

**Overview**

LightInTheBox is a global online retail company that delivers products directly to consumers around the world. We offer customers a convenient way to shop for a wide selection of products at attractive prices through [www.lightinthebox.com](http://www.lightinthebox.com), [www.miniinthebox.com](http://www.miniinthebox.com) and our other websites as well as mobile applications, which are available in 23 major languages and cover more than 80.0% of Internet users globally, according to Internet World Stats. Our innovative data-driven business model allows us to offer customized products at scale through optimal merchandising, marketing and fulfillment. We have built an effective business model whereby we source many of our products directly from China-based manufacturers and we work closely with them to re-engineer their manufacturing processes to achieve faster time-to-market with a greater variety of products. We acquire customers primarily through the Internet and serve our customers primarily from our cost-effective locations in mainland China and Hong Kong.

Since the launch of [www.lightinthebox.com](http://www.lightinthebox.com) in 2007, we have focused on offering products where consumers value increased choice or customization, such as apparel. In 2017, the sale of products from this core product category accounted for 33.7% of our net revenues from product sales. In addition, we also offered a wide range of other products. The products of our core categories generally require design specificity, thus giving us more pricing flexibility and allowing us to capture higher margin potentials. We will continue to focus on expanding our product selections and categories. In recent years, leveraging our growing operation scale, including our established relationships with major international couriers, we also began to provide logistics and other value-added services, such as marketing services, primarily to small businesses in China and our suppliers.



We have developed a large global customer base since we launched our first website. Our number of customers was approximately 4.9 million in 2017.

We primarily operate our business from mainland China and Hong Kong but have delivered our products to consumers in over 200 countries and territories. In 2017, we derived 52.3% and 24.9% of our product sales from Europe and North America, respectively. We established our first warehouse in 2008 in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province. In 2009 and 2013, we established two additional warehouses in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, and Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, respectively. In March 2014, July 2014 and January 2015, we established our overseas warehouses in Warsaw, Poland, Hong Kong and Reno, Nevada in the United States, respectively. We have also established seven sourcing offices in China located near our suppliers. In addition, we have established LITB, Inc. to serve as our representative office in the United States for marketing and software development and technology support. In September 2014, we have established LITB Netherlands B.V. to serve as our representative office in the Netherlands for marketing in Europe.

Table of Contents

Our total net revenues were \$323.8 million, \$292.5 million and \$319.9 million in 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively. We experienced a net loss of, \$39.4 million, \$8.7 million and \$9.5 million in 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively. We used cash in operating activities of \$37.9 million, \$15.3 million and \$14.8 million in 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively.

In 2018, we will continue to invest for long-term growth. We expect to continue to expand our product selection and supplier network; broaden the geographical reach of our websites and mobile applications by enhancing our marketing efforts and mobile penetration. Furthermore, we will continue to invest in upgrading our technology and network infrastructure to handle increased traffic and improve our consumer shopping experience. While we still leverage our financial resources to achieve our long-term growth, we anticipate that we may continue to incur losses from operations and net losses in the near future as we grow our business, and it may be difficult for us to make accurate predictions of our future results of operations. See Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Business and Industry We have incurred net losses since our inception and experienced negative cash flow from operating activities in the past. We may continue to incur net losses and experience negative cash flow from operating activities and, as a result, we may need to obtain additional capital in the future and Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Business and Industry Our limited operating history may make our growth and future prospects uncertain and difficult to evaluate.

**Factors Affecting Our Results of Operations**

Our business and results of operations are affected by general factors affecting online retail markets around the world. Such factors include:

- the growth of the global economy and of our targeted geographic markets;
- per capita disposable income and consumer spending;
- growth of global Internet penetration and online retail;
- government policies and initiatives in our targeted geographic markets that affect online retail and, in particular, the import of products into their respective countries or regions; and
- overall global consumer perception of consumer goods exported from China.

Unfavorable changes in any of these general industry conditions could materially and adversely affect demand for our products and our results of operations. In addition, our operating results are affected by the following company-specific factors:

- our ability to acquire new customers and increase repeat purchases by customers at reasonable cost;
- our ability to control product sourcing costs, fulfillment and other operating expenses;
- our product selection and pricing;
- our ability to introduce new product offerings and categories;
- our ability to expand into new geographic markets;
- our ability to enhance our brand; and
- our ability to compete effectively.

Table of Contents**Net Revenues**

Starting in 2016, we began to report our operating results in two operating segments:

- *Product sales.* Our product sales segment is comprised of sales of our products through our websites and mobile applications and other supplemental online revenues from our product sales and other consumer products are recorded less business tax, discounts and allowances; and
- *Services.* Our services segment is comprised of provision of logistics and other value-added services such as marketing services, primarily to small businesses in China and our suppliers.

This presentation reflects (i) how we manage our business to maximize efficiency in allocating resources and (ii) the expansion of our service business as the revenue contribution from such business began to account for a larger portion of our total net revenues in 2016. We present the segment information after elimination of inter-company transactions. In general, net revenues, and cost of revenues are directly attributable, and are allocated, to each segment.

In 2015, 2016 and 2017, we generated total net revenues of \$323.8 million, \$292.5 million and \$319.9 million respectively. The following table sets forth information of our total net revenues by segment and product category in absolute amounts and as percentages of total net revenues for the periods presented.

	2015		Year Ended December 31, 2016		2017	
	(U.S. dollars in thousands, except percentage)		(U.S. dollars in thousands, except percentage)		(U.S. dollars in thousands, except percentage)	
		% of Total Net Revenues		% of Total Net Revenues		% of Total Net Revenues
Product sales						
Apparel	\$ 118,673	36.7	\$ 89,291	30.5	\$ 99,160	31.0
Other general merchandise(1)	193,659	59.8	172,792	59.1	194,791	60.9
Total product sales	312,332	96.5	262,083	89.6	293,951	91.9
Services	11,431	3.5	30,404	10.4	25,930	8.1
Total net revenues	323,763	100.0	292,487	100.0	319,881	100.0

(1) Includes products such as small accessories and gadgets, home and garden, electronics and communication devices and others.

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

We deliver products to consumers in over 200 countries and territories. The following table breaks down our total net revenues by geographic regions as determined by shipping addresses or the addresses of our business customers that we provide services to in absolute amounts and as percentages of total net revenues for the periods presented.

	Year Ended December 31,					
	2015		2016		2017	
	(U.S. dollars in thousands, except percentage)					
	% of Total Net Revenues		% of Total Net Revenues		% of Total Net Revenues	
Europe	\$ 184,057	56.8	\$ 145,185	49.6	\$ 153,697	48.1
North America	88,790	27.4	77,814	26.6	73,339	22.9
Other countries	50,916	15.8	69,488	23.8	92,845	29.0
Total net revenues	323,763	100.0	292,487	100.0	319,881	100.0

Table of Contents**Product sales**

Since our inception, we have primarily focused on selling apparel and electronics and communications devices. We expect to continue to focus on the growth in sales of apparel and expect that sales of apparel will continue to contribute considerably to our total net revenues in the near future. However, we have also expanded offerings of other products, and in particular, have increased our focus on small accessories and gadgets, as well as home and garden items. We expect our revenues to become more diversified in the future as we grow our business and increase our number of products.

We face seasonality for the sale of our products. For example, during the first quarter of the past several years, we experienced greater demand for our wedding dresses and, during the fourth quarter of the past several years, we experienced a general increase in the demand for our products as a result of holiday shopping.

We have made our websites easily accessible by users on their mobile devices. We have also launched our mobile apps to enhance the mobile shopping experience of our users. As the number of customers making purchases through our mobile apps continues to increase, our mobile revenue increased to 44.6% of net revenues from product sales in 2017, compared with 38.4% and 33.5% in 2016 and 2015, respectively.

We expect our net revenues from product sales to grow in the future as we continue to introduce new products and deepen our penetration of various geographic markets around the world. We also expect to expand our customer base and increase product sales to each customer to drive our growth.

**Operating Metrics**

We regularly review a number of operating metrics, including the following, to evaluate our performance of product sales, identify trends affecting our business, formulate financial projections and make certain strategic decisions: (i) our number of customers, (ii) net revenues from product sales attributed to repeat customers, (iii) net revenues from product sales attributed to new customers and (iv) the change in net revenues from product sales attributed to repeat customers. The following table sets forth the above metrics for our product sales segment for the periods indicated.

	2015	Year Ended December 31,		2017
		2016		
		(in thousands, unless otherwise stated)		
Our number of customers		5,902	4,880	4,895
Net revenues from product sales attributed to repeat customers	\$	141,515	\$ 99,854	\$ 127,014
Net revenues from product sales attributed to new customers	\$	170,817	\$ 162,230	\$ 166,937
Change in net revenues from product sales attributed to repeat customers <sup>(1)</sup> (percentage)		(8.0)	(29.4)	27.2

(1) Change in net revenues from product sales attributed to repeat customers refers to, in percentage, the difference between (i) net revenues from product sales attributed to repeat customers for a given period and (ii) net revenues from product sales attributed to repeat customers for the prior period, divided by net revenues from product sales attributed to repeat customers from such prior period.

*Services*

We also record revenues from the provision of logistics and other value-added services to small businesses in China. Such logistics services include product collection, packaging and labeling, shipment and delivery of products from our warehouses to locations designated by such small business customers. Our other value-added services primarily relates to the provision of marketing services.

**Cost of Revenues and Operating Expenses**

The following table sets forth our cost of revenues and operating expenses, both in absolute amounts and as percentages of total net revenues for the periods indicated.

Table of Contents

	2015		Year Ended December 31, 2016		2017	
		% of Total Net Revenues		% of Total Net Revenues		% of Total Net Revenues
<b>Cost of revenues</b>						
Cost of product sales	\$ 196,753	60.8	\$ 160,566	54.9	\$ 189,816	59.3
Cost of services	10,601	3.2	28,371	9.7	24,445	7.6
Total cost of revenues	207,354	64.0	188,937	64.6	214,261	66.9
<b>Operating expenses:</b>						
Fulfillment	22,419	6.9	17,052	5.8	17,291	5.4
Selling and marketing	91,614	28.3	61,090	20.9	68,891	21.5
General and administrative	41,535	12.8	34,492	11.8	29,605	9.3
Total operating expenses	155,568	48.0	112,634	38.5	115,787	36.2

***Cost of revenues***

Our cost of revenues is comprised of cost of product sales and cost of services.

Our cost of product sales consists primarily of cost of consumer products sold by us and shipping charges, and to a much lesser degree, packaging supplies and inventory write-downs. We write down the cost of slow-moving and broken inventory to the net realizable value based on historical trends for such inventory, inventory aging and historical and forecasted consumer demand and such write-down is recorded as part of cost of product sales. Shipping charges to receive products from our suppliers are included as inventory and recognized as cost of product sales upon the sale of such products. Our cost of product sales as percentage of our total net revenues during a specific period is affected by the composition of the type of products sold during that period.

Our cost of services consists primarily of shipping charges and to a lesser extent, packaging supplies in connection with the provision of such services to small businesses customers. Shipping charges primarily include shipping fees we pay to third-party international couriers and are recognized as cost of services when delivery services are completed.

***Operating Expenses***

***Fulfillment Expenses.*** Fulfillment expenses include costs incurred in operating and staffing our warehouses and customer service centers, including (i) costs attributable to buying, receiving, inspecting and warehousing inventories, (ii) picking, packaging, and preparing customer orders for shipment and (iii) payment processing and related transaction costs. Our fulfillment expenses are primarily affected by the cost of personnel at our warehouses and our ability to strengthen our logistic management capabilities and increase our economies of scale as our volume of products shipped increases. As we expanded our warehouse network to accommodate increase in purchase orders and provide better coverage of our target markets, our fulfillment expenses increased in absolute amount when compared with last year. We expect that as our business continues to grow and as we achieve economies of scale, our fulfillment cost as a percentage of our total net revenues will decrease in the future.



**Selling and Marketing Expenses.** Selling and marketing expenses include marketing program expenses and marketing personnel expenses. Marketing program expenses are comprised of targeted online marketing expenses, such as search engine marketing, display advertising and affiliate marketing program expenses. Marketing personnel expenses are comprised of payroll and related expenses for personnel engaged in selling, marketing and business development, including the execution of search engine optimization and social viral marketing activities. The fluctuation of selling and marketing expenses as a percentage of our total net revenues relates to our business expansion into and the testing of new geographic markets, product categories, marketing channels and promotional activities. In the near term, we expect to focus our selling and marketing efforts on growing our customer base, but we expect our selling and marketing expenses as a percentage of our total net revenues to decrease in the long term as we achieve economies of scale and utilize our selling and marketing channels more efficiently.

Table of Contents

General and Administrative Expenses. General and administrative expenses include payroll-related expenses and travel-related expenses for personnel engaged in accounting, finance, tax, legal, human resources and other general corporate functions, as well as costs related to the use of facilities and equipment by these personnel, such as depreciation expenses and rent, professional fees and other general corporate costs. General and administrative expenses also include technology development and related expenses, including payroll-related expenses. In addition, general and administrative expenses include credit losses relating to fraudulent credit card activities which resulted in chargebacks from payment processing agencies. We expect our general and administrative expenses as a percentage of our total net revenues to decrease in the future as we achieve economies of scale.

***Share-based Compensation Expenses***

The table below shows the effect of the share-based compensation expenses on our operating expense line items for the periods indicated.

	Year Ended December 31,					
	2015		2016		2017	
	(U.S. dollars in thousands, except percentage)		(U.S. dollars in thousands, except percentage)		(U.S. dollars in thousands, except percentage)	
	\$	% of Total Net Revenues	\$	% of Total Net Revenues	\$	% of Total Net Revenues
Fulfillment	185	0.0	211	0.0	214	0.1
Selling and marketing	580	0.2	458	0.2	456	0.1
General and administrative	2,431	0.8	1,648	0.6	1,195	0.4
Total share-based compensation expenses	3,196	1.0	2,317	0.8	1,865	0.6

We expect to continue to grant share options, restricted shares and other share-based awards under our share incentive plan and incur further share-based compensation expenses in future periods. For information regarding share options and restricted shares granted to our officers and directors, see Share Incentive Plan.

***Cayman Islands***

We are incorporated in the Cayman Islands. Under the current law of the Cayman Islands, we are not subject to income, corporate or capital gains tax in the Cayman Islands. In addition, our payment of dividends to shareholders, if any, is not subject to withholding tax in the Cayman Islands.

***Hong Kong***

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

Our wholly owned subsidiaries in Hong Kong are subject to the uniform profit tax rate of 16.5% in Hong Kong. Under the Hong Kong tax laws, each of Light In The Box Limited and Lanting International is exempted from the Hong Kong income tax on its foreign-derived income and there are no withholding taxes in Hong Kong on remittance of dividends.

### *PRC*

Our subsidiary and VIE in China are companies incorporated under PRC law and, as such, are subject to PRC enterprise income tax on their taxable income in accordance with the relevant PRC income tax laws.

Under the New EIT Law and its implementation rules, both of which became effective on January 1, 2008, a uniform 25% enterprise income tax rate is generally applicable to both foreign- invested enterprises and domestic enterprises, unless they qualify for certain exceptions.

Lanting Huitong, which was qualified as a software enterprise in 2010 and in 2014, is entitled to enjoy a two-year income tax exemption starting from its first year of profitability, such as in 2010, followed by a reduced tax rate of 12.5% for the subsequent three years. Starting from 2015, Lanting Huitong is subject to a uniform 25% enterprise income tax rate. In December 29, 2016, Lanting Huitong was qualified as a technology-advanced service enterprise, and is entitled to enjoy a 10% income tax exemption and subject to 15% enterprise income tax rate starting from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. Lanting Gaochuang, which has been qualified as a software enterprise since 2012, is entitled to enjoy a two-year income tax exemption starting from 2013, its first year of profitability, followed by a reduced tax rate of 12.5% for the subsequent three years.

Table of Contents

Under the New EIT Law and its implementation rules, dividends from our PRC subsidiary paid out of profits generated after January 1, 2008, are subject to a withholding tax of 20%, although under the detailed implementation rules to the New EIT Law promulgated by the PRC State Council, the withholding tax rate is 10%, unless there is a tax treaty with China that provides for a different withholding arrangement. Distributions of profits generated before January 1, 2008 are exempt from PRC withholding tax. Pursuant to the Double Taxation Avoidance Arrangement, dividends that Light in The Box Limited receives from Lanting Jishi may be subject to withholding tax at a rate of 5%, provided that the conditions and requirements under the Double Taxation Avoidance Arrangement have been satisfied, and subject to the assessment and approval of our relevant local tax authority.

Under the New EIT Law, an enterprise established outside of the PRC with de facto management bodies within the PRC is considered a resident enterprise and will be subject to the enterprise income tax at the rate of 25% on its global income. The implementation rules define the term de facto management bodies as establishments that carry out substantial and overall management and control over the manufacturing and business operations, personnel, accounting, properties, etc. of an enterprise. The SAT issued the Notice Regarding the Determination of Chinese Controlled Offshore Incorporated Enterprises as PRC Tax Resident Enterprises on the Basis of De Facto Management Bodies, or Circular 82, on April 22, 2009. Circular 82 provides certain specific criteria for determining whether the de facto management body of a Chinese-controlled offshore- incorporated enterprise is located in China. Further to Circular 82, on July 27, 2011, the SAT issued Bulletin No. 45 to provide more guidance on the implementation of Circular 82, which took effect on September 1, 2011. Bulletin No. 45 provides clarification on the resident status determination, post-determination administration, and competent tax authorities. It also specifies that when provided with a copy of a Chinese tax resident determination certificate from a resident Chinese-controlled offshore-incorporated enterprise, the payer should not withhold 10% income tax when paying certain Chinese-sourced income such as dividends, interest and royalties to the Chinese-controlled offshore-incorporated enterprise. Although both the circular and the bulletin only apply to offshore enterprises controlled by PRC enterprises and not those by PRC individuals, the determination criteria set forth in the circular and administration clarification made in the bulletin may reflect the SAT's general position on how the de facto management body test should be applied in determining the tax residency status of offshore enterprises and the administration measures should be implemented, regardless of whether they are controlled by PRC enterprises or PRC individuals. Although we do not believe that our legal entities organized outside of the PRC constitute PRC resident enterprises, it is possible that the PRC tax authorities could reach a different conclusion. See Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Doing Business in China We may be deemed a PRC resident enterprise under the New EIT Law and be subject to PRC taxation on our income.

**Netherlands**

Our subsidiary LITB Netherlands B.V is located in the Netherlands and is subject to Netherlands profits tax at 25% with respect to the profit generated from the Netherlands.

**Critical Accounting Policies**

We prepare our financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP, which requires us to make judgments, estimates and assumptions. We continually evaluate these estimates and assumptions based on the most recently available information, our own historical experience and various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Since the use of estimates is an integral component of the financial reporting process, actual results could differ from our expectations as a result of changes in our estimates.

An accounting policy is considered critical if it requires an accounting estimate to be made based on assumptions about matters that are highly uncertain at the time such estimate is made and if different accounting estimates that reasonably could have been used, or changes in the

accounting estimates that are reasonably likely to occur, could materially impact the consolidated financial statements. We believe that the following accounting policies involve a higher degree of judgment and complexity in their application and require us to make significant accounting estimates. The following descriptions of critical accounting policies, judgments and estimates should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and other disclosures included in this annual report.

Table of Contents

***Revenue Recognition***

*Product sales*

We make product sales through our websites, mobile applications and supplemental online outlets and we recognize revenues from product sales when the following four revenue recognition criteria are met: persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, products are delivered and received by the customer, the price to the customer is fixed or determinable and collectability is reasonably assured.

Most of our customers are required to make online payments using their credit cards, debit cards or through third party payment platforms, such as PayPal, WorldPay and Global Collect, when they place purchase orders on our websites and mobile applications. We record the payments as advances from customers on the balance sheet when received. We then utilize delivery service providers, primarily express courier companies, to deliver our products to our customers. Shipping and handling charges to the customers are included in revenues, and our corresponding shipping costs are included in cost of revenues. We recognize the amounts advanced from customers as revenues at the time the end customers receive the products, which is typically within a few days of shipment.

Customers in China can also choose to pay upon the receipt of our products, which is called the cash on delivery, or COD, model. In the COD model, our delivery service providers collect the payments from our customers for us. We record an accounts receivable on the balance sheet when our customers receive their products from our delivery service providers.

We allow customers to return certain goods within a period of time subsequent to the delivery of the goods. The return period varies depending on the product category and reasons for the return, which would range from seven days to 14 days. We estimate return allowances based on product categories and historical experience. The estimation of return allowances is adjusted to the extent that actual returns differ, or are expected to differ. Changes in estimated return allowances are recognized through a cumulative catch up adjustment in the period of change and will impact the amount of total net revenues in that period. We estimated that approximately 5.5%, 4.7% and 3.0% of our total net revenues in December 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively, would be returned and made provisions accordingly.

We periodically provide incentive offers to our customers to encourage purchases. Current discount offers, when accepted by our customers, are treated as a reduction to the purchase price of the related transaction and are included as a net amount in revenue. We also provide discount rewards, which may only be used in the future, to customers who have made a current purchase. As the right of receiving future discount does not represent a significant and incremental discount to the customer, the discount is treated as a reduction of revenue when the future transaction takes place.

Table of Contents

Certain of our employees register with supplemental online outlets under their own name, as these websites require registration using the identity cards of individuals to sell our products on our behalf. We have contractual arrangements with these employees that require them to transfer payments received for the sale of the products to us. We evaluate the product sales transactions performed by certain employees on our behalf to determine whether to recognize the revenues on a gross or net basis. The determination is based upon an assessment as to whether we act as a principal or agent when selling the products. All revenues involving employees performing product sales transactions on the supplemental online outlets on our behalf are currently accounted for on a gross basis since we are the primary obligor and have general and physical inventory risk, latitude in establishing prices, discretion in supplier selection and the credit risks.

We entered into arrangements with certain suppliers, under which the suppliers store their products at our premises. We record these products as inventory when all liabilities and rights of ownership of the products are passed on to us upon the confirmation of orders by our customers. All of the revenues involving these arrangements are accounted for on a gross basis since we are the primary obligor, have physical inventory risk, retain latitude in establishing prices, exercise discretion in supplier selection and are exposed to credit risks.

*Services*

We derive services revenue mainly from provision of logistic services to small businesses in China. Service revenue is recognized when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, service has been performed, the fee is fixed or determinable and collectability is reasonably assured. Revenue for logistic services are recognized when the packages are delivered to the recipients.

*Inventories*

Inventories, consisting of products available for sale, are accounted for using the first-in first-out method and are valued at the lower of cost or net realizable value. We maintain low levels of inventories by adopting a frequent procurement strategy with short refill cycles from suppliers. Therefore, our obsolete inventory has been insignificant. In estimating the level of inventory write-down, we consider the nature of each category of our inventory, inventory aging, and historical and forecasted consumer demand. This valuation also requires us to make judgments, based on currently-available information, about the likely method of disposition, such as through product sales to individual customers, returns to product vendors, or liquidations, and expected recoverable values of each disposition category. These assumptions about future disposition of inventory are inherently uncertain. Write-downs are recorded in cost of revenues in the consolidated statements of operation.

*Share-based Compensation*

Our share-based payment transactions with employees are measured based on the grant date fair value of the equity instrument and recognized as compensation expense over the requisite service period based on the straight-line method, with a corresponding impact reflected in additional paid-in capital.

In determining the fair value of share options, we have used the binomial option pricing model, with assistance from Value Link Management Consultants Limited. Under this option pricing model, certain assumptions required in order to determine the fair value of our options, including the risk-free interest rate, the exercise multiple, the expected dividends on the underlying ordinary shares, the fair value of the underlying ordinary shares, and the expected volatility of the price of the underlying ordinary shares for the period before the valuation dates with lengths equal to the contractual term of the options. Risk-free interest rate is estimated based on the yield to maturity of China international government bonds with a maturity period close to the contractual term of the options. Exercise multiple represents the value of the underlying share as a multiple of exercise price of the option which, if achieved, results in exercise of the option. Dividend yield is estimated by us based on its expected dividend policy over the contractual term of the options. Volatility of the underlying ordinary shares during the life of the options is estimated based on the historical stock price volatility of comparable listed companies over a period comparable to the contractual term of the options. Prior to the completion of our IPO, the estimated fair value of the ordinary shares underlying the options as of the respective grant dates was determined based on retrospective valuations. When estimating the fair value of the ordinary shares on the grant dates, we considered a number of factors, including the result of the third-party appraisals prepared by independent valuation firms, and our equity transactions. After our IPO, the fair value of the underlying ordinary shares is estimated based on the closing market price of ADS as of the grant date. Changes in these assumptions could significantly affect the fair value of share options and hence the amount of compensation expense we recognize in our consolidated financial statements.



Table of Contents

The fair value of nonvested shares as of the grant date is estimated based on the fair value of our ordinary shares.

Changes in the terms or conditions of share options are accounted as a modification under which we calculate whether there is any excess of the fair value of the modified option over the fair value of the original option immediately before its terms are modified, measured based on the share price and other pertinent factors at the modification date. For vested options, we recognize incremental compensation cost in the period of the modification occurred and for unvested options, we recognize, over the remaining requisite service period, the sum of the incremental compensation cost and the remaining unrecognized compensation cost for the original award on the modification date.

***Income Taxes***

In preparing our consolidated financial statements, we must estimate our income taxes in each of the jurisdictions in which we operate. We estimate our actual tax exposure and assess temporary differences resulting from different treatment of items for tax and accounting purposes. These differences result in deferred tax assets and liabilities, which we include in our consolidated balance sheet. We must then assess the likelihood that we will recover our deferred tax assets from future taxable income. If we believe that recovery is not likely, we must establish a valuation allowance. To the extent we establish a valuation allowance or increase this allowance, we must include an expense within the tax provision in our consolidated statement of operations.

Management must exercise significant judgment to determine our provision for income taxes, our deferred tax assets and liabilities and any valuation allowance recorded against our net deferred tax assets. We base the valuation allowance on our estimates of taxable income in each jurisdiction in which we operate and the period over which our deferred tax assets will be recoverable. If actual results differ from these estimates or we adjust these estimates in future periods, we may need to establish an additional valuation allowance, which could materially impact our financial position and results of operations.

U.S. GAAP requires that an entity recognize the impact of an uncertain income tax position on the income tax return at the largest amount that is more likely than not to be sustained upon audit by the relevant tax authority. If we ultimately determine that payment of these liabilities will be unnecessary, we will reverse the liability and recognize a tax benefit during that period. Conversely, we record additional tax charges in a period in which we determine that a recorded tax liability is less than the expected ultimate assessment. We did not recognize any significant unrecognized tax benefits during the periods presented in this annual report.

Uncertainties exist with respect to the application of the New EIT Law and its implementation rules to our operations, specifically with respect to our tax residency status. The New EIT Law specifies that legal entities organized outside of the PRC will be considered residents for PRC income tax purposes if their de facto management bodies are located within the PRC. The New EIT Law's implementation rules define the term de facto management bodies as establishments that carry out substantial and overall management and control over the manufacturing and business operations, personnel, accounting, properties, etc. of an enterprise. On April 22, 2009, the Notice Regarding the Determination of Chinese-Controlled Offshore Incorporated Enterprises as PRC Tax Resident Enterprises on the Basis of De Facto Management Bodies, or Circular 82, was issued. Circular 82 provides certain specific criteria for determining whether the de facto management body of a Chinese-controlled offshore-incorporated enterprise is located in China. Further, the Administrative Measures of Enterprise Income Tax of Chinese controlled Offshore Incorporated Resident Enterprises (Trial), or Bulletin No. 45, took effect on September 1, 2011, and provides more guidance on the implementation of Circular 82. See Item 4. Information on the Company B. Business Overview Regulation Regulations on Tax PRC Enterprise Income Tax.



Table of Contents

According to Circular 82, a Chinese-controlled offshore-incorporated enterprise will be regarded as a PRC tax resident by virtue of having a de facto management body in China and will be subject to PRC enterprise income tax on its worldwide income only if all of the following conditions set forth in Circular 82 are met: (i) the primary location of the day-to-day operational management is in the PRC; (ii) decisions relating to the enterprise's financial and human resource matters are made or are subject to approval by organizations or personnel in the PRC; (iii) the enterprise's primary assets, accounting books and records, company seals and board and shareholder resolutions are located or maintained in the PRC; and (iv) at least 50% of voting board members or senior executives habitually reside in the PRC. In addition, Bulletin No. 45 provides clarification in resident status determination, post-determination administration and competent tax authorities. It also specifies that when provided with a copy of a Chinese tax resident determination certificate from a resident Chinese-controlled offshore-incorporated enterprise, the payer should not withhold 10% income tax when paying certain Chinese-sourced income such as dividends, interest and royalties to the Chinese-controlled offshore-incorporated enterprise.

Although both the circular and the bulletin only apply to offshore enterprises controlled by PRC enterprises and not those by PRC individuals, the determination criteria set forth in the circular and administration clarification made in the bulletin may reflect the SAT's general position on how the de facto management body test should be applied in determining the tax residency status of offshore enterprises and the administration measures should be implemented, regardless of whether they are controlled by PRC enterprises or PRC individuals.

Despite the uncertainties resulting from limited PRC tax guidance on the issue, we do not believe that our legal entities organized outside of the PRC are tax residents under the New EIT Law. If one or more of our legal entities organized outside of the PRC were characterized as PRC tax residents, our results of operations could be materially and adversely affected. See Item 4. Information on the Company B. Business Overview Regulation Regulations on Tax PRC Enterprise Income Tax.

***Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012***

Section 107(b) of the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012 provides that an emerging growth company can take advantage of the extended transition period provided in Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act for complying with new or revised accounting standards. In other words, an emerging growth company can delay the adoption of certain accounting standards until those standards would otherwise apply to private companies. We have elected to take advantage of the extended transition period. Although as of the date of this annual report, we have not delayed the adoption of any accounting standard, as a result of this election, our future financial statements may not be comparable to other public companies that comply with the public company effective dates for new or revised accounting standards.

**Results of Operations**

The following table sets forth a summary of our consolidated results of operations for the periods indicated. This information should be read together with our consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this annual report. The results of operations in any period are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for any future period.

2015	Year Ended December 31, 2016	2017
% of Net Revenues	(U.S. dollars in thousands, except percentage) % of Net Revenues	% of Net Revenues

Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

Net revenues								
Product sales	\$	312,332	96.5	\$	262,083	89.6	293,951	91.9
Services		11,431	3.5		30,404	10.4	25,930	8.1
Total net revenues		323,763	100.0		292,487	100.0	319,881	100.0
Cost of Revenues								
Product sales		196,753	60.8		160,566	54.9	189,816	59.3
Services		10,601	3.2		28,371	9.7	24,445	7.6
Total cost of Revenues		207,354	64.0		188,937	64.6	214,261	66.9
Gross profit		116,409	36.0		103,550	35.4	105,620	33.1
Operating expenses:								
Fulfillment		22,419	6.9		17,052	5.8	17,291	5.4
Selling and marketing		91,614	28.3		61,090	20.9	68,891	21.5
General and administrative		41,535	12.8		34,492	11.8	29,605	9.3
Total operating expenses		155,568	48.0		112,634	38.5	115,787	36.2
Loss from operations		(39,159)	(12.1)		(9,084)	(3.1)	(10,167)	(3.1)
Exchange loss on offshore bank accounts		(938)	(0.3)		(120)	0.0	(89)	0.0
Interest income		773	0.2		518	0.1	581	0.2
Loss before income taxes		(39,324)	(12.2)		(8,686)	(3.0)	(9,675)	(2.9)
(Loss) gain from equity method investment		(34)	(0.0)		17	0.0	208	0.0
Income taxes expenses		(49)	0.0		(54)	0.0	(81)	0.0
Net loss		(39,407)	(12.2)		(8,723)	(3.0)	(9,548)	(2.9)

Table of Contents

*Comparison of the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017*

*Net Revenues*

Our total net revenues in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$323.8 million, \$292.5 million and \$319.9 million, respectively, reflecting a decrease of 9.7% from 2015 to 2016 and an increase of 9.4% from 2016 to 2017.

*Product sales*

The increase in our net revenues from product sales from \$262.1 million in 2016 to \$294.0 million in 2017 was due to increases in (i) our sales orders, while our number of total customers remained stable and (ii) our unit price per sales order remained stable. Our total number of sales orders in 2016 and 2017 were approximately 6.6 million and 6.7 million, respectively, reflecting an increase of 1.5% from 2016 to 2017. Our number of customers in 2016 and 2017 were approximately 4.9 million in each period increasing slightly by approximately 15,000 between the periods. Revenues from product sales attributable to our repeat customers as a percentage of our net revenues from product sales, increased from 38.1% in 2016 to 43.2% 2017. Our unit price per sales order during the same periods increased from approximately \$39.6 in 2016 to \$43.9 in 2017, reflecting an increase of 10.9% from 2016 to 2017 due to changes in our product mix.

The decrease in our net revenues from product sales from \$312.3 million in 2015 to \$262.1 million in 2016 was primarily due to a decrease in our sales orders resulting from a decrease in our repeat customers from product sales, partially offset by an increase in our unit price per sales order. Our total number of sales orders in 2015 and 2016 was approximately 8.9 million and 6.6 million, respectively, reflecting a decrease of 25.8% from 2015 to 2016. Our number of customers in 2015 and 2016 was approximately 5.9 million and 4.9 million, respectively, reflecting a decrease of 16.9% from 2015 to revenues from product sales attributable to our repeat customers as a percentage of our net revenues from product sales decreased from 45.3% in 2015 to 38.1% 2016. Our unit price per sales order during the same periods, however, increased from approximately \$36.4 in 2015 to \$39.6 in 2016, reflecting an increase of 8.8% from 2015 to 2016 due to changes in our product mix, enhanced customer satisfaction of our products and improved quality of our supply chain.

We have optimized our product listings to offer a more focused variety and choices to our customers, which has allowed us to capture additional customer demand. We have reduced the number of product listings in our existing product categories with increased new product listings each month in 2015, 2016 and 2017. As of December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017, we had more than 687,800, 322,000 and 580,000 product listings, respectively.

We have also increased our customer base by increasing our penetration of various geographic markets. We have initially focused on the North American market prior to 2010 but have since expanded our marketing efforts to increase the sale of our products to customers in Europe and other parts of the world. In each of 2015, 2016 and 2017, Europe represented the largest region in which our products were sold.

*Services*

The increase in our net revenues from services from \$11.4 million in 2015 to \$25.9 million in 2017 was due to the expansion of our logistics services business.

Table of Contents

*Cost of Revenues*

Our cost of revenues in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$207.4 million, \$188.9 million and \$214.3 million, respectively, representing a decrease of 8.9% from 2015 to 2016 and an increase of 13.4% from 2016 to 2017, primarily attributable to the fluctuation in products sales, shipping charges and net revenue from services.

*Cost of product sales*

The increase in our cost of product sales from \$160.6 million in 2016 to \$189.8 million in 2017 was primarily due to the increases in sales of our products. Our product costs and other associated charges in 2016 and 2017 were \$100.6 million and \$129.7 million, respectively, representing an increase of 28.9% from 2016 to 2017. Our shipping charges related to the sale of our products in 2016 and 2017 were \$60.0 million and \$60.1 million, respectively, representing a slight increase of 0.2% from 2016 to 2017.

The decrease in our cost of product sales from \$196.8 million in 2015 to \$160.6 million in 2016 was primarily due to the decreases in both sales of our products and shipping charges. Our product costs and other associated charges in 2015 and 2016 were \$126.5 million and \$100.6 million, respectively, representing a decrease of 20.5% from 2015 to 2016. Our shipping charges related to the sale of our products in 2015 and 2016 were \$70.3 million and \$60.0 million, respectively, representing a decrease of 14.7% from 2015 to 2016.

*Cost of services*

The increase in our cost of services from \$10.6 million in 2015 to \$24.4 million in 2017 was due to the increase in costs associated with the increase in our net revenues from services.

*Gross Profit*

As a result of the foregoing, our gross profits in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$116.4 million, \$103.6 million and \$105.6 million, respectively, reflecting a decrease of 11.0% from 2015 to 2016 and an increase of 1.9% from 2016 to 2017. Our gross margins in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were 36.0%, 35.4% and 33.0% respectively.

*Product sales*

The gross profits of our product sales segment in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$115.6 million, \$101.5 million and \$104.1 million, respectively, reflecting a decrease of 12.2% from 2015 to 2016 and an increase of 2.6% from 2016 to 2017. The gross margins of our product sales segment in 2015, 2016 and 2017 remained relatively stable at 37.0%, 38.7% and 35.4%, respectively.

*Services*

The gross profits of our services segment in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$0.8 million, \$2.0 million and \$1.5 million, respectively, reflecting an increase of 150.0% from 2015 to 2016 and a decrease of 25.0% from 2016 to 2017. The gross margins of our services segment in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were 7.3%, 6.7% and 5.8%, respectively.

*Fulfillment Expenses*

Our fulfillment expenses in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$22.4 million, \$17.1 million and \$17.3 million, respectively. Fulfillment expenses as a percentage of our total net revenues in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were 6.9%, 5.8% and 5.4%, respectively.

The decrease in our fulfillment expenses as a percentage of our total net revenues from 2016 to 2017 was due to the decrease in compensation of fulfillment personnel and payment processing costs.



Table of Contents

The decrease in our fulfillment expenses as a percentage of our total net revenues from 2015 to 2016 was due to economies of scale and improved operational efficiency in both our back office and fulfillment centers with the launch of enhanced in-house developed IT systems.

*Selling and Marketing Expenses*

Our selling and marketing expenses in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$91.6 million, \$61.1 million, and \$68.9 million, respectively.

Selling and marketing expenses as a percentage of our total net revenues in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were 28.3%, 20.9%, and 21.5%, respectively. The increase in our selling and marketing expenses as a percentage of our total net revenues from 2016 to 2017 was primarily due to our strengthened marketing efforts to promote our online marketing platforms and to diversify traffic acquisition channels. The decrease in our selling and marketing expenses as a percentage of our total net revenues from 2015 to 2016 was primarily due to economics of scales and our improvements in customer acquisition strategies and techniques which led to higher marketing efficiency.

*General and Administrative Expenses*

Our general and administrative expenses in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$41.5 million, \$34.5 million and \$29.6 million, respectively, reflecting a decrease of 16.9% from 2015 to 2016 and a decrease of 14.2% from 2016 to 2017.

General and administrative expenses as a percentage of our total net revenues in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were 12.8%, 11.8% and 9.3%, respectively. The decrease in general and administrative expenses as a percentage of total net revenues from 2015 to 2017 was primarily due to our efforts to streamline organizational structure, to improve bandwidth efficiency, to optimize staff allocation and to lower foreign exchange charges. Share-based compensation expenses included in general and administrative expenses in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$2.4 million, \$1.6 million and \$1.2 million, respectively.

*Loss from Operations*

As a result of the foregoing, our losses from operations in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$39.2 million, \$9.1 million and \$10.2 million, respectively.

*Exchange Loss on Offshore Bank Accounts*

We recorded exchange loss on offshore bank accounts of \$0.9 million, \$0.1 million and \$0.1 million in 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively. Such exchange loss was due to the appreciation from 2015 and 2016 of our reporting currency, U.S. dollar, against other major world currencies that our customers used in purchasing our products, which moderated during 2017 as the U.S. dollar showed some weakness.

*Interest Income*

Our interest income was \$0.8 million, \$0.5 million and \$0.6 million in 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively. Interest income increased from 2016 to 2017, primarily due to higher interest rates as compared to previous years. Interest income decreased from 2015 to 2016, primarily due to a lower level of deposits as compared to previous years.

*Income Taxes Expenses*

Our income taxes expenses in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$49 thousand, \$54 thousand and \$81 thousand respectively, primarily attributable to profits generated by one of our PRC subsidiaries over the past three years.

Table of Contents*Net Loss*

As a result of the foregoing, our net losses in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$39.4 million, \$8.7 million and \$9.5 million, respectively.

**B. Liquidity and Capital Resources***Cash Flow and Working Capital*

To date, we have financed our operations primarily through the proceeds from the issuance of our preferred shares and convertible notes and the net proceeds of our initial public offering and subsequent private placements. We have incurred net losses and negative cash flows from operating activities for the years from 2014 to 2017. As of December 31, 2017, we had approximately \$70.0 million in cash and cash equivalents, and restricted cash. In March 2012, we issued convertible notes with an aggregate principal amount of \$8.0 million, which were automatically converted into 2,224,610 ordinary shares upon the completion of our initial public offering. In June 2013, we completed our initial public offering, in which we offered and sold 19,090,000 ordinary shares in the form of ADSs, raising \$75.0 million in proceeds before expenses to us. In March 2016, we completed the issuance of 42,500,000 ordinary shares to Zall E-Commerce in a private placement transaction, which amounted to \$76.5 million in proceeds before expenses to us.

We believe the cash we received from our initial public offering and private placement in March 2016 will provide us with sufficient capital to meet the expenses and other expenditures required for our business operations for the 12 months from December 31, 2017. In the event that our operating expenses or other expenditures exceed our working capital, we may seek to issue debt or equity securities or obtain credit facilities. Any issuance of equity securities could cause dilution for our shareholders. Any incurrence of indebtedness could increase our debt service obligations and subject us to restrictive operating and financial covenants. Additionally, financing may not be available to us in amounts or on terms acceptable to us, or at all.

The following table sets forth a summary of our cash flows for the periods indicated:

	2015	Year Ended December 31, 2016 (U.S. dollars in thousands)	2017
Net cash used in operating activities	\$ (37,901)	\$ (15,334)	\$ (14,831)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	3,138	(287)	(3,521)
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(9,224)	74,635	(3,064)
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(43,987)	59,014	(21,416)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(470)	(398)	340
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	75,358	30,901	89,517
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	30,901	89,517	68,441

*Operating Activities*

We experienced negative cash flow from operating activities from 2015 to 2017, primarily attributable to operating losses incurred during the same periods which was a result of changes in our product mix and increases in our operating expenses, and to a lesser extent, increases to our inventory as we expanded our product offerings to provide customers more choices and a better selection.

Net cash used in operating activities was \$14.8 million in 2017, primarily attributable to our net loss of \$9.5 million, adjusted by the reconciliation of non-cash items of \$5.0 million, which mainly included share-based compensation of \$1.9 million, depreciation and amortization of \$0.8 million and inventory provision of \$2.1 million. Cash used in operating activities was also attributed to an increase of \$10.3 million in prepaid expenses and other current assets, accounts receivable and inventories in connection with cash prepayments for procurement which were the result of increased business activities that led to increased overhead and orders placed with our suppliers.

Table of Contents

Net cash used in operating activities was \$15.3 million in 2016, primarily attributable to our net loss of \$8.7 million, adjusted by the reconciliation of non-cash items of \$7.1 million, which mainly included share-based compensation of \$2.3 million, depreciation and amortization of \$1.4 million, inventory provision of \$3.3 million and exchange loss on offshore bank accounts of \$0.1 million net cash used in operating activities was also attributable to a decrease of \$6.8 million in accounts payable and a decrease of \$9.0 million in prepaid expenses and other current assets, accounts receivable and inventories which were in connection with cash prepayment for procurement, offset by an increase of \$2.1 million in accrued expenses and other current liabilities and advances from customers which were a result of legal, arbitral or administrative proceedings arising in the ordinary course of our business that we may from time to time participate into, and increases in audit fees and other expenses.

Net cash used in operating activities was \$37.9 million in 2015, primarily attributable to our net loss of \$39.4 million, adjusted by the reconciliation of non-cash items of \$8.2 million, which mainly included share-based compensation of \$3.2 million, depreciation and amortization of \$2.1 million, inventory provision of \$1.9 million and exchange loss on offshore bank accounts of \$0.9 million net cash used in operating activities was offset by an increase of \$4.1 million in accounts payable and an increase of \$0.1 million in prepaid expenses and other current assets, which were a result of operating loss in 2015.

***Investing Activities***

Net cash used in investing activities was \$3.5 million in 2017, primarily due to our investment in Maikailai.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$0.3 million in 2016, primarily due to our purchase of property and equipment for our office and information technology infrastructure.

Net cash provided by investing activities was \$3.1 million in 2015, primarily due to maturity of term deposits of \$43.1 million, which was offset by the purchase of term deposit of \$37.7 million and long term investment of \$2.1 million in Shantou Demon Network Technology Co. Ltd.

***Financing Activities***

Net cash used in financing activities was \$3.1 million in 2017 which was primarily due to the repurchase of our ADSs of \$3.1 million, offset by the proceeds from exercise of share options of \$37 thousand.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$74.6 million in 2016 which was primarily due to net proceeds from private placement by Zall E-Commerce of \$75.4 million, offset by the repurchase of our ADSs of \$0.8 million.

Net cash used in financing activities was \$9.2 million in 2015 which was primarily due to the repurchase of our ADSs of \$9.3 million, offset by the proceeds from exercise of shares options of \$0.1 million.

### **Capital Expenditures**

Our capital expenditures amounted to \$0.8 million, \$0.3 million and \$0.6 million in 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively. Our capital expenditures have historically been comprised of leasehold improvements, purchase of equipment for our warehouses and our information technology infrastructure. Our capital expenditures in 2018 are expected to be approximately \$0.3 million, which will be primarily used to expand our office and warehouse spaces. Our capital expenditures may increase in the future as we continue to invest in our fulfillment and technology infrastructure.

### **Holding Company Structure**

We are a holding company with no material operations of our own. We conduct our operations primarily through Light In The Box Limited, our Hong Kong subsidiary, and Lanting Jishi, our wholly owned subsidiary in China. Under Hong Kong law, there are no withholding taxes on remittance of dividends. Under PRC law, each of Lanting Jishi, Lanting Huitong, Lanting Gaochuang and Shanghai Ouku is required to set aside at least 10% of its after-tax profits each year, if any, to fund certain statutory reserves until the accumulated amount of such reserves reaches 50% of its respective registered capital. Although the statutory reserves can be used, among other ways, to increase the registered capital and eliminate future losses in excess of retained earnings of the respective companies, the reserve funds are not distributable as cash dividends except in the event of liquidation. Lanting Jishi is permitted to pay dividends to us only out of its retained earnings, if any, as determined in accordance with PRC accounting standards and regulations.

Table of Contents

Pursuant to the contractual arrangements among Lanting Jishi and our VIEs, Lanting Jishi can charge our VIEs service fee equal to substantially all of their net income. After paying the withholding taxes applicable to Lanting Jishi's revenue and earnings, making appropriations for its statutory reserve requirement and retaining any profits from accumulated profits, the remaining net profits of Lanting Jishi would be available for distribution to its sole shareholder, Light In The Box Limited, and from Light In The Box Limited to us.

We have not, and do not have any present plan, for our PRC subsidiary, Lanting Jishi, to distribute any dividends. We do not believe our current structure will limit our holding company's ability to timely meet our cash obligations in the near future, as we currently generate and expect to continue to generate the majority of our revenues and receive the majority of our cash from customers outside of China through Light In The Box Limited, our Hong Kong subsidiary. However, if, in the future, we require our PRC subsidiary to distribute dividends to us, restrictions on the distribution of dividends may have an adverse effect on our ability to meet our cash obligations in a timely manner. Please see Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Doing Business in China We may rely on dividends and other cash distributions on equity paid by our subsidiaries to fund and financing requirements we may have, and any limitation on the ability of our subsidiaries payments to us could have a material adverse effect on our ability to conduct our businesses.

**Inflation**

Inflation in China has not in the past materially impacted our results of operations. However, China has recently experienced a significant increase in inflation levels, which may materially impact our results of operations in the future. According to the National Bureau of Statistics of China, the change of consumer price index in China was 1.4% in 2015, 2.0% in 2016 and 1.6% in 2017.

**Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

A list of recent accounting pronouncements that are relevant to us is included in note 2 to our consolidated financial statements, which are included in this annual report.

**C. Research and Development, Patents and Licenses, etc.**

**Research and Development**

We have focused on and will continue to invest in our information technology infrastructure and applications. We have built a proprietary modularized and scalable technology infrastructure, which enables us to quickly expand system capacity and add new features and functionalities in response to our business needs and evolving customer demand without affecting our existing operations or incurring significant costs.

**Intellectual Property**

We rely on a combination of trademark, trade secret, patent and other intellectual property laws as well as confidentiality agreements with our employees, manufacturers and others to protect our intellectual property. We have registered domain names for all of our websites, including *www.lightinthebox.com*, *www.ouku.com* and *www.miniinthebox.com*, and trademarks and service marks in China, Hong Kong and the European Union, including for *www.lightinthebox.com* and *www.miniinthebox.com*. We also have 19 registered computer software copyrights in China and one registered computer software copyright in the United States. In addition, we have filed additional trademark applications in China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Brazil, Russia, Austria, the European Union and the United States, as well as patent applications in China and the United States.



Table of Contents

In addition to the protection of our intellectual property, we are also focused on ensuring that our product offerings do not infringe the intellectual property of others. We have adopted internal policies and guidelines during product design and procurement process to make sure our suppliers and products we offer do not infringe on third-party intellectual property rights. All our supplier agreements contain provisions to safeguard against potential intellectual property infringement by our suppliers and impose severe penalties in the event of any infringement. We will also refuse to work with or terminate our relationship with suppliers in the event of intellectual property right violations. In addition, we have also engaged third-party advisors to assist us in ensuring compliance with third-party intellectual property rights.

**D. Trend Information**

Other than as disclosed elsewhere in this annual report, we are not aware of any trends, uncertainties, demands, commitments or events for the current fiscal year that are reasonably likely to have a material effect on our total net revenues, income, profitability, liquidity or capital reserves, or that caused the disclosed financial information to be not necessarily indicative of future operating results or financial conditions.

**E. Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

We have not entered into any financial guarantees or other commitments to guarantee the payment obligations of any third parties. In addition, we have not entered into any derivative contracts that are indexed to our shares and classified as shareholders' equity or that are not reflected in our consolidated financial statements. Furthermore, we do not have any retained or contingent interest in assets transferred to an unconsolidated entity that serves as credit, liquidity or market risk support to such entity. Moreover, we do not have any variable interest in any unconsolidated entity that provides financing, liquidity, market risk or credit support to us or engages in leasing, hedging or research and development services with us.

**F. Tabular Disclosure of Contractual Obligations**

We have operating lease agreements for warehouses and offices. Rent expenses under operating leases for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$4.5 million, \$4.2 million and \$4.3 million, respectively. Future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating lease agreements as of December 31, 2017 are as follows:

	(in thousands)	
2018	\$	3,307
2019		828
2020		99
	\$	4,234

**G. Safe Harbor**

See Forward-Looking Statements.

## ITEM 6. DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES

### A. Directors and Senior Management

The following table sets forth certain information relating to our directors and executive officers. The business address of each of our directors and executive officers is LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd., Tower 2, Area D, Diantong Square, No. 7 Jiuxianqiao North Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100015, People's Republic of China.

Name(1)	Age	Position/Title
Quji (Alan) Guo	42	Chairman of the board and chief executive officer
Zhentaο Wang	52	Director
Xiongping Yu	42	Director
Zhi Yan	45	Director
Gang Yu	58	Director
Sean Shao	61	Independent director
Kai-Fu Lee	56	Independent director
Xiaoping (Bob) Xu	61	Independent director
Liang Zhang	41	Executive Vice President
Bin (Robin) Lu	48	Chief financial officer
Bin Shi	39	Chief technology officer

---

Note:

(1) Mr. Xin (Kevin) Wen, our co-founder and former executive vice president, has moved from a management role to an advisory consultant role with our company in 2017 in order to pursue his other personal interests and focuses.

Table of Contents

**Biographical Information**

*Quji (Alan) Guo* is our co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer who joined our company in 2008. Prior to joining our company, Mr. Guo served as the chief strategist and the special assistant to the president of Google China from 2005 to 2008, where he was instrumental for building Google's China operation and led many of its strategic product and business initiatives, including the launch of Google Music, the first advertiser-sponsored free music download service in China, as well as certain strategic investments. Prior to joining Google China, he was a product manager with Google in the United States. In 2004, he worked for the corporate business development team at Amazon participating in the acquisition of , the predecessor of Amazon's China operation. From 2001 to 2003, he was a software design engineer at the headquarters of Microsoft Corporation, participating in the development of MSN, IE and Windows. Mr. Guo received his bachelor's degree from the University of Science and Technology of China in 1999, his master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2001, and his MBA degree from Stanford University in 2005. Mr. Guo is a holder of a number of patents in software and Internet technologies in the United States.

*Zhentao Wang* has been our director since July 2015. Mr. Wang is the founder and chairman of the board of directors of AoKang. He founded Yongjia County Aolin Shoe Factory, the predecessor of AoKang, in 1988. Mr. Wang received his EMBA degree from Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business in 2006 and also an EMBA degree from the HEC School of Management in France in 2007. Mr. Wang has received numerous accolades and awards in China, including the National Labor Day Award in 2002, China's Industry Leader of Private Industrial Enterprises in 2003, and the Outstanding Person of China's Economic Development in 2006.

*Xiongping Yu* has been our director since June 2016. Mr. Yu is a director of Aokang and was previously the chief financial officer of Aokang Group Co., Ltd. Mr. Yu received a bachelor's degree from Dongbei University of Finance & Economics in 2005.

*Zhi Yan* has been our director since March 2016. Mr. Yan is the founder, chief executive officer and co-chairman of the board of directors of Zall Group (HKSE Code: 2098). Mr. Yan has approximately 12 years of experience in the commercial property and wholesale shopping mall industries, as well as approximately 20 years of experience in business management in various industries. Mr. Yan has been appointed as a non-executive director and the chairman of CIG Yangtze Ports PLC (HKSE Code: 8233) since 2011. Mr. Yan received a master's degree in business administration for senior executives from Wuhan University in February 2008 and an executive master of business administration degree at Cheung Kong Graduate School of Management in 2013.

*Gang Yu* has been our director since March 2016. Dr. Yu is an executive director and co-chairman of the board of directors of Zall Group (HKSE Code: 2098). Dr. Yu has extensive experience in e-commerce and operation and logistics management and has previously served in various positions at multi-national corporations such as Dell Inc.

and . Dr. Yu obtained his bachelor degree in science from Wuhan University in 1982 and his master degree in science from Cornell University in 1985. Dr. Yu received his Ph.D. from the Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania in 1990.

Table of Contents

*Sean Shao* has served as our independent director since June 2013. Mr. Shao currently serves as (i) independent director and chairman of the audit committee of: 21Vianet Group, Inc., a leading carrier-neutral internet data center services provider listed on NASDAQ since August 2015; Jumei International Holding Ltd., an e-commerce company listed on NYSE since May 2014 and UTStarcom Holdings Corp., a provider of broadband equipment and solutions listed on NASDAQ since October 2012, (ii) independent director and chairman of the audit and compensation committees of China Biologic Products, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company listed on NASDAQ since July 2008. He served as the chief financial officer and a Board member of Trina Solar Limited from 2006 to 2008 and from 2015 to 2017, respectively. In addition, Mr. Shao served from 2004 to 2006 as the chief financial officer of ChinaEdu Corporation, an educational service provider, and of Watchdata Technologies Ltd., a Chinese security software company. Prior to that, Mr. Shao worked at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu CPA Ltd. for approximately a decade. Mr. Shao received his master's degree in health care administration from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1988 and his bachelor's degree in art from East China Normal University in 1982. Mr. Shao is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

*Kai-Fu Lee* has served as our independent director since June 2013. Dr. Lee has been the chairman of board of directors and chief executive officer of Innovation Works, a business creation platform and investment company focused on Internet technology and cloud computing since 2009. Prior to that, Dr. Lee had served as a vice president at Google and the president of Google Greater China from 2005 to 2009. Other than Innovation Works, Dr. Lee also serves on the board of Meitu Inc. (HKSE Code: 1357) and certain private companies. Dr. Lee received a bachelor's degree in computer science from Columbia University in 1983 and a Ph.D. in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University in 1988.

*Xiaoping (Bob) Xu* has served as our independent director since June 2014. Since 2011, Mr. Xu has been the founder and managing partner of Zhenfund, a seed stage fund focusing on investments in technology, media and telecommunications sectors. Prior to that, he was one of the founding partners of New Oriental Education & Technology Group. Mr. Xu received a bachelor's degree from the Central Conservatory of Music in 1983, and a master's degree from University of Saskatchewan in 1992.

*Liang Zhang* is a co-founder of our company and has served as our executive vice president (formerly co-president) responsible for sourcing and supply chain since 2007. Mr. Zhang was also responsible for our operations from 2007 to 2009. From 2001 to 2006, Mr. Zhang founded and served as the chief executive officer of Zhongrun Ltd., a supplier for large Chinese online retail companies such as Dadang.com and Amazon China, including its predecessor. He was a marketing manager at Netease.com Inc. from 1999 and 2001 and a program manager at Samsung Electronics from 1998 to 1999. Mr. Zhang received his bachelor's degree in business management from Nankai University in 1998.

*Bin (Robin) Lu* has been our chief financial officer since May 2014. Mr. Lu had been the chief financial officer and an executive director of A8 Digital Music Holdings Ltd since 2011 to 2014. Mr. Lu had also served as a director of Duomi Music Corporation from 2011 to 2014. From 2008 to 2010, Mr. Lu worked for Anaren, Inc as a division controller. Prior to Anaren, Robin was an executive director of Janney & Lee Investment LLC. He had also held

various finance management positions at China Network Communication Co., Ltd. (which has been acquired by China Unicom), Dell Inc. and China International Trust and Investment Corporation (currently known as CITIC Group). Mr. Lu received his bachelor's degree in automotive engineering from Tsinghua University in 1992 and his MBA degree in operation and finance from Ohio State University in 2000.

*Bin Shi* has been our chief technology officer since December 2015. Prior to that, Mr. Shi has served as our senior vice president of technology since March 2009. Before joining our Company, he worked for myspace.com as the chief architect from March 2007 to March 2009 and Yahoo China as Messenger technical director of from April 2004 to March 2007. Mr. Shi had also held various technology management position at Shareware Freelancer and STAR Computer. Mr. Shi received his bachelor's degrees in both chemistry and computer science from Tsinghua University in 2000.

**B. Compensation of Directors and Executive Officers**

In 2017, we and our subsidiaries paid an aggregate cash compensation and benefits in kind of approximately \$0.7 million to our directors and executive officers as a group. We set aside approximately \$0.1 million for pensions, retirement or other benefits for our officers and directors in 2017. For information regarding options and restricted shares granted to officers and directors, see Share Incentive Plan.

Table of Contents**Employment Agreements**

We have entered into employment agreements with each of our executive officers. We may terminate their employment for cause. In the event of termination for cause, we have no further obligations or liabilities to such executive officer other than to pay any accrued but unpaid compensation through the date of termination and we are not required to provide any prior notice of such termination. For purposes of these agreements, the term cause means: (a) the executive officer commits willful misconduct or gross negligence in performance of his duties hereunder, or Malfeasance, and fails to correct such Malfeasance within a reasonable period specified by us after we have sent the executive officer a written notice demanding correction within such a period; (b) the executive officer has committed Malfeasance and has caused serious losses and damages to us; (c) the executive officer seriously violates our internal rules and fails to correct such violation within a reasonable period specified by us after we have sent the executive officer a written notice demanding correction within such a period; (d) the executive officer has seriously violated the internal rules of and has caused serious losses and damages to us; (e) the executive officer is convicted by a court or has pleaded guilty of theft, fraud or other criminal offense; or (f) the executive officer seriously breaches his/her duty of loyalty to us or our affiliate under the laws of the Cayman Islands, the PRC or other relevant jurisdictions. We may terminate their employment at any time, without cause, upon 30-day prior written notice to the executive officer. Executive officers may terminate their employment with us at any time, without cause, upon three months written notice to us. If any severance pay is mandated by law, executive officers will be entitled to such severance pay in the amount mandated by law when his or her employment is terminated. However, an executive officer will not be entitled to any severance pay if his/her employment is terminated by him/her for any reason. In addition, we have been advised by our PRC counsel that notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in our employment agreements, we may still be required to make severance payments upon termination without cause to comply with the PRC Labor Law, the labor contract law and other relevant PRC regulations, which entitle employees to severance payments in case of early termination of de facto employment relationships by PRC entities without statutory cause regardless of whether there exists a written employment agreement with such entities.

**Share Incentive Plan**

We adopted our Amended and Reinstated 2008 Share Incentive Plan, or the Plan, on October 27, 2008. The Plan is intended to promote our success and to increase shareholder value by providing an additional means to attract, motivate, retain and reward selected directors, officers, employees and other eligible persons. An aggregate of 4,444,444 ordinary shares were reserved for issuance under the Plan. On June 9, 2014, the Plan was amended to increase the maximum aggregate number of ordinary shares reserved for issuance under the Plan to 11,344,444. As of March 22, 2018, we had granted, after forfeitures, 6,574,418 restricted shares and options to purchase 2,102,050 ordinary shares, with 2,667,976 ordinary shares available for future grants. As of March 22, 2018, we had 1,011,934 unvested restricted shares and 290,275 unvested share options outstanding under the Plan. As of March 22, 2018, options to purchase 882,400 ordinary shares of our company were outstanding.

The following table summarizes the share options granted to our employees under the Plan that were outstanding as of March 22, 2018:

Name	Number of Ordinary Shares Underlying Outstanding Options	Exercise Price (\$/Share)	Grant Date	Expiration Date
Our employees	70,000	0.50	December 2008	
	79,000	0.01	March 31, 2009	
	36,000	0.01	June 30, 2009	
	15,000	0.50	June 30, 2009	
	18,000	0.96	June 30, 2009	

Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

30,100	0.96	September 30, 2009	
3,900	0.96	December 31, 2009	The earlier of (1) the tenth anniversary of the date of grant, or (2) the fifth anniversary of the completion date of our initial public offering.
136,000	0.96	March 31, 2010	
2,500	0.96	June 30, 2010	
49,000	0.96	October 31, 2010	
63,000	4.25	July 31, 2011	
158,186	4.75	May 22, 2013	
1,018,278	2.50	June 20, 2014	
16,000	3.00	September 26, 2014	
6,000	3.00	December 12, 2014	
541,800	2.25	June 2, 2015	
4,600	2.64	October 1, 2015	
4,000	1.40	September 20, 2016	
40,000	1.49	January 3rd, 2017	
4,000	1.14	September 25, 2017	
76,000	0.89	October 31, 2017	



Table of Contents

We have historically determined the exercise price of shares granted under the Plan based on a number of factors, such as the type of awards, the length of time in which such employees were with our company, the function of such employees and the price of our preferred share issuances. Certain employees who joined our company near its inception were issued options with lower exercise prices than other employees. In addition, employees who we consider to be our key personnel may also be issued options with a lower exercise price.

In addition, as of March 22, 2018, a total of 9,274,681 restricted shares were granted to certain of our executive officers and other employees under the Plan. For the avoidance of doubt, restricted shares under the Plan are the same as nonvested shares disclosed in Note 11 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017 as filed as part of this annual report. For the avoidance of doubt, restricted shares under the Plan are the same as nonvested shares disclosed in Note 11 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017 as filed as part of this annual report.

The following paragraphs summarize the principal terms of the Plan.

***Types of Awards and Exercise Prices*** . The Plan permits the grant of several kinds of awards, including among others, options, restricted shares, restricted share units, share appreciation rights and dividend equivalent rights.

***Plan Administration*** . The Plan administrator is the chairman of our board or, in the case of administration with respect to directors and officers, a committee consisting of at least two non-employee directors designated by the board, and, with respect to consultants and other employees, a committee consisting of one or more directors of the company designated by the board. The plan administrator designates the eligible optionees and determines the award type, award period, grant date, performance requirements and such other provisions and terms not inconsistent with the plan in the award agreement.

***Award Agreement*** . Options and other awards granted under the Plan are and will be evidenced by an award agreement that sets forth the terms, provisions, limitations and performance requirements for each grant.

***Eligibility*** . At the discretion of the board of directors, we may grant awards to employees, officers, directors or consultants of our company.

***Term of Awards*** . The term of each award shall be the term stated in the award agreement, provided that the term of an incentive share option shall be no more than ten years from the date of grant, subject to certain exceptions.

***Acceleration of Awards upon Corporate Transaction*** . The plan administrator may upon or in anticipation of a corporate

transaction, accelerate awards or modify the terms of the awards.

*Vesting Schedule* . The plan administrator may determine the vesting schedule and may provide additional vesting conditions in the award agreement to each optionee.

*Amendment and Termination* . Our board of directors may at any time by resolutions amend, suspend or terminate the Plan, subject to certain exceptions. Unless earlier terminated by the board or directors, the Plan will terminate on October 26, 2018.

Table of Contents

**C. Board Practices**

We have eight directors, three of whom are independent directors, on our board of directors. Any director on our board may be removed by way of an ordinary resolution of shareholders. Any vacancies on our board of directors or additions to the existing board of directors can be filled by the affirmative vote of all of the remaining directors. Each of our directors holds office until such director resigns or is removed by way of an ordinary resolution of shareholders. We have no service contracts with any of our directors that provide benefits to them upon termination.

All of our executive officers are appointed by and serve at the discretion of our board of directors. Our executive officers are elected by and may be removed by a majority vote of our board of directors.

**Board Committees**

Our board of directors have established an audit committee, a compensation committee and a corporate governance and nominating committee. We have adopted a charter for each of these committees. Each committee's members and functions are as follows.

*Audit Committee*

Our audit committee consists of Mr. Sean Shao, Dr. Kai-Fu Lee and Mr. Xiaoping (Bob) Xu. Mr. Sean Shao is the chairman of our audit committee and satisfies the criteria of an audit committee financial expert as set forth under the applicable rules of the SEC. Each of Mr. Shao, Dr. Lee and Mr. Xu satisfies the requirements for an independent director within the meaning of Section 303A of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual and meets the criteria for independence set forth in Rule 10A-3 of the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act.

The audit committee oversees our accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of the financial statements of our company. The audit committee is responsible for, among other things:

- selecting our independent registered public accounting firm and pre-approving all auditing and non-auditing services permitted to be performed by our independent registered public accounting firm;
- reviewing any audit problems or difficulties and management's response with our independent registered public accounting firm;

- reviewing and approving all proposed related-party transactions, as defined in Item 404 of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act;
- discussing the annual audited financial statements with management and our independent registered public accounting firm;
- reviewing major issues as to the adequacy of our internal controls and any special audit steps adopted in light of significant control deficiencies;
- annually reviewing and reassessing the adequacy of our audit committee charter;
- such other matters that are specifically delegated to our audit committee by our board of directors from time to time;
- meeting separately and periodically with management and our internal auditor and independent registered public accounting firm; and reporting regularly to the full board of directors.

Table of Contents

***Compensation Committee***

Our compensation committee consists of Dr. Kai-Fu Lee, Mr. Sean Shao and Dr. Gang Yu. Dr. Kai-Fu Lee is the chairperson of our compensation committee. Dr. Lee and Mr. Shao satisfy the requirements for an independent director within the meaning of Section 303A of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual.

The compensation committee is responsible for, among other things:

- approving and overseeing the compensation package for our chief executive officer and chief financial officer;
- reviewing and making recommendations to the board with respect to the compensation of our directors;
- reviewing and approving corporate goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, evaluating the performance of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer in light of those goals and objectives, and setting the compensation level of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer based on such evaluation; and
- reviewing periodically and making recommendations to the board regarding any long-term incentive compensation or equity plans, programs or similar arrangements, annual bonuses, employee pension and welfare benefit plans.

***Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee***

Our corporate governance and nominating committee consists of Dr. Kai-Fu Lee, Mr. Sean Shao and Mr. Zhi Yan. Dr. Kai-Fu Lee is the chairman of our corporate governance and nominating committee. Dr. Lee and Mr. Shao satisfy the requirements for an independent director within the meaning of Section 303A of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual.

The corporate governance and nominating committee is responsible for, among other things:

- identifying and recommending to the board nominees for election or re-election to the board, or for appointment to fill any vacancy;
- conducting annual reviews of the Board's independence, qualifications and experiences in light of the availability of potential Board members; and
- monitoring compliance with our code of business conduct and ethics, including reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of our internal rules and procedures.

**Duties of Directors**

Under Cayman Islands law, our directors have a fiduciary duty to act honestly, in good faith and with a view to our best interests. Our directors also have a duty to exercise the skill they actually possess and such care and diligence that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances. In fulfilling their duty of care to us, our directors must ensure compliance with our memorandum and articles of association, as amended and restated from time to time. We have the right to seek damages if a duty owed by our directors is breached.

The functions and powers of our board of directors include, among others:

- convening shareholders' annual general meetings and reporting its work to shareholders at such meetings;

Table of Contents

- declaring dividends and distributions;
- appointing officers and determining the term of office of officers;
- exercising the borrowing powers of our company and mortgaging the property of our company; and approving the transfer of shares of our company, including registering such shares in our share register.

**Corporate Governance**

Our board of directors has adopted a code of business conduct and ethics, which is applicable to all of our directors, officers and employees. Our code of business conduct and ethics is publicly available on our website.

In addition, our board of directors has adopted a set of corporate governance guidelines. The guidelines reflect certain guiding principles with respect to our board's structure, procedures and committees. The guidelines are not intended to change or interpret any law, or our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association.

**Remuneration and Borrowing**

The directors may determine remuneration to be paid to the directors. The compensation committee will assist the directors in reviewing and approving the compensation structure for the directors. The directors may exercise all the powers of our company to borrow money and to mortgage or charge its undertaking, property and uncalled capital, and to issue debentures or other securities whether outright or as security for any debt obligations of our company or of any third party.

**Qualification**

There is no requirement for our directors to own any shares in our company in order for them to qualify as a director.

**Terms of Directors and Executive Officers**

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

Our officers are elected by and serve at the discretion of our board of directors. Our directors are not subject to a term of office and hold office until such time as they are removed from office by special resolution or the unanimous written resolution of all shareholders. A director will be removed from office automatically if, among other things, the director (1) dies or becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors; or (2) is found a lunatic or becomes of unsound mind. We do not have service contracts with any of our directors that would provide our directors with benefits upon their termination.

### **D. Employees**

#### **Employees**

As of December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017, we had 896, 703 and 619 full-time employees, respectively. All of our employees are based in China. We have employees from eleven countries and regions, namely the United States, Italy, Denmark, Argentina, Canada, Russia, India, Belarus, Brazil, China and Hong Kong. The following table sets forth the number of our employees by function as of December 31, 2017:

	<b>Number of Employees</b>
Fulfillment	191
Selling and Marketing	262
Technology, Research and Development	99
General and Administrative	67
Total	619



Table of Contents

We believe that we offer our employees competitive compensation packages and, as a result, we have generally been able to attract and retain qualified personnel and maintain a stable management team.

We generally enter into standard employment contracts with our employees, which contain non-compete provisions. Furthermore, we have entered into confidentiality agreements with many of our key employees that aim to protect our trademarks, designs, trade secrets and other intellectual property rights.

As required by PRC regulations, we participate in various employee social security plans that are organized by municipal and provincial governments, including pension, unemployment insurance, childbirth insurance, work-related injury insurance, medical insurance and housing fund. We are required under PRC law to make contributions to employee benefit plans at specified percentages of the salaries, bonuses and certain allowances of our employees, up to a maximum amount specified by the local government. The total amounts of contributions we made to employee benefit plans in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$5.2 million, \$3.7 million and \$5.3 million, respectively.

We believe that we have a good working relationship with our employees and we have not experienced any significant labor disputes.

**E. Share Ownership**

For information regarding the share ownership of our directors and officers, see Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions A. Major Shareholders. For information as to stock options granted to our directors, executive officers and other employees, see Item 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees B. Compensation Share Incentive Plan.

**ITEM 7. MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

**A. Major Shareholders**

The following table sets forth information with respect to beneficial ownership of our ordinary shares as of March 22, 2018 by:

- each of our directors and executive officers; and
- each person known to us to beneficially own 5% and more of our ordinary shares.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. In computing the number of shares beneficially owned by a person and the percentage ownership of that person, we have included shares that the person has the right to acquire within 60 days of this annual report, including through the exercise of any option, warrant or other right, the vesting of restricted shares or the conversion of any other security. These shares, however, are not included in the computation of the percentage ownership of any other person.

The calculations in the table below is based on 135,611,547 ordinary shares outstanding as of March 22, 2018, being the total ordinary shares issued and outstanding based on our register of members maintained by our Cayman Islands registrar, excluding (1) ordinary shares represented by the ADSs repurchased by the Company; (2) ordinary shares issued to the depository that are issuable upon the exercise of share options outstanding and vesting of restricted shares issued to employees, or reserved for future award grants under our Amended and Reinstated 2008 Share Incentive Plan, or the Plan; and (3) ordinary shares underlying restricted shares issued to the grantees under the Plan that are in the process of being cancelled.

Table of Contents

Name	Number	Percent
<b>Directors and Executive Officers:</b>		
Quji (Alan) Guo(1)	7,456,641	5.5%
Zhentaο Wang(2)	24,553,810	18.1%
Xiongpιng Yu		
Zhi Yan(3)	54,172,782	37.9%
Gang Yu		
Sean Shao	*	*
Kai-Fu Lee	*	*
Xiaoping (Bob) Xu(4)	3,681,498	2.7%
Liang Zhang(5)	2,571,065	1.9%
Bin (Robin) Lu	*	*
Bin Shi	*	*
All directors and executive officers as a group	92,540,796	64.7%
<b>Principal Shareholders:</b>		
Zall Entities(6)	54,172,782	37.9%
AOGANG International (Hong Kong) Corporation Limited(7)	24,553,810	18.1%
Ceyuan Entities(8)	13,291,591	9.8%
GSR Ventures III, L.P. (9)	7,685,041	5.7%
Wincore Holdings Limited (10)	7,147,805	5.5%

---

Notes:

\* Less than 1% of our total outstanding shares.

(1) Represents 6,681,251 ordinary shares and 387,695 ADSs representing 775,390 ordinary shares held by Wincore Holdings Limited. Wincore Holdings Limited, a British Virgin Islands company, is wholly owned by Mr. Quji (Alan) Guo, our chairman of the board and chief executive officer. The registered address of Wincore Holdings Limited is Palm Grove House, P.O. Box 438, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

(2) Represents 20,260,082 ordinary shares and 2,146,864 ADSs representing 4,293,728 ordinary shares held by AOGANG International. For a description of the beneficial ownership of our ordinary shares by AOGANG International, see Note 7 below. Mr. Wang disclaims beneficial ownership of our ordinary shares held by AOGANG International, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest in these shares.

(3) Represents 42,500,000 ordinary shares held by Zall E-Commerce, 2,108,891 ADSs representing 4,217,782 ordinary shares held by Zall Development (HK) Holding Company Limited, or Zall Development HK, and 7,455,000 ordinary shares purchasable through the exercise of warrant held by Zall E-Commerce. For a description of the beneficial ownership of our ordinary shares by Zall E-Commerce and Zall Development HK, see Note 6 below. Mr. Yan disclaims beneficial ownership of our ordinary shares held by Zall E-Commerce and Zall Development HK, except to the extent of their pecuniary interest in these shares.

(4) Represents 1,840,749 ADSs representing 3,681,498 ordinary shares held by Focus China Holdings Limited. Focus China Holdings Limited, a British Virgin Islands company, is wholly owned by Mr. Xiaoping (Bob) Xu, a founding angel. The registered address of Focus China Holdings Limited is Trinity Chambers, P.O. Box 4301, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

- (5) Represents 2,542,541 ordinary shares and 14,262 ADSs representing 28,524 ordinary shares held by Clinet Investments Limited. Clinet Investments Limited, a British Virgin Islands company, is wholly owned by Mr. Liang Zhang, our executive vice president. The registered address of Clinet Investments Limited is Palm Grove House, P.O. Box 438, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.
- (6) Represents 42,500,000 ordinary shares held by Zall E-Commerce, 2,108,891 ADSs representing 4,217,782 ordinary shares held by Zall Development HK and 7,455,000 ordinary shares purchasable through the exercise of warrant held by Zall E-Commerce. Zall E-Commerce, a company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands, is directly and wholly owned by Zall Development (BVI) Holding Company Limited, or Zall Development BVI, a company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Zall Group. Zall Development HK, a limited liability company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong, is also directly and wholly owned by Zall Group. Mr. Zhi Yan is the founder, co-chairman of the board of directors, chief executive officer and an executive director of Zall Group and holds his beneficial interest in Zall Group through Zall Development Investment Company Limited, or Zall Development Investment, a company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands. Zall E-Commerce, Zall Development BVI, Zall Development HK, Zall Group and Zall Development Investment are collectively referred to in this annual report as Zall Entities. The address of the principal office of Zall Entities is Suite 2101, 21 Floor, Two Exchange Square, Central, Hong Kong.
- (7) Represents 20,260,082 ordinary shares and 2,146,864 ADSs representing 4,293,728 ordinary shares held by AOGANG International. AOGANG International, a limited liability company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong, is directly and wholly owned by AoKang, a company incorporated under the laws of the Peoples Republic of China. Mr. Zhentao Wang is the chairman of the board and controlling person of AoKang and the sole director of AOGANG International. Of the total outstanding shares of AoKang: (i) AoKang Investment Holdings Co., Ltd. in which Mr. Zhentao Wang and Mr. Chen Wang (son of Mr. Zhentao Wang) directly holds 90% and 10%, respectively, of its total outstanding shares, directly holds 32.73%, (ii) Mr. Zhentao Wang directly holds 15.10%, (iii) Mr. Chen Wang directly holds 9.98% and (iv) Mr. Jinquan Wang (brother of Mr. Zhentao Wang and the president and a director of AoKang) directly holds 4.98%. The registered address of AOGANG International is Flat/RM 3803B 38/Flee Garden One 33 Hysan Avenue Causeway Bay Hong Kong. The address of the principal office of AoKang is Aokang Industrial Park, Dongou Industrial District, Oubei Town, Yongjia County, Zhejiang Province, Peoples Republic of China.

Table of Contents

(8) Represents 11,683,530 ordinary shares and 557,471 ADSs representing 1,114,942 ordinary shares held by Ceyuan Ventures II, L.P., and 450,161 ordinary shares and 21,479 ADSs representing 42,958 ordinary shares held by Ceyuan Ventures Advisors Fund II, LLC, respectively. Ceyuan Ventures II, L.P. and Ceyuan Ventures Advisors Fund II, LLC are collectively referred to in this annual report as the Ceyuan Entities. Ceyuan Ventures II, L.P. and Ceyuan Ventures Advisors Fund II, LLC are under the common control of Ceyuan Ventures Management II, LLC, which is the general partner of Ceyuan Ventures II, L.P. and sole director of Ceyuan Ventures Advisors II, LLC. Mr. Bo Feng, Ceyuan Partners, Yanxi Holding Co., Ltd., Mr. Weiguo Zhao, NewMargin Fund Management Company Limited and Mr. John S. Wadsworth Jr. collectively hold 100% shares of Ceyuan Ventures Management II, LLC. Mr. Christopher Wadsworth has the voting and dispositive power over the shares held by Ceyuan Partners. Mr. Ye Yuan has the voting and dispositive power over the shares held by Yanxi Holding Co., Ltd. Mr. Tao Feng has the voting and dispositive power over the shares held by NewMargin Fund Management Company Limited. The registered address of Ceyuan Entities is c/o Maples Corporate Services Limited, P.O. Box 309, Ugland House, Grand Cayman, KY1-1104, Cayman Islands, British West Indies.

(9) Represents 3,842,520 ADSs representing 7,685,041 ordinary shares held by GSR Ventures III, L.P. The general partner of GSR Ventures III, L.P. is GSR Partners III, L.P., whose general partner is GSR Partners III, Ltd., a company incorporated in the Cayman Islands, which is owned by Messrs. Jin-Choon (Richard) Lim, Sonny Wu, Ding Jian (James), Alexander Pan and Ms. Ryann Yap. The registered address of GSR Ventures III, L.P. is Floor 4, Willow House, Cricket Square, P.O. Box 268, Grand Cayman KY1-1104, Cayman Islands.

(10) Wincore Holdings Limited, a British Virgin Islands company, is wholly owned by Mr. Quji (Alan) Guo, our chairman of the board and chief executive officer. The registered address of Wincore Holdings Limited is Palm Grove House, P.O. Box 438, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

We have one class of ordinary shares, and each holder of our ordinary shares is entitled to one vote per share. However, in matters related to change of control, pursuant to our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, Wincore Holdings Limited, Clinet Investments Limited and Vitz Holdings Limited will be entitled to three votes per share for each ordinary share registered in their names in the register of members of the Company, and each other holder is entitled to one vote per share. Such change of control events include: (a) a merger, amalgamation, consolidation or similar transaction involving our company, (b) the filing of a petition for a scheme of arrangement involving our company, or the giving of consent to such a filing or the co-operation by our company in the making of such filing, and (c) a sale, transfer or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of our company. As of March 22, 2018, each of Wincore Holdings Limited, Clinet Investment Limited and Vitz Holdings Limited holds 5.5%, 2.5% and 1.9% of the shares of our company, respectively, entitling them to 13.8%, 6.4% and 4.7% voting rights, respectively, and an aggregate of 24.9% of voting rights in such matters related to a change of control, assuming all the ADSs held by such entities were converted into ordinary shares of the Company. As of March 22, 2018, 135,611,547 of our ordinary shares were issued and outstanding, being the total ordinary shares issued and outstanding based on our register of members maintained by our Cayman Islands registrar, excluding (1) ordinary shares represented by the ADSs repurchased by the Company; (2) ordinary shares issued to the depositary that are issuable upon the exercise of share options outstanding and vesting of restricted shares issued to employees, or reserved for future award grants under our Amended and Reinstated 2008 Share Incentive Plan, or the Plan; and (3) ordinary shares underlying restricted shares issued to the grantees under the Plan that are in the process of being cancelled. Based on a review of our register of members, we believe that as of March 22, 2018, 35,979,525 ordinary shares, representing approximately 26.5% of our total outstanding shares, were held by two record shareholders in the United States, which includes 35,979,524 ordinary shares held of record by The Bank of New York Mellon, the depositary of our ADS program. The number of beneficial owners of our ADSs in the United States is likely to be much larger than the number of record holders of

our ordinary shares in the United States. We are not aware of any arrangement that may at a subsequent date, result in a change of control of our company.

**B. Related Party Transactions**

**Indemnification Agreements**

The Company entered into indemnification agreements with our directors and senior executive officers. These agreements require the Company to indemnify such individuals, to the fullest extent permitted by law, for certain liabilities to which they may become subject as a result of their affiliation with the Company.

Table of Contents

**Purchase from related parties**

In 2017, we purchased goods in an aggregate amount of approximately \$0.4 thousand from Aokang, one of our major shareholders.

**Employment Agreements**

See Item. 6 Directors, Senior Management and Employees B. Compensation Employment Agreements.

**Share Options**

See Item. 6 Directors, Senior Management and Employees B. Compensation Share Incentive Plan.

**C. Interests of Experts and Counsel**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information**

See Item 18. Financial Statements.

**Legal and Administrative Proceedings**

We are not currently a party to any legal proceeding or investigation which, in the opinion of our management, is likely to have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

**Dividend Policy**

Since our inception, we have not declared or paid any dividends on our ordinary shares. We have no present plan to pay any dividends on our ordinary shares in the foreseeable future. We intend to retain most, if not all, of our available funds and any future earnings to operate and expand our business.



Table of Contents

Any future determination to pay dividends will be made at the discretion of our board of directors and may be based on a number of factors, including our future operations and earnings, capital requirements and surplus, general financial condition, contractual restrictions and other factors that the board of directors may deem relevant. If we pay any dividends, we will pay the ADS holders to the same extent as holders of our ordinary shares, subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, including the fees and expenses payable thereunder. Cash dividends on our ordinary shares, if any, will be paid in U.S. dollars. We are a holding company incorporated in the Cayman Islands. In order for us to distribute any dividends to our shareholders and ADS holders, we may rely on dividends and cash distributed by our Hong Kong subsidiary and may, in the future, rely on dividends and cash distributed by our PRC subsidiary through our Hong Kong subsidiary for the cash requirement of the holding company. Certain payments from our PRC subsidiary to us are subject to PRC taxes, such as withholding income tax. In addition, regulations in the PRC currently permit payment of dividends of a PRC company only out of accumulated distributable after-tax profits as determined in accordance with its articles of association and the accounting standards and regulations in China. Each of our PRC subsidiary, VIEs and Shanghai Ouku, the subsidiary of Lanting Huitong, is required to set aside at least 10% of its after-tax profit based on PRC accounting standards every year to certain statutory reserves until the accumulated amount of such reserves reaches 50% of its respective registered capital. Such statutory reserves are not distributable as loans, advances or cash dividends. Our PRC subsidiary, VIEs and Shanghai Ouku are also required to set aside a certain amount of its after-tax profits each year, if any, to fund a private fund for employees. The specific size of the employee fund is at the discretion of the relevant entity. These reserve funds can only be used for specific purposes and are not transferable to the company's parent in the form of loans, advances or dividends. See Item 3. Key Information D. Risk Factors Risks Related to Doing Business in China We may rely on dividends and other cash distributions on equity paid by our subsidiaries to fund any cash and financing requirements we may have and any limitation on the ability of our subsidiaries to make payments to us could have a material adverse effect on our ability to conduct our businesses.

**B. Significant Changes**

We have not experienced any significant changes since the date of our audited consolidated financial statements included in this annual report.

**ITEM 9. THE OFFER AND LISTING****A. Offer and Listing Details.**

Our ADSs, each representing two of our ordinary shares, have been listed on the New York Stock Exchange since June 6, 2013 under the symbol LITB. The table below shows, for the periods indicated, the high and low market prices on the New York Stock Exchange for our ADSs until March 27, 2018.

	High	Sale Price	Low
<b>Annual highs and lows</b>			
2016	3.59		1.95
2017	3.20		1.61
<b>Quarterly highs and lows</b>			
First quarter 2016	3.07		1.95
Second quarter 2016	3.54		2.31

Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

Third quarter 2016	3.59	2.70
Fourth quarter 2016	3.10	2.40
First quarter 2017	3.20	2.70
Second quarter 2017	3.05	2.10
Third quarter 2017	2.97	2.18
Fourth quarter 2017	2.60	1.61
First quarter 2018 (through March 27, 2018)	3.52	2.11
<b>Monthly highs and lows</b>		
September 2017	3.28	2.70
October 2017	3.00	2.53
November 2017	2.85	2.55
December 2017	3.10	2.40
January 2018	3.20	2.85
February 2018	3.15	2.79
March 2017 (through March 27, 2018)	2.55	2.22

Table of Contents

**B. Plan of Distribution**

Not applicable.

**C. Markets**

Our ADSs, each representing two of our ordinary shares, have been listed on the New York Stock Exchange since June 6, 2013 under the symbol LITB.

**D. Selling Shareholders**

Not applicable.

**E. Dilution**

Not applicable.

**F. Expenses of the Issue**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**A. Share Capital**

Not applicable.

**B. Memorandum and Articles of Association**

We incorporate by reference into this annual report the description of our fourth amended and restated memorandum and articles of association contained in our F-1 registration statement (File No. 333-187965), as amended, filed with the SEC on May 23, 2013. Our shareholders adopted our fourth amended and restated memorandum and articles of association by unanimous resolutions on the same date, and effective upon completion of our initial public offering of ordinary shares represented by our ADSs.

**C. Material Contracts**

We have not entered into any material contracts other than in the ordinary course of business and other than those described in Item 4. Information on the Company or elsewhere in this annual report.

**D. Exchange Controls**

See Item 4. Information on the Company B. Business Overview Regulation Regulations on Foreign Exchange.

**E. Taxation**

The following is a general summary of the material Cayman Islands, People's Republic of China and U.S. federal income tax consequences relevant to an investment in the ADSs and ordinary shares. The discussion is not intended to be, nor should it be construed as, legal or tax advice to any particular prospective purchaser. The discussion is based on laws and relevant interpretations thereof in effect as of the date of this annual report, all of which are subject to change or different interpretations, possibly with retroactive effect. The discussion does not address U.S. state or local tax laws, or tax laws of jurisdictions other than the Cayman Islands, the People's Republic of China and the United States. To the extent that the discussion relates to matters of Cayman Islands tax law, and subject to the qualifications, assumptions and limitations related thereto, the discussion of the material Cayman Islands tax consequences of the ownership of our ordinary shares and ADSs represents the opinion of Maples and Calder (Hong Kong) LLP, our Cayman Islands counsel. To the extent that the discussion relates to matters of People's Republic of China tax law, and subject to the qualifications, assumptions and limitations related thereto, the discussion of the material People's Republic of China tax consequences of the ownership of our ordinary shares and ADSs represents the opinion of TransAsia Lawyers, our PRC counsel. To the extent that the discussion relates to matters of United States federal income tax law, and subject to the qualifications, assumptions and limitations related thereto, the discussion of the material United States federal income tax consequences to United States Holders of the ownership of our ordinary shares and ADSs represents the opinion of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, our United States counsel. You should consult your own tax advisors with respect to the consequences of acquisition, ownership and disposition of the ADSs and ordinary shares.

Table of Contents

**Cayman Islands Taxation**

The Cayman Islands currently levies no taxes on individuals or corporations based upon profits, income, gains or appreciation and there is no taxation in the nature of inheritance tax or estate duty or withholding tax applicable to us or to any holder of our ADSs and ordinary shares. There are no other taxes likely to be material to us levied by the government of the Cayman Islands except for stamp duties which may be applicable on instruments executed in, or after execution brought within the jurisdiction of, the Cayman Islands, or produced before a court of the Cayman Islands. No stamp duty is payable in the Cayman Islands on transfers of shares of Cayman Islands companies except those which hold interests in land in the Cayman Islands. The Cayman Islands is not party to any double tax treaties applicable to payments made to or by us. There are no exchange control regulations or currency restrictions in the Cayman Islands.

**People's Republic of China Taxation**

The New EIT Law, which was issued in 2007 and amended in 2017, and its Implementation Rules, which were issued in 2007, provide that China-sourced income of foreign enterprises, such as dividends paid by a PRC subsidiary to its foreign investor, will normally be subject to PRC withholding tax at a rate of 10%, unless any such foreign investor's jurisdiction of incorporation has a tax treaty with China that provides for a different withholding arrangement. We are a Cayman Islands holding company and we plan to conduct substantially all of our business in China through Lanting Jishi, which is 100% owned by Light In the Box Limited, our wholly owned subsidiary located in Hong Kong. According to the Mainland and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Arrangements on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, or the Double Taxation Avoidance Arrangement, dividends that Light In The Box Limited receives from Lanting Jishi may be subject to withholding tax at a rate of 5%, provided that: (a) Light In The Box Limited is determined by the relevant PRC tax authorities to be a non-resident enterprise under the New EIT Law; (b) Light In The Box Limited is the beneficial owner of the PRC sourced income; (c) Light In The Box Limited holds at least 25% of the equity interest of Lanting Jishi and (d) all other conditions and requirements under the Double Taxation Avoidance Arrangement shall be satisfied.

Under the New EIT Law, enterprises established under the laws of jurisdictions outside China with their de facto management bodies located within China may be considered to be PRC tax resident enterprises for tax purposes. If we are considered a PRC tax resident enterprise, then our global income will be subject to PRC enterprise income tax at the rate of 25%.

The Implementation Rules of the New EIT Law provide that, (i) if the enterprise that distributes dividends is domiciled in the PRC, or (ii) if gains are realized from transferring equity interests of enterprises domiciled in the PRC, then such dividends or capital gains are treated as China-sourced income. It is not clear how domicile may be interpreted under the New EIT Law, and it may be interpreted as the jurisdiction where the enterprise is a tax resident. Therefore, if we are considered as a PRC tax resident enterprise for tax purposes, any dividends we pay to our overseas shareholders or ADS holders which are non-resident enterprises as well as gains realized by such shareholders or ADS holders from the transfer of our shares or ADSs may be regarded as China-sourced income and as a result become subject to PRC withholding tax at a rate of up to 10%.

Table of Contents

Furthermore, if we are considered a PRC resident enterprise and the competent PRC tax authorities consider dividends we pay with respect to our shares or ADSs and the gains realized from the transfer of our shares or ADSs to be income derived from sources within the PRC, such dividends we pay to our overseas shareholders or ADS holders who are non-resident individuals and such gains realized by such shareholders from the transfer of our shares or ADSs may be subject to PRC individual income tax at a rate of 20%, unless any such non-resident individuals jurisdiction has a tax treaty with China that provides for a preferential tax rate or a tax exemption. It is also unclear whether, if we are considered a PRC resident enterprise, holders of our shares or ADSs would be able to claim the benefit of income tax treaties or agreements entered into between China and other countries or areas.

**Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations**

The following summary describes the material United States federal income tax consequences to United States Holders (as defined below) of the ownership of our ordinary shares and ADSs as of the date hereof. Except where noted, this summary deals only with ordinary shares and ADSs held as capital assets. As used herein, the term United States Holder means a beneficial owner of an ordinary share or ADS that is for United States federal income tax purposes:

- an individual citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;
- an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust if it (1) is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or (2) has a valid election in effect under applicable United States Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

This summary does not represent a detailed description of the United States federal income tax consequences applicable to you if you are subject to special treatment under the United States federal income tax laws, including if you are:

- a dealer in securities or currencies;
- a financial institution;

- a regulated investment company;
- a real estate investment trust;
- an insurance company;
- a U.S. expatriate;
- a tax-exempt organization;
  
- a person holding our ordinary shares or ADSs as part of a hedging, integrated or conversion transaction, a constructive sale or a straddle;
  
- a trader in securities that has elected the mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities;
  
- a person liable for alternative minimum tax;

Table of Contents

- a person who owns or is deemed to own 10% or more of our stock (by vote or value);
- a person who acquired ordinary shares or ADSs pursuant to the exercise of any employee share option or otherwise as compensation;
- a partnership or other pass-through entity for United States federal income tax purposes;
- a person required to accelerate the recognition of any item of gross income with respect to our ordinary shares or ADSs as a result of such income being recognized on an applicable financial statement; or
- a person whose functional currency is not the United States dollar.

The discussion below is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), and regulations, rulings and judicial decisions thereunder as of the date hereof, and such authorities may be replaced, revoked or modified so as to result in United States federal income tax consequences different from those discussed below. In addition, this summary is based, in part, upon representations made by the depositary to us and assumes that the deposit agreement, and all other related agreements, will be performed in accordance with their terms.

If a partnership (or other entity treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) holds our ordinary shares or ADSs, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership holding our ordinary shares or ADSs, you should consult your tax advisors.

**This summary does not contain a detailed description of all the United States federal income tax consequences to you in light of your particular circumstances and does not address the Medicare tax on net investment income, or the effects of any state, local or non-United States tax laws. If you are considering the purchase, ownership or disposition of our ordinary shares or ADSs, you should consult your own tax advisors concerning the United States federal income tax consequences to you in light of your particular situation as well as any consequences arising under other United States federal tax laws and the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.**

**ADSs**

If you hold ADSs you generally will be treated, for United States federal income tax purposes, as the owner of the underlying ordinary shares that are represented by such ADSs. Accordingly, deposits or withdrawals of ordinary shares for ADSs will not be subject to United States federal income tax.



*Taxation of Dividends*

Subject to the discussion under *Passive Foreign Investment Company* below, the gross amount of distributions on the ADSs or ordinary shares (including any amounts withheld to reflect PRC withholding taxes) will be taxable as dividends to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under United States federal income tax principles. Such income (including withheld taxes) will be includable in your gross income as ordinary income on the day actually or constructively received by you, in the case of the ordinary shares, or by the depositary, in the case of ADSs. Such dividends will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction allowed to corporations under the Code.

Table of Contents

With respect to non-corporate United States investors, certain dividends received from a qualified foreign corporation may be subject to reduced rates of taxation. A foreign corporation is treated as a qualified foreign corporation with respect to dividends received from that corporation on ordinary shares (or ADSs backed by such shares) that are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. United States Treasury Department guidance indicates that the ADSs, which are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. Thus, we believe that dividends we pay on ordinary shares represented by the ADSs will meet the conditions required for the reduced tax rates. Since we do not expect that our ordinary shares will be listed on an established securities market, we do not believe that dividends that we pay on our ordinary shares that are not represented by ADSs currently meet the conditions required for these reduced tax rates. There can be no assurance that the ADSs will be considered readily tradable on an established securities market in later years. A qualified foreign corporation also includes a foreign corporation that is eligible for the benefits of certain income tax treaties with the United States. In the event that we are deemed to be a PRC resident enterprise under the PRC tax law, we may be eligible for the benefits of the income tax treaty between the United States and the PRC (the Treaty), and if we are eligible for such benefits, dividends we pay on our ordinary shares, regardless of whether such shares are represented by ADSs, would be eligible for the reduced rates of taxation whether or not such shares are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. See People's Republic of China Taxation. Non-corporate United States Holders that do not meet a minimum holding period requirement during which they are not protected from the risk of loss or that elect to treat the dividend income as investment income pursuant to Section 163(d)(4) of the Code will not be eligible for the reduced rates of taxation regardless of our status as a qualified foreign corporation. In addition, the rate reduction will not apply to dividends if the recipient of a dividend is obligated to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. This disallowance applies even if the minimum holding period has been met. Non-corporate United States Holders will not be eligible for reduced rates of taxation on any dividends received from us, if we are a PFIC in the taxable year in which such dividends are paid or in the preceding taxable year. You should consult your own tax advisors regarding the application of these rules given your particular circumstances.

In the event that we are deemed to be a PRC resident enterprise under the PRC tax law, you may be subject to PRC withholding taxes on dividends paid to you with respect to the ADSs or ordinary shares. See People's Republic of China Taxation. In that case, subject to certain conditions and limitations, PRC withholding taxes on dividends may be treated as foreign taxes eligible for credit against your United States federal income tax liability. For purposes of calculating the foreign tax credit, dividends paid on the ADSs or ordinary shares will be treated as foreign-source income and will generally constitute passive category income. However, in certain circumstances, if you have held the ADSs or ordinary shares for less than a specified minimum period during which you are not protected from risk of loss, or are obligated to make payments related to the dividends, you will not be allowed a foreign tax credit for any PRC withholding taxes imposed on dividends paid on the ADSs or ordinary shares. The rules governing the foreign tax credit are complex. You are urged to consult your tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under your particular circumstances.

To the extent that the amount of any distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits for a taxable year, as determined under United States federal income tax principles, the distribution will first be treated as a tax-free return of capital, causing a reduction in the adjusted basis of the ADSs or ordinary shares (thereby increasing the amount of gain, or decreasing the amount of loss, to be recognized by you on a subsequent disposition of the ADSs or ordinary shares), and the balance in excess of adjusted basis will be taxed as capital gain recognized on a sale or exchange. However, we do not expect to determine our earnings and profits in accordance with United States federal income tax principles. Therefore, you should expect that a distribution will generally be treated as a dividend (as discussed above).

***Passive Foreign Investment Company***

Based on the composition of our income and assets, and the valuation of our assets, including goodwill, we do not believe that we were a PFIC for 2017. However, as the determination of our PFIC status is based on an annual determination that cannot be made until the close of a taxable year, and involves extensive factual investigation, including ascertaining the fair market value of all of our assets on a quarterly basis and the character of each item of income we earn, our United States counsel expresses no opinion with respect to our PFIC status.

In general, we will be a PFIC for any taxable year in which:

---

1 Subject to revision based on review of financial statements.

Table of Contents

- at least 75% of our gross income is passive income, or
- at least 50% of the value (determined on a quarterly basis) of our assets is attributable to assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income.

For this purpose, passive income generally includes dividends, interest, royalties and rents (other than royalties and rents derived in the active conduct of a trade or business and not derived from a related person). If we own at least 25% (by value) of the stock of another corporation, we will be treated, for purposes of the PFIC tests, as owning our proportionate share of the other corporation's assets and receiving our proportionate share of the other corporation's income. However, it is not entirely clear how the contractual arrangements between us and our VIEs will be treated for purposes of the PFIC rules. If it is determined that we do not own the stock of our VIEs for United States federal income tax purposes, we may be treated as a PFIC.

The determination of whether we are a PFIC is made annually. Accordingly, it is possible that we may become a PFIC in the current or any future taxable year due to changes in our asset or income composition. Because we have valued our goodwill based on the market value of our equity, and given the volatility of the market price of the ADSs, a decrease in the price of the ADSs may also result in our becoming a PFIC. If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which you hold the ADSs or ordinary shares, you will be subject to special tax rules discussed below.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which you hold the ADSs or ordinary shares and you do not make a timely mark-to-market election (as described below), you will be subject to special tax rules with respect to any excess distribution received and any gain realized from a sale or other disposition, including a pledge, of ADSs or ordinary shares. Distributions received in a taxable year will be treated as excess distributions to the extent that they are greater than 125% of the average annual distributions received during the shorter of the three preceding taxable years or your holding period for the ADSs or ordinary shares. Under these special tax rules:

- the excess distribution or gain will be allocated ratably over your holding period for the ADSs or ordinary shares,
- the amount allocated to the current taxable year, and any taxable year in your holding period prior to the first taxable year in which we were a PFIC, will be treated as ordinary income, and
- the amount allocated to each other year will be subject to tax at the highest tax rate in effect for each such year and the interest charge generally applicable to underpayments of tax will be imposed on the resulting tax attributable to each such year.

The tax liability for amounts allocated to taxable years prior to the year of disposition or excess distribution cannot be offset by any net operating losses for such years, and gains (but not losses) realized on the sale or other disposition of the ADSs or ordinary shares cannot be treated as

capital gain, even if you hold the ADSs or ordinary shares as capital assets.

Although the determination of whether we are a PFIC is made annually, if we are a PFIC for any taxable year in which you hold our ADSs or ordinary shares, you will generally be subject to the special tax rules described above for that year and for each subsequent year in which you hold the ADSs or ordinary shares (even if we do not qualify as a PFIC in such subsequent years). However, if we cease to be a PFIC, you can avoid the continuing impact of the PFIC rules by making a special election to recognize gain as if your ADSs or ordinary shares had been sold on the last day of the last taxable year during which we were a PFIC. You are urged to consult your own tax advisor about this election.

In certain circumstances, in lieu of being subject to the excess distribution rules discussed above, you may make an election to include gain on the stock of a PFIC as ordinary income under a mark-to-market method, provided that such stock is regularly traded on a qualified exchange. Under current law, the mark-to-market election may be available to United States Holders of ADSs because the ADSs are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, which constitutes a qualified exchange, although there can be no assurance that the ADSs will be regularly traded for purposes of the mark-to-market election. It should also be noted that it is intended that only the ADSs and not the ordinary shares will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Consequently, if you are a United States Holder of ordinary shares that are not represented by ADSs, you generally will not be eligible to make a mark-to-market election if we are or were to become a PFIC.

Table of Contents

If you make an effective mark-to-market election, you will include in each year that we are a PFIC as ordinary income the excess of the fair market value of your ADSs at the end of your taxable year over your adjusted tax basis in the ADSs. You will be entitled to deduct as an ordinary loss in each such year the excess of your adjusted tax basis in the ADSs over their fair market value at the end of the year, but only to the extent of the net amount previously included in income as a result of the mark-to-market election. If you make an effective mark-to-market election, in each year that we are a PFIC any gain you recognize upon the sale or other disposition of your ADSs will be treated as ordinary income and any loss will be treated as ordinary loss, but only to the extent of the net amount previously included in income as a result of the mark-to-market election.

Your adjusted tax basis in the ADSs will be increased by the amount of any income inclusion and decreased by the amount of any deductions under the mark-to-market rules. If you make a mark-to-market election it will be effective for the taxable year for which the election is made and all subsequent taxable years unless the ADSs are no longer regularly traded on a qualified exchange or the Internal Revenue Service consents to the revocation of the election. You are urged to consult your tax advisors about the availability of the mark-to-market election, and whether making the election would be advisable in your particular circumstances.

Alternatively, you can sometimes avoid the PFIC rules described above by electing to treat a PFIC as a qualified electing fund under Section 1295 of the Code. However, this option likely will not be available to you because we do not intend to comply with the requirements necessary to permit you to make this election.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which you hold the ADSs or ordinary shares and any of our non-United States subsidiaries is also a PFIC or we make direct or indirect equity investments in other entities that are PFICs, a United States Holder would be treated as owning a proportionate amount (by value) of the shares of the lower-tier PFIC for purposes of the application of these rules. You are urged to consult your tax advisors about the application of the PFIC rules to any of our subsidiaries.

You will generally be required to file Internal Revenue Service Form 8621 if you hold our ADSs or ordinary shares in a year in which we are classified as PFIC. You are urged to consult your tax advisors concerning the United States federal income tax consequences of holding ADSs or ordinary shares if we are considered a PFIC in any taxable year.

***Taxation of Capital Gains***

For United States federal income tax purposes, you will recognize taxable gain or loss on any sale or exchange of ADSs or ordinary shares in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized for the ADSs or ordinary shares and your tax basis in the ADSs or ordinary shares. Subject to the discussion under *Passive Foreign Investment Company* above, such gain or loss will generally be capital gain or loss. Capital gains of non-corporate United States Holders derived with respect to capital assets held for more than one year are eligible for reduced rates of taxation. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. Any gain or loss recognized by you will generally be treated as United States source gain or loss for foreign tax credit limitation purposes. However, if we are treated as a PRC resident enterprise for PRC tax purposes and PRC tax was imposed on any gain, and if you are eligible for the benefit of the Treaty, you may elect to treat such gain as PRC source gain. If you are not eligible for the benefits of the Treaty or you fail to make the election to treat any gain as PRC source, then you may not be able to use the foreign tax credit arising from any PRC tax imposed on the disposition of the ADSs or ordinary shares unless such credit can be applied (subject to applicable limitations) against tax due on other income derived from foreign sources. You are urged to consult your tax advisors regarding the tax consequences if any PRC tax is imposed on gain on a disposition of the ADSs or ordinary shares, including the availability of the foreign tax credit and the election to treat any gain as PRC source, under your particular circumstances.



Table of Contents

***Information Reporting and Backup Withholding***

In general, information reporting will apply to dividends in respect of the ADSs or ordinary shares and the proceeds from the sale, exchange or other disposition of the ADSs or ordinary shares that are paid to you within the United States (and in certain cases, outside the United States), unless you are an exempt recipient. A backup withholding tax may apply to such payments if you fail to provide a taxpayer identification number or certification of other exempt status or fail to report in full dividend and interest income.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax and any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be allowed as a refund or a credit against your United States federal income tax liability provided the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service in a timely manner.

***Additional Reporting Requirements***

Certain United States Holders are required to report information relating to an interest in the ADSs or ordinary shares, subject to certain exceptions (including an exception for ADSs or ordinary shares held in accounts maintained by certain financial institutions), by attaching a complete Internal Revenue Service Form 8938, Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets, with their tax return for each year in which they hold ADSs or ordinary shares. United States Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of these rules on their ownership and disposition of the ADSs and ordinary shares.

**F. Dividends and Paying Agents**

Not applicable.

**G. Statement by Experts**

Not applicable.

**H. Documents on Display**

We filed with the SEC our registration statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-187965), as amended, including the prospectus contained therein, to register the issuance and sale of our ordinary shares represented by ADSs in relation to our initial public offering and our registration statement



## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

on Form F-3 (File No. 333-212007), including the prospectus contained therein, to register the proposed sale of our ordinary shares represented by ADSs from time to time by certain of our shareholders. As allowed by the SEC, in Item 19 of this annual report, we incorporate by reference certain information we previously filed with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this annual report.

You may read and copy this annual report, including the exhibits incorporated by reference in this annual report, at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549 and at the SEC's regional offices in New York, New York and Chicago, Illinois. You can also request copies of this annual report, including the exhibits incorporated by reference in this annual report, upon payment of a duplicating fee, by writing information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room.

The SEC also maintains a website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) that contains reports and other information regarding registrants that file electronically with the SEC. Our annual report and some of the other information submitted by us to the SEC may be accessed through this website.

As a foreign private issuer, we are exempt from the rules under the Exchange Act prescribing the furnishing and content of quarterly reports and proxy statements, and officers, directors and principal shareholders are exempt from the reporting and short-swing profit recovery provisions contained in Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

Table of Contents

In accordance with NYSE Rule 203.01, we will post this annual report on our website. In addition, we will provide hardcopies of our annual report to shareholders, including ADS holders, free of charge upon request.

**I. Subsidiary Information**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 11. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

**Market Risks**

*Interest Rate Risk*

Our exposure to interest rate risk primarily relates to the interest income generated by our bank deposits, which are unrestricted as to withdrawal and use, and highly liquid investments that have maturities of three months or less. We have not used any derivative financial instruments to manage our interest risk exposure. Interest-earning instruments carry a degree of interest rate risk. We have not been exposed to material risks due to changes in interest rates. An increase in interest rates, however, may raise the cost of any debt we incur in the future. In addition, our future interest income may be lower than expected due to changes in market interest rates.

*Foreign Exchange Risk*

Most of our revenues are denominated in U.S. dollars, while some of our expenses are denominated in Renminbi. In addition, our PRC subsidiary and consolidated affiliated entities hold U.S. dollars in PRC bank accounts to pay for certain Renminbi-denominated expenses such as payroll and rent. As such, they are subject to foreign exchange translation differences on their U.S. dollar balances. The foreign exchange impacts relate to accounts payable denominated in Renminbi were approximately negative \$65 thousand, positive \$595 thousand and negative \$196 thousand for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively, and the foreign exchange impacts relate to the U.S. dollars held by PRC entities with Renminbi as functional currency were approximately negative \$6 thousand, negative \$99 thousand and positive \$449 thousand for each of the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively. All foreign exchange impact was recorded in general and administrative expenses in our consolidated statement of operations (except for those exchange impact caused by translation of financial statements, which is recorded in other comprehensive losses in our consolidated statement of operations).

We have no hedges against currency risk. If Renminbi appreciates relative to the U.S. dollar, our cost to acquire products priced in Renminbi and our expenses denominated in Renminbi will become more expensive in U.S. dollars. Consequently, any increase in the value of the Renminbi against the U.S. dollar may reduce our margins, reduce our competitiveness against retailers with costs denominated in currencies other

than Renminbi or render us unable to meet our costs.

The value of the Renminbi against the U.S. dollar and other currencies may fluctuate and is affected by, among other things, changes in political and economic conditions and the foreign exchange policy adopted by the PRC government. On July 21, 2005, the PRC government changed its policy of pegging the value of the Renminbi to the U.S. dollar. Under the current policy, the Renminbi is permitted to fluctuate within a narrow and managed band against a basket of certain foreign currencies. Following the removal of the U.S. dollar peg, the Renminbi appreciated more than 20% against the U.S. dollar over the following three years. During the period between July 2008 and June 2010, the Renminbi has traded stably within a narrow range against the U.S. dollar. Since June 2010, the Renminbi has appreciated further against the U.S. dollar, though there have been periods, especially during 2014, when the U.S. dollar has appreciated against the Renminbi as well. Starting in August 2015, the U.S. dollar gradually appreciated against the Renminbi, until early 2017, when it began to weaken. It is difficult to predict how market forces or PRC or U.S. government policy may impact the exchange rate between the Renminbi and the U.S. dollar in the future.

Table of Contents

In addition, many of our customers pay for our products in currencies other than U.S. dollars but we report our financial results in U.S. dollars and, as a result, our financial results may be impacted by fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. We sell to customers in over 200 countries and territories. If the U.S. dollar appreciates against these foreign currencies, our translation of foreign currency denominated transactions will result in lower total net revenues, operating expenses and net income. Since January 2015, the U.S. Dollar Index, a measure of the value of the U.S. dollars against a basket of six major world currencies, has appreciated almost 7%. In particular, Europe represented the largest region to which our products were sold in 2017 and our net revenues generated from Europe were 48.1% of our total net revenues for the same year. Since January 2015, the U.S. dollar has, until recently, been appreciating against the Euro and in December 2016, the Euro fell to a 13-year low against the U.S. dollar with 1 Euro equating to 1.04 U.S. dollars. If the U.S. dollar continues to appreciate against foreign currencies, our translation of foreign currency denominated transactions will result in lower total net revenues, operating expenses and net income. As we are deepening our penetration of geographic markets globally, our exposure to exchange rate fluctuations has increased. We have no hedges against currency risk. Fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates could significantly impact our financial results, which may result in an impact on our share price.

**ITEM 12. DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES OTHER THAN EQUITY SECURITIES**

**A. Debt Securities**

Not applicable.

**B. Warrants and Rights**

Not applicable.

**C. Other Securities**

Not applicable.

**D. American Depositary Shares**

**Fees Paid by Our ADS Holders**

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

As an ADS holder, you will be required to pay the following service fees to the depository, The Bank of New York Mellon:

**Persons depositing or withdrawing shares or ADS holders must pay:**

\$5.00 (or less) per 100 ADSs (or portion of 100 ADSs)

\$.05 (or less) per ADS

A fee equivalent to the fee that would be payable if securities distributed to you had been shares and the shares had been deposited for issuance of ADSs

\$.05 (or less) per ADS per calendar year

Registration or transfer fees

Expenses of the depository

Taxes and other governmental charges the depository or the custodian have to pay on any ADS or share underlying an ADS, for example, stock transfer taxes, stamp duty or withholding taxes

Any charges incurred by the depository or its agents for servicing the deposited securities

**For:**

- Issuance of ADSs, including issuances resulting from a distribution of shares or rights or other property
- Cancellation of ADSs for the purpose of withdrawal, including if the deposit agreement terminates
- Any cash distribution to ADS holders
- Distribution of securities distributed to holders of deposited securities which are distributed by the depository to ADS holders
- Depository services Registration or transfer fees
- Transfer and registration of shares on our share register to or from the name of the depository or its agent when you deposit or withdraw shares
- Cable, telex and facsimile transmissions (when expressly provided in the deposit agreement)
- converting foreign currency to U.S. dollars
- As necessary
- As necessary

Table of Contents

As an ADS holder you will also be responsible to pay certain fees and expenses incurred by the depositary and certain taxes and governmental charges such as:

- Fees for the transfer and registration of ordinary shares charged by the registrar and transfer agent for the ordinary shares in the Cayman Islands (i.e., upon deposit and withdrawal of ordinary shares).
- Expenses incurred for converting foreign currency into U.S. dollars.
- Expenses for cable, telex and fax transmissions and for delivery of securities.
- Taxes and duties upon the transfer of securities (i.e., when ordinary shares are deposited or withdrawn from deposit).
- Fees and expenses incurred in connection with the delivery or servicing of ordinary shares on deposit.

Depositary fees payable upon the issuance and cancellation of ADSs are typically paid to the depositary bank by the brokers (on behalf of their clients) receiving the newly issued ADSs from the depositary bank and by the brokers (on behalf of their clients) delivering the ADSs to the depositary bank for cancellation. The brokers in turn charge these fees to their clients. Depositary fees payable in connection with distributions of cash or securities to ADS holders and the depositary services fee are charged by the depositary bank to the holders of record of ADSs as of the applicable ADS record date.

The Depositary fees payable for cash distributions are generally deducted from the cash being distributed. In the case of distributions other than cash (i.e., stock dividend, rights), the depositary bank charges the applicable fee to the ADS record date holders concurrent with the distribution. In the case of ADSs registered in the name of the investor (whether certificated or uncertificated in direct registration), the depositary bank sends invoices to the applicable record date ADS holders. In the case of ADSs held in brokerage and custodian accounts (via DTC), the depositary bank generally collects its fees through the systems provided by DTC (whose nominee is the registered holder of the ADSs held in DTC) from the brokers and custodians holding ADSs in their DTC accounts. The brokers and custodians who hold their clients' ADSs in DTC accounts in turn charge their clients' accounts the amount of the fees paid to the depositary banks.

In the event of refusal to pay the depositary fees, the depositary bank may, under the terms of the deposit agreement, refuse the requested service until payment is received or may set off the amount of the depositary fees from any distribution to be made to the ADS holder.



Table of Contents

Note that the fees and charges you may be required to pay may vary over time and may be changed by us and by the depositary. You will receive prior notice of such changes.

*Fees and Payments from the Depositary to Us*

Our depositary has agreed to reimburse us for certain expenses we incur that are related to the administration and maintenance of the ADS program. There are limits on the amount of expenses for which the depositary will reimburse us, but the amount of reimbursement available to us is not related to the amounts of fees the depositary collects from investors. The depositary has reimbursed us for any expenses related to the administration and maintenance of the facility in an amount of \$1.2 million in total, after deduction of applicable U.S. taxes.



Table of Contents

**PART II**

**ITEM 13. DEFAULTS, DIVIDEND ARREARAGES AND DELINQUENCIES**

None.

**ITEM 14. MATERIAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE RIGHTS OF SECURITY HOLDERS AND USE OF PROCEEDS**

See Item 10. Additional Information for a description of the rights of securities holders, which remain unchanged.

Our ADSs, each representing two of our ordinary shares, have been listed on the New York Stock Exchange since June 6, 2013 under the symbol LITB. We completed our initial public offering of 9,545,000 ADSs, representing 19,090,000 ordinary shares, at \$9.50 per ADS on June 6, 2013 after our ADRs were registered under the Securities Act. The effective date of our registration statement on Form F-1 (File number: 333-187965) was June 6, 2013. Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC and Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated acted as joint bookrunners for our initial public offering and as representatives of the underwriters.

For the period from the effective date of our registration statement on Form F-1 to December 31, 2017, all of the net proceeds from our initial public offering had been used to finance our business operations as well as our share repurchase program.

We have filed a registration statement on Form F-3 (File No. 333-212007) in relation to the potential sale of our ordinary shares represented by ADSs by certain of our shareholders from time to time, and we will not receive any of the proceeds from any sale of ADSs by the selling shareholders.

**ITEM 15. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in reports filed under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the specified time periods and accumulated and communicated to our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions

regarding required disclosure.

Our management, under the supervision and with the participation of our principal executive officer and our principal financial officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) or 15d-15(e) promulgated under the Exchange Act, at December 31, 2017. Based on that evaluation, our principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that, as of December 31, 2017, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective in ensuring that material information required to be disclosed in this annual report is recorded, processed, summarized and reported to them for assessment, and required disclosure is made within the time period specified in the rules and forms of the SEC.

#### **Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Our internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of our financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with U.S. GAAP and 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 our company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of consolidated financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and that receipts and expenditures of our company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of our management and directors; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of the unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of our company's assets that could have a material effect on the consolidated 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 of our internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risks that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Table of Contents

Our management conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017 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, our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2017.

**Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In preparing our consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017 included in our annual report on Form 20-F for 2017, we identified certain control deficiencies in our internal control over financial reporting. There were no significant changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the period covered by this annual report on Form 20-F that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting. We may identify additional control deficiencies in the future. Should we discover such deficiencies, we intend to remediate them as soon as possible.

**ITEM 16A. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT**

Our Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Sean Shao qualifies as an audit committee financial expert as defined in Item 16A of Form 20-F. All three members of our audit committee satisfy the independence requirements of the NYSE rules and Rule 10A-3(b)(1) under the Exchange Act.

**ITEM 16B. CODE OF ETHICS**

Our board of directors has adopted a code of ethics that applies to our directors, officers, employees and agents, including certain provisions that specifically apply to our executive officers, including our principal executive and financial officers, president and vice presidents and any other persons who perform similar functions for us. We have filed our code of business conduct and ethics as an exhibit to our registration statement on Form F-1 (File Number 333-187965), as amended, initially filed with the SEC on April 17, 2013. The code is also available on our official website under the investor relations section at <http://ir.lightinthebox.com>.

We hereby undertake to provide to any person without charge, a copy of our code of business conduct and ethics within ten working days after we receive such person's written request.

**ITEM 16C. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES**

The following table sets forth the aggregate fees by categories specified below in connection with certain professional services rendered by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Certified Public Accountants LLP, our principal external auditors, for the periods indicated. We did not pay any other

Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

fees to our auditors during the periods indicated below.

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2016	2017
	(in thousands of \$)	
Audit Fees (1)	\$ 690	\$ 774
Audit-related Fees (2)	152	—
Total	\$ 842	\$ 774

---

(1) Audit fees represent the aggregate fees billed for each of the fiscal years listed for professional services rendered by our principal auditors for the audit of our annual financial statements or services that are normally provided by the auditors in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.

(2) Audit-related fees represent the aggregate fees billed in each of the fiscal years listed for assurance and related services by our principal auditors for services rendered that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our consolidated financial statements and are not reported under Audit fees .

Table of Contents

The policy of our audit committee is to pre-approve all audit and non-audit services provided by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Certified Public Accountants LLP, including audit services, audit-related services, tax services and other services as described above, other than those for de minimus services which are approved by the Audit Committee prior to the completion of the audit.

**ITEM 16D. EXEMPTIONS FROM THE LISTING STANDARDS FOR AUDIT COMMITTEES**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 16E. PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY THE ISSUER AND AFFILIATED PURCHASERS.**

**2013 Share Repurchase Program**

We announced a share repurchase program approved by our board of directors on December 16, 2013, under which we may repurchase up to \$20.0 million worth of our issued and outstanding ADSs. The repurchases have been and will be, made from time to time on the open market at prevailing market prices or in privately negotiated transactions subject to the restrictions relating to volume, price and timing. This share repurchase program was implemented over the course of 12 months from December 16, 2013 to December 15, 2014, in a manner consistent with market conditions, the interest of the shareholders, the trading price of the ADSs and in compliance with relevant rules under the Exchange Act. On December 16, 2014, our board of directors has authorized to extend this share repurchase program for an additional 12-month period from December 16, 2014 to December 15, 2015 with all terms and conditions of the share repurchase program remain unchanged. As of August 31, 2015, we had completed the \$20.0 million share repurchase program.

**2016 Share Repurchase Program**

On June 8, 2016, we announced the implementation of another share repurchase program of up to \$10.0 million worth of our outstanding ADSs each representing two of ordinary shares on the open market at prevailing market prices or in privately negotiated transactions from June 15, 2016 through June 14, 2017. In June 2017, we announce the extension of the program until June 14, 2018.

The following table sets forth information about our purchases of outstanding ADSs from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017:

Period	Total Number of ADSs Purchased	Average Price Paid per ADS(1)	Total Number of ADSs Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans	Approximate Dollar Value of ADSs that May Yet Be Purchased
--------	--------------------------------	-------------------------------	--	--

			or Programs(2)		Under the Program(2)
January 2017	25,000	3.02	25,000	\$	9.1 million
February 2017	18,796	3.00	18,796	\$	9.0 million
March 2017	35,422	2.86	35,422	\$	8.9 million
April 2017	33,400	2.86	95,452	\$	8.8 million
May 2017	25,451	2.45	62,405	\$	8.8 million
June 2017	64,884	2.91	188,693	\$	8.6 million
July 2017	65,093	2.86	186,282	\$	8.4 million
August 2017	63,420	2.83	179,569	\$	8.2 million
September 2017	31,071	2.56	79,685	\$	8.2 million
October 2017	99,794	2.24	223,629	\$	7.9 million
November 2017	167,567	1.94	325,165	\$	7.6 million
December 2017	813,562	1.83	1,488,018	\$	6.1 million
Total	1,443,460	2.12	3,062,064	\$	6.1 million

(1) Each of our ADSs represents two ordinary shares. The average price per ADS is calculated using the execution price for each repurchase excluding commissions paid to brokers.

(2) Under our share purchase program announced in 2016, repurchases of our ADSs have been and will be, made from time to time on the open market at prevailing market prices or in privately negotiated transactions subject to the restrictions relating to volume, price and timing. This share repurchase program has been extended until June 14, 2018 and will be implemented in a manner consistent with market conditions, the interest of the shareholders, the trading price of the ADSs and in compliance with relevant rules under the Exchange Act.

Table of Contents

**ITEM 16F. CHANGE IN REGISTRANT'S CERTIFYING ACCOUNTANT.**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 16G. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE.**

We are a foreign private issuer (as such term is defined in Rule 3b-4 under the Exchange Act), and our ADSs, each representing two ordinary share, are listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Under Section 303A of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual, New York Stock Exchange listed companies that are foreign private issuers are permitted to follow home country practice in lieu of the corporate governance provisions specified by the New York Stock Exchange with limited exceptions. The following summarizes some significant ways in which our corporate governance practices differ from those followed by domestic companies under the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange.

Under the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual, or the NYSE Manual, U.S. domestic listed companies are required to have a compensation committee and a nominating/corporate governance committee, each composed entirely of independent directors, which are not required under the Companies Law (2018 Revision) of the Cayman Islands, our home country. Currently, our compensation committee is composed of three members, only two of whom are independent directors. Our corporate governance and nominating committee is composed of three members, only two of whom are independent directors. The NYSE Manual also requires U.S. domestic listed companies to regularly hold executive sessions for non-management directors, or an executive session that only includes independent directors at least once a year. We are not subject to this requirement under the Cayman Islands law and have decided to follow our home country practice on this matter. In addition, the NYSE Manual requires shareholder approval for certain matters, such as requiring that shareholders must be given the opportunity to vote on all equity compensation plans and material revisions to those plans, which is not required under the Cayman Islands law. We intend to follow the home country practice in determining whether shareholder approval is required.

**ITEM 16H. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURE.**

Not applicable.

Table of Contents

**PART III**

**ITEM 17. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.**

We have elected to provide financial statements pursuant to Item 18.

**ITEM 18. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.**

The following financial statements are filed as part of this annual report, together with the report of the independent auditors:

- Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
  
- Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2016 and 2017
  
- Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017
  
- Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Loss for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017
  
- Consolidated Statements of Changes in Equity (Deficit) for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017
  
- Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017
  
- Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements



ITEM 19. **EXHIBITS.**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description of Document</b>
1.1*	<u>Fourth Amended and Restated Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Registrant as currently in effect</u>
2.1*	<u>Registrant's Form of Ordinary Share Certificate</u>
2.2	<u>Form of Deposit Agreement between the Registrant and The Bank of New York Mellon, as depositary and Owners and Holders of the American Depositary Shares issued therein</u>
2.3	<u>Form of American depositary receipt evidencing American depositary shares (included in Exhibit 2.2)</u>
2.4*	<u>Second Amended and Restated Shareholders Agreement, dated as of September 28, 2010, among the Registrant, Ceyuan Ventures II, L.P., Ceyuan Ventures Advisors Fund II, LLC, GSR Ventures III, L.P., Banean Holdings Ltd, Trustbridge Partners III, L.P. and certain other persons named therein</u>
2.5*	<u>Amended and Restated Right of First Refusal and Co-Sale Agreement, dated as of September 28, 2010, among the Registrant, Ceyuan Ventures II, L.P., Ceyuan Ventures Advisors Fund II, LLC, GSR Ventures III, L.P., Banean Holdings Ltd, Trustbridge Partners III L.P. and certain other persons named therein</u>

Table of Contents

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description of Document</b>
2.6**	<u>Investor Rights Agreement dated as of March 30, 2016 between the Registrant and Zall Cross-Border E-Commerce Investment Company Limited, Mr. Alan Ouji Guo and Wincore Holdings Limited</u>
4.1*	<u>Form of Indemnification Agreement between the Registrant and its directors and executive officers</u>
4.2*	<u>Form of Employment Agreement between the Registrant and its executive officers</u>
4.3*	<u>Exclusive Technical and Consulting Service Agreement between Lanting Jishi and Lanting Huitong</u>
4.4*	<u>Business Operation Agreement among Lanting Jishi, Lanting Huitong and Lanting Huitong's shareholders</u>
4.5*	<u>Equity Disposal Agreement among Lanting Jishi, Lanting Huitong and Lanting Huitong's shareholders</u>
4.6*	<u>Share Pledge Agreement among Lanting Jishi, Lanting Huitong and Lanting Huitong's shareholders</u>
4.7*	<u>Powers of Attorney issued by each of Lanting Huitong's shareholders</u>
4.8*	<u>Spousal Consent Letters issued by spouses of certain shareholders of Lanting Huitong</u>
4.9*	<u>Exclusive Technical and Consulting Service Agreement between Lanting Jishi and Lanting Gaochuang</u>
4.10*	<u>Business Operation Agreement among Lanting Jishi, Lanting Gaochuang and Lanting Gaochuang's shareholders</u>
4.11*	<u>Equity Disposal Agreement among Lanting Jishi, Lanting Gaochuang and Lanting Gaochuang's shareholders</u>
4.12*	<u>Share Pledge Agreement among Lanting Jishi, Lanting Gaochuang and Lanting Gaochuang's shareholders</u>
4.13*	<u>Loan Agreement between Mr. Ouji (Alan) GUO and Lanting Jishi</u>
4.14*	<u>Powers of Attorney issued by each of Lanting Gaochuang's shareholders</u>
4.15*	<u>Amended and Reinstated 2008 Share Incentive Plan of the Registrant</u>
4.16	<u>Amendment No. 1 to the LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. Amended and Reinstated 2008 Share Incentive Plan</u>
4.17	<u>Subscription Agreement dated as of March 17, 2016 between Zall Cross-Border E-Commerce Investment Company Limited and LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd.</u>
4.18**	<u>Warrant to Purchase Ordinary Share of LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. dated as of March 30, 2016 among the Registrant and Zall Cross-Border E-Commerce Investment Company Limited</u>

Table of Contents

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description of Document</b>
4.19***	<u>Declaration of Trust executed by Mr. Tang Le dated July 4, 2016 as to Light Square Limited</u>
8.1	<u>List of Subsidiaries of the Registrant</u>
11.1*	<u>Code of Business Conduct and Ethics of the Registrant</u>
12.1	<u>Principal Executive Officer Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</u>
12.2	<u>Principal Financial Officer Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</u>
13.1****	<u>Principal Executive Officer Certification Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</u>
13.2****	<u>Principal Financial Officer Certification Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</u>
15.1	<u>Consent of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Certified Public Accountants LLP</u>
15.2	<u>Consent of TransAsia Lawyers</u>
15.3	<u>Consent of Maples and Calder (Hong Kong) LLP</u>
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

- 
- \* Previously filed with the Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-187965), initially filed on April 17, 2013 and incorporated herein by reference.  
 Previously filed with the Registration Statement on Form F-6 (File No. 333-188794), dated May 23, 2013 and incorporated herein by reference.  
 Previously filed with the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-201100), dated December 19, 2014 and incorporated herein by reference.  
 Incorporated by reference to an exhibit to the Form 6-K (File No. 001-35942) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 17, 2016.
- \*\* Previously filed with our annual report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 (File No. 001-35942) filed on April 29, 2016 and incorporated herein by reference.
- \*\*\* Previously filed with our annual report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 (File No. 001-35942) filed on March 30, 2017 and incorporated herein by reference.
- \*\*\*\* Furnished with this annual report on Form 20-F.

Table of Contents

**SIGNATURES**

The registrant hereby certifies that it meets all of the requirements for filing its annual report on Form 20-F and that it has duly caused and authorized the undersigned to sign this annual report on its behalf.

**LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd.**

By:	/s/ Quji (Alan) Guo	
	Name:	Quji (Alan) Guo
	Title:	Chief Executive Officer and Chairman

Date: March 28, 2018

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<u>REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u>	F-2
<u>CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2017</u>	F-3
<u>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017</u>	F-4
<u>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE LOSS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017</u>	F-5
<u>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN EQUITY (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017</u>	F-6
<u>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017</u>	F-7
<u>NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017</u>	F-8

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SHAREHOLDERS OF LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.

**Opinion on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. (the Company), its subsidiaries, its variable interest entities (the VIEs) and its VIE's subsidiary (collectively the Group) as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive loss, change in shareholders' 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 consolidated financial statements). In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Group at 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.

**Basis for Opinion**

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Group's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (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. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

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.

Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

/s/ Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Certified Public Accountants LLP

Beijing, the People's Republic of China

March 28, 2018

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2011.

F-2

---

Table of Contents**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)

	2016	December 31,	2017
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 89,517	\$	68,441
Restricted cash	1,559		1,573
Accounts receivable	2,401		3,433
Inventories	10,587		11,841
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	9,674		15,696
<u>Total current assets</u>	113,738		100,984
Property and equipment, net	1,071		920
Intangible assets, net	215		210
Goodwill	690		690
Long-term rental deposit	638		671
Long-term investments	1,849		5,262
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	\$ 118,201	\$	108,737
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable (including accounts payable of the consolidated VIEs without recourse to LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. of \$20 and \$22 as of December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2017, respectively)	\$ 22,523	\$	22,430
Advance from customers (including advance from customers of the consolidated VIEs without recourse to LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. of nil and nil as of December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2017, respectively)	8,758		10,110
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities (including accrued expenses and other current liabilities of the consolidated VIEs without recourse to LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. of \$1,537 and \$3,909 as of December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2017, respectively)	21,084		20,727
<u>Total current liabilities</u>	52,365		53,267
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	\$ 52,365	\$	53,267
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Ordinary shares (\$0.000067 par value; 750,000,000 shares authorized; 145,754,507 and 169,675,522 shares issued as of December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2017 respectively; 137,820,605 and 135,664,877 shares outstanding as of December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2017 respectively)	\$ 10	\$	11
Additional paid-in capital	236,949		238,851
Treasury shares, at cost (7,933,902 and 10,820,822 shares as of December 31, 2016, and December 31, 2017 respectively)	(20,806)		(23,907)
Accumulated deficit	(149,738)		(159,286)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(579)		(199)
<u>TOTAL EQUITY</u>	65,836		55,470
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</u>	\$ 118,201	\$	108,737



Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements

F-3

---

Table of Contents**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**

(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)

	Years ended December 31		
	2015	2016	2017
Net revenues			
Product sales	\$ 312,332	\$ 262,083	\$ 293,951
Services and others	11,431	30,404	25,930
Total net revenues	323,763	292,487	319,881
Cost of revenues			
Product sales	196,753	160,566	189,816
Services and others	10,601	28,371	24,445
Total cost of revenues	207,354	188,937	214,261
Gross profit	116,409	103,550	105,620
Operating expenses:			
Fulfillment	22,419	17,052	17,291
Selling and marketing	91,614	61,090	68,891
General and administrative	41,535	34,492	29,605
Total operating expenses	155,568	112,634	115,787
Loss from operations	(39,159)	(9,084)	(10,167)
Exchange loss on offshore bank accounts	(938)	(120)	(89)
Interest income	773	518	581
Total other (loss) income	(165)	(398)	492
Loss before income taxes	(39,324)	(8,686)	(9,675)
Income taxes expenses	(49)	(54)	(81)
(Loss) gain from equity method investment	(34)	17	208
Net loss	(39,407)	(8,723)	(9,548)
Net loss attributable to ordinary shareholders	\$ (39,407)	\$ (8,723)	\$ (9,548)
Net loss per ordinary share-basic	\$ (0.41)	\$ (0.07)	\$ (0.07)
Net loss per ordinary share-diluted	\$ (0.41)	\$ (0.07)	\$ (0.07)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE LOSS**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, or otherwise noted)**

	<b>Years ended December 31</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Net loss	\$ (39,407)	\$ (8,723)	\$ (9,548)
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax:			
Foreign currency translation adjustment, net of tax of nil	(178)	(270)	380
Total comprehensive loss	\$ (39,585)	\$ (8,993)	\$ (9,168)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN EQUITY (DEFICIT)**

(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)

	Ordinary Shares		Additional	Treasury	Accumulated	Accumulated	Total
	Shares	Amount	Paid-in	shares,	Other	Deficit	(Deficit)
			Capital	at cost	Comprehensive		Equity
					Loss		
Balance at January 1, 2015	96,617,349	\$ 7	\$ 155,872	\$ (10,957)	\$ (131)	\$ (101,608)	\$ 43,183
Issuance of ordinary shares upon vesting of nonvested shares	1,316,696						
Exercise of share options	175,950		122				122
Share-based compensation			3,196				3,196
Repurchase of ordinary shares	(3,653,222)			(9,039)			(9,039)
Net loss						(39,407)	(39,407)
Foreign currency translation adjustment					(178)		(178)
Balance at December 31, 2015	94,456,773	\$ 7	\$ 159,190	\$ (19,996)	\$ (309)	\$ (141,015)	\$ (2,123)
Issuance of ordinary shares upon private placement	42,500,000	3	75,420				75,423
Issuance of ordinary shares upon vesting of nonvested shares	1,367,560						
Exercise of share options	39,500		22				22
Share-based compensation			2,317				2,317
Repurchase of ordinary shares	(543,228)			(810)			(810)
Net loss						(8,723)	(8,723)
Foreign currency translation adjustment					(270)		(270)
Balance at December 31, 2016	137,820,605	\$ 10	\$ 236,949	\$ (20,806)	\$ (579)	\$ (149,738)	\$ 65,836
Issuance of ordinary shares	437,830	1					1

Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

upon vesting of nonvested shares													
Exercise of share options	293,362			37					37				
Share-based compensation				1,865					1,865				
Repurchase of ordinary shares	(2,886,920)				(3,101)				(3,101)				
Net loss								(9,548)	(9,548)				
Foreign currency translation adjustment							380		380				
Balance at December 31, 2017	135,664,877	\$	11	\$	238,851	\$	(23,907)	\$	(199)	\$	(159,286)	\$	55,470

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(U.S. dollars in thousands, or otherwise noted)**

	Years ended December 31		
	2015	2016	2017
Net loss	\$ (39,407)	\$ (8,723)	\$ (9,548)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	2,135	1,395	769
Share-based compensation	3,196	2,317	1,865
Exchange loss on offshore bank accounts	938	120	89
Loss (gain) from equity method investment	34	(17)	(208)
Inventory write down	1,890	3,286	2,065
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable	(246)	(1,707)	(973)
Inventories	(3,326)	(2,642)	(3,293)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	106	(4,659)	(5,985)
Long-term rental deposit	33	(2)	(12)
Accounts payable	4,117	(6,813)	(108)
Advance from customers	(2,697)	476	1,345
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	(4,674)	1,635	(837)
Net cash used in operating activities	(37,901)	(15,334)	(14,831)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property and equipment	(769)	(334)	(556)
Maturity of term deposit	43,054		
Purchase of term deposit	(37,708)		
(Increase) decrease in restricted cash	661	47	(15)
Payment for long term investment	(2,100)		(2,950)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	3,138	(287)	(3,521)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds from exercise of share options	122	22	37
Proceeds from private placement		75,423	
Repurchase of ordinary shares	(9,346)	(810)	(3,101)
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(9,224)	74,635	(3,064)
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(43,987)	59,014	(21,416)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(470)	(398)	340
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	75,358	30,901	89,517
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 30,901	\$ 89,517	\$ 68,441
Supplemental cash flow information:			
Income taxes paid	\$ (49)	\$ (54)	\$ (81)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.



Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**1. ORGANIZATION AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES**

LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. (the *Company*), incorporated in the Cayman Islands in March 2008 by five founding shareholders, together with its consolidated subsidiaries, its variable interest entities (*VIEs*) and its *VIE*'s subsidiary (collectively referred to the *Group*), is primarily involved in online retailing to sell and deliver products to consumers around the world.

*History of the Group and corporate reorganization*

The Group commenced its operation in June 2007, with the establishment of Light In The Box Limited (*Light In The Box*) in June 2007 in Hong Kong by the same five founding shareholders of the Company. Light In The Box subsequently became the Company's subsidiary through a share for share exchange in April 2008 which has been accounted for in a manner akin to a pooling of interest as if the Company had been in existence and owned Light In The Box since June 2007.

Lightinthebox Trading(Shenzhen) Co., Ltd.(*Lanting Jishi*) was established in October 2008 in the People's Republic of China (the *PRC*) as a wholly owned subsidiary of Light In The Box.

On March 17, 2016, Zall Cross-border E-commerce Investment Company Limited (*Zall E-Commerce*), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Zall Group Ltd. (*Zall Group*), a developer and operator of large-scale consumer-focused product wholesale shopping malls in China, acquired a strategic equity interest in the Group.



Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**1. ORGANIZATION AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES - continued**

*The VIE arrangements*

The PRC regulations currently limit direct foreign ownership of business entities providing value-added telecommunications services, advertising services and Internet services in the PRC where certain licenses are required for the provision of such services. To comply with these PRC regulations, the Group currently conducts certain aspects of its business in the PRC through Shenzhen Lanting Huitong Technologies Co.Ltd. ( Lanting Huitong ) and Beijing Lanting Gaochuang Technologies Co.Ltd. ( Lanting Gaochuang ), both of which are VIEs.

Lanting Huitong was established by the shareholders of the Company in June 2008 in the PRC. Through the contractual arrangements (as described below) among Lanting Jishi, Lanting Huitong and the respective shareholders of Lanting Huitong, Lanting Huitong became the Group's VIE.

In order to obtain the benefit granted to domestic enterprises that are held by Chinese nationals who have previously studied overseas, the Chief Executive Officer ( CEO ) and Lanting Huitong established Lanting Gaochuang in December 2011, each holding 51% and 49% of Lanting Gaochuang, respectively, in the China Beijing Wangjing Overseas Students Pioneer Park.

Through a series of contractual arrangements (as described below) among Lanting Jishi, Lanting Gaochuang and the respective shareholders of Lanting Gaochuang, Lanting Gaochuang became the Group's VIE.

*Agreements that provide Lanting Jishi effective control over Lanting Huitong and Lanting Gaochuang (collectively, the VIEs )*

*Powers of Attorney:* Each shareholder of the VIEs has executed a power of attorney appointing Lanting Jishi or its designee to be his or her attorney and irrevocably authorizing them to vote on his or her behalf on all of the matters concerning the VIEs that may require shareholders' approval. The powers of attorney will be valid as long as the

shareholders remain as shareholders of the VIEs.

*Equity disposal agreement:* The agreements granted Lanting Jishi or its designated party exclusive options to purchase, when and to the extent permitted under PRC law, all or part of the equity interests in the VIEs. The exercise price for the options to purchase all or part of the equity interests will be the minimum amount of consideration permissible under the then applicable PRC law. The agreement will be valid until Lanting Jishi or its designated party purchases all the shares from shareholders of the VIEs.

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**1. ORGANIZATION AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES - continued**

*The VIE arrangements - continued*

*Spousal consent letters:* Pursuant to spousal consent letters, the spouses of certain shareholders of Lanting Huitong acknowledged that the equity interests of Lanting Huitong held by and registered in the name of his/her spouse will be disposed of pursuant to the equity disposal and share pledge agreements. These spouses understand that such equity interests are held by their respective spouse on behalf of Lanting Jishi, and they will not take any action to interfere with the disposition of such equity interests, including, without limitation, claiming that such equity interests constitute communal property of marriage. The spousal consent letters will be valid until the liquidation of Lanting Huitong, unless terminated earlier at Lanting Jishi's sole discretion.

*Loan Agreement:* Under the loan agreement entered into in December 2011 between Lanting Jishi and the CEO, Lanting Jishi extended a loan in the amount of \$41 (RMB255, 000) to the CEO to be contributed as 51% of the registered capital of Lanting Gaochuang. Under this agreement, the CEO agrees that without prior written consent from Lanting Jishi, Lanting Gaochuang may not enter into any transaction that could materially affect its assets, liabilities, interests or operations, and there will be no earnings distribution in any form by Lanting Gaochuang before such loan has been repaid. This loan can only be repaid by transferring all of the CEO's equity interest in Lanting Gaochuang to Lanting Jishi or a third party designated by Lanting Jishi, and submitting all proceeds from such transaction to Lanting Jishi. The loan agreement has a term of ten years and will be extended automatically, unless indicated otherwise by Lanting Jishi in writing three months prior to the contract expiration date.

*Agreements that transfer economic benefits to Lanting Jishi*

*Business operation agreements:* The shareholders of the VIEs and the VIEs agreed that the VIEs may not enter into any transaction that could materially affect the assets, liabilities, interests or operations of the VIEs, without prior written

consent from Lanting Jishi or other party designated by Lanting Jishi. In addition, directors, supervisors, chairman, general managers, financial controllers or other senior managers of the VIEs must be Lanting Jishi's nominees. Lanting Jishi is entitled to any dividend declared by the VIEs. The business operation agreement will be valid until the liquidation of the VIEs, unless terminated earlier at Lanting Jishi's sole discretion.

*Exclusive technical support and consulting service agreements:* Lanting Jishi agreed to provide the VIEs with technology support and consulting services. The VIEs agreed to pay a service fee annually equal to substantially all of the net income of the VIEs. The exclusive technical support and consulting service agreement will be valid until the liquidation of the VIEs, unless terminated earlier at Lanting Jishi's sole discretion.

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**1. ORGANIZATION AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES - continued**

*Agreements that transfer economic benefits to Lanting Jishi - continued*

*Share pledge agreement:* The shareholders of the VIEs pledged all of their respective equity interests in favor of Lanting Jishi to secure the obligations of the VIEs, and the shareholders under the VIE agreements, including the business operation agreements, and the exclusive technical support and consulting service agreements described above. If the VIEs or any of the shareholders of the VIEs breaches any of their respective contractual obligations under these agreements, Lanting Jishi, as pledgee, will be entitled to certain rights, including the right to sell the pledged equity interests. The shareholders of the VIEs agreed not to transfer, sell, pledge, dispose of or otherwise create any new encumbrance on their respective equity interests in the VIEs, without Lanting Jishi's prior written consent. Unless terminated at Lanting Jishi's sole discretion, each share pledge agreement will be valid till the completion of all the contractual obligations of the VIEs, or any of the shareholders of the VIEs under the various agreements, including the business operation agreements, the technical support and consulting service agreements and equity disposal agreements.

Since the Company, through Lanting Jishi, its wholly owned subsidiary, has (1) the power to direct the activities of Lanting Huitong and Lanting Gaochuang that most significantly affect their economic performance and (2) the right to receive the benefits from them, the Company is the primary beneficiary of both entities and has consolidated them as VIEs since their respective inceptions.

*Risks in relation to VIE structure*

The Group believes that Lanting Jishi's contractual arrangements with the VIEs are in compliance with the PRC law and are legally enforceable. The shareholders of the VIEs are also shareholders of the Company and therefore have no current interest in seeking to act contrary to the contractual arrangements. However, uncertainties in the PRC legal system could limit the Group's ability to enforce these contractual arrangements and if the shareholders of the VIEs were to reduce their interest in the Company, their interests may diverge from that of the Company and that may potentially increase the risk that they would seek to act contrary to the contractual terms, for example by influencing the VIEs not to pay the service fees when required to do so. The Company's ability to control the VIEs also depends on the power of attorney

Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

Lanting Jishi has to vote on all matters requiring shareholder approval in the VIEs. As noted above, the Company believes this power of attorney is legally enforceable but may not be as effective as direct equity ownership.

F-11

---

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**1. ORGANIZATION AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES - continued**

*Risks in relation to VIE structure - continued*

In addition, if the legal structure and contractual arrangements were found to be in violation of any existing PRC laws and regulations, the PRC government could:

- revoke the Group's business and operating licenses;
- require the Group to discontinue or restrict operations;
- restrict the Group's right to collect revenues;
- block the Group's websites;
- revoke the benefits provided by the Wangjing Pioneer Park;
- require the Group to restructure the operations in such a way as to compel the Group to establish a new enterprise, re-apply for the necessary licenses or relocate their businesses, staff and assets;

- impose additional conditions or requirements with which the Group may not be able to comply; or
- take other regulatory or enforcement actions against the Group that could be harmful to the Group's business.

The imposition of any of these penalties may result in a material and adverse effect on the Group's ability to conduct the Group's business. In addition, if the imposition of any of these penalties causes the Group to lose the rights to direct the activities of the VIEs and its subsidiaries or the right to receive their economic benefits, the Group would possibly no longer be able to consolidate the VIEs.



Table of Contents**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued****FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)

**1. ORGANIZATION AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES - continued**

The following consolidated financial information of the Group's VIEs was included in the accompanying consolidated financial statements as of and for the years ended, after elimination of intercompany balances and transactions within the Group:

	As of December 31, 2016	As of December 31, 2017
Total assets	\$ 56	\$ 6,117
Total liabilities	\$ 1,557	\$ 3,931

	2015	Year ended December 31, 2016		2017
Net revenues	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$	\$
Net (loss) profit	\$ (128)	\$ (52)	\$	\$ (7,507)

	2015	Year ended December 31, 2016		2017
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	\$ (247)	\$ (131)	\$	\$ 3,073
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	\$ 44	\$	\$	\$ (3,069)
Net cash provided by financing activities	\$	\$	\$	\$

As of December 31, 2017, there was no pledge or collateralization of the consolidated VIEs' assets. None of the consolidated VIEs' assets can only be used to settle the VIEs' obligations.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

*Basis of presentation*

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ( U.S. GAAP ).

*Basis of consolidation*

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the Group, its subsidiaries and its VIEs. All inter-company transactions and balances are eliminated upon consolidation.

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

*Use of estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and the reported amount of revenues and expenses in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The Group bases its estimates on historical experience and various other factors believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Significant accounting estimates reflected in the Group's financial statements include revenue recognition, inventory valuation, impairment of goodwill and intangible assets, share-based compensation and income taxes.

*Cash and cash equivalents*

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand, demand deposits with financial institutions and term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less.

*Restricted cash*

Restricted cash consists of cash which is held under the Group's name in an escrow account as deposits withheld by third party payment processing agencies and the deposits fluctuate with the volume of payment processed.

*Accounts receivable*

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

Accounts receivable on our consolidated balance sheets consist of accounts receivable for our logistic services and account receivable for cash collected by the delivery service providers on behalf of the Group under the cash-on-delivery product sales within PRC. The Group considers many factors in assessing the collectability of its accounts receivable, such as the age of the amounts due, the customer's payment history, creditworthiness, financial conditions of the customers and industry trend. An allowance for doubtful accounts is recorded in the period in which a loss is determined to be probable. As of December 31, 2016 and 2017, the Company has determined the risk of uncollected receivable is remote.

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

*Inventories*

Inventories are accounted for using the first-in-first-out method, and are valued at the lower of cost or net realizable value. Adjustments are recorded to write down the cost of inventory to the net realizable value due to slow-moving merchandise and broken assortments, which is dependent upon factors such as historical trends with similar merchandise, inventory aging, and historical and forecasted consumer demand. Write downs are recorded in cost of revenues in the consolidated statements of operations.

*Property and equipment, net*

Property and equipment, net is stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and amortization. Depreciation and amortization are calculated on a straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

	<b>Useful lives</b>
Leasehold improvements	Lesser of the lease term or estimated useful life of the assets
Furniture, fixtures and office equipment	5 years
Software and IT equipment	3 years

*Acquired intangible assets, net*

Intangible assets, other than goodwill, resulting from the acquisitions of entities accounted for using the acquisition method of accounting are estimated by management based on the fair value of assets acquired.

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

Identifiable intangible assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization of technology and members are computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives.

	<b>Useful lives</b>
Domain name/Trade name	Indefinite life
Technology	3 Years
Members	4 Years

F-15

---

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

*Long-term investments*

The Group's long-term investments consist of cost method investment and equity method investment.

*Cost method investment*

Investment in an entity where the Group does not have readily determinable fair value and the Group does not have significant influence, is accounted for using the cost method. The Group only adjusts for other-than-temporary declines in fair value and distributions of earnings that exceed the Group's share of earnings since its investment. Management regularly evaluates the impairment of the cost method investments based on performance and financial position of the investee as well as other evidence of market value. Such evaluation includes, but is not limited to, reviewing the investee's cash position, recent financing, projected and historical financial performance, cash flow forecasts and financing needs. The Group did not record any impairment loss on its cost method investment during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

*Equity method investment*

Investment in an entity where the Group can exercise significant influence, but not control, is accounted for using the equity method. Whether or not the Group can exercise significant influence with respect to an equity investee depends on an evaluation of several factors including, among others, the Group's representation on the investee's board of directors and ownership level, which is generally a 20% to 50% interest in the voting securities of the investee. Under the equity method, the investment is initially recorded at cost and adjusted for the Group's share of undistributed earnings or losses of the investee.

The management regularly evaluates the impairment of the equity investment based on performance and the financial position of the investee as well as other evidence of market value. Such evaluation includes, but is not limited to, reviewing the investee's cash position, recent financings, projected and historical financial performance, cash flow forecasts and financing needs. An impairment charge is recorded when the carrying

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

amount of the investment exceeds its fair value and this condition is determined to be other-than-temporary. The Group did not record any impairment loss on its equity method investment during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

### *Impairment of long-lived assets and intangible assets with definite life*

Long-lived assets, such as property and equipment and definite-lived intangible assets, are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation or amortization.

The Group evaluates the recoverability of long-lived assets, including identifiable intangible assets, with determinable useful lives, whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that an intangible asset's carrying amount may not be recoverable. The Group measures the carrying amount of long-lived asset against the estimated undiscounted future cash flows associated with it. Impairment exists when the sum of the expected future net cash flows is less than the carrying value of the asset being evaluated. Impairment loss is calculated as the amount by which the carrying value of the asset exceeds its fair value. Fair value is estimated based on various valuation techniques, including the discounted value of estimated future cash flows. The evaluation of asset impairment requires the Group to make assumptions about future cash flows over the life of the asset being evaluated. These assumptions require significant judgment and actual results may differ from assumed and estimated amounts.



Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

*Impairment of Goodwill and Indefinite-lived intangible assets*

Goodwill and intangible assets deemed to have indefinite useful lives are not amortized, but tested for impairment annually or more frequently if event and circumstances indicate that they might be impaired.

Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of identifiable net assets acquired in business combinations. The Group performs a two-step goodwill impairment test. The first step compares the fair values of each reporting unit to its carrying amount, including goodwill. If the fair value of a reporting unit exceeds its carrying amount, goodwill is not considered impaired and the second step will not be required. If the carrying amount of a reporting unit exceeds its fair value, the second step compares the implied fair value of the affected reporting unit's goodwill to the carrying value of that goodwill. The implied fair value of goodwill is determined in a manner similar to accounting for a business combination with the allocation of the assessed fair value determined in the first step to the assets and liabilities of the reporting unit. The excess of the fair value of the reporting unit over the amounts assigned to the assets and liabilities is the implied fair value of goodwill. This allocation process is only performed for purposes of evaluating goodwill impairment and does not result in an entry to adjust the value of any assets or liabilities. An impairment loss is recognized for any excess in the carrying value of goodwill over the implied fair value of goodwill. In estimating the fair value of each reporting unit the Group estimates the future cash flows of each reporting unit, the Group has taken into consideration the overall and industry economic conditions and trends, market risk of the Group and historical information.

An intangible asset that is not subject to amortization is tested for impairment at least annually or if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the asset might be impaired. Such impairment test compares the fair values of assets with their carrying value amounts and an impairment loss is recognized if and when the carrying amounts exceed the fair values. The estimates of fair values of intangible assets not subject to amortization are determined using various discounted cash flow valuation methodologies. Significant assumptions are inherent in this process, including estimates of discount rates.

*Business combinations*

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

The assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, and any noncontrolling interest of the acquiree at the acquisition date, if any, are measured at their fair values as of that date. Goodwill is recognized and measured as the excess of the total consideration transferred plus the fair value of any noncontrolling interest of the acquiree, if any, at the acquisition date over the fair values of the identifiable net assets acquired. Acquisition costs are expensed when incurred. Consideration transferred in a business acquisition is measured at the fair value as of the date of acquisition. For shares issued in a business combination, if any, the Group estimates the fair value as of the date of acquisition.

F-17

---

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

*Treasury shares, at cost*

Treasury shares represent shares of the Company's stock that have been issued, repurchased by the Company, and that have not been retired or canceled. These shares have no voting rights and are not entitled to receive dividends and are excluded from the weighted average outstanding shares in calculation of net income per share. Treasury shares are recorded at cost.

*Revenue recognition*

*Product sales*

Revenue is stated net of value added tax ( VAT ) and return allowances.

The Group recognizes revenue from the sale of apparel and other general merchandise through its websites and other online platforms.

The Group recognizes revenue when the following four revenue recognition criteria are met:

(i) persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, (ii) delivery has occurred, (iii) the selling price is fixed or determinable, and (iv) collectability is reasonably assured.

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

The Group defers the recognition of revenue and the related product costs for shipments that are in-transit to the customer. Payments received in advance of delivery are classified as advances from customers. The Group recognizes the revenue at the time the end customers receive the products even for international shipment. Amounts collected by delivery service providers but not remitted to the Group are classified as accounts receivable on the consolidated balance sheets.

Certain employees of the Group register in supplemental online outlets under their own name as these websites require registration using identity cards of individuals to sell the Group's product on behalf of the Group. The Group has contractual arrangements with these employees which require them to transfer customers' payments received to the Group for the sale of the products. The Group evaluates the sales transactions performed by these employees on behalf of the Group to determine whether to recognize the revenues on a gross or net basis. The determination is based upon an assessment as to whether the Group acts as a principal or agent when selling the products. All of the revenues involving employees performing sales transactions on the supplemental online outlets on behalf of the Group are currently accounted for on a gross basis since the Group is the primary obligor, has general and physical inventory risk, latitude in establishing prices, discretion in supplier selection and credit risks.

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

*Revenue recognition - continued*

In arrangements whereby certain suppliers place the products at the Group's premises, the risk and rewards of ownership of the products passed to the Group upon confirmation of orders by the Group's customers. All of the revenues involving these arrangements are accounted for on a gross basis since the Group is the primary obligor, has physical inventory risk, latitude in establishing prices, discretion in supplier selection and credit risks.

The Group periodically provides incentive offers to its customers to encourage purchases. Current discount offers, when accepted by its customers, are treated as a reduction to the purchase price of the related transaction and are included as a net amount in revenue. The Group also provides discount reward, which may only be used in the future, to customers who have made a current purchase. As the right of receiving future discount does not represent a significant and incremental discount to the customer, the discount is treated as a reduction of revenue when the future transaction takes place.

Promotional free products, which cannot be redeemed for cash are normally shipped together with current qualified sales. Cost of these promotional items or free products are recorded as cost of sales when the revenue of the current qualified sales is recognized.

The Group allows customers to return goods within a period of time subsequent to the delivery of the goods purchased. The Group changed its sales return policy in 2017 to offer returns for items from 30 days to 14 days of receipt of shipment. The Group estimates return allowance based on historical experience. The estimation of return allowances is adjusted to the extent that actual returns differ, or are expected to differ. Changes in the estimated return allowance are recognized through a cumulative catch-up adjustment in the period of change and will impact the amount of net revenues in that period.

Outbound shipping charges to customers are included as a part of the revenues. Outbound shipping-related costs are included in the cost of product sales. Shipping costs incurred for sales of products and recognized as cost of product sales were \$70,314, \$59,964 and \$60,131 for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively.

VAT on sales is calculated at 17% on revenue from sale of products in the PRC and paid after deducting input-VAT on purchases. The net VAT balance between input-VAT and output-VAT is reflected in the consolidated financial statement as prepaid expenses and other current assets or accrued expenses and other current liabilities.

*Services*

The Group derive services revenue mainly from provision of logistic services to small businesses in China. Service revenue is recognized when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, service has been performed, the fee is fixed or determinable and collectability is reasonably assured. Revenue for logistic services are recognized when the packages are delivered to the recipients.

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

*Cost of goods sold*

*Product sales*

Cost of goods sold primarily consists of the purchase price of consumer products sold by the Group on its websites, inbound and outbound shipping charges, packaging supplies and inventory write-down. Shipping charges to receive products from its suppliers are included in inventory cost, and recognized as cost of sales upon sale of products to its customers.

*Services*

Cost of services primarily consists of the shipping charges and cost of packaging supplies directly incurred relating to logistic services. Shipping charges are recognized as cost of revenue once the delivery service is completed when the goods are delivered to destination.

*Fulfillment*

Fulfillment costs represent those costs incurred in operating and staffing the Group's fulfillment and customer service centers, including costs attributable to buying, receiving, inspecting, and warehousing inventories; picking, packaging, and preparing customer orders for shipment; payment processing and related transaction costs.

*Selling and marketing*

Selling and marketing expenses consist primarily of search engine marketing and advertising, affiliate market program expenditure, public relations expenditures; and payroll and related expenses for personnel engaged in selling, marketing and business development. The Group pays to use certain relevant key words relating to its business on major search engines and the fee is on a cost-per-click basis. The Group also pays commissions to participants in its affiliate program when customer referrals result in product sales, and the Group classifies such costs as selling and marketing expenses in the consolidated statements of operations. Advertising includes fees paid to on-line advertisers who assist the Group to advertise at targeted websites. Such fees are paid at fixed rate or calculated based on volume directed to the Group's website.

*General and administrative*

General and administrative expenses consist of payroll and related expenses for employees involved in general corporate functions such as accounting, finance, tax, legal, and human resources; costs associated with the use by these functions of facilities and equipment, such as depreciation expense and rent; professional fees and other general corporate costs. Also included in general and administrative expenses are payroll and related expenses for employees involved in product research and development, and systems support, as well as server charges and costs associated with telecommunications.

General and administrative expenses also include credit losses relating to fraudulent credit card activities which resulted in chargebacks from the payment processing agencies. The Group estimates chargebacks based on historical experience. The estimation of chargebacks is adjusted to the extent that actual chargebacks differ, or are expected to differ. The chargeback incurred for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017 are \$1,227, \$2,354 and \$2,929.



Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

*Fair value*

Fair value is the price that would be received from selling an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. When determining the fair value measurements for assets and liabilities required or permitted to be recorded at fair value, the Group considers the principal or most advantageous market in which it would transact and it considers assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability.

Authoritative literature provides a fair value hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into three broad levels. The level in the hierarchy within which the fair value measurement in its entirety falls is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement as follows:

- Level 1-inputs are based upon unadjusted quoted prices for identical instruments traded in active markets.
  
- Level 2-inputs are based upon quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active and model-based valuation techniques for which all significant assumptions are observable in the market or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.
  
- Level 3-inputs are generally unobservable and typically reflect management's estimates of assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. The fair values are therefore determined using model-based techniques that include option pricing models, discounted cash flow models, and similar techniques.

*Financial instruments*

Financial instruments of the Group primarily consist of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, receivable from processing agencies, long-term investment and accounts payable. The carrying values of cash, restricted cash, accounts receivable from processing agencies, advance from customers and accounts payable approximate their fair values due to short-term maturities. Long-term investments are carried at cost which approximates fair value due to their recent purchase.

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

*Foreign currency translation*

The Company's functional currency is the US\$. The Company's subsidiaries, VIEs and its VIE's subsidiary determine their functional currencies based on the criteria of ASC topic 830, Foreign Currency Matters.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than the functional currency are translated into the functional currency at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in currencies other than the functional currency during the year are converted into functional currency at the applicable rates of exchange prevailing when the transactions occurred. Transaction gains and losses are recognized in the consolidated statements of operations.

The Group's entities with functional currency of RMB and Euro, translate their operating results and financial position into the U.S. dollar, the Group's reporting currency. Assets and liabilities are translated using the exchange rates in effect on the balance sheet date. Revenues, expenses, gains and losses are translated using the average rate for the year. Translation adjustments are reported as cumulative translation adjustments and are shown as a separate component of other comprehensive loss.

*Income taxes*

Deferred income taxes are provided using the asset and liability method. Under this method, deferred income taxes are recognized for tax credits and net operating losses available for carry forwards and significant temporary differences. A valuation allowance is provided to reduce the amount of deferred tax assets if it is considered more likely than not that some portion of, or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. Current income taxes are provided for in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable to the Group as enacted by the relevant tax authorities.

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

The impact of an uncertain income tax position on the income tax return must be recognized at the largest amount that is more-likely-than not to be sustained upon audit by the relevant tax authority. An uncertain income tax position will not be recognized if it has less than a 50% likelihood of being sustained. Interest and penalties on income taxes will be classified as a component of the provisions for income taxes. The Group did not recognize any income tax due to uncertain tax position or incur any interest and penalties related to potential underpaid income tax expenses for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 or 2017, respectively.

### *Comprehensive loss*

Comprehensive loss includes net loss and foreign currency translation adjustments and is reported in the consolidated statements of comprehensive loss.

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

*Share-based compensation*

Share-based payment transactions with employees, such as share options are measured based on the grant date fair value of the equity instrument. The Group has elected to recognize compensation expense using the straight-line method for all employee equity awards granted with graded vesting provided that the amount of compensation cost recognized at any date is at least equal to the portion of the grant-date value of the options that are vested at that date, over the requisite service period of the award, which is generally the vesting period of the award. The estimate of forfeitures will be adjusted over the requisite service period to the extent that actual forfeitures differ, or are expected to differ, from such estimates. Changes in estimated forfeitures will be recognized through a cumulative catch-up adjustment in the period of change and will also impact the amount of share-based compensation expense to be recognized in future periods.

Changes in the terms or conditions of share options are accounted as a modification under which the Group calculate whether there is any excess of the fair value of the modified option over the fair value of the original option immediately before its terms are modified, measured based on the share price and other pertinent factors at the modification date. For vested options, the Group recognizes incremental compensation cost in the period of the modification occurred and for unvested options, the Group recognizes, over the remaining requisite service period, the sum of the incremental compensation cost and the remaining unrecognized compensation cost for the original award on the modification date.

*Operating leases*

Leases where the rewards and risks of ownership of assets primarily remain with the lessor are accounted for as operating leases. Some of operating lease agreements of the Group contain provisions for future rent increases, rent free periods, or periods in which rent payments are reduced (abated). The total amount of rental payments due over the lease term is being charged to rent expense on the straight-line method over the term of the lease. The difference between rent expense recorded and the amount paid is credited or charged to other accrued expenses, which is included in Accrued expenses and other current liabilities in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets.

*Loss per share*

Basic loss per ordinary share is computed by dividing net loss attributable to ordinary shareholders by weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the period.

Diluted loss per ordinary share reflects the potential dilution that could occur if securities were exercised or converted into ordinary shares. The Group has share options and nonvested shares, which could potentially dilute basic earnings per share in the future. To calculate the number of shares for diluted income per share, the effects of the share options and nonvested shares are computed using the treasury stock method.

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

*Significant risks and uncertainties*

The Group participates in an industry with rapid changes in regulations, customer demand and competition and believes that changes in any of the following areas could have a material adverse effect on the Group's future financial position, results of operations, or cash flows: advances and trends in e-commerce industry; changes in certain supplier and vendor relationships; regulatory or other PRC related factors; and risks associated with the Group's ability to keep and increase the market coverage.

*Concentration of credit risk*

Financial instruments that potentially expose the Group to concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable and advances to suppliers. The Group places its cash and cash equivalents with financial institutions located in the PRC and Hong Kong, United States and Netherland. Accounts receivable primarily comprise amounts receivable from product delivery service providers. These amounts are collected from customers by the service providers upon product delivery. With respect to advances to product suppliers, the Group performs on-going credit evaluations of the financial condition of its suppliers.

*Foreign currency risk*

The RMB is not a freely convertible currency. The PRC State Administration for Foreign Exchange, under the authority of the People's Bank of China, controls the conversion of RMB into foreign currencies. The value of the RMB is subject to changes in central government policies and to international economic and political developments affecting supply and demand in the China foreign exchange trading system market. The Group's cash and cash equivalents denominated in RMB amounted to \$2,028 and \$4,829 at December 31, 2016 and 2017, respectively.

*Recent accounting pronouncements*

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers ASU 2014-09 requires revenue recognition to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration that a company expects to be entitled to in exchange for the goods or services. To achieve this principle, a company must apply five steps including identifying the contract with a customer, identifying the performance obligations in the contract, determining the transaction price, allocating the transaction price to the performance obligations, and recognizing revenue when (or as) the company satisfies the performance obligations. Additional quantitative and qualitative disclosure to enhance the understanding about the nature, amount, timing, and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows is also required. ASU 2014-09 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2017. In April 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-10, Identifying Performance Obligations and Licensing ASU 2016-10 clarifies the following two aspects of ASU 2014-09: identifying performance obligations and licensing implementation guidance. The effective date of ASU 2016-10 is the same as the effective date of ASU 2014-09. The Group expects to adopt ASU 2014-09 under the modified retrospective method in the first quarter of 2018. Prior periods will not be retrospectively adjusted. The Group is in the process of finalizing its assessment of the new standard and currently believes the impact of the new guidance will not be material on its consolidated financial statements. The primary impact identified includes the balance sheet presentation of our sales return reserve which will be shown as a separate asset and refund liability on our consolidated balance sheet. The Company is also in the process of finalizing the impact of the standard on the Company's discount rewards which is not expected to be material. In addition, we expect the adoption to lead to increased footnote disclosures, particularly with regard to revenue related balance sheet accounts and revenue by category. Overall, the Company does not currently expect the adoption to have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.



Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

In January 2016, the FASB issued a new pronouncement ASU 2016-01 Financial Instruments—Overall: Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities. The ASU requires equity investments (except those accounted for under the equity method of accounting or those that result in consolidation of the investee) to be measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in net income. The ASU also requires an entity to present separately in other comprehensive income the portion of the total change in the fair value of a liability resulting from a change in the instrument-specific credit risk when the entity has elected to measure the liability at fair value in accordance with the fair value option for financial instruments. The new guidance is effective for public companies for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within those fiscal years. The new guidance permits early adoption of the own credit provision. Adoption of the amendment must be applied by means of a cumulative-effect adjustment to the balance sheet as of the beginning of the fiscal year of adoption, except for amendments related to equity instruments that do not have readily determinable fair values, which should be applied prospectively. The Group does not expect the adoption of this guidance will have a significant effect on the Group's consolidated financial statements.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842). The guidance supersedes existing guidance on accounting for leases with the main difference being that operating leases are to be recorded in the statement of financial position as right-of-use assets and lease liabilities, initially measured at the present value of the lease payments. For operating leases with a term of 12 months or less, a lessee is permitted to make an accounting policy election not to recognize lease assets and liabilities. For public business entities, the guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, including interim periods within those fiscal years. Early application of the guidance is permitted. In transition, entities are required to recognize and measure leases at the beginning of the earliest period presented using a modified retrospective approach. The Group is in the process of evaluating the impact that this pronouncement on its consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

In November, 2016, the FASB issued a new pronouncement, ASU 2016-18, which amends ASC 230 to add or clarify guidance on the classification and presentation of restricted cash in the statement of cash flows. Key requirements of the ASU are as follows:

- An entity should include in its cash and cash-equivalent balances in the statement of cash flows those amounts that are deemed to be restricted cash and restricted cash equivalents. The ASU does not define the terms restricted cash and restricted cash equivalents but states that an entity should continue to provide appropriate disclosures about its accounting policies pertaining to restricted cash in accordance with other GAAP. The ASU also states that any change in accounting policy will need to be assessed under ASC 250.
- A reconciliation between the statement of financial position and the statement of cash flows must be disclosed when the statement of financial position includes more than one line item for cash, cash equivalents, restricted cash, and restricted cash equivalents.
- Changes in restricted cash and restricted cash equivalents that result from transfers between cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash and restricted cash equivalents should not be presented as cash flow activities in the statement of cash flows.
- An entity with a material balance of amounts generally described as restricted cash and restricted cash equivalents must disclose information about the nature of the restrictions.

For public business entities, the amendments are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Early adoption is permitted, including adoption in an interim period. The Group does not expect the adoption of this guidance will have a significant effect on the Group's consolidated financial statements.

In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-04: Intangibles – Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Simplifying the Test for Goodwill Impairment. To simplify the subsequent measurement of goodwill, the Board eliminated Step 2 from the goodwill impairment test. Under the amendments in this Update, an entity should perform its annual, or interim, goodwill impairment test by comparing the fair value of a reporting unit with its carrying amount. An entity should recognize an impairment charge for the amount by which the carrying amount exceeds the reporting unit's fair value; however, the loss recognized should not exceed the total amount of goodwill allocated to that reporting unit. An entity should apply the amendments in this Update on a prospective basis. An entity is required to disclose the nature of and reason for the change in accounting principle upon transition. A public business entity should adopt the amendments in this Update for its annual or any interim goodwill impairment tests in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019. Early adoption is permitted for interim or annual goodwill impairment tests performed on testing dates after January 1, 2017. The Group does not expect the adoption of this guidance will have a significant effect on the Group's consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued****FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)

**3. PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHER CURRENT ASSETS**

Components of other current assets which are included in the prepaid expenses and other current assets are as follows:

	As of December 31,	
	2016	2017
Receivable from processing agencies (1)	\$ 1,671	\$ 2,460
Prepayment to suppliers	6,933	11,880
Rental deposits and prepaid rents	198	211
Deferred expense	287	341
Other	585	804
Total	\$ 9,674	\$ 15,696

(1) Receivables from processing agencies represented cash that had been received from customers but held by the processing agencies as of December 31, 2016 and 2017. The receivables were collected by the Group subsequent to the respective year end.

Table of Contents**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued****FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)

**4. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET**

The components of property and equipment are as follows:

	As of December 31,	
	2016	2017
Leasehold improvements	\$ 3,748	\$ 4,069
Furniture, fixtures and office equipment	2,345	2,715
Software and IT equipment	2,857	3,088
Property and equipment, gross	8,950	9,872
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(7,879)	(8,952)
Property and equipment, net	\$ 1,071	\$ 920

Depreciation expenses incurred for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017 are \$2,118, \$1,378 and \$764, respectively.

**5. GOODWILL**

On December 31, 2013, the Group acquired the fashion-focused site business from Ador Inc. The acquired assets were recorded at fair value at the date of acquisition, including net working capital of \$44, goodwill of \$690 and other intangible assets of \$266. There was no change to the carrying amount of goodwill since acquisition.

Table of Contents**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued****FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)

**6. ACQUIRED INTANGIBLE ASSETS, NET**

The Group's intangible assets, presented in the following table, arose from the acquisition of Shanghai Ouku on May 24, 2010 and the acquisition of the fashion-focused site business from Ador Inc. on December 31, 2013.

	December 31, 2016			Net carrying amount	December 31, 2017			Net carrying amount
	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated amortization	Accumulated impairment loss		Gross carrying amount	Accumulated amortization	Accumulated impairment loss	
Intangible assets not subject to amortization:								
Trademark/Domain Name	\$ 1,220	\$	\$ (1,010)	\$ 210	\$ 1,220	\$	\$ (1,010)	\$ 210
Intangible assets subject to amortization:								
- Technology Platform	90	(90)			90	(90)		
- Non-compete Agreement	9	(7)	(2)		9	(7)	(2)	
- Customer Base	32	(22)	(10)		32	(22)	(10)	
- Technology	36	(36)			36	(36)		
- Members	20	(15)		5	20	(20)		
	\$ 1,407	\$ (170)	\$ (1,022)	\$ 215	\$ 1,407	\$ (175)	\$ (1,022)	\$ 210

The amortization expenses incurred for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$17, \$17 and \$5, respectively. The intangible assets are fully amortized as of December 31 2017.

Table of Contents**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued****FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)

**7. LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS**

On February 6, 2015, the Group acquired 30% equity interest of Shantou Demon Network Technology Co., Ltd. ( Demon ), with \$2,100 cash consideration. Demon owns an online website specialized in cross-border packages tracking. The Group has significant influence but does not have control over Demon. Accordingly the Group recorded it as an equity method investment.

During the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017, The Group recorded its share of (loss) income of \$ (34), \$17 and \$208 in the consolidated statement of operations.

On March 31, 2017, LITB entered into an agreement with Maikailai Technologies Co., Ltd ( Maikailai ) to acquire 10.53% equity interest of Maikailai with a total cash consideration of \$2,950. This transaction was completed during the second quarter of 2017. The Group has accounted for the investment as a cost method investment as it does not have significant influence over the investee and the investment does not have readily determinable fair value.

**8. ACCRUED EXPENSES AND OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES**

	As of December 31,	
	2016	2017
Accrued payroll and staff welfare	\$ 12,944	\$ 11,150
Individual income tax withheld	591	593
VAT payable	287	271
Accrued professional fees	3,283	3,303
Accrued advertising fees	596	1,666
Credit card processing charges	551	483
Accrued sales return (1)	1,927	1,236
Other accrued expenses	905	2,025
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 21,084</b>	<b>\$ 20,727</b>

Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

(1) Accrued sales return represents the gross profit effect of estimated sales return at the end of each of the respective years assuming products returned had no value to the Group. Movements during the respective years are as follows:

	As of December 31,	
	2016	2017
Balance at January 1	\$ 2,465	\$ 1,927
Allowance for sales return made in the year	12,370	7,929
Utilization of accrued sales return	(12,908)	(8,620)
Balance at December 31	\$ 1,927	\$ 1,236

F-30

---



Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**9. ORDINARY SHARES**

In December 2013, the board of directors approved the Company to repurchase up to \$20,000 of its own outstanding ADSs within one year from December 2013. On December 16, 2014, the Company extended its existing share repurchase program for an additional 12-month through December 15, 2015. On June 8, 2016, the Company announced that the implementation of a share repurchase program of up to \$10,000 worth of its outstanding ADS representing its ordinary shares from June 15, 2016 through June 14, 2017 and the repurchase plan was extended through June 14, 2018. Pursuant to the share repurchase plan, the Company accumulatively repurchased 3,695,337 ADSs, 3,966,951 ADSs and 5,410,411 ADSs as of December 31, 2015, December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2017 respectively, representing 7,390,674 ordinary shares, 7,933,902 ordinary shares and 10,820,822 ordinary shares with accumulated total consideration of approximately \$19,996, \$20,806 and \$23,907 respectively. The shares repurchased by the Company had not been retired or canceled and were accounted for at cost as treasury shares.

In March 2016, the Company issued and sold 21,250,000 ADSs (representing 42,500,000 ordinary shares) through a private placement offering. The proceeds, net of issuance cost of \$1,077, were \$75,423.

In connection with the issuance of ordinary shares, the Group also granted a warrant to the investor to purchase up to 7,455,000 ordinary shares (equivalent to 3,727,500 ADS) at exercise price of \$2.75 per ordinary share. The warrant is exercisable as of September 30, 2016 and expires on March 30, 2018. The Group accounts for the warrant under the authoritative guidance in accounting for derivative financial instruments indexed to and potentially settled in, a company's own stock and has determined the warrant should be classified as equity in its consolidated financial statements at fair value at the date of grant. No subsequent change in fair value will be recognized. The Group used the Black-Scholes pricing model to value the warrant and determined the fair value of the warrant at the date of the grant is immaterial.

**10. SHARE OPTIONS**

On October 27, 2008, the Company adopted the 2008 Share Incentive Option Plan ( 2008 Plan ) for the granting of share options to employees to reward them for services provided to the Company and to provide incentives for future services. Pursuant to the 2008 Plan, total shares that the 2008 Plan was authorized to grant were 4,444,444 shares. In May 2014, the Company authorized the issuance of an additional 6,900,000 ordinary shares to support the Company's business expansion and recruiting plans. The majority of the options will vest over four years where 25% of the options will vest at the end of the first year after the grant date through the fourth year. The share options expire 10 years from the date of grant.

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

In 2013, the Company granted 307,250 share options under the 2008 Plan to employees at exercise price of \$4.75 per share. These share options vest over a period ranged from three to four years.

In 2014, the Company granted 1,797,300 share options under the 2008 Plan to employees at exercise prices ranged from \$1.84 to \$3.26 per share. These share options vest over a period ranged from three to four years.

In 2015, the Company granted 546,400 share options under the 2008 Plan to employees at exercise prices at \$2.25 per share. These share options vest over a period from three months to four years.

In 2016, the Company granted 4,000 share options under the 2008 Plan to employees at exercise prices at \$1.40 per share. These share options vest over a period of four years.

In 2017, the Company granted 120,000 share options under the 2008 Plan to employees at exercise prices ranged from \$0.89 to \$1.49 per share. These share options vest over a period of four years.

Table of Contents**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued****FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017****(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)****10. SHARE OPTIONS continued**

The fair value of each option granted was estimated on the date of grant or modification using binomial option pricing model with the following assumptions during the applicable periods:

	2016	2017
Risk-free interest rate	1.69%	2.45%
Exercise multiple	2.8	2.2
Expected volatility	59.7%	71.7%
Expected dividend yield	0%	0%
Fair value of ordinary shares	\$ 0.83	\$ 0.70

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**10. SHARE OPTIONS - continued**

(1) Risk-free interest rate

Risk-free interest rate was estimated based on the yield to maturity of China international government bonds with a maturity period close to the contractual term of the options.

(2) Exercise multiple

Exercise multiple represents the value of the underlying share as a multiple of exercise price of the option which, if achieved, results in exercise of the option.

(3) Volatility

The volatility of the underlying ordinary shares during the life of the options was estimated based on the historical stock price volatility of comparable listed companies over a period comparable to the contractual term of the options.

(4) Dividend yield

The dividend yield was estimated by the Group based on its expected dividend policy over the contractual term of the options.

(5) Fair value of underlying ordinary shares

The fair value of the underlying ordinary shares is determined based on the closing market price of the ADS of the Company as of the grant date.

F-33

---

Table of Contents**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued****FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)

**10. SHARE OPTIONS - continued**

A summary of the stock option activity under the 2008 Plan as of December 31, 2017, and changes during the year then ended is presented below:

	Options granted	Weighted average exercise price per option
Outstanding at January 1, 2017	965,850	\$ 1.82
Granted	120,000	\$ 1.10
Exercised	(62,000)	\$ 1.42
Cancelled and Forfeited	(133,350)	\$ 2.42
Outstanding at December 31, 2017	890,500	\$ 1.83

The following table summarizes information regarding the share options granted as of December 31, 2017:

	Options Number	As of December 31, 2017		
		Weighted- average exercise price per option	Weighted- average remaining contractual life (years)	Aggregate intrinsic value
Options				
Outstanding	890,500	\$ 1.72	5.73	\$ 136
Exercisable	586,175	\$ 1.66	4.53	\$ 116
Expected to vest	304,325	\$ 1.85	8.05	\$ 20

The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$253, \$26, and \$324 respectively.

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

The weighted average grant date fair value of options granted during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017 was \$1.28 , \$0.83 and \$0.70, respectively.

For the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017, the Group recorded share-based compensation expense of \$5, \$102 and \$97 related to the options under the 2008 Plan, respectively. As of December 31, 2017, there was \$482 of unrecognized compensation cost related to the options, which is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.04 years.

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**11. NONVESTED SHARES**

In 2013, the Company granted 711,571 nonvested shares to certain officers and employees. These nonvested shares vest over a period ranged from two to four years.

In 2014, the Company granted 2,800,300 nonvested shares to certain officers and employees. These nonvested shares vest over a period ranged from three to four years.

In 2015, the Company granted 3,154,800 nonvested to certain officers and employees. These nonvested shares vest over a period from three months to four years.

In 2016, the Company granted 296,000 nonvested to certain officers and employees. These nonvested shares vest over a period from three months to four years.

In 2017, the Company granted 272,000 nonvested to certain officers and employees. These nonvested shares vest over a period of four years.

The holders of the nonvested shares are entitled to voting rights, but shall not be entitled to dividends before vesting.



Table of Contents**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued****FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)

**11. NONVESTED SHARES - continued**

The following table summarizes information regarding the nonvested shares granted and vested:

	Number of Shares	Weighted average grant date fair value
Outstanding at January 1, 2017	1,906,167	\$ 2.61
Granted	272,000	\$ 1.07
Forfeited	(424,691)	\$ 2.12
Vested	(669,192)	\$ 1.21
Outstanding at December 31, 2017	1,084,284	\$ 3.28

The total fair value of shares vested during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017, was \$2,791, \$3,070 and \$808 respectively.

For the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017, the Group recorded share-based compensation expenses of \$3,191, \$2,215 and \$1,768 related to the nonvested shares, respectively. As of December 31, 2017, there was \$2,995 of unrecognized compensation costs related to nonvested shares, which are expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 2.11 years.

Total share-based compensation expenses for share options and nonvested shares for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017 were as follows:

	2015	Year ended December 31, 2016	2017
Fulfillment	\$ 185	\$ 211	\$ 214
Selling and marketing	580	458	456
General and administrative	2,431	1,648	1,195
Total	\$ 3,196	\$ 2,317	\$ 1,865



Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**12. INCOME TAXES**

*Cayman Islands*

The Company is a tax-exempted company incorporated in the Cayman Islands and is not subject to tax on income or capital gains.

*Hong Kong*

Light In The Box, Lanting International Holding Limited ( Lanting International ), LightInTheBox International Logistic Co., Ltd.( LightInTheBox Logistic ), Light Square Limited( Light Square ) are located in Hong Kong and subject to Hong Kong profits tax at 16.5% with respect to the profit generated from Hong Kong.

*PRC*

Except Lanting Huitong and Lanting Gaochuang, other entities of the Group domiciled in the PRC are subject to 25% statutory income tax rates in accordance with the Enterprise Income Tax Law ( EIT Law ) in the periods presented. Lanting Huitong qualified as a technology-advanced service enterprise and therefore enjoyed a reduced tax rate of 15% for the subsequent years. Lanting Gaochuang qualified as a software enterprise in 2012 and therefore is entitled to a two-year income tax exemption starting from 2013, its first profit making year, followed by a reduced tax rate of 12.5% for the subsequent three years.

*Netherland*

## Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

LITB Netherlands B.V is located in Netherland and subject to Netherland profits tax at 25% with respect to the profit generated from Netherland.

For the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017, income tax expense included in the consolidated statements of operations were attributable to the Group's PRC subsidiary and VIEs and comprised current tax expense \$49, \$54 and \$81, respectively. There was no material deferred tax expense for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

The principal components of the deferred tax assets and liabilities are as follows:

	As of December 31,	
	2016	2017
Deferred tax assets:		
Accrued payroll	\$ 2,730	\$
Accrued expenses	88	
Accrued inventory provision	382	925
Net operating loss carry forwards	16,618	20,061
Less: Valuation allowance	(19,818)	(20,986)
Deferred tax asset, net	\$	\$

The Group had no deferred tax liabilities as of December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Table of Contents**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued****FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)

**12. INCOME TAXES - continued***PRC - continued*

The Group operates through its subsidiaries and VIEs and the valuation allowance is considered on each individual subsidiary and VIE basis. The net operating loss carry forwards of the subsidiaries and VIEs registered in the PRC will expire on various dates through 2020. The Group has recognized a full valuation allowance against deferred tax assets as the Group believes that it is more likely than not that its deferred tax assets will not be realized as it does not expect to generate sufficient taxable income in the near future.

*Movement of valuation allowance*

	As of December 31,	
	2016	2017
Balance at beginning of the period	\$ 19,320	\$ 19,818
Additions	498	1,168
Balance at end of the period	\$ 19,818	\$ 20,986

Reconciliation between the expense of income taxes computed by applying the PRC tax rate to loss before income taxes and the actual provision for income taxes is as follows:

	Years ended December 31,		
	2015	2016	2017
Loss before provision of income tax	\$ (39,324)	\$ (8,686)	\$ (9,675)
Statutory tax rate in the PRC	25%	25%	25%
Income tax at statutory tax rate	(9,831)	(2,172)	(2,419)
Non-deductible expenses	8	20	42
Effect of income tax holiday and preferential tax rates	(25)	(11)	(67)

Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

Utilisation of tax loss previously not recognized	(298)	(124)	(99)
Effect of income tax rate differences in jurisdictions other than the PRC	4,582	1,843	1,456
Changes in valuation allowances	5,613	498	1,168
Income tax expense	\$ 49	\$ 54	\$ 81

The Group did not identify significant unrecognized tax benefits for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017. The Group did not incur any interest related to unrecognized tax benefits, did not recognize any penalties as income tax expenses and also does not anticipate any significant change in unrecognized tax benefits within 12 months from December 31, 2017.

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**12. INCOME TAXES - continued**

*PRC - continued*

Uncertainties exist with respect to how the current income tax law in the PRC applies to the Group's overall operations, and more specifically, with regard to tax residency status. The EIT Law includes a provision specifying that legal entities organized outside of the PRC will be considered residents for Chinese Income tax purposes if the place of effective management or control is within the PRC. The implementation rules to the new EIT law provide that non-resident legal entities will be considered PRC residents if substantial and overall management and control over the manufacturing and business operations, personnel, accounting and properties occurs within the PRC. On April 22, 2009, the State Administration of Taxation (the "SAT") issued the Notice Regarding the Determination of Chinese-Controlled Offshore Incorporated Enterprises as PRC Tax Resident Enterprises on the Basis of De Facto Management Bodies, or Circular 82, which provides certain specific criteria for determining whether the de facto management body of a Chinese-controlled offshore-incorporated enterprise is located in China. Circular 82, though technically only applies to China-controlled overseas registered enterprises, has made detailed explanations and clarification with respect to substantial and overall management and control over production and business operations, personnel, accounting and properties which provides a general guidance for the determination of PRC tax resident. Despite the present uncertainties resulting from the limited PRC tax guidance on the issue, the Group does not believe that the legal entities organized outside of the PRC within the Group should be treated as residents for EIT law purposes. However, if the PRC tax authorities subsequently determine that the Company and its subsidiaries registered outside the PRC should be deemed resident enterprises, the Company and its subsidiaries registered outside the PRC will be subject to the PRC income taxes, at a rate of 25%.

If any entity within the Group that is outside the PRC were to be a non-resident for PRC tax purposes dividends paid to it out of profits earned after January 1, 2008 would be subject to a withholding tax at a rate of 10%, subject to reduction by an applicable tax treaty with the PRC. As of December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2017, the Company's subsidiaries located in the PRC recorded aggregate accumulated deficits. Accordingly, no deferred tax liability has been accrued for the Chinese dividend withholding taxes. In the future, aggregate undistributed earnings of the Company's subsidiaries located in the PRC, if any, that are taxable upon distribution to the Company, will be considered to be indefinitely reinvested, because the Group does not have any plan to pay cash dividends on its ordinary shares in the foreseeable future and intends to retain most of its available funds and any future earnings for use in the operation and expansion of its business.

In accordance with relevant the PRC tax administration laws, tax years from 2012 to 2016 of the Group's PRC entities remain subject to tax audits as of December 31, 2017, at the tax authority's discretion.





Table of Contents**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued****FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)

**13. LOSS PER SHARE**

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted net loss per ordinary share for the following years:

	2015	2016	2017
<b>Numerator:</b>			
<b>Net loss attributable to ordinary shareholders of LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd.</b>	\$ (39,407)	\$ (8,723)	\$ (9,548)
<b>Denominator:</b>			
Weighted average number of shares used in calculating net loss per ordinary share - basic	94,970,054	127,180,801	137,641,562
Net loss per ordinary share-diluted	\$ (0.41)	\$ (0.07)	\$ (0.07)

As a result of the Group's net loss for each of the three years ended December 31, 2017, 1,374,050, 965,850 and 890,500 options outstanding and 3,315,264, 1,906,167 and 1,084,284 nonvested shares outstanding as of December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively, were excluded from the computation of diluted net loss per share as their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive.

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**14. EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT BENEFIT**

Full time employees in the PRC participate in a government-mandated defined contribution plan pursuant to which certain pension benefits, medical care, unemployment insurance, employee housing fund and other welfare benefits are provided to employees. The PRC labor regulations require the Group to make contributions based on certain percentages of the employees' basic salaries. Other than the contribution, there is no further obligation under these plans. The total contribution for such employee benefits was \$5,159, \$3,711 and \$5,258 for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively.

**15. STATUTORY RESERVES AND RESTRICTED NET ASSETS**

In accordance with the PRC laws and regulations, the group is required to provide for certain statutory reserves, namely general reserve, enterprise expansion reserve, and staff welfare and bonus reserve, all of which are appropriated from net profit as reported in their PRC statutory accounts. The Group's subsidiaries are required to allocate at least 10% of their after-tax profits to the general reserve until such reserve has reached 50% of their respective registered capital.

Appropriations to the enterprise expansion reserve and the staff welfare and bonus reserve are to be made at the discretion of the board of directors of each of the Group's subsidiaries. There are no appropriations to these reserves by the Group's PRC (mainland) subsidiaries for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

As a result of these PRC laws and regulations and the requirement that distributions by the PRC entities can only be paid out of distributable profits computed in accordance with the PRC GAAP, the PRC entities are restricted from transferring a portion of their net assets to the Group. Amounts restricted include paid-in capital and the statutory reserves of the Company's PRC subsidiaries and VIEs. As of December 31, 2017, the amounts of capital represented the amount of net assets of the relevant subsidiaries and VIEs in the Group not available for distribution amounted to \$5,089.

Table of Contents**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued****FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017****(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)****16. SEGMENT REPORTING**

The Group's chief operating decision maker has been identified as the Chief Executive Officer who reviews consolidated results when making decisions about allocating resources and assessing performance of the Group. The Group uses the management approach to determine the operating segments. The management approach considers the internal organization and reporting used by the Group's chief operating decision maker for making decisions, allocating resources and assessing the performance.

Prior to 2016, the Group's operations were organized into one operating segment. In 2016, following the further expansion in service business and revenue generated from services beginning to account for a material portion of the total revenue, the Group operated and reviewed its performance in two segments: (i) Product sales which consisted of sales of consumer products, and (ii) Services which consisted of provision of services such as logistic services to other e-commerce retailers. Furthermore, the Group's chief operating decision maker evaluates performance based on each reporting segment's net revenues, costs and gross profit and is not provided with asset information by segment. As of December 31, 2017, the total assets of Product sales segment and Services sales segment was \$104,559 and \$4,178.

The following table presents selected financial information relating to the Group's segments:

	For the years ended December 31, 2017		
	Product sales	Services	Consolidated
Revenues	\$ 293,951	\$ 25,930	\$ 319,881
Cost of revenues	189,816	24,445	214,261
Gross profit	104,135	1,485	105,620
Unallocated operating expenses			115,787
Loss from operations			(10,167)
Exchange loss on offshore bank accounts			(89)
Interest income			581
Loss before income tax expense			\$ (9,675)

	For the years ended December 31, 2016		
	Product sales	Services	Consolidated
Revenues	\$ 262,083	\$ 30,404	\$ 292,487

Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

Cost of revenues	160,566	28,371	188,937
Gross profit	101,517	2,033	103,550
Unallocated operating expenses			112,634
Loss from operations			(9,084)
Exchange loss on offshore bank accounts			(120)
Interest income			518
Loss before income tax expense		\$	(8,686)

For the years ended December 31, 2015

	Product sales	Services	Consolidated
Revenues	\$ 312,332	\$ 11,431	\$ 323,763
Cost of revenues	196,753	10,601	207,354
Gross profit	115,579	830	116,409
Unallocated operating expenses			155,568
Loss from operations			(39,159)
Exchange loss on offshore bank accounts			(938)
Interest income			773
Loss before income tax expense		\$	(39,324)

Components of the Group's Product sales are presented in the following table:

	2015	2016	2017
Apparel	\$ 118,673	\$ 89,291	\$ 99,160
Other general merchandise	193,659	172,792	194,791
Total product sales revenues	\$ 312,332	\$ 262,083	\$ 293,951

The following table summarizes the Group's total net revenues generated in different geographic locations and as a percentage of total net revenues.

	2015		2016		2017	
	Revenues	%	Revenues	%	Revenues	%
Europe	\$ 184,057	56.8	\$ 145,185	49.6	\$ 153,697	48.1
North America	88,790	27.4	77,814	26.6	73,339	22.9
Other countries	50,916	15.8	69,488	23.8	92,845	29.0
Total net revenues	\$ 323,763	100.0	\$ 292,487	100.0	\$ 319,881	100.0

North America's net revenues include revenues from the United States of, \$74,296, \$66,475 and \$60,810 during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively. Europe's net revenues include revenues from France of \$39,571, \$31,321 and \$34,693 during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively.

As of December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017 substantially all of long-lived assets of the Group are located in the PRC.



Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**17. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

The Group had no financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2016 and 2017.

Goodwill, long-term investments and other intangible assets are measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis when impairment is recognized. The Group estimated the fair value of a reporting unit using the discounted cash flow method under the income approach. The discounted cash flows were based on five years financial forecasts developed by management for planning purposes and estimated discount rates. Cash flows beyond the forecasted period were estimated using a terminal value calculation. The fair values of intangible asset were determined based on various valuation methods, including the replacement cost method the relief from royalty method.

**18. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Group entered into indemnification agreements with certain directors. These agreements require the company to indemnify such individuals, to the fullest extent permitted by law, for certain liabilities to which they may become subject to as a result of their affiliation with the Company.

Zhejiang Aokang Shoes Co., Ltd. ( Aokang ) became a shareholder of the Company in 2015 and held 18.1% of the outstanding shares of the Company as of December 31, 2017. In 2017, the Company purchased goods from Aokang amounted to \$0.4.

**19. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

(1) Commitments

Lease commitment

Edgar Filing: LightInTheBox Holding Co., Ltd. - Form 20-F

The Group has operating lease agreements for warehouses and offices. Rent expenses under operating leases for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017 were \$4,461, \$4,247 and \$4,282 respectively. Future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating lease agreements as of December 31, 2017 are as follows:

2018	\$	3,307
2019		828
2020		99
	\$	4,234

F-43

---

Table of Contents

**LIGHTINTHEBOX HOLDING CO., LTD.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

**(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data and per share data, or otherwise noted)**

**19. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES - continued**

(2) Contingencies

The Group's PRC subsidiaries and VIEs, have not fully paid the contributions for employee benefit plans as required by applicable PRC regulations. While the Group believes it has made adequate provision of such outstanding amounts in the consolidated financial statements, prior failure to make payments may be in violation of applicable PRC labor-related laws and the Group may be subject to fines up to maximum of 3 times if it fails to rectify any such breaches within the period prescribed by the relevant authorities. As of December 31, 2017, there had been no actions initiated by the relevant authorities. The Group is unable to reasonably estimate the actual amount of fines and penalty that may rise if the authorities were to become aware of the non-compliance and were to take action.

The Group's PRC subsidiaries and VIEs did not withhold appropriate amount of individual income tax prior to its IPO as required by applicable PRC tax laws. While the Group believes it has made adequate provision of such outstanding amounts in the consolidated financial statements, and in March 2013, the accrued amounts were substantially paid by the Group on a voluntary basis to the relevant tax authority, the Group may still be subject to future fines or levies for such non-compliance. As of December 31, 2017, there had been no actions initiated by the relevant authorities. The Group is unable to reasonably estimate the actual amount of fines or levies that may rise if the authorities were to take action.

The Group is subject to periodic legal or administrative proceedings in the ordinary course of business. The Group does not believe that any currently pending legal or administrative proceeding to which the Group is a party will have a material effect on its business or financial condition.