

**Solving
Tough
Problems.**

**That's
What
We Do.**

LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Automotive

Electronics are rapidly changing the transportation market. Fuel efficiency, safety features, infotainment, and performance continue to create unique analog challenges that our solutions solve.

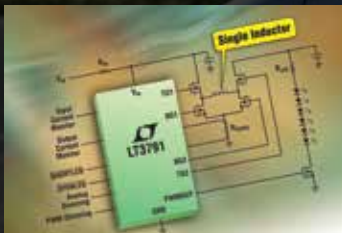
Solutions



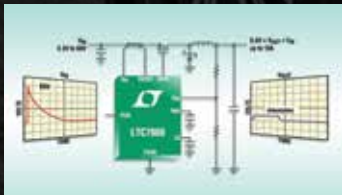
LT8640 Silent Switcher®—The proliferation of electronics in vehicles requires many high efficiency switching regulators that operate at high voltages, draw very little power in standby, don't create noise, and provide compact solutions. Our portfolio of products combines these essential functions.



LTC6804 Battery Stack Monitor—Our road proven and very accurate battery stack monitors enable the use of Li-Ion batteries in hybrid and electric automobiles, trucks and other vehicles.



LT3791 LED Driver—Our LED drivers combine all of the features required for robust LED lighting vehicle applications: high voltage, high power output and efficiency, protection and integration.



LTC7860 Switching Surge Stopper—Protection against overvoltage and overcurrent conditions is vital in automotive and other high availability systems that must withstand the surges and operate reliably throughout the event.



Results. What We Deliver.

Linear Solutions Bring Value

| Sales Growth | Operating Margin | Return on Assets | Return on Sales | Dividend Growth |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 6% | 46% | 29% | 35% | 11% |





Financial Highlights

Highlights

Year Ended June 28, 2015

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------|
| Profitability: | Diluted Earnings per Share | \$ 2.12 |
| | Operating Margin | 46.3% |
| | Return on Assets | 29.4% |
| | Return on Sales | 35.3% |
| Liquidity: | Quick Ratio | 7.6 |
| | Current Ratio | 8.7 |
| Asset Turns: | Inventory Turns | 3.7 |
| | Fixed Assets (ROI) | 5.2 |

Quarterly Revenue and Operating Income (In Millions)

| | | |
|----|--|------------|
| Q1 |  | 371 174 |
| Q2 |  | 353 158 |
| Q3 |  | 372 174 |
| Q4 |  | 379 177 |

Revenues (In Millions)

| | | |
|----|---|------|
| 11 |  | 1484 |
| 12 |  | 1267 |
| 13 |  | 1282 |
| 14 |  | 1388 |
| 15 |  | 1475 |

Operating Income (In Millions)

| | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 11 |  | 767 |
| 12 |  | 582 |
| 13 |  | 573 |
| 14 |  | 640 |
| 15 |  | 683 |

Diluted Earnings Per Share (Dollars)

| | | |
|----|---|------|
| 11 |  | 2.50 |
| 12 |  | 1.70 |
| 13 |  | 1.71 |
| 14 |  | 1.90 |
| 15 |  | 2.12 |

(In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)

| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net Revenues | \$ 1,475,139 | \$ 1,388,386 | \$ 1,282,236 | \$ 1,266,621 | \$ 1,483,962 |
| Operating Income | 682,699 | 639,730 | 573,154 | 582,036 | 767,310 |
| Net Income | 520,963 | 459,961 | 406,925 | 398,111 | 580,782 |
| Return On Sales | 35.3% | 33.1% | 31.7% | 31.4% | 39.1% |
| Diluted Earnings Per Share | 2.12 | 1.90 | 1.71 | 1.70 | 2.50 |
| Cash And Short-Term Investments | 1,202,722 | 1,012,787 | 1,524,741 | 1,203,059 | 922,537 |
| Working Capital | 1,401,834 | 1,149,598 | 768,010 | 1,334,829 | 1,063,484 |
| Total Assets | 1,884,079 | 1,655,578 | 2,098,341 | 1,851,068 | 1,594,066 |
| Debt | — | — | 826,629 | 805,599 | 785,732 |
| Stockholder Equity | 1,577,927 | 1,331,369 | 981,908 | 736,508 | 505,611 |

Value. What Customers Want.

Linear Solutions Bring Value

Innovation + Support + Integration + Time to Market

To Our Stockholders,

We solve problems—technical problems. It is a challenge. It has great rewards both intellectually and financially. There have been significant advances in electronics. All of us as consumers and business people see these advances in automobiles, medical diagnostics, communications, security systems and many consumer products. These advances are most often the culmination of many inventions combined into one final end product, recognizable to most of us.

At Linear the problems we solve are often at the very beginning of the final end product process. Our breakthroughs are often generic to fundamental electronics and gain wide customer acceptance. We manage electricity from its smallest origins to very high voltage sources. We reliably and precisely convert the product's input power into the many different voltages required throughout the system and accomplish this in the smallest existing footprint.

We convert “what can't be done” into “how did you do it.” We enable inventors further down the chain to employ a new linear building block, so they can invent what also was previously undoable.

Temperature is the most widely measured physical parameter. Measuring it very precisely and quickly converting that measurement to a steady state digital format is a problem.

Linear solved that. The LTC2983 “temperature to bits” product performs digital temperature measurement to within 0.01°C accuracy and 0.001°C resolution. This is particularly significant for industrial and medical applications where complicated processing takes place only at very precise temperature levels. This product recently won the prestigious *EE Times/EDN* Analog Ultimate Product ACE Award.

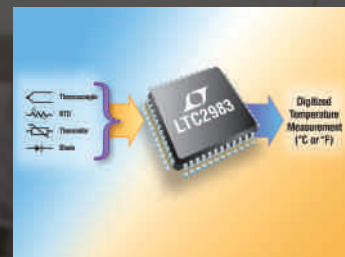
Industrial process plants such as oil refineries, offshore platforms, pulp and paper mills, chemical plants and mines represent some of the harshest environments for electronics. The ability to accurately and cost effectively measure attributes such as temperature, pressure and vibration in hard to access places is a problem. Linear Technology's Dust Networks® with its SmartMesh® WirelessHart product line solved this. These Linear products allow instrumentation suppliers to develop highly reliable wireless products capable of being deployed just about anywhere with multi-year battery life.

Within communications, getting more data through fiber optic lines faster is a problem. Linear's µModule® products manage the power to enable 10x the data to be transmitted through existing optical fiber infrastructure. These subsystem-level products solve both reliability and system density problems by dramatically reducing component count and

Industrial

The broad industrial market, ranging from medical applications and instrumentation to process control and factory automation, requires innovative analog solutions.

Solutions



LTC2983—Highly accurate single IC dramatically simplifies the world's most commonly measured physical parameter, temperature.



LTC5800 Wireless Sensor Network—The Industrial Internet of Things requires our mesh network solutions that are ultralow power and provide superior reliability to ensure connectivity.



LTC3107 Energy Harvester and Battery Life Extender—Increases the life of battery cells in low power wireless systems by harvesting surplus energy from renewable sources such as those generated by thermal differentials.



LTC6268—Highly accurate signal chain products including op amps and data converters enable next generation scientific and medical instrumentation and radios.

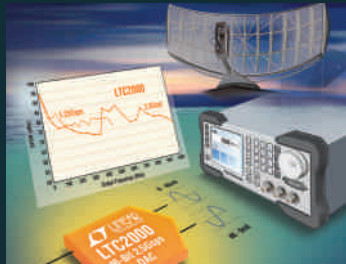
Communications

Communications and networking products require the high speed, compact power and protection, and precision signal chain solutions that we offer.

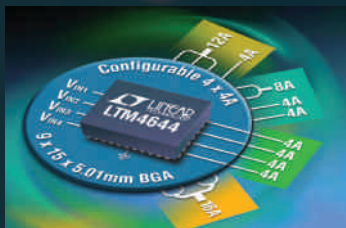
Solutions



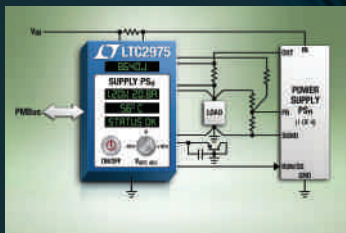
LTC5599—Battery powered radios and many other wireless communication applications such as picocell basestations require modulators that combine low power and high performance.



LTC2000—High speed, low noise data conversion enables the direct synthesis of RF signals, simplifying the design and lowering the cost of communication, instrumentation and test applications.



LTM4644—Our portfolio of over 100 μ Module[®] regulator solutions allows customers to achieve excellent performance and unparalleled power density while dramatically reducing their time to market.



LTC2975 Digital Power System Manager—Our highly accurate family of PMBus managers and controllers, featuring current, power and energy monitoring, enables customers to optimize the performance of their power systems while minimizing energy consumption and design time.

Analog. What We Know.

Linear Solutions Bring Value

Superior Manufacturing + Quality & Reliability + On-Time Delivery

board space, while providing the precise voltages needed to power next generation optical network processors in a very small footprint. The LTM4644 quad output regulator integrates more than fifty components and provides four individual voltage outputs.

In an automobile, optimizing the efficiency of the existing 12 volt battery to run an ever increasing number of low voltage digital systems is a problem. Linear's solution is the LT8640 monolithic synchronous switching regulator which, using our patented Silent Switcher® technology, features high efficiency, extremely low electromagnetic interference (EMI) and up to 7 amperes of output current in a small footprint. This enables automotive suppliers to produce low voltage digital systems that are smaller, lighter and run cooler.

Our solutions are technically advanced but must be reliably manufactured and easily implemented by our customers. These products meet the highest levels of quality and dependability. We employ Linear's proprietary fabrication processes and often innovative copper pillar and flip-chip assembly methods. Our solutions are new and often require very competent technical sales support to help our customers efficiently employ them.

Solving problems takes technical knowledge and experience. We provide a challenging and financially rewarding workplace. A typical

engineer at Linear graduated from a top university with a Master's degree in a chosen scientific field, generally electrical engineering, and has on average ten or more years of experience at Linear. We are proud of our talent; we believe it is the best.

Solving problems well is financially rewarding. For fiscal year 2015, revenue of \$1.475 billion grew 6.2% over the previous year. Net income of \$521.0 million grew 13.3%. Net income grew at a greater percentage than revenue partially due to lower interest expense, as the Company paid down its debt in the prior fiscal year and is currently debt-free. Before interest expenses, operating income of \$682.7 million grew 6.7% and was 46.3% of sales. The Company generated cash flow of \$598.9 million from operations, of which \$278.4 million was paid out in dividends and \$124.2 million was used to purchase common stock. This return of \$402.6 million to stockholders represented 94% of our cash generated onshore in the United States. During the year, the quarterly per share cash dividend was raised 11% in January and this was the 23rd consecutive year the Company increased its dividend. This strong financial performance is reflective of the value our customers attribute to our unique products.

Linear is a global company as 59% of our sales are generated outside of the United States while 72% of our sales are export

Innovation

We are in an innovation rich environment, and we are confident in our ability to supply our customers with practical, advanced solutions.

shipments. Our distribution of business by end-market was similar to last year with 44% industrial, 20% transportation, 18% communications, 9% computer, 6% military and space and 3% consumer. While 2015 was a good year, we expect the first half of 2016 to be weaker than the last half of 2015. The global macroeconomic conditions have become weaker. The rate of economic growth in major regions such as the USA, Europe and Japan is relatively stagnant and China's strong growth rate is subsiding. These macroeconomic conditions have impacted our growth over the short-term as customers have become more cautious and have reduced inventory levels where possible. We are optimistic that the current weakness is a short-cycle and that business conditions will stabilize relatively quickly. Improvements in global economic conditions should have a positive impact on our customers and enable the Company to take advantage of its strong

product portfolio. We are in an innovation rich environment, and we are confident in our ability to supply our customers with practical, advanced solutions.

In summary, in a world dominated by electronics, we solve tough problems. This is what we do. Our products address many technical challenges including enabling electronics to be made smaller and to run more efficiently, precisely, reliably and safely. This is the value we bring to our customers. Our consistent, high profitability is proof that our customers reward us for our innovative solutions. Our customers challenge us and we respect their demands. Our employees are among the best at their craft and we are grateful for their efforts. Our stockholders are discerning and we thank them for their support.

As always, we continue to strive for analog excellence.

Sincerely,



DONALD P. ZERIO
Vice President, Finance and
Chief Financial Officer



LOTHAR MAIER
Chief Executive Officer



ROBERT H. SWANSON, JR.
Executive Chairman



**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-K**

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended June 28, 2015

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number 0-14864



LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

94-2778785

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1630 McCarthy Boulevard, Milpitas, California

(Address of principal executive offices)

95035

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

(408) 432-1900

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

Common Stock, \$0.001 par value

Name of each exchange on which registered

The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

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

None

(Title of class)

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

☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

Yes ☐ No ☒

Note – Checking the box above will not relieve any registrant required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act from their obligations under those Sections.

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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ☒

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

Large accelerated filer ☒

Accelerated filer ☐

Non-accelerated filer ☐ (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company ☐

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

The aggregate market value of voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was approximately \$7,328,000,000 as of December 26, 2014 based upon the closing sale price on the Nasdaq Global Market reported for such date. Shares of common stock held by each officer and director and by each person who owns 5% or more of the outstanding common stock have been excluded in that such persons may be deemed to be affiliates. This determination of affiliate status is not necessarily a conclusive determination for other purposes.

There were 239,757,722 shares of the registrant's common stock issued and outstanding as of July 24, 2015.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:

Items 10, 11, 12 and 14 of Part III incorporate information by reference from the definitive proxy statement (the "2015 Proxy Statement") for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, to be filed subsequently.

LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

FORM 10-K

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 28, 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| <u>Part I:</u> | |
| <u>Item 1.</u> <u>Business</u> | 4 |
| <u>Item 1A.</u> <u>Risk Factors</u> | 16 |
| <u>Item 1B.</u> <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u> | 23 |
| <u>Item 2.</u> <u>Properties</u> | 23 |
| <u>Item 3.</u> <u>Legal Proceedings</u> | 23 |
| <u>Item 4.</u> <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u> | 23 |
| <u>Part II:</u> | |
| <u>Item 5.</u> <u>Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u> | 24 |
| <u>Item 6.</u> <u>Selected Financial Data</u> | 25 |
| <u>Item 7.</u> <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | 26 |
| <u>Item 7A.</u> <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> | 32 |
| <u>Item 8.</u> <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u> | 33 |
| <u>Item 9.</u> <u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u> | 56 |
| <u>Item 9A.</u> <u>Controls and Procedures</u> | 56 |
| <u>Item 9B.</u> <u>Other Information</u> | 57 |
| <u>Part III:</u> | |
| <u>Item 10.</u> <u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u> | 57 |
| <u>Item 11.</u> <u>Executive Compensation</u> | 57 |
| <u>Item 12.</u> <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owner and Managements and Related Stockholder Matters</u> | 57 |
| <u>Item 13.</u> <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u> | 57 |
| <u>Item 14.</u> <u>Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u> | 57 |
| <u>Part IV:</u> | |
| <u>Item 15.</u> <u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u> | 58 |
| <u>Signatures</u> | 61 |
| <u>Exhibit 21.1</u> | 63 |
| <u>Exhibit 23.1</u> | 64 |

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Except for historical information contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K ("Form 10-K"), certain statements set forth herein, including statements regarding future revenues and profits; the anticipated trends in the Company's revenue and the Company's expectations regarding the duration of the weak cycle; future conditions in the Company's markets; availability of resources and manufacturing capacity; resolution of certain tax matters; and the anticipated impact of current and future lawsuits and investigations are forward-looking statements that are dependent on certain risks and uncertainties including such factors, among others, as the timing, volume and pricing of new orders for the Company's products, timely ramp-up of new facilities, the timely introduction of new processes and products, general conditions in the world economy and financial markets and other factors described below. Therefore, actual outcomes and results may differ materially from what is expressed or forecast in such forward-looking statements. Words such as "expect," "anticipate," "forecast," "intend," "plan," "believe," "seek," "estimate," and variations of such words and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. See "Risk Factors" in the "Business" section of this Form 10-K for a more thorough list of potential risks and uncertainties.

General

Linear Technology Corporation (together with its consolidated subsidiaries, "Linear," "Linear Technology" or the "Company"), a member of the S&P 500, has been designing, manufacturing and marketing a broad line of high performance analog integrated circuits for major companies worldwide for over three decades. The Company's products provide an essential bridge between our analog world and the digital electronics in communications, networking, industrial, automotive, computer, medical, instrumentation, consumer, and military and aerospace systems. Linear Technology produces power management, data conversion, signal conditioning, RF and interface ICs, μ Module[®] subsystems, and wireless sensor network products. The Company is a Delaware corporation; it was originally organized and incorporated in California in 1981. The Company competes primarily on the basis of performance, functional value, quality, reliability and service.

Available Information

The Company makes available free of charge through its website, www.linear.com, its Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, proxy statements and all amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after such materials are electronically filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). These reports may also be requested by contacting Don Zerio, Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, 1630 McCarthy Blvd., Milpitas, CA 95035. The Company's Internet website and the information contained therein or incorporated therein are not intended to be incorporated into this Annual Report on Form 10-K. In addition, the public may read and copy any materials the Company files with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549 or may obtain information by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Moreover, the SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding reports that the Company files electronically with the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The Linear Circuit Industry

Semiconductor components are the electronic building blocks used in electronic systems and equipment. These components are classified as either discrete devices (such as individual transistors) or integrated circuits (in which a number of transistors and other elements are combined to form a more complicated electronic circuit). Integrated circuits ("ICs") may be divided into two general categories, digital and linear (or analog). Digital circuits, such as memory devices and microprocessors, generally process on-off electrical signals, represented by binary digits, "1" and "0." In contrast, linear integrated circuits monitor, condition, amplify or transform continuous analog signals associated with physical properties, such as temperature, pressure, weight, light, sound or speed, and play an important role in bridging between real world phenomena and a variety of electronic systems. Linear integrated circuits also provide voltage regulation and power control to electronic systems, especially in hand-held and larger battery powered systems where battery management and high power efficiency are needed.

The Company believes that several factors generally distinguish the linear integrated circuit business from the digital integrated circuit business, including:

Importance of Individual Design Contribution. The Company believes that the creativity of individual design engineers is of particular importance in the linear integrated circuit industry. The design of a linear integrated circuit generally involves greater variety and less repetition of integrated circuit elements than digital design. In addition, the interaction of linear integrated circuit elements is complex, and the exact placement of these elements in the integrated circuit is critical to the circuit's precision and performance. Computer-aided engineering and design tools for linear integrated circuits are not as accurate in modeling circuits as those tools used for designing digital circuits. As a result, the contributions of a relatively small number of individual design engineers are generally of greater importance in the design of linear integrated circuits than in the design of digital circuits.

Smaller Capital Requirements. Digital circuit design attempts to minimize device size and maximize speed by increasing circuit densities. The process technology necessary for increased density requires very expensive wafer fabrication equipment. In contrast, linear integrated circuit design focuses on precise matching and placement of integrated circuit elements, and linear integrated circuits often require large feature sizes to achieve precision and high voltage operation. Accordingly, the linear integrated circuit manufacturing process generally requires smaller initial capital expenditures, particularly for photomasking equipment and clean room facilities, and less frequent replacement of manufacturing equipment because the equipment has, to date, been less vulnerable to technological obsolescence.

Market Diversity; Relative Pricing Stability. Because of the varied applications for linear integrated circuits, manufacturers typically offer a greater variety of device types to a more diverse group of customers, who typically have smaller volume requirements per device, than is true for digital IC manufacturers. As a result, linear integrated circuit manufacturers are often less dependent upon particular products or customers; linear integrated circuit markets are generally more fragmented; and competition within those markets tends to be more diffused.

The Company believes that competition in the integrated linear market is particularly dependent upon performance, functional value, quality, reliability and service. As a result, linear integrated circuit pricing has generally been more stable than most digital circuit pricing.

Products and Markets

Linear Technology produces a wide range of products for a variety of customers and markets. The Company emphasizes standard products and multi-customer application specific products to address larger markets and to reduce the risk of dependency upon a single customer's requirements. The Company targets the high performance segment of the analog integrated circuit market. "High performance" may be characterized by higher precision, higher efficiency, lower noise, lower power, higher linearity, higher speed, higher voltage, more subsystem integration on a single chip and many other special features. Increased demand for more complex integrated analog solutions has fostered the expansion of the Company's products to include fully integrated module solutions for system power, signal processing and data acquisition applications. The Company's SmartMesh IP and SmartMesh WirelessHART technology offers complete wireless network based solutions using low power electronic components, board level products with mesh networking and software addressing high level applications such as industrial process automation, data center energy management, building energy management, renewable energy monitoring, and transportation management systems. The Company focuses virtually all of its design efforts on proprietary products, which at the time of introduction are original designs by the Company offering unique characteristics differentiating them from those offered by competitors.

Although the types and mix of linear products vary by application, the Company's principal product categories are as follows:

Amplifiers - These circuits amplify the output voltage or current of a device. The amplification represents the ratio of the output voltage or current to the input voltage or current. The most widely used device is the operational amplifier due to its versatility and precision.

High Speed Amplifiers - These amplifiers are used to amplify signals from 5 megahertz to 2 gigahertz for applications such as video, fast data acquisition and wireless communications.

Voltage Regulators - Voltage regulators deliver a tightly controlled voltage to power electronic systems. This category of product consists primarily of two types, the linear regulator and the switch-mode regulator. Switch-mode regulators are also used to convert voltage up or down within an electronic system for power management and battery charging.

Voltage References - These circuits serve as electronic benchmarks providing a constant voltage for measurement systems usage. Precision references have a constant output independent of input, temperature changes or time.

Interface - Interface circuits act as an intermediary to transfer digital signals between or within electronic systems. These circuits are used in computers, modems, instruments, networking equipment and remote data acquisition systems.

Data Converters - These circuits change linear (analog) signals into digital signals, or vice versa, and are often referred to as data acquisition subsystems, A/D converters and D/A converters. The accuracy and speed with which the analog signal is converted to its digital counterpart (and vice versa) is considered a key characteristic for these devices. Low speed data converters may have resolution up to 24 bits, while high speed converters may operate in the region of 100's of megahertz sample rates.

Battery Stack Monitors- These circuits monitor the voltage on individual battery cells that are connected in series. By combining many of these circuits, the voltage of every cell in very high voltage battery string can be monitored. This is a necessary function to maintain the health, longevity and safety of such systems. High voltage battery strings are used in electric and hybrid electric vehicles, battery back-up systems, portable power systems and other high power battery systems.

Silicon Oscillators and Timer BloxTM- These general purpose circuits provide a wide range of timing functions and clock signals for frequencies ranging from less than 1Hz up to 170MHz. They operate without a quartz crystal or ceramic resonator, and are designed to be simple, small and robust. The functions provided by these parts cover a broad range of applications, including event synchronization and timing, switching regulation, signal-generation, analog-to-digital conversion and digital-to-analog conversion.

PLL Synthesizers and Clock Distribution- A phase locked loop ("PLL") locks the phase and frequency of a higher frequency device (usually a voltage controlled oscillator) to a more stable, lower frequency device. As a black box, the PLL can be viewed as a frequency multiplier. A PLL is employed when there is the need for a stable reference high frequency local oscillator source. Example applications are numerous and include wireless/optical communications and networking, medical devices and instrumentation.

SmartMesh® Embedded Wireless Sensor Network- SmartMesh IPTM and SmartMesh® WirelessHART products consist of low power electronic components, board level products, and software that together form a wireless mesh sensor network with optimized network reliability at ultralow power with no network stack development required. This is particularly important for industrial IoT applications, where wireless sensor networks may be deployed in harsh and remote environments. With an average power consumption of less than 50µA in heavy usage applications, SmartMesh products deliver over 10 year battery life, enabling wireless sensor nodes to be placed anywhere. Since all SmartMesh products include secure, precompiled network stacks, dynamic mesh optimization software, and network diagnostics software, developers can focus on rapid industrial IoT application development.

Isolated µModule Transceivers- Isolated µModule transceivers use magnetically coupled technology to provide data and power isolation in a system in a package module. They integrate inductive/magnetic components, dedicated integrated circuit functions and power on a single substrate printed circuit board, all encapsulated in a standard plastic package.

Radio Frequency Circuits - These circuits include mixers, modulators, demodulators, amplifiers, drivers, filters, oscillators/synthesizers and power detectors and controllers. They are used in 2G, 3G, 4G LTE (and beyond) wireless and cable

infrastructure, cellphones, wireless data communications, microwave, backhaul, military, radars, precision GPS and satellite communications.

Power Over Ethernet (“PoE”) Controllers - PoE controller circuits enable efficient transmission of voltage and current over standard Ethernet cables to power equipment or devices connected to the network.

µModule Power Products - A DC/DC µModule simplifies the design of a complex power circuit, such as point of load regulation, LED drivers and battery charging by integrating a complete circuit into a protective and encapsulated package that is tiny, thin and light-weight. These devices are so small that they resemble a surface-mount IC. The customer design requires limited knowledge of analog and DC/DC regulator circuits and these products enable a quick time-to-market power supply solution for digital systems using FPGAs, ASICs, DSPs, or microcontrollers.

Signal Chain µModule Products- Complete signal chain functions utilizing data converters, filter, amplifiers, RF circuits, and related passive components are encapsulated as system-in-a-package modules. Signal Chain µModule products simplify the design and eliminate circuit board layout problems and individual component selection for high performance systems, while requiring only normal IC handling and board manufacturing processes.

Other - Other linear circuits include buffers, power monitors, motor controllers, coulomb counters, diodes/bridges, hot swap circuits, comparators, sample-and-hold devices, timers, drivers and filters (both switched capacitor and continuous time) which are used to limit and/or manipulate signals in such applications as base stations, navigation systems and industrial applications.

Linear circuits are used in various applications including factory automation, process control, industrial and laboratory instrumentation, security monitoring devices, complex medical devices, telecommunications, networking products such as power over Ethernet switches; automotive electronics, tablet, notebook and desktop computers; computer peripherals, video/multimedia, military, space and other harsh environment systems; and high-end consumer products. The Company focuses its product development and marketing efforts on high performance applications where the Company believes it can position itself competitively with respect to product performance and functional value. The following table sets forth examples of product families by end-market applications:

| <u>Market</u> | <u>End Applications/Products</u> | <u>Example Product Families</u> |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| <i>Industrial/Medical</i> | Flow or rate metering | D to A converters |
| | Position/pressure/temperature sensing and controls | Power monitors and controllers |
| | Robotics | Current sense amplifiers |
| | Energy management/harvesting | Differential amplifier |
| | High brightness lighting | High speed A/D converters |
| | Process control data communication | SAR A/D and Delta-Sigma converters |
| | Factory automation | High speed operational amplifiers |
| | Security and surveillance system | Interface (RS 485/232) products |
| | Remote meter reading | Precision operational amplifiers |
| | Wireless sensor networks | Instrumentation amplifiers |
| | RFID transponders | Silicon oscillators |
| | GPS surveying instruments | Precision comparators and voltage references |
| | Scanning electron microscopes | Monolithic filters |
| | Solar power | Switching voltage regulators |
| | Machine vision equipment | Hot swap circuits |
| | Voltmeters/multimeters/ oscilloscopes/curve tracers | DC-DC converters |
| | Test equipment | µModule power products |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | Logic/network analyzers Weighing scales Analytic and test equipment Gas chromatographs X-Ray, EKG, MRI, PET, CAT scanners Particle accelerators DNA and blood analyzers Patient monitors Infusion pumps IR cameras Ultra sound diagnostic equipment | PoE interface controllers Push button controllers Ideal diode controllers Surge stoppers Battery stack monitors Smartmesh® embedded wireless sensor networks |
| <i>Space/Military/Harsh Environment</i> | Communications Satellites Guidance and navigation systems Displays Firing controls Ground support equipment Sonar systems Surveillance equipment Ordnance Radar systems GPS JTRS manpacks | Space qualified (JAN/QML) Radiation hardened Military plastic Military hermetic (SMD's) Extreme temperature |
| <i>Automotive</i> | Entertainment systems Hybrid/electric vehicle battery systems Navigation and safety system Headlamps Daytime running lights Dashboard instrumentation Emission controls Collision avoidance systems Radar adaptive cruise control Heads-up-displays Idle stop and go systems Electronic steering and braking Antenna power supplies LED lighting Parking assistance Lane recognition | Battery gas gauges Isolated μ Module power products Low drop out voltage regulators LED driver controllers Li-ion battery chargers CAN transceivers Ideal diodes Surge Stoppers Monitors over/under voltage Protection controllers Timer Blox Battery management systems Precision voltage references Comparators Current sense amplifiers High speed and SAR ADC's |

Communications

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Smart phones | DC - DC converters |
| Cellular phones | V.35 transceivers |
| Cellular base stations (CDMA/WCDMA/ GSM/LTE/ WiMAX) | Isolated μ Module power products |
| Point-to-point wireless modems | Variable gain amplifiers |
| PBX switches | High-speed amplifiers |
| Optical networking | High speed A/D converters |
| Channel service units/data service units | Digital power monitors |
| Cable modems/networks | Active diode bridge controllers |
| Internet appliances | RF Power detectors |
| Servers/ routers/switches | Low noise operational amplifiers |
| Power over Ethernet | Micropower products |
| Wireless access points | Power management products |
| Wireless microphones | Switched capacitor filters |
| Software defined radios | I ² C bus buffers |
| Wireless sensor networks | Voltage references |
| | Voltage regulators/supervisors |
| | Data converter products |
| | Hot Swap controllers |
| | Multi-protocol circuits |
| | Thermoelectric coolers |
| | μ Module power products |
| | Power amplifier controllers |
| | Ideal diode bridge controller |
| | Mixers/Modulators/Demodulators |
| | Battery chargers |
| | Power over Ethernet controllers |
| | Multi-Phase switching regulators |
| | Smartmesh® wireless sensor networks |

**Computer/High-End
Consumer**

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Communications/interface modems | Battery chargers |
| Disk drives | DC - DC converters |
| Solid state disc drives | Electronic circuit breakers |
| Notebook computers | Hot Swap controllers |
| Desktop computers | Line drivers/ receivers |
| Workstations | USB power controller/ chargers |
| LCD monitors/projectors | Low drop out linear regulators |
| Plotters/printers | Micropower products |
| Digital still cameras | Multi-Phase switching regulators |
| Satellite radios | PCMCIA power switching |
| Battery chargers | Power management |
| Electronic toys | Power sequencing/monitoring |
| Video/multimedia systems | Isolated μ Module transceivers |
| Digital video recorders | |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Set top boxes/Satellite TV receivers | Video amplifiers |
| LCD display TVs | High speed A/D converters |
| Bluetooth headsets | Nano current voltage supervisors |
| Hand-held GPS units | Operational amplifiers |
| Tablet PCs | Voltage references |
| Media players | |
| Video/multimedia systems | |
| Wearables | |

Marketing and Customers

The Company markets its products worldwide primarily through a direct sales staff and through electronics distributors to a broad range of customers in diverse industries. Arrow Electronics Inc. (“Arrow”), the Company’s largest distributor, distributes the Company’s products worldwide. Arrow is one of the largest distributors of electronic components in the world with revenues of \$22.8 billion in their December 2014 fiscal year-end. Arrow’s global components business segment covers the world’s largest electronics markets - the Americas, EMEA (Europe, Middle East, and Africa), and Asia Pacific regions. As of June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014, Arrow accounted worldwide for 36% and 38% of the Company’s total net accounts receivable, respectively. Arrow worldwide accounted for 32%, 31% and 31% of the Company’s worldwide net revenues in fiscal 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Arrow, like the Company’s other distributors, is not an end customer, but rather serves as a channel of sale to many end users of the Company’s products.

No end customer accounted for more than 10% of the Company’s worldwide net revenues for any of the periods presented.

The Company’s products require a sophisticated technical sales effort. The Company’s sales organization is divided into domestic and international regions. The Company’s sales offices are located throughout most major metropolitan areas in the United States. Internationally, the Company has sales offices in or near: Dortmund, Helsinki, London, Milan, Munich, Paris, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Oulu, Stuttgart, Sydney, Melbourne, Beijing, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Seoul, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Xian, Wuhan, Singapore, Taipei, Tel Aviv, Bangalore, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver.

The Company has an agreement with one independent sales representative in South America. Commissions are paid to sales representatives upon shipments either directly from the Company or through distributors. The Company has agreements with four independent distributors in North America, five in Europe, three in China, seven in Japan, three in Taiwan, two in Russia, and one each in Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, India, South Africa, Philippines, Israel, Brazil, Australia, and New Zealand.

The Company’s agreements with domestic distributors allow for price protection on certain distribution inventory if the Company lowers the prices of its products. The Company’s agreements with domestic distributors also allow for stock rotation privileges of up to 5% of quarterly purchases, which enable distributors to rotate slow moving inventory. The Company’s sales to international distributors are made under agreements which permit limited stock return privileges but not sales price rebates. The agreements generally permit distributors to exchange up to 5% of eligible purchases on a semi-annual basis. See Critical Accounting Policies and Note 1 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements of this Form 10-K, which contains information regarding the Company’s revenue recognition policy.

During fiscal years 2015, 2014 and 2013, international revenues were \$1,066.9 million or 72% of revenues, \$1,010.3 million or 73% of revenues, and \$912.5 million or 71% of revenues, respectively. The Company’s export sales are billed and payable in United States dollars, and thus export sales are generally not directly subject to fluctuating currency exchange rates. During fiscal years 2015, 2014 and 2013, domestic revenues were \$408.2 million or 28% of revenues, \$378.1 million or 27% of revenues, and \$369.7 million or 29% of revenues, respectively.

The Company's backlog of released and firm orders was approximately \$153.9 million at June 28, 2015 as compared with \$187.4 million at June 29, 2014. The Company defines backlog as consisting of distributor stocking orders and OEM orders for which a delivery schedule has been specified by the OEM customer for product shipment within six months. Although the Company receives volume purchase orders, most of these purchase orders are cancelable, generally outside of thirty days of delivery, by the customer without significant penalty. Lead-time for the release of purchase orders depends upon the scheduling practices of the individual customer and the availability of individual products, so the rate of booking new orders varies from month to month. Also, the Company's agreements with certain domestic distributors provide for price protection. Consequently, the Company does not believe that its backlog at any time is necessarily representative of actual sales for any succeeding period.

In the operating history of the Company, seasonality of business has not been a material factor, although the results of operations for the first and second fiscal quarters of each year are slightly impacted by customary summer vacation and calendar year-end holidays. In addition, industrial customers typically have stronger demand in the first half of the calendar year.

The Company's warranty policy provides for the replacement of defective parts. In certain large contracts, the Company has agreed to negotiate in good faith a product warranty in the event that an epidemic failure of its parts was to take place. To date there have been no significant occurrences of epidemic failure. Warranty expense has been nominal to date. Refer to Note 1 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements of this Form 10-K, which contains information regarding the Company's warranty policy.

Manufacturing

The Company's wafer fabrication facilities are located in Camas, Washington ("Camas") and Milpitas, California ("Hillview"). Each facility was built to Company specifications to support a number of sophisticated process technologies and to satisfy rigorous quality assurance and reliability requirements of United States military specifications and major worldwide OEM customers. In addition to wafer fabrication facilities, the Company has an assembly and test facility located in Malaysia and a test and distribution facility located in Singapore. All of the Company's wafer fabrication, assembly, and test facilities have received ISO 9001, TS 16949 and ISO 14001 certifications.

The Company's wafer fabrication facilities located in Camas and Hillview produce six-inch diameter wafers for use in the production of the Company's devices. The Company currently uses similar manufacturing processes in both its Camas and Hillview facilities.

The Company's basic process technologies include high-speed bipolar, high gain low noise bipolar, radio frequency bipolar, silicon gate complementary metal-oxide semiconductor ("CMOS") and BiCMOS. The Company also has two proprietary complementary bipolar processes. The Company's bipolar processes are typically used in linear integrated circuits where high voltages, high power, high frequency, low noise or effective component matching is necessary. The Company's proprietary silicon gate CMOS processes provide switch characteristics required for many linear integrated circuit functions, as well as an efficient mechanism for combining linear and digital circuits on the same chip. The Company's CMOS processes were developed to address the specific requirements of linear integrated circuit functions. The complementary bipolar processes were developed to address higher speed analog functions. The Company's basic processes can be combined with a number of adjunct processes to create a diversity of IC components. A minor portion of the Company's wafer manufacturing, particularly very small feature size products, is done at two independent foundries. The accompanying chart provides a brief overview of the Company's IC process capabilities:

| Process Families | Benefits/ Market Advantages | Product Application |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| P-Well SiGate CMOS | General purpose, stability | Switches, filters, data conversion, chopper amplifiers |
| N-Well SiGate CMOS | Speed, density, stability | Switches, data conversion |
| Bi-CMOS | Speed, density, stability, flexibilities | Data conversion, power controller, battery management |
| High Power Bipolar | Power (100 watts), high current (10 amps) | Linear and smart power products, switching regulators |
| Low Noise Bipolar | Precision, low current, low noise, high gain | Op amps, voltage references |
| High Speed Bipolar | Fast, wideband, video high data rate | Op amps, video, comparators, switching regulators |
| JFETS | Speed, precision, low current | Op amps, switches, sample and hold |
| Rad-Hard | Total dose radiation hardened | All space products |
| Complementary Bipolar | Speed, low distortion, precision | Op amps, video amps, converters |
| CMOS/Thin Films | Stability, precision | Filters, data conversion |
| High Voltage CMOS | High voltage general purpose compatible with Bipolar | Switches, chopper amplifiers |
| Bipolar/Thin Films | Precision, stability, matching | Converters, amplifiers |
| RF Bipolar | High speed, low power | RF wireless, high speed data communications |
| BCD (Bipolar CMOS DMOS) | Higher density, high speed, lower current | Switchers, controllers |

The Company emphasizes quality and reliability from initial product design through manufacturing, packaging and testing. The Company's design team focuses on fault tolerant design and optimum location of integrated circuit elements to enhance reliability. Linear Technology's wafer fabrication facilities have been designed to minimize wafer handling and the impact of operator error through the use of microprocessor-controlled equipment. The Company has received Defense Supply Center, Columbus (DSCC,) Jan Class S Microcircuit Certification, which enables the Company to manufacture products intended for use in space or for critical applications where replacement is extremely difficult or impossible and where reliability is imperative. The Company has also received MIL-PRF-38535 Qualified Manufacturers Listing (QML) certification for military products from DSCC.

The majority of processed wafers are sent to the Company's assembly facility in Penang, Malaysia and a small portion are sent to offshore independent assembly subcontractors. The Penang facility opened in fiscal year 1995 and generally services approximately 80%-85% of the Company's assembly requirements. The Company's primary assembly subcontractor is UTAC, located in Thailand. The Company also maintains domestic assembly operations to satisfy particular customer requirements, especially those for military applications, and to provide rapid turnaround for new product development.

After assembly, most products are sent to the Company's Singapore facility for final testing, inspection and packaging as required. The Singapore facility opened in fiscal year 1990. Some products are returned to Milpitas for the same back-end processing. The Company's Singapore facility serves as a major warehouse and distribution center with the bulk of the Company's shipments to end customers originating from this facility.

Manufacturing of individual products, from wafer fabrication through final testing, may take from eight to sixteen weeks. Since the Company sells a wide variety of device types, and customers typically expect delivery of products within a short period of time following order, the Company maintains a substantial work-in-process and finished goods inventory.

Based on its anticipated production requirements, the Company believes it will have sufficient available resources and manufacturing capacity for fiscal year 2016.

Patents, Licenses and Trademarks

The Company has been awarded 1,258 United States and international patents and has considerable pending and published patent applications outstanding. Although the Company believes that these patents and patent applications may have value, the Company's future success will depend primarily upon the technical abilities and creative skills of its personnel, rather than on its patents.

The Company relies on patents, trademarks, international treaties and organizations, and foreign laws to protect and enforce its intellectual property. The Company continually assesses whether to seek formal protection for particular innovations and technologies, such litigation is likely to be expensive and time consuming to resolve. In addition, such litigation can result in the diversion of management's time and attention away from business operations.

As is common in the semiconductor industry, the Company has at times been notified of claims that it may be infringing patents issued to, or other proprietary rights held by others and has periodically been involved in litigation pertaining to such matters. If it appears necessary or desirable, the Company may seek licenses under such patents or rights, although there can be no assurance that all necessary licenses can be obtained by the Company on acceptable terms. In addition, from time to time the Company may negotiate with other companies to license patents, products or process technology for use in its business.

Research and Development

The Company's ability to compete depends in part upon its continued introduction of technologically innovative products on a timely basis. To facilitate this need, the Company has organized its product development efforts into four groups: two power product groups (D power and S power); mixed signal products; and signal conditioning products including high frequency products and wireless sensor network products. Linear Technology's product development strategy emphasizes a broad line of standard high performance products to address a diversity of customer applications. The Company's research and development ("R&D") efforts are directed primarily at designing and introducing new products and to a lesser extent developing new processes and advanced packaging.

As of June 28, 2015, the Company had 1,289 employees involved in research, development and engineering related functions, as compared to 1,244 employees as of June 29, 2014. The Company has remote design centers throughout the United States, as well as in Singapore, China and Germany as part of the Company's strategy of obtaining and retaining analog engineering design talent. For fiscal years 2015, 2014, and 2013, the Company's R&D expense was \$266.8 million, \$250.4 million and \$235.2 million, respectively. The increase in R&D expense was primarily due to an \$8.1 million increase in compensation costs as a result of increases in headcount, annual salary increases and increases in related fringe benefit costs. In addition, employee profit sharing increased \$3.5 million and employee stock-based compensation costs increased \$4.0 million.

Government Contracts

The Company currently has no material U.S. Government contracts.

Employees

As of June 28, 2015, the Company had 4,868 employees, including 486 in marketing and sales, 1,289 in research, development and engineering related functions, 2,991 in manufacturing and production, and 102 in management, administration and finance. The Company has never had a work stoppage, no employees are represented by a labor organization, and the Company considers its employee relations to be good.

Competition

The Company competes in the high performance segment of the linear market. The Company's major competitors include Analog Devices, Intersil, Maxim Integrated Products and Texas Instruments. The principal elements of competition

include product performance, functional value, quality and reliability, technical service and support, price, diversity of product line and delivery capabilities. The Company believes it competes favorably with respect to these factors, although the Company may be at a disadvantage in comparison to larger companies with broader product lines and greater technical service and support capabilities.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

The executive officers of the Company, and their ages as of August 1, 2015, are as follows:

| Name | Age | Position |
|------------------------|-----|--|
| Robert H. Swanson, Jr. | 76 | Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors |
| Lothar Maier | 60 | Chief Executive Officer |
| Paul Chantalat | 65 | Vice President Quality and Reliability |
| Donald P. Zerio | 55 | Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer; Secretary |
| Robert C. Dobkin | 71 | Vice President of Engineering and Chief Technical Officer |
| Alexander R. McCann | 49 | Vice President and Chief Operating Officer |
| Richard Nickson | 65 | Vice President of North American Sales |
| David A. Quarles | 49 | Vice President of International Sales |
| Donald Paulus | 58 | Vice President and General Manager, D Power Products |
| Steve Pietkiewicz | 55 | Vice President and General Manager, S Power Products |
| Robert Reay | 54 | Vice President and General Manager, Mixed Signal Products |
| Erik M. Soule | 51 | Vice President and General Manager, Signal Conditioning Products |

Mr. Swanson, a founder of the Company, has served as Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors since January 2005. Prior to that time he served as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer since April 1999, and prior to that time as President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of the Company since its incorporation in September 1981. From August 1968 to July 1981, he was employed in various positions at National Semiconductor Corporation (“National”), a manufacturer of integrated circuits, including Vice President and General Manager of the Linear Integrated Circuit Operation and Managing Director in Europe. Mr. Swanson has a B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering from Northeastern University.

Mr. Maier was named Chief Executive Officer of Linear Technology in January 2005. Prior to that, Mr. Maier served as the Company’s Chief Operating Officer from April 1999 to January 2005. Before joining Linear Technology, Mr. Maier held various management positions at Cypress Semiconductor Corp. from July 1983 to March 1999, most recently as Senior Vice President and Executive Vice President of Worldwide Operations. He holds a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley.

Mr. Chantalat has served as Vice President of Quality and Reliability since July 1991. From January 1989 to July 1991, he held the position of Director of Quality and Reliability. From July 1983 to January 1989, he held the position of Manager of Quality and Reliability. From February 1976 to July 1983, he was employed in various positions at National where his most recent position was Group Manager of Manufacturing Quality Engineering. Mr. Chantalat received a B.S. and an M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University in 1970 and 1972, respectively.

Mr. Zerio has served as Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer of the Company since June 2015. Prior to that Mr. Zerio served as the Company’s Corporate Controller for eleven years, and prior to that, International Controller. Mr. Zerio has over 25 years of financial experience in the technology industry gained from senior financial management positions with large multinational companies, small emerging growth companies and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Mr. Zerio received a B.S. degree in Accounting from the University of Connecticut.

Mr. Dobkin, a founder of the Company, has served as Vice President of Engineering and Chief Technical Officer since April 1999, and as Vice President of Engineering from September 1981 to April 1999. From January 1969 to July 1981, he was

employed in various positions at National, where his most recent position was Director of Advanced Circuit Development. Mr. Dobkin has extensive experience in linear integrated circuit design. Mr. Dobkin attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. McCann was named Chief Operating Officer of Linear Technology in January 2005, prior to that Mr. McCann served as Vice President of Operations since January 2004. Prior to joining the Company, he was Vice President of Operations at NanoOpto Corporation in Somerset, NJ from July 2002 to December 2003, Vice President of Worldwide Operations at Anadigics Inc. in Warren, NJ from December 1998 to June 2002 and held various management positions at National Semiconductor UK Ltd. from August 1985 to September 1998. Mr. McCann received a B.S. (equivalent) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering in 1985 from James Watt College and an MBA in 1998 from the University of Glasgow Business School.

Mr. Nickson has served as Vice President of North American Sales since October 2001. From July 2001 until October 2001 he was Director of USA Sales. From February 1998 until July 2001, he was European Sales Director. From August 1993 until January 1998, he held the position of Northwest Area Sales Manager. From April 1991 to August 1993, he was President and Co-founder of Focus Technical Sales. From August 1983 to April 1991, he served with National in various positions where his most recent position was Vice President of North American Sales. Mr. Nickson was Founder and President of Micro-Tex, Inc. from June 1980 to August 1983. Prior to 1980, Mr. Nickson spent seven years in semiconductor sales, including four years with Texas Instruments. He received a B.S. in Mathematics from Illinois Institute of Technology in 1971.

Mr. Quarles has served as Vice President of International Sales since August 2001. From October 2000 to August 2001, he held the position of Director of Marketing. From July 1996 to September 2000, he held the position of Director of Asia-Pacific Sales stationed in Singapore. From June 1991 to July 1996, he worked as a Sales Engineer and later as District Sales Manager for the Bay Area sales team. Prior to Linear, Mr. Quarles worked two years as a Sales Engineer at National. Mr. Quarles received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering in 1988 from Cornell University.

Mr. Paulus has served as Vice President and General Manager of D Power Products since June 2003. He joined the Company in October 2001 as Director of Satellite Design Centers. Prior to joining the Company, he was a founder of Integrated Sensor Solutions, Inc. ("ISS") serving as Vice President of Engineering and Chief Operating Officer from November 1991 to August 1999. ISS was acquired by Texas Instruments, Inc. ("TI") in 1999, and Mr. Paulus served as TI's General Manager, Automotive Sensors and Controls in San Jose until October 2001. Prior to ISS, Mr. Paulus served in various engineering and management positions with Sierra Semiconductor from February 1989 to November 1991, Honeywell Signal Processing Technologies from December 1984 to February 1989, and Bell Laboratories from June 1979 to December 1984. Mr. Paulus received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Lehigh University, an M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University and an MBA from the University of Colorado.

Mr. Pietkiewicz has served as Vice President and General Manager of S Power Products since July 2007 and as General Manager of S Power Products since April 2005. From March 1995 until April 2005 he was a Design Engineering Manager responsible for switching regulator and linear regulator integrated circuits. Mr. Pietkiewicz began his employment at the Company as a design engineer in December 1987 after serving as a design engineer at Precision Monolithics, Inc. from May 1981 until July 1985, and Analog Devices Inc. from July 1985 until December 1987. Mr. Pietkiewicz received his BSEE degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1981.

Mr. Reay has served as Vice President and General Manager of Mixed Signal Products since January 2002 and as General Manager of Mixed Signal Products since November 2000. From January 1992 to October 2000 he was the Design Engineering Manager responsible for a variety of product families including interface, supervisors, battery chargers and hot swap controllers. Mr. Reay joined Linear Technology in April 1988 as a design engineer after spending four years at GE Intersil. Mr. Reay received a B.S. and M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University in 1984.

Mr. Soule has served as Vice President and General Manager of Signal Conditioning Products since July 2007 and as General Manager of Signal Conditioning Products since October 2004. He joined the Company in September 2002 as Product Marketing Manager of Signal Conditioning Products. Prior to Linear Technology, Mr. Soule was Director of Marketing at

Sensory, Inc. from 1997 to 2002. Prior to Sensory, he held various engineering and management positions at National from 1994 to 1997 and from 1986 to 1990 and Avocet, Inc. from 1990 to 1994. Mr. Soule received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1986 and an MBA from San Jose State University in 1996.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

A description of the risk factors associated with the Company is set forth below. In addition to the risk factors discussed below, see “Factors Affecting Future Operating Results” included in “Management’s Discussion and Analysis” for further discussion of other risks and uncertainties that may affect the Company.

Fluctuations in consumer and/or corporate spending, including due to uncertainties in the macroeconomic environment, could adversely affect our revenues and profitability.

We depend on demand from the industrial, communication, computer, consumer and automotive end-markets we serve. Our revenues and profitability are based on certain levels of consumer and corporate spending. Reductions or other fluctuations in consumer and/or corporate spending, including as a result of uncertain conditions in the macroeconomic environment, such as government economic or fiscal instability, restricted global credit conditions, reduced demand, imbalanced inventory levels, mortgage failures, fluctuations in interest rates, energy prices, currencies, or other conditions, could adversely affect our revenues and profitability. The impact of general economic sluggishness relating to government debt limits, unemployment issues and other causes can cause customers to be cautious, or delay or reduce orders for our products until these economic uncertainties improve.

Sudden adverse shifts in the business cycle could adversely affect our revenues and profitability.

The semiconductor market has historically been cyclical and subject to significant economic downturns at various times. The cyclical nature of the semiconductor industry may cause us to experience substantial period-to-period fluctuations in our results of operations. The growth rate of the global economy is one of the factors affecting demand for semiconductor components. Many factors could adversely affect regional or global economic growth including turmoil or depressed conditions in financial or credit markets, depressed business or consumer confidence, inventory excesses, increased unemployment, inflation for goods, services or materials, volatility in oil pricing, fluctuations of the United States dollar, rising interest rates in the United States and the rest of the world, a significant act of terrorism which disrupts global trade or consumer confidence, geopolitical tensions including war and civil unrest, reduced levels of economic activity, or disruptions of international transportation.

Typically, our ability to meet our revenue and profitability goals and projections is dependent to a large extent on the orders we receive from our customers within the period and by our ability to match inventory and current production mix with the product mix required to fulfill orders on hand and orders received within a period for delivery in that period. Because of this complexity in our business, no assurance can be given that we will achieve a match of inventory on hand, production units, and shippable orders sufficient to realize quarterly or annual revenue and net income goals.

Volatility in customer demand in the semiconductor industry could affect future levels of revenue and profitability and limit our ability to predict such levels.

Historically, we have maintained low lead times, which have enabled customers to place orders close to their true needs for product. In defining our financial goals and projections, we consider inventory on hand, backlog, production cycles and expected order patterns from customers. If our estimates in these areas become inaccurate, we may not be able to meet our revenue goals and projections. In addition, some customers require us to manufacture product and have it available for shipment, even though the customer is unwilling to make a binding commitment to purchase all, or even some, of the products. As a result, in any quarterly fiscal period we are subject to the risk of cancellation of orders leading to a fall-off of revenue and backlog. Further, those orders may be for products that meet the customer’s unique requirements so that those cancelled orders would, in addition, result in an inventory of unsalable products, and thus potential inventory write-offs. We routinely estimate inventory reserves required for such products, but actual results may differ from these reserve estimates.

We generate revenue from thousands of customers worldwide and our revenues are diversified by end-market and geographical region. Our results in any period, or sequence of periods, may be positively affected by the fact that a customer has designed one of our products into one of their high selling products. This positive effect may not last, however, as our customers frequently redesign their high selling products, especially to lower their products' costs. In such redesigns, they may decide to no longer use our product or may seek pricing terms from us that we choose not to accede to, thus resulting in the customer ceasing or significantly decreasing its purchases from us. The loss of, or a significant reduction in, purchases by a portion of our customer base, for this or other reasons, such as changes in purchasing practices, could adversely affect our results of operations. In addition, the timing of customers' inventory adjustments may adversely affect our results of operations.

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

The markets for our products depend on continued demand for our products in the communications, industrial, computer, high-end consumer and automotive end-markets. The semiconductor industry is characterized by rapid technological change, variations in manufacturing efficiencies of new products, and significant expenditures for capital equipment and product development. New product offerings by competitors and customer demands for increasing linear integrated circuit performance or lower prices may render our products less competitive over time, thus necessitating our continual development of new products. New product introductions are thus a critical factor for maintaining or increasing future revenue growth and sustained or increased profitability, but they can present significant business challenges because product development commitments and expenditures must be made well in advance of the related revenues, in some cases years. The success of a new product depends on a variety of factors including accurate forecasts of long-term market demand and future technological developments, accurate anticipation of competitors' actions and offerings, timely and efficient completion of process design and development, timely and efficient implementation of manufacturing and assembly processes, product performance, quality and reliability of the product, and effective marketing, revenue and service.

Although we believe that the high performance segment of the linear integrated circuit market is generally less affected by price erosion or by significant expenditures for capital equipment and product development than other semiconductor market sectors, future operating results may reflect substantial period-to-period fluctuations due to these or other factors.

In addition, with respect to our acquisition of Dust Networks, we may not achieve benefits we expected to achieve, and we may incur write-downs, impairment charges or unforeseen liabilities that could negatively affect our operating results or financial position or could otherwise harm our business.

Our manufacturing operations may be interrupted or suffer yield problems.

We rely on our internal manufacturing facilities located in California and Washington to fabricate most of our wafers. We depend on outside silicon foundries for a small portion (roughly 5%) of our wafer fabrication. We could be adversely affected in the event of a major earthquake, which could cause temporary loss of capacity, loss of raw materials, and damage to manufacturing equipment. Additionally, we rely on our internal and external assembly and testing facilities located in Singapore and Malaysia. We are subject to economic and political risks inherent to international operations, including changes in local governmental policies, currency fluctuations, transportation delays and the imposition of export controls or import tariffs. We could be adversely affected if any such changes are applicable to our foreign operations.

Our manufacturing yields are a function of product design and process technology, both of which are developed by us. The manufacture and design of integrated circuits is highly complex. We may experience manufacturing problems in achieving acceptable yields or experience product delivery delays in the future as a result of, among other things, capacity constraints, equipment malfunctioning, construction delays, upgrading or expanding existing facilities or changing our process technologies, any of which could result in a loss of future revenues or increases in fixed costs. To the extent we do not achieve acceptable manufacturing yields or there are delays in wafer fabrication, our results of operations could be adversely affected. In addition, operating expenses related to increases in production capacity may adversely affect our operating results if revenues do not increase proportionately.

Our dependence on third party foundries and other manufacturing subcontractors may cause delays beyond our control in delivering our products to our customers.

A portion of our wafers (approximately 15%-20%) are processed offshore by independent assembly subcontractors primarily located in Thailand. These subcontractors separate wafers into individual circuits and assemble them into various finished package types. During periods of increasing demand and volatile lead times, sub-contractors can become over committed and therefore unable to meet all of their customer demand requirements thereby causing inconsistencies in availability of supply. In addition, reliability problems experienced by our assemblers could cause problems in delivery and quality, resulting in potential product liability to us. We could also be adversely affected by political disorders, labor disruptions, and natural disasters in these locations.

We are dependent on outside silicon foundries for a small portion (roughly 5%) of our wafer fabrication. As a result, we cannot directly control delivery schedules for these products, which could lead to product shortages, quality assurance problems, increases in the cost of our products and delays in delivering our products to our customers. If these foundries are unable or unwilling to produce adequate supplies of processed wafers conforming to our quality standards, our business and relationships with our customers for the limited quantities of products produced by these foundries could be adversely affected. Finding alternate sources of supply or initiating internal wafer processing for these products may not be economically feasible. In addition, the manufacture of our products is a highly complex and precise process, requiring production in a highly controlled environment. Changes in manufacturing processes or the inadvertent use of defective or contaminated materials by a third party foundry could adversely affect the foundry's ability to achieve acceptable manufacturing yields and product reliability.

We rely on third party vendors for materials, supplies, critical manufacturing equipment and freight services that may not have adequate capacity or may be impacted by outside influences such as natural disasters or material sourcing that could impact our product delivery requirements.

The semiconductor industry has experienced a very large expansion of fabrication capacity and production worldwide over time. As a result of increasing demand from semiconductor and other manufacturers, availability of certain basic materials and supplies, such as chemicals, gases, polysilicon, silicon wafers, ultra-pure metals, lead frames and molding compounds, and subcontract services, like epitaxial growth, ion implantation and assembly of integrated circuits into packages, have from time to time, over the past several years, been in short supply and could come into short supply again if overall industry demand continues to increase in the future. In addition, from time to time natural disasters can lead to a shortage of some of the above materials due to disruption of the manufacturer's production. We do not have long-term agreements providing for all of these equipment, materials, supplies, and services, and shortages could occur as a result of capacity limitations or production constraints on suppliers that could have a materially adverse effect on our ability to achieve our planned production.

A number of our products use components that are purchased from third parties. Supplies of these components may not be sufficient to meet all customer requested delivery dates for products containing these components, which could adversely affect future revenue and earnings. Additionally, significant fluctuations in the purchase price for these components could affect gross margins for the products involved. Suppliers could also discontinue the manufacture of such purchased components or could have quality problems that could affect our ability to meet customer commitments.

Our manufacturing processes rely on critical manufacturing equipment purchased from third party suppliers. During periods of increasing demand we could experience difficulties or delays in obtaining additional critical manufacturing equipment. In addition, suppliers of semiconductor manufacturing equipment are sometimes unable to deliver test and/or fabrication equipment to a schedule or equipment performance specification that meets our requirements. Delays in delivery of equipment needed for growth could adversely affect our ability to achieve our manufacturing and revenue plans in the future.

We rely on third parties including freight forwarders, airlines, and ground transportation companies to deliver our products to customers. Interruptions in the ability of these third parties to deliver our products to customers due to geological events such volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, hurricanes or other such natural disasters may cause a temporary delay in meeting our shipping estimates and schedules.

We are exposed to business, economic, currency, political and other risks through our significant worldwide operations.

During fiscal year 2015, 72% of our revenues were derived from customers in international markets. In addition, we have test and assembly facilities in Singapore and Malaysia. Accordingly, we are subject to the economic and political risks inherent in international revenue and operations and their impact on the United States economy in general, including the risks associated with ongoing uncertainties and political and economic instability in many countries around the world, economic disruption from financial and economic declines or turmoil, dysfunction in the credit markets, acts of terrorism, natural disasters or the response to any of the foregoing by the United States and other major countries. In past years, natural disasters in Japan and Thailand have affected the global marketplace.

Changes in currency exchange rates where the Company conducts business may impact it financially. As mentioned above, the Company's revenues and billings are transacted in U.S. dollars. Recently, the U.S. dollar has significantly strengthened against other currencies. The strengthening of the U.S. dollar results in the Company's products being more expensive for certain of its international customers. Accordingly, the Company's competitive position may be adversely affected if the U.S. dollar continues to strengthen. The adverse effect to revenue may be partially offset in operating expenses since the Company generally incurs its foreign operating expenses, primarily labor, in the corresponding local currency.

We may be unable to adequately protect our proprietary rights, which may impact our ability to compete effectively.

Our success depends in part on our proprietary technology. While we attempt to protect our proprietary technology through patents, copyrights and trade secret protection, we believe that our success also depends on increasing our technological expertise, continuing our development of new products and providing comprehensive support and service to our customers. However, we may be unable to protect our technology in all instances, or our competitors may develop similar or more competitive technology independently. We currently hold a number of United States and foreign patents and pending patent applications. However, other parties may challenge or attempt to invalidate or circumvent any patents the United States or foreign governments issue to us or these governments may fail to issue patents for pending applications. In addition, the rights granted or anticipated under any of these patents or pending patent applications may be narrower than we expect or provide no competitive advantages. Furthermore, effective patent, trademark, copyright, maskwork and trade secret protection may be unavailable, limited or not applied for in certain foreign countries. We may incur significant legal costs to protect our intellectual property.

We also seek to protect our proprietary technology, including technology that may not be patented or patentable, in part by confidentiality agreements and, if applicable, inventors' rights agreements with our collaborators, advisors, employees and consultants. We cannot assure you that these agreements will always be entered into or will not be breached or that we will have adequate remedies for any breach.

We have received, and may receive in the future, notices of claims of infringement and misappropriation of other parties' proprietary rights. In the event of an adverse decision in a patent, trademark, copyright, maskwork or trade secret action, we could be required to withdraw the product or products found to be infringing from the market or redesign products offered for sale or under development. Whether or not these infringement claims are successfully asserted, we would likely incur significant costs and diversion of our resources with respect to the defense of these claims. In the event of an adverse outcome in any litigation, we may be required to pay substantial damages, including enhanced damages for willful infringement, and incur significant attorneys' fees, as well as indemnify customers for damages they might suffer if the products they purchase from us infringe intellectual property rights of others. We could also be required to stop our manufacture, use, sale or importation of infringing products, expend significant resources to develop or acquire non-infringing technology, discontinue the use of some processes, or obtain licenses to intellectual property rights covering products and technology that we may, or have been found to, infringe or misappropriate such intellectual property rights.

Our products may contain defects that could affect our results of operations.

Our products may contain undetected errors or defects. Such problems may cause delays in product introductions and shipments, result in increased costs and diversion of development resources, cause us to incur increased charges due to obsolete or unusable inventory, require design modifications, or decrease market acceptance or customer satisfaction with these products, which could result in loss of sales or product returns. In addition, we may not find defects or failures in our products until after commencement of commercial shipments, which may result in loss or delay in market acceptance that could significantly harm our operating results. Our current or potential customers also might seek to recover from us any losses resulting from defects or failures in our products; further, such claims might be significantly higher than the revenues and profits we receive from those of our products involved as we are usually a component supplier with limited value content relative to the value of a complete system or sub-system. In most cases we have contractual provisions in our customer contracts that seek to limit our liability to the replacement of the defective parts shipped. Nonetheless, liability claims could require us to spend significant time and money in litigation or to pay significant damages for which we may have insufficient insurance coverage. Any of these claims, whether or not successful, could seriously damage our reputation and business.

If we fail to attract and retain qualified personnel, our business may be harmed.

Our performance is substantially dependent on the performance of our executive officers and key employees. The loss of the services of key officers, technical personnel or other key employees could harm the business. Our success depends on our ability to identify, hire, train, develop and retain highly qualified technical and managerial personnel. Failure to attract and retain the necessary technical and managerial personnel could harm us.

We may not be able to compete successfully in markets within the semiconductor industry in the future.

We compete in the high performance segment of the linear integrated circuit market. Our competitors include among others, Analog Devices, Inc., Intersil, Maxim Integrated Products, Inc. and Texas Instruments, Inc. Competition among manufacturers of linear integrated circuits is intense, and certain of our competitors have significantly greater financial, technical, manufacturing and marketing resources than us. The principal elements of competition include product performance, functional value, quality and reliability, technical service and support, price, diversity of product line and delivery capabilities. We believe we compete favorably with respect to these factors, although we may be at a disadvantage in comparison to larger companies with broader product lines and greater technical service and support capabilities.

Environmental liabilities could force us to expend significant capital and incur substantial costs.

Federal, state and local regulations impose various environmental controls on the storage, use, discharge and disposal of certain chemicals and gases used in semiconductor processing. Our facilities have been designed to comply with these regulations, and we believe that our activities conform to present environmental regulations. Increasing public attention has, however, been focused on the environmental impact of electronics manufacturing operations. While we to date have not experienced any materially adverse business effects from environmental regulations, there can be no assurance that changes in such regulations will not require us to acquire costly remediation equipment or to incur substantial expenses to comply with such regulations. Any failure by us to control the storage, use or disposal of, or adequately restrict the discharge of hazardous substances could subject us to significant liabilities.

Our financial results may be adversely affected by the ongoing drought in California, where we operate one of our wafer fabrication manufacturing facilities.

We rely on our internal manufacturing facilities located in California and Washington to fabricate most of our wafers. California is in its fourth year of drought and the state government ordered a mandatory residential reduction in statewide water use in April 2015. In the future, this drought may impact businesses in the form of rate increases and/or mandatory reductions. Our fabrication process consumes a significant amount of water and we are generally dependent upon water provided by public utilities. We also maintain a well at the California facility; however, we may be restricted on the amount of water we can

draw from that well. Restrictions on our access to water could have a significant adverse impact on our business as production at our California facility could be disrupted by the unavailability of water. In addition, we may be charged more for water or fined for deemed excessive usage which could impact our operating margins if we are not able to pass along price increases to our customers.

We are subject to a variety of domestic and international laws and regulations, including those relating to the use of "conflict minerals", U.S. Customs and Export Regulations and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

As part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (the "Act"), the SEC has promulgated disclosure requirements regarding the use of certain minerals (tantalum, tin, tungsten and gold), which are mined from the Democratic Republic of Congo and adjoining countries, known as conflict minerals. Certain of the Company's products contain gold, tungsten and tin. As a result of the Act, the Company must annually publicly disclose whether it manufactures (as defined in the Act) any products that contain conflict minerals. Additionally, customers typically rely on the Company to provide critical data regarding the parts they purchase, including conflict mineral information. The Company's material sourcing is broad-based and multi-tiered, and it is difficult to verify the origins for conflict minerals used in the products it sells. The Company has many suppliers and each may provide conflict mineral information in a different manner, if at all. Accordingly, because the supply chain is complex, the Company may face reputational challenges from being unable to sufficiently verify the origins of conflict minerals used in its products. Additionally, customers may demand that the products they purchase be free of conflict minerals. This may limit the number of suppliers that can provide products in sufficient quantities to meet customer demand or at competitive prices.

Among other laws and regulations, the Company is also subject to U.S. Customs and Export Regulations, including U.S. International Traffic and Arms Regulations and similar laws, which collectively control import, export and sale of technologies by companies and various other aspects of the operation of the Company's business, and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and similar anti-bribery laws, which prohibit companies from making improper payments to government officials for the purposes of obtaining or retaining business. While the Company's policies and procedures mandate compliance with such laws and regulations, there can be no assurance that the Company's employees and agents will always act in strict compliance. Failure to comply with such laws and regulations may result in civil and criminal enforcement, including monetary fines and possible injunctions against shipment of product or other activities of the Company, which could have a material adverse impact on the Company's results of operations and financial condition.

Our financial results may be adversely affected by increased tax rates and exposure to additional tax liabilities.

As a global company, our effective tax rate is highly dependent upon the geographic composition of our worldwide earnings and tax regulations governing each region. We are subject to income taxes in both the United States and various foreign jurisdictions, and significant judgment is required to determine worldwide tax liabilities. We have a partial tax holiday through July 2015 in Malaysia which we expect to be extended if certain conditions are met and a partial tax holiday in Singapore through August 2019. The ability to extend such tax holidays beyond their date of expiration cannot be assured. The Company expects to receive notice of the extension of the partial tax holiday in Malaysia during its first fiscal quarter of 2016. However, the timing and outcome of the notice of extension cannot be assured. Our effective tax rate as well as the actual tax ultimately payable could be adversely affected by changes in the split of earnings between countries with differing statutory tax rates, in the valuation of deferred tax assets, in tax laws or by material audit assessments, which could affect our profitability. In addition, the amount of income taxes we pay is subject to ongoing audits in various jurisdictions, and a material assessment by a governing tax authority could affect our profitability. Finally, jurisdictions could change their tax regulations to include profits that were previously exempt.

We have not provided for U.S. federal and state income taxes on a portion of our undistributed earnings of our non-U.S. subsidiaries that are considered permanently reinvested outside the United States. It is our intent to keep these funds permanently reinvested outside of the United States and current plans do not demonstrate a need to repatriate them to fund our U.S. operations, but if in the future we decide to repatriate such foreign earnings to fund U.S. operations, we would incur incremental U.S. federal and state income taxes.

Our stock price may be volatile.

The trading price of our common stock may be subject to wide fluctuations. Our stock price may fluctuate in response to a number of events and factors, such as general United States and world economic and financial conditions, our own quarterly variations in operating results, announcements of technological innovations or new products by us or our competitors, changes in financial estimates and recommendations by securities analysts, the operating and stock price performance of other companies that investors may deem comparable to us, the hedging of our common stock and other derivative transactions by third parties, and new reports relating to trends in our markets or those of our customers. Additionally, lack of positive performance in our stock price may adversely affect our ability to retain key employees.

The stock market in general, and prices for companies in our industry in particular, has experienced extreme volatility that often has been unrelated to the operating performance of a particular company. These broad market and industry fluctuations may adversely affect the price of our common stock, regardless of our operating performance.

Our certificate of incorporation and by-laws include anti-takeover provisions that may enable our management to resist an unwelcome takeover attempt by a third party.

Our organizational documents and Delaware law contain provisions that might discourage, delay or prevent a change in control of our company or a change in our management. Our Board of Directors may also choose to adopt further anti-takeover measures without stockholder approval. The existence and adoption of these provisions could adversely affect the voting power of holders of common stock and limit the price that investors might be willing to pay in the future for shares of our common stock.

A significant disruption in, or breach in security of, our information technology systems could materially and adversely affect our business or reputation.

We rely on information technology systems throughout our organization to process and maintain financial records and employee and customer data, process orders, manage inventory, coordinate shipments to customers, process and maintain personal data and other confidential and proprietary information, assist in semiconductor engineering and other technical activities and operate other critical functions such as internet connectivity, network communications and email. The information technology systems we use in our business may be susceptible to damage, disruptions or shutdowns due to power outages, hardware failures, telecommunication failures, user errors, catastrophes or other unforeseen events. If we were to experience a disruption in the information technology systems that involve our internal communications or our interactions with customers or suppliers, it could result in the loss of sales and customers and significant incremental costs, which could adversely affect our business.

We may also be subject to security breaches or other unauthorized access to, or misuse or acquisition of, personal data or other proprietary or confidential information caused by computer viruses, illegal break-ins or hacking, sabotage, acts of vandalism by third parties, or intentional or inadvertent breaches by our employees or service providers. In addition, we provide our confidential and proprietary information to third-party business partners where necessary to conduct our business. While we employ confidentiality agreements to protect such information, those third parties may also suffer security breaches or otherwise compromise the protection of such information. If any security breaches or unauthorized access to, or use or acquisition of, personal data or other confidential or proprietary information were to occur or believed to have occurred, our relationships with our business partners and customers could be materially damaged, our reputation and brand could be materially harmed, and governmental authorities or affected persons or entities could initiate enforcement actions, investigations, or other legal or regulatory action against us, which could cause us to incur significant fines, expenses and liability or could result in orders, judgments, or consent decrees forcing us to modify our business practices. Any of these events could have a material adverse impact on our business, operating results and financial condition.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

At June 28, 2015, the Company owned the major facilities described below:

| No. of Bldgs | Location | Total Sq. Ft | Use |
|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|--|
| 6 | Milpitas, California | 430,000 | Executive and administrative offices, wafer fabrication, test and assembly operations, research and development, sales and marketing, and warehousing and distribution |
| 1 | Camas, Washington | 105,000 | Wafer fabrication |
| 1 | Chelmsford, Massachusetts | 30,000 | Research and development; sales and administration |
| 1 | Colorado Springs, Colorado | 20,000 | Research and development |
| 1 | Auburn, New Hampshire | 20,000 | Research and development |
| 1 | Raleigh, North Carolina | 20,000 | Research and development; sales and administration |
| 2 | Singapore (A) | 260,000 | Test and packaging operations, warehousing and distribution, research and development, and sales and administration |
| 1 | Malaysia (B) | 350,000 | Assembly operations, research and development |

(A) Leases on the land used for this facility expire in 2021 through 2022 with an option to extend the lease for an additional 30 years.

(B) Leases on the land used for this facility expire in 2054 through 2057.

The Company leases additional design facilities located in: Burlington, Vermont; Santa Barbara, California; Grass Valley, California; Phoenix, Arizona; Dallas, Texas; Munich, Germany; and Hangzhou, China. The Company leases sales offices in the United States in the areas of Chicago, Cleveland, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Sacramento, San Jose, Denver, Portland, Seattle, Austin, Irvine, Los Angeles and San Diego; and internationally in London, Stockholm, Helsinki, Dortmund, Munich, Stuttgart, Paris, Milan, Sydney, Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Taipei, Singapore, Seoul, Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Xian, Wuhan and Bangalore. See Note 11 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements contained in this Form 10-K. The Company believes that its existing facilities are suitable and adequate for its business purposes through fiscal year 2016.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Company is subject to various legal proceedings and claims that arise in the ordinary course of business on a wide range of matters, including, among others, patent suits and employment claims. The Company does not believe that any such current suits will have a material impact on its business or financial condition. However, current lawsuits and any future lawsuits will divert resources and could result in the payment of substantial damages.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

None

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

The information required by this item regarding equity compensation plans is incorporated by reference to the information set forth in Item 12 of this Form 10-K.

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to common stock purchased by the Company for the three-month period ended June 28, 2015.

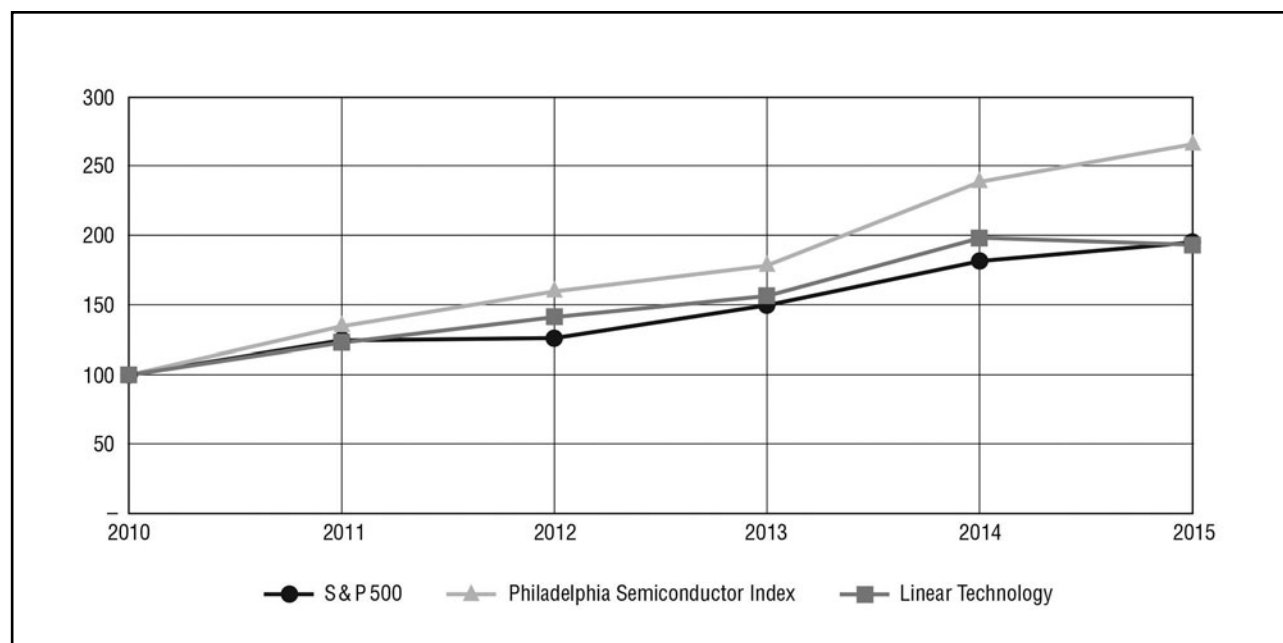
| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased (1) | Average Price Paid per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (2) |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| Month #1 (March 30, 2015 – April 26, 2015) | — | \$ — | — | 8,953,090 |
| Month #2 (April 27, 2015 - May 24, 2015) | 695,547 | \$ 46.34 | 520,295 | 8,432,795 |
| Month #3 (May 25, 2015 – June 28, 2015) | — | \$ — | — | 8,432,795 |
| Total | <u>695,547</u> | <u>\$ 46.34</u> | <u>520,295</u> | <u>8,432,795</u> |

(1) During the quarter ended June 28, 2015, the Company withheld 175,252 shares of restricted stock for \$8.2 million to satisfy employee tax withholding requirements related to the vesting of restricted stock awards. In addition, the Company repurchased 520,295 shares of its common stock in the open market for approximately \$24.0 million under an open market repurchase program authorized by the Board of Director in October 2014.

(2) On October 14, 2014, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the Company to purchase up to 10.0 million shares of its outstanding common stock in the open market over a two-year time period.

Stock Performance Graph

The following graph presents a comparison of the cumulative total stockholder return on the Company's stock with the cumulative total return of the S&P 500 and the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index for the period of five years commencing June 27, 2010 and ending June 28, 2015. The graph assumes that \$100 was invested on June 27, 2010 in each of Linear Technology common stock, the S&P 500 Index, and the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index.



ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following table includes selected financial data for each of our last five fiscal years.

| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>In thousands, except per share amounts</i> | | | | | |
| Income statement information | | | | | |
| Revenues | \$ 1,475,139 | \$ 1,388,386 | \$ 1,282,236 | \$ 1,266,621 | \$ 1,483,962 |
| Net income | 520,963 | 459,961 | 406,925 | 398,111 | 580,782 |
| Basic earnings per share | \$ 2.13 | \$ 1.91 | \$ 1.72 | \$ 1.71 | \$ 2.52 |
| Diluted earnings per share | 2.12 | 1.90 | 1.71 | 1.70 | 2.50 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding – | 244,408 | 240,498 | 236,703 | 233,013 | 230,806 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding – | 245,218 | 242,551 | 237,753 | 234,298 | 232,772 |
| Balance sheet information | | | | | |
| Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities | \$ 1,202,722 | \$ 1,012,787 | \$ 1,524,741 | \$ 1,203,059 | \$ 922,537 |
| Total assets | 1,884,079 | 1,655,578 | 2,098,341 | 1,851,068 | 1,594,066 |
| Convertible senior notes | — | — | 826,629 | 805,599 | 785,732 |
| Cash dividends per share | \$ 1.14 | \$ 1.06 | \$ 1.02 | \$ 0.98 | \$ 0.94 |

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

Overview

Linear Technology Corporation, a member of the S&P 500, has been designing, manufacturing and marketing a broad line of high performance analog integrated circuits for major companies worldwide for over three decades. The Company's products provide an essential bridge between our analog world and the digital electronics in communications, networking, industrial, automotive, computer, medical, instrumentation, consumer, and military and aerospace systems. Linear Technology produces power management, data conversion, signal conditioning, RF and interface ICs, μ Module[®] subsystems, and wireless sensor network products.

Quarterly revenues of \$379.5 million for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2015 increased \$14.1 million or 3.8% over \$365.4 million reported in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2014 and increased \$7.5 million or 2.0% over the previous quarter's revenue of \$372.0 million. Net income of \$132.7 million increased \$3.0 million or 2.3% over the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2014 but decreased \$2.5 million or 1.8% from the third quarter of fiscal year 2015. Diluted earnings per share of \$0.54 per share in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2015 increased \$0.01 per share or 2% over the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2014 but decreased \$0.01 per share or 2% from the third quarter of fiscal year 2015. Net income and diluted earnings per share decreased on a sequential basis primarily due to a higher effective tax rate of 25.25% compared to 22.50% in the third quarter of fiscal 2015.

Revenue for fiscal year 2015 was \$1,475.1 million, an increase of \$86.7 million or 6.2% over revenue of \$1,388.4 million in the prior fiscal year. Net income of \$521.0 million for fiscal year 2015 increased \$61.0 million or 13.3% over \$460.0 million reported in the previous fiscal year. Net income grew at a greater percentage than revenue primarily due to the extinguishment of the Convertible Senior Notes at the end of fiscal 2014. Accordingly, fiscal year 2015 had no related interest expense.

Critical Accounting Policies

The Company's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, which require it to make estimates and judgments that significantly affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. The Company regularly evaluates these estimates, including those related to inventory valuation, revenue recognition and income taxes. These estimates are based on historical experience and on assumptions that are believed by management to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates, which may impact the carrying values of assets and liabilities.

The Company believes the following critical accounting policies affect the more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Revenue Recognition

The Company recognizes revenues when the earnings process is complete, when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, the product has been delivered, the price is fixed and determinable and collection is reasonably assured. During fiscal years 2015 and 2014, the Company recognized approximately 15% of net revenues from domestic distributors that are recognized under agreements which provide for certain sales price rebates and limited product return privileges. Given the uncertainties associated with the levels of pricing rebates, the ultimate sales price on domestic distributor sales transactions is not fixed or determinable until domestic distributors sell the merchandise to the end-user. At the time of shipment to domestic distributors, the Company records a trade receivable and deferred revenue at the distributor purchasing price since there is a legally enforceable obligation from the distributor to pay for the products delivered. The Company relieves inventory as title has passed to the distributor and recognizes deferred cost of sales in the same amount. "Deferred income on shipments to distributors" represents the difference between deferred revenue and deferred cost of sales and is recognized as a current liability until such time as the distributor confirms a final sale to its end customer. At June 28, 2015, the Company had approximately \$58.8 million of deferred revenue and

\$11.9 million of deferred cost of sales recognized as \$46.9 million of “Deferred income on shipments to distributors.” At June 29, 2014, the Company had approximately \$56.8 million of deferred revenue and \$11.2 million of deferred cost of sales recognized as \$45.6 million of “Deferred income on shipments to distributors.” The Company believes that its deferred costs of revenues have limited risk of material impairment, as the Company offers stock rotation privileges to distributors (up to 5% of quarterly purchases) which enable distributors to rotate slow moving inventory. In addition, stock rotated inventory that is returned to the Company is generally resalable. The Company reviews distributor ending on-hand inventory balances, as well as orders placed on the Company to ensure that distributors are not overstocking parts and are ordering to forecasted demand. To the extent the Company was to have a significant reduction in distributor price or grant significant price rebates, there could be a material impact on the ultimate revenue and gross profit recognized. During fiscal years 2015 and 2014, the price rebates that have been remitted back to distributors have ranged from \$3.5 million to \$4.4 million per quarter.

The Company’s sales to international distributors are made under agreements which permit limited stock return privileges but not sales price rebates. Revenue on these sales is recognized upon shipment at which time title passes. The Company has reserves to cover expected product returns. If product returns for a particular fiscal period exceed or are below expectations, the Company may determine that additional or less sales return allowances are required to properly reflect its estimated exposure for product returns. Generally, changes to sales return allowances have not had a significant impact on operating margin.

Inventory Valuation

The Company values inventories at the lower of cost or market. The Company records charges to write-down inventories for unsalable, excess or obsolete raw materials, work-in-process and finished goods. Newly introduced parts are generally not valued until success in the market place has been determined by a consistent pattern of sales and backlog among other factors. The Company arrives at the estimate for newly released parts by analyzing sales and customer backlog against ending inventory on hand. The Company reviews the assumptions on a quarterly basis and makes decisions with regard to inventory valuation based on the current business climate. In addition to write-downs based on newly introduced parts, judgmental assessments are calculated for the remaining inventory based on salability, obsolescence, historical experience and current business conditions. If actual market conditions are less favorable than those projected by management, additional inventory write-downs may be required that could adversely affect operating results. If actual market conditions are more favorable, the Company may have higher gross margins when products are sold. Sales to date of such products have not had a significant impact on gross margin.

Income Taxes

The Company must make certain estimates and judgments in determining income tax expense for financial statement purposes. These estimates and judgments occur in the calculation of tax credits, tax benefits and deductions and in the calculation of certain tax assets and liabilities, which arise from differences in the timing of recognition of revenue and expense for tax and financial statement purposes. Significant changes to these estimates may result in an increase or decrease to the tax provision in a subsequent period.

The calculation of the Company’s tax liabilities involves uncertainties in the application of complex tax regulations. The Company recognizes liabilities for uncertain tax positions based on the two-step process prescribed in the authoritative accounting literature. The first step is to evaluate the tax position for recognition by determining if the weight of available evidence indicates that it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained on audit, including resolution of related appeals or litigation processes, if any. The second step requires the Company to estimate and measure the tax benefit as the largest amount that is more than 50% likely to be realized upon ultimate settlement. It is inherently difficult and subjective to estimate such amounts, as the Company has to determine the probability of various possible outcomes. The Company reevaluates these uncertain tax positions on a quarterly basis. This evaluation is based on factors including, but not limited to, changes in facts or circumstances, changes in tax law, effectively settled issues under audit, and new audit activity. Such a change in recognition or measurement would result in the recognition of a tax benefit or an additional charge to the tax provision. Refer to Note 11 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements of this Annual Report on Form 10-K for a discussion of current tax matters.

Results of Operations

The table below presents the income statement items as a percentage of revenues and provides the percentage change of such items in dollars compared to the prior fiscal year amount.

| | Fiscal Year Ended | | | Change | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | June 28, 2015 | June 29, 2014 | June 30, 2013 | 2015 % | 2014 % |
| Revenues | 100.0 % | 100.0 % | 100.0 % | 6 % | 8 % |
| Cost of sales | 24.1 | 24.4 | 25.2 | 5 | 5 |
| Gross margin | 75.9 | 75.6 | 74.8 | 7 | 9 |
| Expenses: | | | | | |
| Research & development | 18.1 | 18.0 | 18.3 | 7 | 6 |
| Selling, general & administrative | 11.5 | 11.5 | 11.8 | 6 | 5 |
| | 29.6 | 29.5 | 30.1 | 6 | 6 |
| Operating margin | 46.3 | 46.1 | 44.7 | 7 | 12 |
| Interest expense | — | (3.0) | (3.8) | — | (15) |
| Interest and other income | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | (1) | (34) |
| Income before income taxes | 46.5 % | 43.3 % | 41.2 % | 14 | 14 |
| Tax rate | 24.0 % | 23.5 % | 23.1 % | | |

Fiscal year 2015 revenues of \$1,475.1 million increased \$86.7 million or 6.2% over revenues of \$1,388.4 million in fiscal year 2014. Fiscal year 2015 revenues increased over the prior fiscal year due to increases in revenues in all of the end-markets led by the Industrial and Automotive end-markets. The Company continues to limit its exposure to the Consumer and cell-phone end-markets in favor of the Industrial, Automotive, Communication infrastructure and Military end-markets. The Company's bookings in the Industrial, Automotive, Communication infrastructure, and Military end-markets in aggregate were 88% of bookings in fiscal year 2015, as compared to 88% of bookings for fiscal year 2014 and 86% in fiscal 2013.

Revenues in fiscal year 2015 increased over the prior fiscal year due to increases in the number of units shipped and in the average selling price ("ASP") of units. The number of units shipped in fiscal year 2015 increased 4% to 785.3 million units over 753.8 million units in fiscal year 2014. The ASP in fiscal year 2015 increased 3% to \$1.89 per unit over \$1.84 per unit in fiscal year 2014.

Revenues in fiscal year 2015 increased in each major geographic region over revenues in the prior fiscal year. International revenues were \$1,066.9 million or 72% of revenues in fiscal year 2015, an increase of \$56.6 million over international revenues of \$1,010.3 million or 73% of revenues in the previous fiscal year. Internationally, sales to Rest of World ("ROW") represented \$545.8 million or 37% of revenues, sales to Europe were \$292.0 million or 20% of revenues, and sales to Japan were \$229.1 million or 15% of revenues. Domestic revenues were \$408.2 million or 28% of revenues in fiscal year 2015, an increase of \$30.1 million over domestic revenues of \$378.1 million or 27% of revenues in fiscal year 2014.

Fiscal year 2014 revenues of \$1,388.4 million increased \$106.2 million or 8.3% over revenues of \$1,282.2 million in fiscal year 2013. Fiscal year 2014 revenues increased over the prior fiscal year due to increases in revenues in the Industrial, Automotive, Communication and Consumer end-markets partially offset by lower revenues in the Computer and Military end-markets. The Company's bookings in the Industrial, Automotive, Communication infrastructure, and Military end-markets in aggregate were 88% of bookings in fiscal year 2014, as compared to 86% of bookings for fiscal year 2013 and 84% in fiscal 2012.

Revenues in fiscal year 2014 increased over the prior fiscal year due to an increase in the number of units shipped while the ASP remained flat. The number of units shipped in fiscal year 2014 increased 9% to 753.8 million units over 691.0 million units in the fiscal year 2013. The ASP of \$1.84 per unit in fiscal years 2014 was flat compared to fiscal year 2013.

Revenues in fiscal year 2014 increased in each major geographic region over revenues in the prior fiscal year 2013. International revenues were \$1,010.3 million or 73% of revenues in fiscal year 2014, an increase of \$97.8 million over

international revenues of \$912.5 million or 71% of revenues in the previous fiscal year. Internationally, sales to the ROW represented \$520.3 million or 38% of revenues, sales to Europe were \$267.2 million or 19% of revenues, and sales to Japan were \$222.8 million or 16% of revenues. Domestic revenues were \$378.1 million or 27% of revenues in fiscal year 2014, an increase of \$8.4 million over domestic revenues of \$369.7 million or 29% of revenues in fiscal year 2013.

Gross profit for fiscal year 2015 was \$1,119.4 million, an increase of \$69.6 million or 6.6% over gross profit of \$1,049.8 million in fiscal year 2014. Gross margin increased to 75.9% in fiscal year 2015 as compared to 75.6% in fiscal year 2014. The increase in gross margin in fiscal year 2015 was primarily due to spreading fixed costs over a higher revenue base and a higher ASP, partially offset by higher labor, raw material, and electronic component costs.

Gross profit for fiscal year 2014 was \$1,049.8 million, an increase of \$90.1 million or 9.4% over gross profit of \$959.7 million in fiscal year 2013. Gross margin increased to 75.6% in fiscal year 2014 as compared to 74.8% in fiscal year 2013. The increase in gross margin in fiscal year 2014 was primarily due to spreading fixed costs over a higher revenue base.

Research and development (“R&D”) expense for fiscal year 2015 was \$266.8 million, an increase of \$16.4 million or 6.5% over R&D expense of \$250.4 million in fiscal year 2014. The increase in R&D expense was primarily due to an \$8.1 million increase in compensation costs as a result of increases in headcount, annual salary increases and increases in related fringe benefit costs. In addition, employee profit sharing increased \$3.5 million and employee stock-based compensation costs increased \$4.0 million.

R&D expense for fiscal year 2014 was \$250.4 million, an increase of \$15.2 million or 6.5% over R&D expense of \$235.2 million in fiscal year 2013. The increase in R&D expense was primarily due to an \$8.0 million increase in compensation costs as a result of increases in headcount, annual salary increases and increases in related fringe benefit costs. In addition, employee profit sharing increased \$4.5 million and employee stock-based compensation costs increased \$0.7 million. Other R&D expense increased \$2.0 million primarily due to patent fees and travel costs.

Selling general and administrative (“SG&A”) expense for fiscal year 2015 was \$170.0 million, an increase of \$10.4 million or 6.5% over SG&A expense of \$159.6 million in fiscal year 2014. The increase in SG&A expense was primarily due to a \$2.1 million increase in compensation costs primarily due to annual salary increases and commission costs. In addition, employee profit sharing increased \$2.8 million and employee stock-based compensation increased \$2.2 million. Other SG&A expenses increased \$3.3 million primarily due to advertising and legal expenses.

SG&A expense for fiscal year 2014 was \$159.6 million, an increase of \$8.2 million or 5.5% over SG&A expense of \$151.4 million in fiscal year 2013. The increase in SG&A expense was primarily due to a \$4.8 million increase in compensation costs primarily due to annual salary increases, commission costs and increases in related fringe benefit costs. In addition, employee profit sharing increased \$3.5 million and employee stock-based compensation increased \$0.4 million. These increases were partially offset by a \$0.5 million decrease in other SG&A expenses primarily due to lower legal expenses.

As a result of the conversion of the Company’s 3.00% Convertible Senior Notes at the end of the fiscal year 2014 the Company had no related interest expense in fiscal year 2015. Accordingly, interest expense decreased \$41.2 million from the prior fiscal year.

Interest expense for fiscal year 2014 was \$41.2 million, a decrease of \$7.1 million from \$48.3 million in fiscal year 2013 due to the May 1, 2014 conversion of the Company’s 3.00% Convertible Senior Notes (the “Notes”). As a result of the conversion, holders of the Notes received the principal amount of \$845.1 million in cash. The remaining conversion premium was settled in shares of the Company’s common stock totaling approximately 2.9 million shares. There was no gain or loss recognized as a result of the conversion.

Interest and other income for fiscal year 2015 was \$2.7 million and remained flat with the interest and other income of \$2.7 million in fiscal year 2014. The average interest rate earned increased during the current fiscal year; however, interest income

was unchanged due to lower cash, cash equivalents and marketable security balances as a result of the debt extinguishment of the Notes and marginally due to higher foreign currency exchange losses on non-trade foreign receivables.

Interest and other income for fiscal year 2014 was \$2.7 million, a decrease of \$1.4 million or 33.5% from interest and other income of \$4.1 million in fiscal year 2013. Interest income decreased primarily due to a decrease in the average interest rate earned on the Company's cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities balance, as well as due to lower cash, cash equivalent and marketable securities balances as a result of the debt extinguishment of the Notes.

The Company's effective income tax rate was 24.0% in fiscal year 2015 compared to 23.5% in fiscal year 2014. Each period benefited from similar discrete items, primarily the retroactive reinstatement of the Federal Research and Development Tax Credit ("R&D Tax Credit") for the prior calendar year in 2013 and again in 2014 and the release of tax reserves in each period due to the expiration of open fiscal years that were previously subject to audit.

The Company's effective income tax rate was 23.5% in fiscal year 2014 compared to 23.1% in fiscal year 2013. The increase in the effective income tax rate from the prior year periods was primarily due to the expiration of the R&D Tax Credit that had occurred on December 31, 2013. Accordingly, the annual effective tax rate for fiscal 2014 includes the benefit of the R&D Tax Credit for six months.

The Company's effective tax rate is lower than the federal statutory rate of 35% as a result of lower tax rates on the earnings of its wholly-owned foreign subsidiaries, principally in Singapore and Malaysia. The Company has a partial tax holiday in Singapore through August 2019 and a partial tax holiday through July 2015 in Malaysia, which the Company expects to be extended if certain conditions are met. The Company expects to receive notice of the extension of the partial tax holiday in Malaysia during its first fiscal quarter of 2016. However, the timing and outcome of the notice of extension cannot be assured. The Company also receives tax benefits as a domestic manufacturer and from R&D tax credits when that benefit is in effect.

Factors Affecting Future Operating Results

Except for historical information contained herein, the matters set forth in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, including the statements in the following paragraphs, are forward-looking statements that are dependent on certain risks and uncertainties including such factors, among others, as the timing, volume and pricing of new orders received and shipped during a fiscal period, timely ramp-up of new facilities, the timely introduction of new processes and products; fluctuations in costs associated with utilities, transportation and raw materials; currency fluctuations; the effects of adverse economic and financial conditions in the United States and throughout the world; and other factors described below and in "Item 1A – Risk Factors" section of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Quarterly revenues of \$379.5 million for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2015 increased \$7.5 million or 2.0% over the previous quarter's revenue of \$372.0 million. The Company's quarterly industry leading gross margin and operating margin percentages remained relatively steady at 76.1% and 46.5% while earnings per share declined \$0.01 to \$0.54 primarily due to a higher tax rate. For the fiscal year, revenue grew 6.2% to \$1,475.1 million, while earnings per share increased 11.6% to \$2.12. The fourth quarter is typically a strong quarter for the Company, although there were some concerns with global macroeconomic conditions that tempered expectations. As the quarter progressed, these conditions appeared to worsen and bookings slowed considerably. The bookings decline was broad based across all major markets and regions. The Company's largest market, Industrial, suffered the largest decline followed by the Computer market which appears to be weak for the entire industry. In the early weeks of the first quarter of fiscal year 2016, bookings have improved. However, due to the decline in bookings received in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2015, coupled with a sluggish global economic environment, the Company is anticipating a difficult first fiscal quarter in fiscal year 2016. The Company forecasts revenue to decline sequentially in the 7% - 12% range. The Company is optimistic that this will be a short down cycle and that this is temporary weakness experienced as customers react to global uncertainties and adjust their inventories to match their cautiousness and end customer demand. Design activity remains robust and the Company sees many opportunities where new products may require our innovative analog solutions.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

At June 28, 2015, cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities totaled \$1,202.7 million, an increase of \$189.9 million from the June 29, 2014 balance. Major uses of cash provided by operating activities of \$598.9 million were (i) cash dividends of \$278.4 million, representing \$1.14 per share for fiscal year 2015, (ii) \$93.8 million to purchase 2.2 million shares of the Company's common stock in the open market and, (iii) \$30.4 million to purchase 0.7 million shares to satisfy minimum statutory withholding requirements related to the vesting of employee restricted stock awards. Working capital at June 28, 2015 was \$1,401.8 million.

The Company's accounts receivable balance of \$179.3 million at the end of fiscal year 2015 increased \$5.9 million over the June 29, 2014 balance of \$173.3 million. The increase is primarily due to higher shipments in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2015 as compared to the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2014. Inventory totaled \$99.9 million at the end of fiscal year 2015, an increase of \$8.6 million over the prior year balance. The increase in inventory was primarily due to an increase in the Company's work in process inventory, primarily diebank, as well as in the finished goods inventory. The Company increased inventory levels for its newer products and increased its finished goods level to build up shippable inventory to meet anticipated sales.

The Company's net property, plant and equipment balance of \$287.7 at the end of fiscal year 2015 increased \$10.7 million over the prior year balance. Fixed asset additions totaled \$62.6 million primarily for procurement of assembly, test and wafer fabrication equipment. Depreciation expense was \$51.9 million during fiscal year 2015.

In July 2015, the Company's Board of Directors declared a cash dividend of \$0.30 per share. The \$0.30 per share dividend will be paid on August 26, 2015 to stockholders of record on August 14, 2015. The payment of future dividends will be based on financial performance.

Historically, the Company has satisfied its liquidity needs through cash generated from operations. Given its financial condition and historical operating performance, the Company believes that current capital resources and cash generated from operating activities should be sufficient to meet its liquidity and capital expenditures for the foreseeable future.

On October 23, 2013, the Company entered into a \$100.0 million credit agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (the "Credit Agreement"). The Company originally entered into the Credit Agreement to enhance cash deployment flexibility in connection with the conversion of its Notes and potential onshore cash requirements post-conversion. On July 27, 2015, the Credit Agreement was amended to increase the size of the line of credit to \$150.0 million and to extend the maturity date from October 23, 2015 to July 27, 2017. The Company has not utilized the Credit Agreement to date. For further information on the Credit Agreement, see Note 7 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Contractual Obligations

The following table summarizes the Company's significant contractual obligations at June 28, 2015 and the effect such obligations are expected to have on the Company's liquidity and cash flows in future periods.

| <i>(In thousands)</i> | Total | Less than 1 Year | 1-3 Years | 3-5 Years | More than 5 Years |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Operating lease obligations (1) | \$ 9,529 | \$ 3,154 | \$ 3,374 | \$ 2,050 | \$ 951 |
| Line of credit agreement (2) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | <u>\$ 9,529</u> | <u>\$ 3,154</u> | <u>\$ 3,374</u> | <u>\$ 2,050</u> | <u>\$ 951</u> |

(1) The Company leases some of its facilities under non-cancelable operating leases that expire at various dates through fiscal 2057. See Note 11 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statement contained in this Form 10-K for additional information about operating leases.

(2) During the second quarter of fiscal year 2014, the Company entered into a Credit Agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association providing for a \$100.0 million unsecured revolving line of credit. On July 27, 2015, the Credit Agreement was extended for two years with similar terms for \$150.0 million. The Company has not utilized the Credit Agreement to date.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of June 28, 2015, the Company had no off-balance sheet financing arrangements.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Refer to "Recent Accounting Pronouncements" in Note 1 to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Interest rate risk

The Company's cash equivalents and marketable securities are subject to market risk, primarily interest rate and credit risk. The Company's investments are managed by outside professional managers within investment guidelines set by the Company. Such guidelines include security type, credit quality and maturity and are intended to limit market risk by restricting the Company's investments to high quality debt instruments with relatively short-term maturities. Based upon the weighted average duration of the Company's investments at June 28, 2015, a hypothetical 100 basis point increase in short-term interest rates would result in an unrealized loss in market value of the Company's investments totaling approximately \$9.3 million. Such losses would only be realized if the Company sold the investments prior to maturity. These investments are reported at fair value with the related unrealized gains or losses reported in accumulated other comprehensive income, a component of stockholders' deficit. The Company generally holds securities until maturity.

Foreign exchange risk

The Company's sales outside the United States are transacted in U.S. dollars; accordingly, the Company's sales are not generally impacted by foreign currency rate changes. The operations outside of the United States incur operating expenses denominated in foreign currencies. The results of operations and cash flows are therefore subject to fluctuations due to changes in foreign currency exchange rates. The Company has not entered into any foreign currency exchange contracts to hedge foreign exchange risk.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (in thousands, except per share amounts)

| For the year ended | June 28, 2015 | June 29, 2014 | June 30, 2013 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Revenues | \$ 1,475,139 | \$ 1,388,386 | \$ 1,282,236 |
| Cost of sales ⁽¹⁾ | 355,727 | 338,580 | 322,516 |
| Gross profit | 1,119,412 | 1,049,806 | 959,720 |
| Expenses: | | | |
| Research and development ⁽¹⁾ | 266,761 | 250,434 | 235,184 |
| Selling, general and administrative ⁽¹⁾ | 169,952 | 159,642 | 151,382 |
| Total operating expenses | 436,713 | 410,076 | 386,566 |
| Operating income | 682,699 | 639,730 | 573,154 |
| Interest expense ⁽²⁾ | — | (41,168) | (48,343) |
| Interest income and other income | 2,690 | 2,706 | 4,070 |
| Income before income taxes | 685,389 | 601,268 | 528,881 |
| Provision for income taxes | 164,426 | 141,307 | 121,956 |
| Net income | \$ 520,963 | \$ 459,961 | \$ 406,925 |
| Basic earnings per share | \$ 2.13 | \$ 1.91 | \$ 1.72 |
| Shares used in the calculation of basic earnings per share | 244,408 | 240,498 | 236,703 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$ 2.12 | \$ 1.90 | \$ 1.71 |
| Shares used in the calculation of diluted earnings per share | 245,218 | 242,551 | 237,753 |
| Cash dividends per share | \$ 1.14 | \$ 1.06 | \$ 1.02 |

Includes the following non-cash charges:

| | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| ⁽¹⁾ Stock-based compensation | | | |
| Cost of sales | \$ 8,966 | \$ 8,074 | \$ 7,912 |
| Research and development | 41,584 | 37,624 | 36,904 |
| Selling, general and administrative | 21,581 | 19,430 | 19,049 |
| ⁽²⁾ Amortization of debt discount (non-cash interest expense) | — | 18,458 | 21,029 |

See accompanying notes.

LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (In thousands)

| For the year ended | June 28, 2015 | June 29, 2014 | June 30, 2013 |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Net income | \$ 520,963 | \$ 459,961 | \$ 406,925 |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax: | | | |
| Net changes in unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities | 206 | 621 | (431) |
| Total comprehensive income | \$ 521,169 | \$ 460,582 | \$ 406,494 |

See accompanying notes.

LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(in thousands, except par value)

| As of | June 28, 2015 | June 29, 2014 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 195,679 | \$ 157,323 |
| Marketable securities | 1,007,043 | 855,464 |
| Accounts receivable, net of allowances (\$1,651) and (\$1,653) | 179,264 | 173,340 |
| Inventories: | | |
| Raw materials | 10,668 | 10,544 |
| Work-in-process | 66,572 | 62,695 |
| Finished goods | 22,621 | 18,071 |
| Total inventories | 99,861 | 91,310 |
| Deferred tax assets | 48,493 | 46,294 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 54,412 | 40,982 |
| Total current assets | 1,584,752 | 1,364,713 |
| Property, plant and equipment, at cost: | | |
| Land | 28,837 | 28,837 |
| Buildings and improvements | 243,977 | 237,809 |
| Manufacturing and test equipment | 730,719 | 681,071 |
| Office furniture and equipment | 6,727 | 6,028 |
| | 1,010,260 | 953,745 |
| Accumulated depreciation and amortization | (722,518) | (676,665) |
| Net property, plant and equipment | 287,742 | 277,080 |
| Identified intangible assets, net and goodwill | 11,585 | 13,785 |
| Total noncurrent assets | 299,327 | 290,865 |
| Total assets | \$ 1,884,079 | \$ 1,655,578 |
| Liabilities and stockholders' equity | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 17,608 | \$ 28,221 |
| Accrued payroll and related benefits | 98,498 | 88,326 |
| Deferred income on shipments to distributors | 46,860 | 45,619 |
| Income taxes payable | 5,822 | 41,731 |
| Other accrued liabilities | 14,130 | 11,218 |
| Total current liabilities | 182,918 | 215,115 |
| Deferred tax liabilities | 85,612 | 67,999 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 37,622 | 41,095 |
| Total liabilities | 306,152 | 324,209 |
| Commitments and contingencies | | |
| Stockholders' equity: | | |
| Preferred stock, \$0.001 par value, 2,000 shares authorized; none issued or outstanding | — | — |
| Common stock, \$0.001 par value, 2,000,000 shares authorized; 239,751 shares issued and outstanding (239,096 as of June 29, 2014) | 240 | 239 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 2,052,250 | 1,947,767 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax | 561 | 355 |
| Accumulated deficit | (475,124) | (616,992) |
| Total stockholders' equity | 1,577,927 | 1,331,369 |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$ 1,884,079 | \$ 1,655,578 |

See accompanying notes.

LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(in thousands)

| For the year ended | June 28, 2015 | June 29, 2014 | June 30, 2013 |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Cash flow from operating activities: | | | |
| Net income | \$ 520,963 | \$ 459,961 | \$ 406,925 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 54,098 | 51,255 | 55,366 |
| Stock-based compensation | 72,131 | 65,128 | 63,865 |
| Amortization of convertible senior notes discount | — | 18,458 | 21,029 |
| Excess tax benefit from stock-based compensation | (15,190) | (11,038) | — |
| Change in operating assets and liabilities: | | | |
| Accounts receivable | (5,924) | (28,066) | 7,816 |
| Inventories | (8,551) | (4,081) | (7,565) |
| Prepaid expenses, other current assets and deferred tax assets | (3,816) | 1,464 | (2,159) |
| Long-term assets | — | — | 1,426 |
| Accounts payable, accrued payroll, other accrued liabilities and noncurrent liabilities | (1,496) | 21,038 | (4,727) |
| Deferred income on shipments to distributors | 1,241 | 1,531 | 2,755 |
| Income taxes payable | (14,537) | 20,777 | 19,203 |
| Cash provided by operating activities | <u>598,919</u> | <u>596,427</u> | <u>563,934</u> |
| Cash flow from investing activities: | | | |
| Purchase of marketable securities | (886,222) | (1,496,652) | (1,181,592) |
| Proceeds from sale and maturities of available-for-sale securities | 734,961 | 2,039,216 | 772,968 |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | (62,560) | (37,669) | (17,640) |
| Cash (used in) provided by investing activities | <u>(213,821)</u> | <u>504,895</u> | <u>(426,264)</u> |
| Cash flow from financing activities: | | | |
| Extinguishment of Convertible Senior Notes | — | (845,087) | — |
| Excess tax benefit from stock-based compensation | 15,190 | 11,038 | — |
| Issuance of common stock under employee stock plans | 40,712 | 100,491 | 102,590 |
| Purchase of common stock | (124,240) | (81,786) | (85,699) |
| Payment of cash dividends | (278,404) | (255,305) | (241,329) |
| Cash used in financing activities | <u>(346,742)</u> | <u>(1,070,649)</u> | <u>(224,438)</u> |
| Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 38,356 | 30,673 | (86,768) |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year | 157,323 | 126,650 | 213,418 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of year | <u>\$ 195,679</u> | <u>\$ 157,323</u> | <u>\$ 126,650</u> |
| Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information: | | | |
| Cash paid for income taxes | <u>\$ 186,920</u> | <u>\$ 119,797</u> | <u>\$ 99,720</u> |
| Cash paid for interest expense | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 21,127</u> | <u>\$ 25,485</u> |

See accompanying notes.

LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
(in thousands, except per share amounts)

| | Common Stock | | Additional Paid-In Capital | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) | Accumulated Deficit | Total Stockholders' Equity |
|--|--------------|--------|-------------------------------|--|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | | | | |
| Balance at July 1, 2012 | 230,034 | 230 | 1,587,815 | 165 | (851,702) | 736,508 |
| Issuance of common stock for cash under employee stock option, restricted stock and stock purchase plans | 5,392 | 5 | 102,585 | — | — | 102,590 |
| Tax deficit from stock transactions | — | — | (521) | — | — | (521) |
| Purchase and retirement of common stock | (2,401) | (2) | (17,248) | — | (68,449) | (85,699) |
| Cash dividends - \$1.02 per share | — | — | — | — | (241,329) | (241,329) |
| Stock-based compensation | — | — | 63,865 | — | — | 63,865 |
| Unrealized loss on available-for-sale investments, net of tax effect | — | — | — | (431) | — | (431) |
| Net income | — | — | — | — | 406,925 | 406,925 |
| Balance at June 30, 2013 | 233,025 | 233 | 1,736,496 | (266) | (754,555) | 981,908 |
| Issuance of common stock for cash under employee stock option, restricted stock and stock purchase plans | 5,059 | 5 | 100,483 | — | — | 100,488 |
| Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation | — | — | 11,038 | — | — | 11,038 |
| Purchase and retirement of common stock | (1,896) | (2) | (14,691) | — | (67,093) | (81,786) |
| Release of deferred tax liabilities as a result of the conversion of Convertible Senior Notes | — | — | 49,313 | — | — | 49,313 |
| Shares issued as conversion premium for the conversion of Convertible Senior Notes | 2,908 | 3 | — | — | — | 3 |
| Cash dividends - \$1.06 per share | — | — | — | — | (255,305) | (255,305) |
| Stock-based compensation | — | — | 65,128 | — | — | 65,128 |
| Unrealized gain on available-for-sale investments, net of tax effect | — | — | — | 621 | — | 621 |
| Net income | — | — | — | — | 459,961 | 459,961 |
| Balance at June 29, 2014 | 239,096 | 239 | 1,947,767 | 355 | (616,992) | 1,331,369 |
| Issuance of common stock for cash under employee stock option, restricted stock and stock purchase plans | 3,502 | 4 | 40,708 | — | — | 40,712 |
| Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation | — | — | 15,190 | — | — | 15,190 |
| Purchase and retirement of common stock | (2,847) | (3) | (23,546) | — | (100,691) | (124,240) |
| Cash dividends - \$1.14 per share | — | — | — | — | (278,404) | (278,404) |
| Stock-based compensation | — | — | 72,131 | — | — | 72,131 |
| Unrealized gain on available-for-sale investments, net of tax effect | — | — | — | 206 | — | 206 |
| Net income | — | — | — | — | 520,963 | 520,963 |
| Balance at June 28, 2015 | 239,751 | \$ 240 | \$ 2,052,250 | \$ 561 | \$ (475,124) | \$ 1,577,927 |

See accompanying notes.

LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1. Description of Business and Significant Accounting Policies

Description of Business

Linear Technology Corporation (together with its consolidated subsidiaries, "Linear," "Linear Technology" or the "Company"), a member of the S&P 500, has been designing, manufacturing and marketing a broad line of high performance analog integrated circuits for major companies worldwide for over three decades. The Company's products provide an essential bridge between our analog world and the digital electronics in communications, networking, industrial, automotive, computer, medical, instrumentation, consumer, and military and aerospace systems. Linear Technology produces power management, data conversion, signal conditioning, RF and interface ICs, μ Module[®] subsystems, and wireless sensor network products. The Company is a Delaware corporation; it was originally organized and incorporated in California in 1981.

Basis of Presentation

The Company operates on a 52/53-week fiscal year ending on the Sunday nearest June 30. Fiscal years 2015, 2014 and 2013 were 52-week years. Fiscal year 2016 will be a 53-week fiscal year, with the additional week falling in the second quarter of fiscal year 2016.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries after elimination of all significant inter-company accounts and transactions. Accounts denominated in foreign currencies have been remeasured using the U.S. dollar as the functional currency.

The preparation of financial statements and related disclosures in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and judgments that affect the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ materially from those estimates.

Cash Equivalents and Marketable Securities

Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments purchased with original maturities of three months or less at the time of purchase. Cash equivalents consist of investment grade securities in commercial paper, bank certificates of deposit, and money market funds.

Investments with maturities over three months at the time of purchase are classified as marketable securities. At June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014, the Company's marketable securities balance consisted primarily of debt securities in municipal bonds, corporate bonds, commercial paper, U.S. and foreign government and agency securities. The Company's marketable securities are managed by outside professional managers within investment guidelines set by the Company. The Company's investment guidelines generally restrict the professional managers to high quality debt instruments with a credit rating of AAA. Within the Company's investment policy there is a provision that allows the Company to hold AA+ securities under certain circumstances. The Company's investments in debt securities are classified as available-for-sale. Investments in available-for-sale securities are reported at fair value with unrealized gains and losses, net of tax, as a component of "Accumulated other comprehensive income" in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. The Company classifies investments with maturities greater than twelve months as current as it considers all investments as a potential source of operating cash regardless of maturity date. The cost of securities matured or sold is based on the specific identification method.

Accounts Receivable

The allowance for doubtful accounts reflects the Company's best estimate of probable losses inherent in the accounts receivable balance. The Company determines the allowance based on the aging of its accounts receivable, historical experience,

known troubled accounts, management judgment and other currently available evidence. The Company writes off accounts receivable against the allowance when it determines a balance is uncollectible and no longer actively pursues collection of the receivable.

Concentrations of Credit Risk

The Company's investment policy restricts investments to high credit quality investments with maturities of three years or less and limits the amount invested with any one issuer. Concentrations of credit risk with respect to accounts receivable are generally not significant due to the diversity of the Company's customers, customer end-markets, and customer geographical locations. The Company performs ongoing credit evaluations of its customers' financial condition and requires collateral, primarily letters of credit, as deemed necessary.

Arrow Electronics Inc. ("Arrow"), the Company's largest distributor, distributes the Company's products worldwide. Arrow is one of the largest distributors of electronic components in the world with revenues of \$22.8 billion in their December 2014 fiscal year-end. Arrow's global components business segment covers the world's largest electronics markets - the Americas, EMEA (Europe, Middle East, and Africa), and Asia Pacific regions. As of June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014, Arrow worldwide accounted for 36% and 38% of the Company's total net accounts receivable, respectively. Arrow worldwide accounted for 32%, 31% and 31% of the Company's worldwide net revenues in fiscal 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Arrow, like the Company's other distributors, is not an end customer, but rather serves as a channel of sale to many end users of the Company's products.

No end customer accounted for more than 10% of the Company's worldwide net revenues for any of the periods presented.

The Company's assets, liabilities and cash flows are predominantly U.S. dollar denominated, including those of its foreign operations. However, the Company's foreign subsidiaries have certain assets, liabilities and cash flows that are subject to foreign currency risk. For the three years ended June 28, 2015, the Company did not utilize derivative instruments to hedge foreign currency risk or for any other purpose. Gains and losses resulting from foreign currency fluctuations are recognized in income.

Inventories

The Company values inventories at the lower of cost or market on a first-in, first-out basis. The Company records charges to write-down inventories for unsalable, excess or obsolete raw materials, work-in-process and finished goods. Newly introduced parts are generally not valued until success in the market place has been determined by a consistent pattern of sales and backlog among other factors. In addition to write-downs based on newly introduced parts, judgmental assessments are calculated for the remaining inventory based on salability, obsolescence, historical experience and current business conditions.

Property, Plant and Equipment and Other Non-Current Assets

Property, plant and equipment is stated at cost and depreciated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets, which is generally 5-10 years for equipment and 10-30 years for buildings. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of the asset's useful life or the expected term of the lease. Depreciation expense for fiscal years 2015, 2014, and 2013 was \$51.9 million, \$49.1 million and \$49.4 million, respectively.

Other non-current assets consist of intangible assets totaling \$9.4 million and goodwill totaling \$2.2 million. Intangible assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives of 5 to 10 years using the straight-line method of amortization.

The Company performs reviews of its long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstance indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable or that the useful life is shorter than originally estimated.

Long-lived assets by geographic area were as follows, net of accumulated depreciation:

| <i>In thousands</i> | June 28, 2015 | June 30, 2014 |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| United States | \$ 189,248 | \$ 187,464 |
| Malaysia | 51,356 | 54,539 |
| Singapore | 58,375 | 48,426 |
| Other | 348 | 436 |
| Total long-lived assets | <u>\$ 299,327</u> | <u>\$ 290,865</u> |

Goodwill and Intangible Assets

The Company reviews goodwill and purchased intangible assets with indefinite lives for impairment annually and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable. Reviews are performed to determine whether the carrying value of an asset is impaired, based on comparisons to undiscounted expected future cash flows. If this comparison indicates that there is impairment, the impaired asset is written down to fair value, which is typically calculated using: (i) quoted market prices or (ii) discounted expected future cash flows utilizing a discount rate consistent with the guidance. Impairment is based on the excess of the carrying amount over the fair value of those assets.

Goodwill is recorded as the difference, if any, between the aggregate consideration paid for an acquisition and the fair value of the net tangible and intangible assets acquired. The Company tests goodwill for impairment at the reporting unit level (operating segment or one level below an operating segment) on an annual basis or more frequently if the Company believes indicators of impairment exist. During fiscal year 2015, the Company performed a qualitative assessment to test goodwill for impairment. Based on the qualitative assessment, if the Company determines that the fair value of a reporting unit is more likely than not (i.e., a likelihood of more than 50 percent) to be less than its carrying amount, the two step impairment test will be performed. The first step of the impairment test involves comparing the fair values of the applicable reporting units with their aggregate carrying values, including goodwill. The Company generally determines the fair value of the Company's reporting units using the income approach methodology of valuation that includes the discounted cash flow method as well as other generally accepted valuation methodologies. If the carrying amount of a reporting unit exceeds the reporting unit's fair value, the Company performs the second step of the goodwill impairment test to determine the amount of impairment loss. The second step of the goodwill impairment test involves comparing the implied fair value of the affected reporting unit's goodwill with the carrying value of that goodwill. No impairment charges were recorded associated with the Company's goodwill and intangible assets for any of the periods presented.

Advertising Expense

The Company expenses advertising costs in the period in which they occur. Advertising expenses for fiscal years 2015, 2014, and 2013 were approximately \$5.9 million, \$5.5 million and \$5.4 million, respectively.

Revenue Recognition

The Company recognizes revenues when the earnings process is complete, when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, the product has been delivered, the price is fixed and determinable and collection is reasonably assured. The Company recognized approximately 15% of net revenues in fiscal year 2015 from North American ("domestic") distributors. Domestic distributor revenues are recognized under agreements which provide for certain sales price rebates and limited product return privileges. Given the uncertainties associated with the levels of pricing rebates, the ultimate sales price on domestic distributor sales transactions is not fixed or determinable until domestic distributors sell the merchandise to the end-customer. Domestic distributor agreements permit the following: price protection on certain domestic distribution inventory if the Company lowers the prices of its products; exchanges up to 5% of certain purchases on a quarterly basis; and ship and debit transactions. Ship and

debit transactions occur when the Company agrees to accept a lower selling price for a specific quantity of product at the request of the domestic distributor in order to complete a sales transaction in the domestic distributor channel. For such sales, the Company rebates the negotiated price decrease to the distributor upon shipment as a reduction in the accounts receivable from the distributor.

At the time of shipment to domestic distributors, the Company records a trade receivable and deferred revenue at the distributor's purchase price since there is a legally enforceable obligation from the distributor to pay for the products delivered. The Company relieves inventory as title has passed to the distributor and recognizes deferred cost of sales in the same amount. "Deferred income on shipments to distributors" represents the difference between deferred revenue and deferred costs of sales and is recognized as a current liability until such time as the distributor confirms a final sale to its end customer. "Deferred income on shipments to distributors" effectively represents the deferred gross margin on the sale to the distributor, however, the actual amount of gross margin the Company ultimately recognizes in future periods may be less than the originally recorded amount as a result of price protection, negotiated price rebates and exchanges as mentioned above. The wide range and variability of negotiated price rebates granted to distributors does not allow the Company to accurately estimate the portion of the balance in the "Deferred income on shipments to distributors" that will be remitted back to the distributors. During fiscal years 2015 and 2014, these price rebates that have been remitted back to distributors have ranged from \$3.5 million to \$4.4 million per quarter. The Company does not reduce deferred income by anticipated future price rebates. Instead, price rebates are recorded against "Deferred income on shipments to distributors" when incurred, which is generally at the time the distributor sells the product to the end customers.

The Company's sales to international distributors are made under agreements which permit limited stock return privileges but not sales price rebates. The agreements generally permit distributors to exchange up to 5% of purchases on a semi-annual basis. Revenue on international distributor sales is recognized upon shipment at which time title passes. The Company estimates international distributor returns based on historical data and current business expectations and defers a portion of international distributor revenues and costs based on these estimated returns.

Product Warranty and Indemnification

The Company's warranty policy provides for the replacement of defective parts. In certain large contracts, the Company has agreed to negotiate in good faith a product warranty in the event that an epidemic failure of its parts was to take place. To date there have been no significant occurrences of epidemic failure. Warranty expense historically has been immaterial.

The Company provides a limited indemnification for certain customers against intellectual property infringement claims related to the Company's products. In certain cases, there are limits on and exceptions to the Company's potential liability for indemnification relating to intellectual property infringement claims. To date, the Company has not incurred any significant indemnification expenses relating to intellectual property infringement claims. The Company cannot estimate the amount of potential future payments, if any, which the Company might be required to make as a result of these agreements, and accordingly, the Company has not accrued any amounts for its indemnification obligations.

Stock-Based Compensation

The Company has equity incentive plans, which are described more fully in "Note 2: Stock-Based Compensation." Stock-based compensation is measured at the grant date, based on the fair value of the award. The Company's equity awards granted in fiscal years 2015 and 2014 were restricted stock awards. Stock-based compensation cost for restricted stock awards is based on the fair market value of the Company's stock on the date of grant. Stock-based compensation cost for stock options is calculated on the date of grant using the fair value of stock options as determined using the Black-Scholes valuation model. The Black-Scholes valuation model requires the Company to estimate key assumptions such as expected option term and stock price volatility to determine the fair value of a stock option. The estimate of these key assumptions is based on historical information and judgment regarding market factors and trends. The Company amortizes restricted stock and stock option award compensation cost straight-line over the awards vesting period, which is generally 5 years.

Income Taxes

The Company recognizes a tax benefit from an uncertain tax position only if it is more likely than not that the tax position will be sustained on examination by the taxing authorities, based on the technical merits of the position. The Company recognizes liabilities for uncertain tax positions based on the two-step process prescribed in the authoritative accounting literature. The first step is to evaluate the tax position for recognition by determining if the weight of available evidence indicates that it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained on audit, including resolution of related appeals or litigation processes, if any. The second step requires the Company to estimate and measure the tax benefit as the largest amount that is more than 50% likely to be realized upon ultimate settlement. See “*Note 11. Income Taxes*” for further information.

Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share is calculated using the weighted average shares of common stock and unvested restricted stock outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share is calculated using the weighted average shares of common stock outstanding, plus the dilutive effect of stock options and restricted stock units calculated using the treasury stock method, and prior to fiscal year 2015, the dilutive effect of the conversion premium related to the Convertible Senior Notes (the “Notes”). The dilutive effect of stock options and restricted stock units for fiscal years 2015, 2014, and 2013 was 810,000, 1,173,000, and 1,050,000 shares, respectively. There were no out-of-the-money stock options that had to be excluded from the weighted average diluted common shares outstanding for fiscal years 2015 and 2014. The weighted average diluted common shares outstanding for fiscal years 2013 excludes the effect of approximately 4,391,000 stock options that if included would be anti-dilutive.

There was no dilutive effect from the conversion premium in the calculation of diluted earnings per common shares for the current fiscal year, because of the debt extinguishment of the Notes at the end of fiscal year 2014. In fiscal year 2014 the Company included the dilutive effect of 879,000 shares for the conversion premium related to the Notes in the calculation of diluted earnings per common share because the average-per-share market price of the Company’s common stock was above the conversion price during the fiscal year prior to the conversion on May 1, 2014. The conversion premium was not included in the calculation of diluted earnings per common share in fiscal year 2013 because the average-per-share market price was below the conversion price during that fiscal year.

Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income consists of net income and other comprehensive income or loss. Other comprehensive income or loss components include unrealized gains or losses on available-for-sale securities, net of tax.

Segment Reporting

The Company competes in a single operating segment, and as a result, no segment information has been disclosed outside of geographical information. Disclosures about products and services, and major customers are included above in Note 1.

Export sales by geographic area in fiscal years 2015, 2014, and 2013 were as follows:

| <i>In thousands</i> | June 28, 2015 | June 29, 2014 | June 30, 2013 |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Europe | \$ 291,988 | \$ 267,219 | \$ 235,300 |
| Japan | 229,110 | 222,792 | 190,400 |
| Rest of the world | 545,828 | 520,322 | 486,800 |
| Total export sales | <u>\$ 1,066,926</u> | <u>\$ 1,010,333</u> | <u>\$ 912,500</u> |

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standard Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) No. 2014-09 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606). On July 9, 2015, the FASB agreed to delay the effective date by one year from the first quarter of fiscal year 2018. In accordance with the agreed upon delay, the new standard is effective for us beginning in the first quarter of 2019. Early adoption is permitted, but not before the original effective date of the standard. The core principle of ASU No. 2014-09 is that a company should recognize revenue when it transfers promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the company expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. ASU No. 2014-09 provides for one of the two methods of transition: retrospective application to each prior period presented; or recognition of the cumulative effect of retrospective application of the new standard in the period of initial application. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of ASU No. 2014-09 on its consolidated financial statements and which transition method to elect.

In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-15, Disclosure of Uncertainties about an Entity’s Ability to Continue as a Going Concern. Each reporting period, management is required to assess whether there is substantial doubt about an entity’s ability to continue as a going concern and if so to provide related footnote disclosures. The new guidance is effective for annual and interim periods ending after December 15, 2016. Early adoption is permitted. This ASU is not expected to have an impact on the Company’s financial statements or disclosures.

Note 2. Stock-Based Compensation

Equity Incentive Plans

The Company currently has a 2010 Equity Incentive Plan, under which the Company may grant Incentive Stock Options, Nonstatutory Stock Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units, Performance Shares and Performance Units. Prior to its expiration in July 2015, the Company also had a 2005 Equity Incentive Plan, under which it could grant similar awards. Under the plans, the Company may grant awards to employees, executive officers, directors and consultants who provide services to the Company. To date, the Company has only granted Nonstatutory Stock Options, Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units. At June 28, 2015, 19.6 million shares were available for grant under the plans. The Company’s restricted awards generally vest annually over a period of five years (20% a year) based upon continued employment with the Company. Options vest over a five-year period (generally 10% every six months) based upon continued employment. Options expire seven years after the date of the grant. The Company’s last stock option grant to an employee was in January 2009.

The Company has an Employee Stock Purchase Plan (“ESPP”) that permits eligible employees to purchase common stock through payroll deductions at 85% of the fair market value of the common stock at the end of each six-month offering period. The offering periods generally commence on approximately May 1 and November 1 of each year. At June 28, 2015, 0.5 million shares were available for issuance under the ESPP.

The following is a brief description of each of the Company’s equity incentive plans:

2010 Equity Incentive Plan. The 2010 Equity Incentive Plan enables the Company to issue Incentive Stock Options, Nonstatutory Stock Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units, Performances Shares and Performance Units. Under the 2010 Equity Incentive Plan, the Company may grant awards to employees, executive officers, directors and consultants who provide services to the Company.

2005 Equity Incentive Plan. The 2005 Equity Incentive Plan expired in July 2015. Prior to its expiration, the plan enabled the Company to issue Incentive Stock Options, Nonstatutory Stock Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units, Performances Shares and Performance Units. Under the 2005 Equity Incentive Plan, the Company could grant awards to employees, executive officers, directors and consultants who provided services to the Company.

2005 Employee Stock Purchase Plan. The 2005 Employee Stock Purchase Plan provides employees of the Company with an opportunity to purchase common stock of the Company through accumulated payroll deductions. The maximum number of shares that may be issued to any one participant in any six-month offering period under the ESPP is currently 300 shares.

As of June 28, 2015 there was approximately \$205.5 million of total unrecognized stock-based compensation cost related to share-based payments granted under the Company's stock-based compensation plans that will be recognized over a period of approximately five years. Future grants will add to this total, whereas quarterly amortization and the vesting of the existing grants will reduce this total.

The Company issues new shares of common stock upon exercise of stock options. For the fiscal year ended June 28, 2015, 1.3 million stock options were exercised for a gain (aggregate intrinsic value) of \$30.8 million determined as of the date of option exercise.

Stock Options

The following table summarizes the stock option activity and related information under all stock option plans:

| | Stock Options Outstanding | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Weighted Average Remaining Contract Life (Years) | Aggregate Intrinsic Value |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Outstanding options, July 1, 2012 | 11,080,860 | \$ 31.12 | | |
| Granted | — | — | | |
| Forfeited and expired | (1,028,250) | 37.28 | | |
| Exercised | (3,316,280) | 28.42 | | |
| Outstanding options, June 30, 2013 | 6,736,330 | \$ 31.51 | | |
| Granted | — | — | | |
| Forfeited and expired | (1,915,375) | 41.19 | | |
| Exercised | (3,010,856) | 30.44 | | |
| Outstanding options, June 29, 2014 | 1,810,099 | \$ 23.05 | | |
| Granted | — | — | | |
| Forfeited and expired | — | — | | |
| Exercised | (1,328,337) | 23.17 | | |
| Outstanding options, June 28, 2015 | 481,762 | \$ 22.75 | 0.55 | \$ 10,720,537 |
| Vested and expected to vest at June 28, 2015 | 481,762 | \$ 22.75 | 0.55 | \$ 10,720,537 |
| Options vested and exercisable at: | | | | |
| June 30, 2013 | 5,529,186 | 33.42 | | |
| June 29, 2014 | 1,809,099 | 23.05 | | |
| June 28, 2015 | 481,762 | 22.75 | 0.55 | \$ 10,720,537 |

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to employee stock options outstanding and exercisable at June 28, 2015:

| | Options Outstanding | | | Options Exercisable | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Stock Options Outstanding | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life (Years) | Stock Options Exercisable | Weighted Average Exercise Price |
| Range of Exercise Prices | | | | | |
| \$22.74-\$22.74 | 481,262 | \$ 22.74 | 0.55 | 481,262 | \$ 22.74 |
| \$29.71-\$29.71 | 500 | 29.71 | 1.55 | 500 | 29.71 |
| \$22.74-\$29.71 | <u>481,762</u> | <u>\$ 22.75</u> | <u>0.55</u> | <u>481,762</u> | <u>\$ 22.75</u> |

Restricted Awards

The following table summarizes the Company's restricted stock and restricted stock unit activity under all equity award plans:

| | Restricted Awards Outstanding | Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Non-vested at July 1, 2012 | 5,398,008 | \$ 30.67 |
| Granted | 2,190,049 | 32.81 |
| Vested | (1,779,799) | 30.54 |
| Forfeited | (139,985) | 30.80 |
| Non-vested at June 30, 2013 | 5,668,273 | \$ 31.54 |
| Granted | 2,367,730 | 43.49 |
| Vested | (1,789,488) | 30.37 |
| Forfeited | (129,428) | 33.36 |
| Non-vested at June 29, 2014 | 6,117,087 | \$ 36.46 |
| Granted | 2,495,074 | 44.71 |
| Vested | (1,903,091) | 34.63 |
| Forfeited | (127,306) | 36.70 |
| Non-vested at June 28, 2015 | <u>6,581,764</u> | <u>\$ 40.13</u> |

Note 3. Fair Value

The Company has determined that the only assets and liabilities in the Company's financial statements that are required to be measured at fair value on a recurring basis are the Company's investment portfolio assets. Financial instruments are categorized in a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the information used to develop assumptions for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 input); then to quoted prices (in non-active markets or in active markets for similar assets or liabilities), inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, and inputs that are not directly observable, but that are corroborated by observable market data for the asset or liability (Level 2 input); then the lowest priority to unobservable inputs, for example, the Company's data about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability (Level 3 input). Fair value is a market-based measurement, not an entity-specific measurement, and a fair value measurement should therefore be based on the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability.

The Company's Level 1 assets consist of investments in money-market funds and United States Treasury securities that are actively traded. The Company's Level 2 assets consist of municipal bonds, obligations of U.S. government-sponsored enterprises, corporate debt and commercial paper that are less actively traded in the market, but where quoted market prices exist for similar instruments that are actively traded. The Company determines the fair value of its Level 2 assets by obtaining non-binding market prices from its third-party portfolio managers on the last day of the quarter. The Company had no Level 3 assets in fiscal years 2015 and 2014.

The following table presents the Company's fair value hierarchy for its financial assets (cash equivalents and marketable securities) measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of June 28, 2015:

| <i>In thousands</i> | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Instruments (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Total |
|---|---|---|---------------------|
| Description | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| Investments in U.S. Treasury securities and money-market funds | \$ 427,800 | \$ — | \$ 427,800 |
| Investments in municipal bonds, obligations of U.S. government-sponsored enterprises and commercial paper | — | 677,899 | 677,899 |
| Total assets measured at fair value | <u>\$ 427,800</u> | <u>\$ 677,899</u> | <u>\$ 1,105,699</u> |

The following table presents the Company's fair value hierarchy for its financial assets (cash equivalents and marketable securities) measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of June 29, 2014:

| <i>In thousands</i> | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Instruments (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Total |
|---|---|---|-------------------|
| Description | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| Investments in U.S. Treasury securities and money-market funds | \$ 443,635 | \$ — | \$ 443,635 |
| Investments in municipal bonds, obligations of U.S. government-sponsored enterprises and commercial paper | — | 446,931 | 446,931 |
| Total assets measured at fair value | <u>\$ 443,635</u> | <u>\$ 446,931</u> | <u>\$ 890,566</u> |

Note 4. Marketable Securities

The following is a summary of cash equivalents and marketable securities at June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014:

| <i>In thousands</i> | June 28, 2015 | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | Amortized Cost | Unrealized Gain | Unrealized (Loss) ⁽¹⁾ | Fair Value |
| U.S. Treasury securities | \$ 364,925 | \$ 618 | \$ (6) | \$ 365,537 |
| Obligations of U.S. government-sponsored enterprises | 258,519 | 299 | (1) | 258,817 |
| Municipal bonds | 138,419 | 26 | (80) | 138,365 |
| Corporate debt securities and other | 280,699 | 21 | (3) | 280,717 |
| Money market funds | 62,263 | — | — | 62,263 |
| Total | <u>\$ 1,104,825</u> | <u>\$ 964</u> | <u>\$ (90)</u> | <u>\$ 1,105,699</u> |
| Amounts included in: | | | | |
| Cash equivalents | \$ 98,657 | \$ — | \$ (1) | \$ 98,656 |
| Marketable securities | 1,006,168 | 964 | (89) | 1,007,043 |
| Total | <u>\$ 1,104,825</u> | <u>\$ 964</u> | <u>\$ (90)</u> | <u>\$ 1,105,699</u> |

| <i>In thousands</i> | June 29, 2014 | | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| | Amortized Cost | Unrealized Gain | Unrealized (Loss) ⁽¹⁾ | Fair Value |
| U.S. Treasury securities | \$ 426,777 | \$ 455 | \$ (2) | \$ 427,230 |
| Obligations of U.S. government-sponsored enterprises | 133,131 | 46 | (2) | 133,175 |
| Municipal bonds | 60,267 | 49 | (4) | 60,312 |
| Corporate debt securities and other | 253,429 | 18 | (3) | 253,444 |
| Money market funds | 16,405 | — | — | 16,405 |
| Total | <u>\$ 890,009</u> | <u>\$ 568</u> | <u>\$ (11)</u> | <u>\$ 890,566</u> |
| Amounts included in: | | | | |
| Cash equivalents | \$ 35,101 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 35,101 |
| Marketable securities | 854,908 | 568 | (11) | 855,465 |
| Total | <u>\$ 890,009</u> | <u>\$ 568</u> | <u>\$ (11)</u> | <u>\$ 890,566</u> |

⁽¹⁾ The Company evaluated the nature of the investments with a loss position at June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014, which are primarily obligations of the U.S. government and its sponsored enterprises, municipal bonds and U.S. corporate notes. In evaluating the investments, the Company considered the duration of the impairments, and the amount of the impairments relative to the underlying portfolio and concluded that such amounts were not other-than-temporary. The Company principally holds securities until maturity, however, they may be sold under certain circumstances. Unrealized losses on the investments greater than twelve months old were not significant as of June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014.

The estimated fair value of investments in debt securities by effective maturity date, is as follows:

| <i>In thousands</i> | June 28, 2015 | June 29, 2014 |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| Due in one year or less | \$ 605,726 | \$ 470,453 |
| Due after one year through three years | 401,317 | 385,011 |
| Total | <u>\$ 1,007,043</u> | <u>\$ 855,464</u> |

Note 5. Goodwill and Intangible Assets

On December 20, 2011, the Company acquired 100% of the outstanding stock of privately held Dust Networks ("Dust") of Hayward, California, a provider of low power wireless sensor network technology. As a result of the acquisition the Company recorded goodwill and intangible assets during fiscal year 2012.

Goodwill

The goodwill balance of \$2.2 million at June 28, 2015 is attributable to the acquisition of Dust. There were no changes to the goodwill balance for the year ended June 28, 2015. The Company annually evaluates goodwill for impairment as well as whenever events or changes in circumstances might suggest that the carrying value of goodwill may not be recoverable. The Company expects that none of the goodwill will be deductible for tax purposes.

Intangible Assets

Attributable to the acquisition of Dust the Company recorded intangible assets of \$13.1 million for intellectual property and \$4.0 million for customer relationships. The Company reviews intangible assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of assets may not be recoverable. Finite-intangible assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives that is expected to reflect the estimated pattern of economic use.

The remaining amortization expense, related to finite-lived intangible assets, will be recognized over a weighted-average period of approximately 5.7 years. The useful lives of amortizable intangible assets are as follows:

| Assets | Life |
|------------------------|------------|
| Intellectual property | 5-10 years |
| Customer relationships | 10 years |

Intangible assets consisted of the following:

| <i>In thousands</i> | June 28, 2015 | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| | Original Cost | Accumulated Amortization | Net |
| Intellectual property | \$ 13,100 | \$ (6,300) | \$ 6,800 |
| Customer relationships | 4,000 | (1,400) | 2,600 |
| Total intangible assets | <u>\$ 17,100</u> | <u>\$ (7,700)</u> | <u>\$ 9,400</u> |

In thousands

| | June 29, 2014 | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | Original Cost | Accumulated Amortization | Net |
| Intellectual property | \$ 13,100 | \$ (4,500) | \$ 8,600 |
| Customer relationships | 4,000 | (1,000) | 3,000 |
| Total intangible assets | <u>\$ 17,100</u> | <u>\$ (5,500)</u> | <u>\$ 11,600</u> |

Amortization expense associated with intangible assets for fiscal year 2015, 2014, and 2013 was \$2.2 million, \$2.2 million and \$6.0 million, respectively. Amortization expense for intangible assets is estimated to be \$2.2 million in fiscal year 2016, \$1.7 million in fiscal year 2017, \$1.2 million in fiscal year 2018, \$1.2 million in fiscal year 2019, \$1.2 million in fiscal year 2020 and \$1.8 million thereafter.

Note 6. Convertible Senior Notes

During the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2007, the Company issued \$1.7 billion aggregate principal amount of Convertible Senior Notes (the “Notes”). The Notes paid cash interest ranging from 3.00% to 3.125% semiannually. The Company used the entire net proceeds of the offering to fund a portion of its repurchase of \$3.0 billion of its common stock pursuant to an accelerated stock repurchase transaction.

In accordance with the provisions of ASC 470-20-10 to 35, the Company recognized an effective interest rate of 5.69% on the carrying value of the Notes. The difference between the effective interest rate of 5.69% and the Notes cash coupon rates of 3.00% to 3.125% resulted in non-cash interest expense from the amortization of debt discount representing the equity feature of the Notes.

On May 1, 2014 the Company executed the conversion of the outstanding principal amount of the Notes totaling \$845.1 million. Based upon the conversion price of \$40.68 per share, each \$1,000 principal amount of the Notes was converted at a rate of 24.582 shares of the Company’s common stock. As a result of the conversion, holders of the Notes received the principal amount of \$845.1 million in cash and the remaining conversion premium was settled in shares of the Company’s common stock totaling approximately 2.9 million shares. There was no gain or loss recognized as a result of the conversion.

Prior to the conversion, interest expense related to the Notes included in interest expense on the condensed consolidated statements of income for fiscal years 2015, 2014, and 2013 was as follows:

| <i>In thousands</i> | June 28, 2015 | June 29, 2014 | June 30, 2013 |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Contractual coupon interest | \$ — | \$ 21,127 | \$ 25,353 |
| Amortization of debt discount | — | 18,458 | 21,029 |
| Amortization of debt issuance costs | — | 1,583 | 1,898 |
| Total interest expense related to the Notes | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 41,168</u> | <u>\$ 48,280</u> |

Note 7. Credit Facility

On October 23, 2013, the Company entered into a credit agreement (the “Credit Agreement”) with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (the “Bank”). On July 27, 2015, the Credit Agreement was amended to extend the maturity date and increase the size of the line of credit. The Company entered into the Credit Agreement to enhance cash deployment flexibility.

As amended, the Credit Agreement provides for a \$150.0 million unsecured revolving line of credit, under which the Company may borrow, repay and reborrow loans from time to time prior to its scheduled maturity date of July 27, 2017 (the “Maturity Date”). Proceeds of loans made under the Credit Agreement may be used for working capital and other general corporate purposes of the Company and its subsidiaries. The Company may prepay the loans under the Credit Agreement in whole or in part at any time without premium or penalty, subject to customary breakage costs.

The loans bear interest at LIBOR plus 1.0%. Any then-outstanding principal amount, together with all accrued and unpaid interest, is due and payable on the Maturity Date.

The Company is required to maintain with the Bank average account balances, calculated on a quarterly basis, of not less than \$30.0 million. The Company must also maintain EBITDA of not less than \$75.0 million measured quarterly, and, in order to take certain actions such as payments of dividends, must also maintain a balance of \$500.0 million of cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities on a worldwide consolidated basis. The Credit Agreement contains other customary affirmative and negative covenants, as well as customary events of default. To date, the Company has not utilized the Credit Agreement and we were in compliance with the covenants under this credit facility.

Note 8. Stockholders' Equity

Stock Repurchase

On October 16, 2012, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the Company to repurchase up to 10.0 million shares of its outstanding common stock in the open market over a two-year time period. As this stock repurchase expired after the two-year time period, on October 14, 2014, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the Company to repurchase up to 10.0 million shares of its outstanding common stock in the open market over a two-year time period. For the majority of restricted stock awards and units granted, the number of shares issued on the date the restricted stock awards and units vest is net of the minimum statutory tax withholding requirements that the Company pays in cash to the appropriate taxing authorities on behalf of its employees. The table below includes these withheld shares because they are treated as common stock repurchases in our financial statements, as they reduce the number of shares that would have been issued upon vesting. In addition, the table below includes open market repurchases.

Shares repurchased in fiscal years 2015, 2014, and 2013 are as follows:

| <i>In thousands</i> | June 28, 2015 | June 29, 2014 | June 30, 2013 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Number of shares of common stock repurchased | 2,847 | 1,896 | 2,401 |
| Total cost of repurchase | \$ 124,240 | \$ 81,786 | \$ 85,699 |

Dividends

A cash dividend of \$0.30 per share will be paid on August 26, 2015 to stockholders of record on August 14, 2015. During fiscal year 2015, the Company paid \$278.4 million in dividends representing \$1.14 per share. The payment of future dividends will be based on quarterly financial performance.

Note 9. Retirement Plan

The Company has established a 401(k) retirement plan for its qualified U.S. employees. Under the plan, participating employees may defer up to 25% of their pre-tax earnings, subject to the Internal Revenue Service annual contribution limits. The Company contributes to qualified U.S. employees' 401(k) accounts as part of the Company's semi-annual profit sharing payouts. Contributions made by the Company within the fiscal year to this plan were approximately \$11.7 million, \$9.7 million and \$9.4 million in fiscal years 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively.

Note 10. Income Taxes

The components of income before income taxes for fiscal years 2015, 2014, and 2013 are as follows:

| <i>In thousands</i> | June 28, 2015 | June 29, 2014 | June 30, 2013 |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| United States operations | \$ 406,579 | \$ 364,275 | \$ 334,693 |
| Foreign operations | 278,810 | 236,993 | 194,188 |
| | <u>\$ 685,389</u> | <u>\$ 601,268</u> | <u>\$ 528,881</u> |

The provision for income taxes for fiscal years 2015, 2014, and 2013 consists of the following:

| <i>In thousands</i> | June 28, 2015 | June 29, 2014 | June 30, 2013 |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| United States federal: | | | |
| Current | \$ 142,630 | \$ 153,396 | \$ 91,308 |
| Deferred | 14,819 | (11,706) | 23,590 |
| | <u>157,449</u> | <u>141,690</u> | <u>114,898</u> |
| State: | | | |
| Current | 1,910 | (4,207) | 2,058 |
| Deferred | 229 | (392) | 130 |
| | <u>2,139</u> | <u>(4,599)</u> | <u>2,188</u> |
| Foreign: | | | |
| Current | 4,584 | 3,986 | 5,014 |
| Deferred | 254 | 230 | (144) |
| | <u>4,838</u> | <u>4,216</u> | <u>4,870</u> |
| | <u>\$ 164,426</u> | <u>\$ 141,307</u> | <u>\$ 121,956</u> |

The provision for income taxes reconciles to the amount computed by applying the statutory U.S. Federal rate at 35% to income before income taxes for fiscal years 2015, 2014, and 2013 as follows:

| <i>In thousands</i> | June 28, 2015 | June 29, 2014 | June 30, 2013 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Tax at U.S. statutory rate | \$ 239,886 | \$ 210,443 | \$ 185,108 |
| State income taxes, net of federal benefit | 1,131 | (2,989) | 1,422 |
| Earnings of foreign subsidiaries subject to lower rates | (54,965) | (49,149) | (40,526) |
| Domestic manufacturing deduction | (14,043) | (13,342) | (12,833) |
| Research and development credit | (12,813) | (6,378) | (14,506) |
| Other | 5,230 | 2,722 | 3,291 |
| | <u>\$ 164,426</u> | <u>\$ 141,307</u> | <u>\$ 121,956</u> |

The tax benefits (charges) attributable to equity-based compensation transactions that were applied to additional paid-in capital were \$15.2 million, \$11.0 million and \$(0.5) million, for fiscal years 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively.

Deferred income taxes reflect the net tax effects of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for income tax purposes. Significant components of the Company's deferred tax assets and liabilities recorded in the balance sheet as of June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014 are as follows:

| <i>In thousands</i> | June 28, 2015 | June 29, 2014 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Deferred tax assets: | | |
| Loss carryforwards | \$ 5,071 | \$ 5,979 |
| Credit carryforwards | 18,659 | 13,663 |
| Inventory valuation | 17,267 | 19,601 |
| Deferred income on shipments to distributors | 16,623 | 15,827 |
| Stock-based compensation | 10,897 | 12,496 |
| Accrued compensation and benefits | 8,307 | 7,517 |
| Other | 2,501 | 2,581 |
| Valuation allowance | (18,659) | (13,663) |
| Total deferred tax assets | 60,666 | 64,001 |
| Deferred tax liabilities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | \$ 6,256 | \$ 9,469 |
| Unremitted earnings of subsidiaries | 89,688 | 72,748 |
| Other | 1,841 | 3,489 |
| Total deferred tax liabilities | 97,785 | 85,706 |
| Net deferred tax liabilities | <u>\$ (37,119)</u> | <u>\$ (21,705)</u> |

The Company has state tax credit carryforwards of \$18.7 million that do not expire. The Company has provided a valuation allowance of \$18.7 million on state tax credit carryforwards which are not likely to be utilized.

The Company has a partial tax holiday in Singapore whereby the local statutory rate is significantly reduced. The tax holiday is effective through August 2019, if certain conditions are met. The Company has obtained a partial tax holiday in Malaysia, which is effective through July 2015. The Company expects to receive notice of the extension of the partial tax holiday in Malaysia during its first fiscal quarter of 2016. However, the timing and outcome of the notice of extension cannot be assured.

The impact of the Singapore and Malaysia tax holidays was to increase net income by approximately \$25.6 million, or \$0.10 per diluted share, in fiscal year 2015, \$22.6 million, or \$0.09 per diluted share, in fiscal year 2014, and \$18.9 million, or \$0.08 per diluted share, in fiscal year 2013. The Company does not provide a residual U.S. tax on a portion of the undistributed earnings of its Singapore and Malaysian subsidiaries, as it is the Company's intention to permanently invest these earnings overseas. Should these earnings be remitted to the U.S. parent then the additional U.S. taxable income would be approximately \$1,003.4 million.

At June 28, 2015, the Company had \$29.6 million of unrecognized tax benefits, primarily related to transfer pricing and federal and state research and development tax credits, of which \$10.9 million if recognized, would favorably impact the effective income tax rate in future periods.

The Company's policy is to recognize interest and/or penalties related to income tax matters in income tax expense. Income tax expense for fiscal year 2015 includes accrued interest on unrecognized tax benefits totaling \$0.9 million. At June 28, 2015, the total amount of interest on unrecognized tax benefits is \$2.1 million. A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits is as follows:

In thousands

| | Unrecognized Tax Benefits |
|--|------------------------------|
| Balance at June 30, 2013 | \$ 30,553 |
| Net additions for current year tax positions | 6,012 |
| Net additions for prior year tax positions | 972 |
| Settlements | (2,215) |
| Lapse in statute of limitations | (5,879) |
| Balance at June 29, 2014 | 29,443 |
| Net additions for current year tax positions | 6,534 |
| Net additions for prior year tax positions | 1,173 |
| Lapse in statute of limitations | (7,534) |
| Balance at June 28, 2015 | <u>\$ 29,616</u> |

The Company estimates that it is reasonably possible that the liability for gross unrecognized tax benefits could decrease up to \$6.7 million within the next 12 months. These changes could occur as a result of expiration of various statutes of limitations.

During fiscal year 2015 the Company had \$2.7 million of discrete tax benefits that positively impacted the effective tax rate, related primarily to the reversal of estimated tax liabilities for uncertain tax positions as a result of the expiration of open tax years.

During fiscal year 2014 the Company had \$6.4 million of discrete tax benefits that positively impacted the effective tax rate, related primarily to the reversal of estimated tax liabilities for uncertain tax positions as a result of the expiration of open tax years.

Note 11. Commitments and Contingencies

Contractual Obligations

The Company leases certain of its facilities under operating leases, some of which have options to extend the lease period. In addition, the Company has entered into long-term land leases for the sites of its Singapore and Malaysia manufacturing facilities. Total rent expense was \$3.9 million, \$3.7 million, and \$4.1 million in fiscal years 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively.

The following is a schedule of future minimum rental payments required under long-term operating leases at June 28, 2015:

| Fiscal Years | Operating Leases |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 2016 | \$ 3,154 |
| 2017 | 2,062 |
| 2018 | 1,312 |
| 2019 | 972 |
| 2020 | 1,078 |
| Thereafter | 951 |
| Total | <u>\$ 9,529</u> |

Litigation

The Company is subject to various legal proceedings and claims that arise in the ordinary course of business on a wide range of matters, including, among others, patent suits and employment claims. The Company does not believe that any such current suits will have a material impact on its business or financial condition. However, current lawsuits and any future lawsuits will divert resources and could result in the payment of substantial damages.

Note 12. Quarterly Information (Unaudited)*In thousands, except per share amounts*

| Quarter Ended Fiscal Year 2015 | June 28, 2015 | March 29, 2015 | December 28, 2014 | September 28, 2014 |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Revenues | \$ 379,483 | \$ 372,021 | \$ 352,575 | \$ 371,060 |
| Gross profit | 288,636 | 282,874 | 265,849 | 282,053 |
| Net income | 132,715 | 135,187 | 123,602 | 129,459 |
| Basic earnings per share | 0.54 | 0.55 | 0.51 | 0.53 |
| Diluted earnings per share | 0.54 | 0.55 | 0.51 | 0.53 |
| Cash dividends per share | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.27 | 0.27 |
| Stock price range per share: | | | | |
| High | 48.04 | 49.23 | 46.52 | 46.83 |
| Low | 45.13 | 43.49 | 37.95 | 42.43 |

In thousands, except per share amounts

| Quarter Ended Fiscal Year 2014 | June 29, 2014 | March 30, 2014 | December 29, 2013 | September 29, 2013 |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Revenues | \$ 365,428 | \$ 348,006 | \$ 334,595 | \$ 340,357 |
| Gross profit | 277,849 | 263,527 | 252,074 | 256,356 |
| Net income | 129,735 | 117,607 | 104,751 | 107,868 |
| Basic earnings per share | 0.53 | 0.49 | 0.44 | 0.45 |
| Diluted earnings per share | 0.53 | 0.48 | 0.44 | 0.45 |
| Cash dividends per share | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.26 | 0.26 |
| Stock price range per share: | | | | |
| High | 50.43 | 48.68 | 45.38 | 40.98 |
| Low | 44.23 | 43.36 | 38.70 | 36.75 |

The stock activity in the above table is based on the high and low closing prices. These prices represent quotations between dealers without adjustment for retail markups, markdowns or commissions, and may not represent actual transactions. The Company's common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol LLTC.

At June 28, 2015 there were approximately 1,686 stockholders of record.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Board of Directors and Stockholders of Linear Technology Corporation

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Linear Technology Corporation as of June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three fiscal years in the period ended June 28, 2015. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule listed in the Index at Item 15(a)2. These financial statements and schedule are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and schedule based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Linear Technology Corporation as of June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three fiscal years in the period ended June 28, 2015, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Linear Technology Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of June 28, 2015, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 framework) and our report dated August 19, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

San Jose, California
August 19, 2015

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Board of Directors and Stockholders of Linear Technology Corporation

We have audited Linear Technology Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of June 28, 2015 based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 framework) (the COSO criteria). Linear Technology Corporation's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

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

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

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

In our opinion, Linear Technology Corporation maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of June 28, 2015, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Linear Technology Corporation as of June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three fiscal years in the period ended June 28, 2015 of Linear Technology Corporation and our report dated August 29, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/Ernst & Young LLP

San Jose, California
August 19, 2015

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

None

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures.

The Company's management, with the participation of its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K. For purposes of this section, the term *disclosure controls and procedures* means controls and other procedures of an issuer that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the issuer in the reports that it files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*) is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Commission's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by an issuer in the reports that it files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is accumulated and communicated to the issuer's management, including its principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

The Company's management evaluated, with the participation of its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of June 28, 2015. Based on this evaluation, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that, as of such date, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information it is required to disclose in reports that it files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including its principal executive and principal financial officers, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure, and that such information is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting.

No change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) occurred during the quarter ended June 28, 2015 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

The management of Linear Technology is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) or 15d-15(f) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Company's internal control system was designed to provide reasonable assurance to the Company's management and Board of Directors regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements issued for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations and may not prevent or detect misstatements. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can only provide reasonable assurance with respect to financial reporting reliability and financial statement preparation and presentation.

The Company's management assessed the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting as of June 28, 2015. In making this assessment, it used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) of the Treadway Commission in Internal Control—Integrated Framework (2013). Based on its assessment of internal control over financial

reporting, management has concluded that, as of June 28, 2015, the Company's internal control over financial reporting is effective based on the COSO criteria.

Management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of June 28, 2015 has been audited by Ernst and Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their attestation report which is included herein.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The information required by this item for the Company's directors is incorporated herein by reference to the 2015 Proxy Statement, under the caption "Proposal One - Election of Directors," and for the executive officers of the Company, the information is included in Part I hereof under the caption "Executive Officers of the Registrant." The information required by this item with respect to compliance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is incorporated by reference to the 2015 Proxy Statement under the caption "Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance."

The Company had adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to all of its employees, including its Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and its principal accounting officers. The Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is posted on its website at <http://www.linear.com/>. The Company intends to satisfy the disclosure requirement under Item 5.05 of Form 8-K regarding any amendment to, or waiver from, a provision of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics by posting such information on its website, at the address specified above.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Incorporated by reference to the 2015 Proxy Statement, under the section titled "Executive Compensation."

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

Incorporated by reference to the 2015 Proxy Statement, under the section titled "Beneficial Security Ownership of Directors, Executive Officers and Certain Other Beneficial Owners" and "Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans."

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

Not applicable.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

Incorporated by reference to the 2015 Proxy Statement, under the section titled "Fees Paid To Ernst & Young LLP."

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) 1. Financial Statements

The following consolidated financial statements are included in Item 8:

Consolidated Statements of Income for each of the three years in the period ended June 28, 2015

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for each of the three years in the period ended June 28, 2015

Consolidated Balance Sheets as of June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for each of the three years in the period ended June 28, 2015

Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for each of the three years in the period ended June 28, 2015

Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

2. Schedules

VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS

(Dollars in thousands)

| | Balance at Beginning of Period | Additions Charged to Costs and Expenses | Deductions | Balance at End of Period |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|------------|--------------------------------|
| Allowance for doubtful accounts: | | | | |
| June 30, 2013 | \$ 2,035 | \$ — | \$ 144 | \$ 1,891 |
| June 29, 2014 | 1,891 | — | 238 | 1,653 |
| June 28, 2015 | 1,653 | — | 2 | 1,651 |

Schedules other than the schedule listed above have been omitted since they are either not required or the information is included elsewhere.

3. Exhibits

The Exhibits which are filed with this report or which are incorporated by reference herein are set forth in the Exhibit Index.

(c) Exhibit Index

The Exhibits which are filed with this report or which are incorporated by reference herein are set forth in the Exhibit Index.

3.1 Certificate of Incorporation of Registrant. (6)

3.5 Amended and Restated Bylaws of Registrant. (10)

4.1 Indenture dated April 24, 2007 with U.S. Bank National Association as Trustee and Cede & Co. as nominee for The Depository Trust Corporation for 3.00% Convertible Senior Notes due May 1, 2027. (13)

| | |
|---------|--|
| 4.2 | Indenture dated April 24, 2007 with U.S. Bank National Association as Trustee and Cede & Co. as nominee for The Depository Trust Corporation for 3.125% Convertible Senior Notes Due May 1, 2027. (13) |
| 10.10 | First Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated as of July 27, 2015, by and between Linear Technology Corporation and Wells Fargo Bank National Association (15) |
| 10.20 | First Amendment to Revolving Line of Credit Note, dated as of July 27, 2015, issued by Linear Technology Corporation to Wells Fargo Bank, National Association. (15) |
| 10.36 | Form of Indemnification Agreement. (6) |
| 10.45 | Land lease dated March 30, 1993 between the Registrant and the Singapore Housing and Development Board.(2) |
| 10.46 | Land lease dated November 20, 1993 between the Registrant and the Penang Development Corporation. (3) |
| 10.47 | 1996 Incentive Stock Option Plan and form of Nonstatutory Stock Option Agreement.(*)(4) |
| 10.48 | 2009 Executive Bonus Plan, as amended July 20, 2010. (*) (5) |
| 10.49 | 2001 Nonstatutory Stock Option Plan, as amended July 23, 2002, and form of Stock Option Agreement. (*) (8) |
| 10.50 | Fourth Amended and Restated Employment Agreement between Registrant and Robert H. Swanson, Jr. dated April 16, 2015. (*) (11) |
| 10.51 | Employment Agreement dated January 15, 2002 between the Registrant and Paul Coghlan. (*) (7) |
| 10.52 | Employment Agreement dated January 15, 2002 between the Registrant and Robert C. Dobkin. (*) (7) |
| 10.53 | 2005 Equity Incentive Plan, form of Stock Option Agreement, form of Restricted Stock Agreement, and form of Restricted Stock Unit Agreement. (*) (12) |
| 10.54 | 2005 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and enrollment form. (*) (9) |
| 10.55 | Registration Rights Agreement dated April 24, 2007 for 3.00% Convertible Senior Notes Due May 1, 2027. (13) |
| 10.56 | Registration Rights Agreement dated April 24, 2007 for 3.125% Convertible Senior Notes Due May 1, 2027. (13) |
| 10.57 | Employment Agreement dated August 11, 2009 between the Registrant and Lothar Maier. (*) (1) |
| 10.58 | 2010 Equity Incentive Plan. (14) |
| 10.59 | Transition Agreement between Registrant and Paul Coghlan dated June 26, 2015. (16) |
| 10.60 | Consulting Agreement between Registrant and Paul Coghlan dated June 26, 2015. (16) |
| 21.1 | Subsidiaries of Registrant. |
| 23.1 | Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm. |
| 31.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer. |
| 31.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer. |
| 32.1 | Certification of Lothar Maier and Donald Zerio Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document |

101.SCH XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document

101.CAL XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document

101.LAB XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document

101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

(*) The item listed is a compensatory plan of the Company.

(1) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 17, 2009.

(2) Incorporated by reference to identically numbered exhibit filed in response to Item 14(a)(3) "Exhibits" of the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 27, 1993.

(3) Incorporated by reference to identically numbered exhibit filed in response to Item 14(a)(3) "Exhibits" of the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended July 3, 1994.

(4) Incorporated by reference to Exhibits 4.1 and 4.2 of the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed with the Commission on July 30, 1999.

(5) Incorporated by reference to identically numbered exhibit filed in response to Item 14(a)(3) "Exhibits" of the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 27, 2010.

(6) Incorporated by reference to identically numbered exhibit filed in response Item 14(a)(3) "Exhibits" of the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended July 1, 2001.

(7) Incorporated by reference to identically numbered exhibit filed in response to Item 6 "Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K" of the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2002.

(8) Incorporated by reference to identically numbered exhibit filed in response to Item 14(a)(3) "Exhibits" of the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2002.

(9) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Statement on Form S-8 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 30, 2005.

(10) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 17, 2015.

(11) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 26, 2014.

(12) Incorporated by reference to identically numbered exhibit filed in response to Item 6 "Exhibits" of the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended October 2, 2005.

(13) Incorporated by reference to identically numbered exhibit filed in response to Item 6 "Exhibits" of the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 1, 2007.

(14) Incorporated by reference to Appendix A of the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement filed on September 15, 2010.

(15) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K/A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 31, 2015.

(16) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K/A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 30, 2015.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this Annual Report on Form 10-K to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

(Registrant)

By: /s/ Lothar Maier

Lothar Maier
Chief Executive Officer
August 19, 2015

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know all persons by these presents, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Lothar Maier and Donald P. Zerio, jointly and severally, his attorneys-in-fact, each with the power of substitution, for him in any and all capacities, to sign any amendments to this Annual Report on Form 10-K, and to file the same, with exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, hereby ratifying and confirming all that each of said attorneys-in-fact, or his substitute or substitutes, may do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

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

/s/ Lothar Maier
Lothar Maier
Chief Executive Officer (Principal
Executive Officer)
August 19, 2015

/s/ Donald P. Zerio
Donald P. Zerio
Vice President of Finance and Chief
Financial Officer (Principal Financial
Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)
August 19, 2015

/s/ Robert H. Swanson, Jr.
Robert H. Swanson, Jr.
Executive Chairman of the Board
August 19, 2015

/s/ Thomas S. Volpe
Thomas S. Volpe
Director
August 19, 2015

/s/ David S. Lee
David S. Lee
Director
August 19, 2015

/s/ Richard M. Moley
Richard M. Moley
Director
August 19, 2015

/s/ Arthur Agnos
Arthur C. Agnos
Director
August 19, 2015

/s/ John Gordon
John J. Gordon
Director
August 19, 2015

LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION**LIST OF SUBSIDIARIES**

1. Linear Technology (U.K.) Limited
2. Linear Technology KK (Japan)
3. Linear Technology GmbH (Germany)
4. Linear Technology S.A.R.L. (France)
5. Linear Technology PTE LTD (Singapore)
6. Linear Technology Taiwan Corporation
7. Linear Technology Korea Co. LTD
8. Linear Semiconductor Sdn Bhd (Malaysia)
9. Linear Technology A.B. (Sweden)
10. Linear Technology Corporation Limited (Hong Kong)
11. Linear Technology (Italy) S.r.l.
12. Linear Technology GK (Japan)
13. Linear Technology Canada Corp.
14. Linear Technology (Hangzhou) Analog IC Design LTD (China)
15. Linear Technology Semiconductor India PTE LTD
16. Dust Networks, Inc.

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statements (Form S-8 Nos. 33-58745, 333-40595, 333-84149, 333-60946, 333-102542, 333-128747, 333-129856, 333-158743, 333-168948, 333-172185, 333-199505, 333-199506, Form S-3ASR No. 333-144193, and Form S-3 No. 333-144012) of our reports dated August 19, 2015, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and schedule of Linear Technology Corporation, and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of Linear Technology Corporation, included in this Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the fiscal year ended June 28, 2015.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

San Jose, California
August 19, 2015

Corporate Information

Board of Directors

ROBERT H. SWANSON, JR.
Director since 1981
Executive Chairman
Co-founder and Chief Executive
Officer from 1981 to January 2005
Linear Technology Corporation

LOTHAR MAIER
Director since 2005
Chief Executive Officer
since January 2005
Linear Technology Corporation

ARTHUR C. AGNOS¹
Director since 2010
Former Mayor of San Francisco,
California

JOHN J. GORDON^{1,2}
Director since 2010
Former Senior Investment Officer
State Farm Insurance Company

DAVID S. LEE²
Director since 1988
Chairman
eOn Communication Corp.

RICHARD M. MOLEY^{1,2}
Chairman of Compensation
Committee
Director since 1994
Former President and
Chief Executive Officer
StrataCom, Inc.

THOMAS S. VOLPE^{1,2}
Chairman of Audit Committee
Director since 1984
Former Chief Executive Officer
Dubai Group LLC

Transfer Agent and Registrar

**COMPUTERSHARE TRUST
COMPANY N.A.**
PO Box 43078
Providence, Rhode Island 02940-3078

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

ERNST & YOUNG LLP
San Jose, California

Legal Counsel

**WILSON, SONSINI, GOODRICH &
ROSATI**
Professional Corporation

Corporate and Investor Information

Please direct inquiries to:

DONALD P. ZERIO
Vice President, Finance and CFO
Linear Technology Corporation
1630 McCarthy Blvd.
Milpitas, California 95035-7417

Officers

ROBERT H. SWANSON, JR.
Co-founder and Executive Chairman

LOTHAR MAIER
Chief Executive Officer

DONALD P. ZERIO
Vice President, Finance,
Chief Financial Officer, and Secretary

V. PAUL CHANTALAT
Vice President,
Quality and Reliability

ROBERT C. DOBKIN
Co-founder, Vice President,
Engineering, and
Chief Technical Officer

ALEXANDER R. McCANN
Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer

RICHARD E. NICKSON
Vice President,
North American Sales

DONALD E. PAULUS
Vice President,
Power Management Products

STEVEN M. PIETKIEWICZ
Vice President,
Power Management Products

DAVID A. QUARLES
Vice President,
International Sales

ROBERT L. REAY
Vice President,
Mixed Signal Products

ERIK M. SOULE
Vice President,
Signal Conditioning Products

Linear Technology Corporation (Nasdaq: LLTC), a member of the S&P 500, has been designing, manufacturing and marketing a broad line of high performance analog integrated circuits for major companies worldwide for over three decades. The Company's products provide an essential bridge between our analog world and the digital electronics in communications, networking, industrial, automotive, computer, medical, instrumentation, consumer, and military and aerospace systems. Linear Technology produces power management, data conversion, signal conditioning, RF and interface ICs, µModule® subsystems and wireless sensor network products.

The Company markets over 7,500 products to more than 15,000 original equipment manufacturers. These products compete in the marketplace

based on their performance, functional value, quality and reliability. Linear Technology products are produced using state-of-the-art silicon gate CMOS, BiCMOS, Complementary Bipolar, High Voltage and RF wafer fabrication process technologies.

Linear Technology, headquartered in Milpitas, California, employs 4,865 people worldwide and has technical sales and support locations throughout North America, Europe and Asia. In addition to manufacturing, assembly and test facilities in California, Washington, Singapore and Malaysia, the Company has thirteen design centers in Arizona, California (3), Colorado, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Texas, Singapore, Munich, Germany, and Hangzhou, China.

¹ Member of the Compensation Committee ² Member of the Audit Committee



ANALOG EXCELLENCE

1630 McCarthy Boulevard

Milpitas, CA 95035

408.432.1900

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