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NATURAL HEALTH TRENDS CORP

Form 10-K

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

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016

or

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: 001-36849

NATURAL HEALTH TRENDS CORP.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 59-2705336
(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer
incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

609 Deep Valley Drive
Suite 395
Rolling Hills Estates, California 90274
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)
Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (310) 541-0888

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

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Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

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

None

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

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

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 Website, 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 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.

Large accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company <input type="checkbox"/>

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

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the closing price of such common equity on June 30, 2016: \$202,402,875

At March 7, 2017, the number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock was 11,341,890 shares.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's definitive proxy statement to be filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days after the end of the registrant's fiscal year end to which this report relates are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K where indicated.

NATURAL HEALTH TRENDS CORP.
 Annual Report on Form 10-K
 December 31, 2016

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K, in particular “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations,” and “Item 1. Business,” include “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). When used in this report, the words or phrases “will likely result,” “expect,” “intend,” “will continue,” “anticipate,” “estimate,” “project,” “believe” and similar expressions are intended to identify “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Exchange Act. These statements represent our expectations or beliefs concerning, among other things, future revenue, earnings, growth strategies, new products and initiatives, future operations and operating results, and future business and market opportunities.

Forward-looking statements in this report speak only as of the date hereof, and forward-looking statements in documents incorporated by reference speak only as of the date of those documents. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law. We caution and advise readers that these statements are based on certain assumptions that may not be realized and involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the expectations and beliefs contained herein.

For a summary of certain risks related to our business, see “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in this report. Additional factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from our forward-looking statements are set forth in this report, including under the heading “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and in our financial statements and the related notes.

Unless otherwise noted, the terms “we,” “our,” “us,” and “Company,” refer to Natural Health Trends Corp. and its subsidiaries. References to “dollars” and “\$” are to United States dollars.

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Part I

Item 1. BUSINESS

Overview of Business

Natural Health Trends Corp. is an international direct-selling and e-commerce company headquartered in Rolling Hills Estates, California. Subsidiaries controlled by us sell personal care, wellness, and “quality of life” products under the “NHT Global” brand. Our wholly-owned subsidiaries have an active physical presence in the following markets: North America; Greater China, which consists of Hong Kong, Taiwan and China; South Korea; Singapore; Malaysia; Japan; and Europe. We also operate in Russia and Kazakhstan through our engagement with a local service provider. See Note 10 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in “Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data” of this report for further information about our net sales by geographic area.

Most of our order volume, particularly in our Hong Kong subsidiary, is for personal consumption through existing members’ referrals. The exception is our Chinese entity, where we sell directly to consumers through an e-commerce retail platform. Our objectives are to enrich the lives of the users of our products and enable our members to benefit financially from the sale of our products.

We were originally incorporated as a Florida corporation in 1988. We re-incorporated in Delaware effective June 29, 2005.

Our common stock is currently traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol “NHTC.”

Available Information

We maintain executive offices at 609 Deep Valley Drive, Suite 395, Rolling Hills Estates, California 90274 and our telephone number is (310) 541-0888. Our website is located at www.naturalhealthtrends.com. Our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to such reports are available, free of charge, on our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we file electronically such material with, or furnish it to, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. The information provided on our website should not be considered part of this report. The public may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC’s Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, DC 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an internet website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC.

Our Principal Products

We offer a line of “NHT Global” branded products in five distinct categories: wellness, herbal, beauty, lifestyle, and home, our newest category. These product categories, along with the business opportunity we offer in most of our markets, provide our members a platform to further their goal of achieving and maintaining healthy, quality lifestyles complete with product supplementation and the opportunity for financial rewards.

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The following table summarizes our product offering by category:

Product Category	Description	Products
<i>Wellness</i>		
Products formulated and designed to meet specific wellness goals of our customers. Includes targeted nutrition such as joint health, antioxidant support, digestive health, heart health, vision health, immune support and cellular health.	Liquid, encapsulated, tableted and powder dietary and nutritional supplements, vitamins, minerals	Premium Noni Juice, Triotein [®] , Cluster X2 [®] , Children's Chewable MultiVitamin, ReStor Silver [®] , ReStor Vital [®] , HerBalance [®] , Trifusion Max [™] , Glucosamine 2200, FibeRi [®] h Energin, Enhanced Essential Probiotics [®] , Omega 3 Essential Fatty Acids, Memory Burst [®] , StemRenu [®] , OcuFocus, FE Enzyme Toothpaste
<i>Herbal</i>		
Products formulated incorporating ingredients commonly found in traditional Chinese medicine	Herbal supplements	LivaPro [®] , Cordyceps Mycelia CS-4, Purus
<i>Beauty</i>		
Products to help improve skin health and bring an appearance of youthful vibrancy. This product line includes anti-aging and hydrating cleansers, creams, lotions, serums and toners to moisturize, protect and improve the appearance of skin.	Facial skin care and body care	Skindulgence [®] 30-Minute Non-Surgical Facelift System, Time Restore Eye Cream and Essence, BioCell Mask, 24K Renaissance Rejuvenation Serum, Valesce [®] , Soothe [™] , Floraeda Hydrating Series, NHT Homme [®] , Complete Renewal 8 Shampoo, Conditioner and Hair Mask
<i>Lifestyle</i>		
Products uniquely formulated to improve overall quality of life and to support active, physical and healthy lifestyles including weight management, intimacy support and energy enhancing supplements.	Supplements and topical gels for improved vitality	Alura [®] Lux by NHT Global, Valura Lux [™] , LaVie [™] Vibrant Energy drink, Twin Slim Diet Jelly [®] , NaturalGlo [™]
<i>Home</i>		
Products designed to create a clean and natural living environment for the home	Home and car appliances	PurAir Air Purifier, AquaPur Water Purifier

We continuously source unique, proprietary and immediate impact products to offer to our members and customers. Our product development is an ongoing process that is fueled by marketplace trends, new scientific findings, members' input, research and vendor proposals.

Working closely with raw material manufacturers and contract manufacturers, our mission is to co-develop and bring to market the highest quality products. Our manufacturers are primarily located in the United States, as well as a few in South Korea, Hong Kong and China. Our raw materials are sourced from reputable suppliers around the world. In addition, raw material Certificates of Analysis are reviewed in our effort to assure that the appropriate testing has been performed and are within ingredient specification requirements.

Operations of the Business

Operating Strategy

Our objective is to help our members succeed in achieving their life objectives; be it personal health, beauty, happiness or financial security. Our professionals focus on assisting our members in attaining their goals.

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We believe we have a competitive business model applicable to the markets in which we operate based on six key competencies:

• Our field leaders are experienced and culturally coherent. They work effectively with our management, implementing our strategies and providing continuous feedback to improve our services.

• A discipline and capability has been established to continue launching high-quality consumer products that are designed to facilitate the accomplishment of our corporate objectives.

• We have developed and rolled out a comprehensive training system that provides a complete career path appropriate for our members. Our training material covers the needs of our members, be they prospects, new recruits, product evangelists, sales leaders or dream builders.

• We have developed a year-round, multi-faceted promotional plan that targets different segments of our membership and has proven most effective in the last few years.

• We have implemented a commission structure that makes it as easy as possible to join our business, while giving existing members a chance to start making money as quickly as possible in multiple ways.

• The continuously improving mentality and methodology in our customer services have not only distinguished us as an organization, but have also given us a constant flow of information as to how we can do better to service our members.

Sourcing of Products

Our corporate staff works with research and development personnel of our manufacturers and other prospective vendors to create product concepts and develop the product ideas into actual products. We then may enter into supply agreements with the vendors pursuant to which we obtain rights to sell the products under private labels (or trademarks) that are owned by us. In addition, some of our local markets introduce their own products from time to time and these products are sometimes adopted by our other markets.

We generally purchase finished goods from manufacturers and sell them to our members for personal consumption. We believe that in the event we are unable to source products from our current or alternate suppliers, our revenue, income and cash flow could be adversely and materially impacted. We have a contract with one of our suppliers through February 2019 with automatic renewal rights.

Marketing and Distribution

We distribute our products internationally primarily through a network marketing system, which is a form of person-to-person direct selling. Under this system, members primarily refer our products to prospective consumers or they may buy at wholesale prices for personal consumption or for resale to consumers. The concept of network marketing is based on the strength of personal recommendations that frequently come from friends, neighbors, relatives, and close acquaintances. We believe that network marketing is an effective way to distribute our products because it allows person-to-person product education and testimonials as well as higher levels of customer service, all of which are not as readily available through other distribution channels. In this document, we generically use the term “member” to refer to members who purchase for their own consumption or for resale, or both, as well as to members who only sign up to consume our products.

Each of our products is designated a specified number of bonus volume points. Commissions are based on total personal and group bonus volume points per weekly sales period. Bonus volume points are essentially a percentage of a product's wholesale price.

Our members are independent full-time or part-time contractors who purchase products directly from our subsidiaries via the internet for their own personal consumption or for resale to retail consumers. Purchasers of our products in China and certain other markets may purchase only for their own personal consumption and not for resale.

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The following table sets forth the number of active members by market as of the dates indicated. We consider a member “active” if they have placed at least one product order with us during the preceding year. Members may not necessarily reside in the market for which they sign up as a member.

	December 31,	
	2016	2015
North America	3,720	2,870
Hong Kong (including those members residing in China) ¹	108,570	100,820
Taiwan	4,030	3,280
South Korea	290	420
Japan	100	100
Singapore	80	—
Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine ²	940	1,460
Europe	1,230	410
Total	118,960	109,360

¹ *Substantially all of our Hong Kong revenues are derived from the sale of products that are delivered to members in China. See “Item 1A. Risk Factors”.*

² *We discontinued our Ukraine operations during the second quarter of 2015.*

Members must agree to the terms and conditions of our member agreement posted on our website and generally pay an annual enrollment fee. The member agreement sets forth our policies and procedures, and we may elect to terminate a member for non-compliance.

We pay commissions to eligible members based on product purchases by such members’ down-line members during a given commission period. To be eligible to receive commissions, members in some countries may be required to make nominal monthly or other periodic purchases of products. See “Working with Members.”

Members generally place orders through the internet and pay by credit card prior to shipment. Accordingly, we carry minimal accounts receivable and credit losses are historically negligible.

We sponsor promotional meetings and motivational training events for current and potential members. These events are designed to inform prospective and existing members about both existing and new product lines, our latest marketing and promotional plans, and new services improvements. These events also serve as a venue for recognition of member accomplishments. Members typically share their experiences in using our products and developing their business at these events. We are continually developing or updating our marketing strategies and programs to motivate our members.

Management Information Systems

Our business uses a proprietary web-based system to process orders and to communicate bonus volume activity and commissions to members. We have automated a substantial amount of our financial reporting processes through implementation of Oracle’s E-Business Suite, and have integrated other critical business processes such as inventory management in our most significant markets.

Employees

At December 31, 2016, we employed 143 total full-time employees worldwide, of which 25 were located in North America, 101 in Greater China (Hong Kong, China, and Taiwan), five in Russia, two in Singapore, two in Malaysia, four in South Korea, three in Europe, and one in Japan.

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Seasonality

From quarter to quarter, we are somewhat impacted by seasonal factors and trends such as major cultural events and vacation patterns. For example, most Asian markets celebrate their respective local New Year in the first quarter. This generally has a significant impact on the services of our third-party providers, and can negatively impact our net sales. We believe that net sales can also be negatively impacted during the third quarter, when many of our members traditionally take time off for vacations. In addition, the national holidays in Hong Kong, China and Taiwan in early October tend to have an adverse effect on sales in those markets.

Our spending, as well as to some extent revenue, is affected by the major events planned at different times of the year. A major promotional event could significantly increase the reported expenses during the quarter in which the event actually takes place, while the revenue that might be generated by the event may not occur in the same reporting period.

Intellectual Property

Most of our products are packaged under a “private label” arrangement. We have obtained or applied for trademark registration for certain names, logos and various product names in several countries in which we are doing business or considering expanding. We also rely on common law trademark rights to protect our unregistered trademarks. These common law trademark rights do not provide us with the same level of protection as afforded by a United States federal trademark. Common law trademark rights are limited to the geographic area in which the trademark is actually utilized, while a United States federal registration of a trademark enables the registrant to discontinue the unauthorized use of the trademark by a third party anywhere in the United States even if the registrant has never used the trademark in the geographic area where the trademark is being used; provided, however, that the unauthorized third party user has not, prior to the registration date, perfected its common law rights in the trademark within that geographic area.

We have a foreign holding and operating company structure for our non-United States businesses, which involves the division of our United States and non-United States operations. Under this structure, some of our United States entities have granted an exclusive license to some of our non-United States subsidiaries to use outside of the United States all of their intangible property, including trademarks, trade secrets and other proprietary information.

Working with Members

Sponsorship

Enrolling new members creates multiple levels in our direct selling structure. The persons that a member enrolls within the network are referred to as “sponsored” members, who may purchase solely for their own personal consumption, for resale, or both. Persons newly enrolled are assigned into network positions that can be “under” other members, and thus they can be called “down-line” members. If down-line members also enroll new members, they create additional levels within the structure, but their down-line members remain in the same down-line network as the original member that introduced them to our business.

While we provide product samples, brochures and other sales materials, members are primarily responsible for enrolling and educating their new members with respect to products, the compensation plan and how to build a successful membership network.

Members are not required to enroll other members as their down-line, and we do not pay any commissions for enrolling new members. However, because of the financial incentives provided to those who succeed in building a member network that consumes and resells products, we believe that many of our members attempt, with varying

degrees of effort and success, to enroll additional members. Because they are seeking new opportunities for income, people are often attracted to become members after using our products or after attending introductory seminars. Once a person becomes a member, he or she is able to purchase products directly from us at wholesale prices via the internet. The member is also entitled to enroll other members in order to build a network of members and product users.

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Compensation Plans

We employ what is commonly referred to as a binary compensation plan, enhanced with certain unilevel features. Under our compensation plan, members are paid weekly commissions by our subsidiary, in which they are enrolled for product purchases by their down-line member network across all geographic markets. Our China subsidiary maintains an e-commerce retail platform and does not pay any commissions. This “seamless” compensation plan enables a member located in one country to sponsor other members located in other countries. Currently, there are basically two ways in which members can earn income:

• Through commissions paid on product purchases made by their down-line members; and

• Through retail markups on sales of products purchased by members at wholesale prices (in some markets, sales are for personal consumption only and income may not be earned through retail mark-ups on sales in that market).

Each of our products is designated a specified number of bonus volume points. Commissions are based on total personal and group bonus volume points per sales period. Bonus volume points are essentially a percentage of a product’s wholesale price. As the member’s business expands, the member receives higher commissions from purchases made by an expanding down-line network. To be eligible to receive commissions, a member may be required to make nominal monthly or other periodic purchases of our products. Certain of our subsidiaries do not require these nominal purchases for a member to be eligible to receive commissions. In determining commissions, the number of levels of down-line members included within the member’s commissionable group increases as the number of memberships directly below the member increases. Under our current compensation plan, some of our commission payout may be limited to a hard cap dollar amount per week or a specific percentage of the total product sales. In some markets, commissions may be further limited.

In some markets, we also pay certain bonuses on purchases by up to three generations of personally sponsored members, as well as bonuses on commissions earned by up to three generations of personally sponsored members. Members can also earn income, trips and other prizes in specific time-limited promotions and contests we hold from time to time.

Occasionally, we make modifications and enhancements to our compensation plan to help motivate members, which can have an impact on member commissions. We may also enter into agreements for business or market development, which could result in additional compensation to specific members.

Member Support

We are committed to providing a high level of support services tailored to the needs of our members in each market we are serving. We attempt to meet the needs and build the loyalty of members by providing personalized member services and by maintaining a generous product return policy (see “Product Warranties and Returns”). We believe that maximizing a member’s efforts by providing effective member support has been, and could continue to be, important to our success.

Through product training meetings, regular conventions, web-based messages, member focus groups, regular telephone conference calls and other personal contacts with members, we seek to understand and satisfy the needs of our members. Via our websites, we provide product fulfillment and tracking services that result in user-friendly and timely product distribution.

To help maintain communication with our members, we offer the following support programs:

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- Teleconferences – we hold teleconferences with associate field leadership on various subjects such as technical product discussions, member organization building and management techniques.

• Internet – we maintain a website at www.nhtglobal.com. On this website, the user can read company news, learn more about various products, sign up to be a member, place orders, and track the fulfillment and delivery of their orders.

• Product Literature – we offer a variety of literature to members, including product catalogs, informational brochures, pamphlets and posters for individual products, which are both printed and available online.

• Broadcast E-mail and Text Messages – we send announcements via e-mail and/or text messages to members who opt in to receive this form of communication.

• Social Media Tools – in some countries we maintain country-specific social media sites to foster a community environment around our product offering and business opportunity.

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Technology and Internet Initiatives

We believe that the internet is important to our business as more consumers communicate online and purchase products over the internet as opposed to traditional retail and direct sales channels. As a result, we have committed significant resources to our e-commerce capabilities and the abilities of our members to take advantage of the internet. Substantially all of our sales take place via the internet. We offer a global web page that allows a member to have a personalized replicating website through which he or she can sell products in all of the countries in which we do business. Links to these websites can be found at our main website for members at www.nhtglobal.com. The information provided on these websites should not be considered part of this report.

Rules Affecting Members

Our member policies and procedures establish the rules that members must follow in each market. We also monitor member activity in an attempt to provide our members with a “level playing field” so that one member may not be disadvantaged by the activities of another. We require our members to present products and business opportunities in an ethical and professional manner. Members further agree that their presentations to customers must be consistent with, and limited to, the product claims and representations made in our literature.

Our policies and procedures state that we produce or pre-approve all sales aids used by members such as presentations videotapes, audiotapes, brochures and promotional clothing. Further, members may not use any form of media advertising to promote products unless it is pre-approved by us. Members are not entitled to use our trademarks or other intellectual property without our prior consent.

Our compliance and member services department reviews reports of alleged member misbehavior. If we determine that a member has violated our member policies or procedures, we may terminate the member’s rights completely. Alternatively, we may impose sanctions, such as warnings, probation, withdrawal or denial of an award, suspension of privileges of the membership, fines, withholding commissions, until specified conditions are satisfied or other appropriate injunctive relief. Our members are independent contractors, not employees, and may act independently of us. Further, our members may resign or terminate their membership at any time without notice. See “Item 1A. Risk Factors.”

Government Regulations

Direct Selling Activities

Direct selling, or multi-level marketing, activities are regulated by various federal, state and local governmental agencies in the United States and other countries. These laws and regulations are generally intended to prevent fraudulent or deceptive schemes. The laws and regulations in our current markets often:

• impose cancellation/product return, inventory buy-backs and cooling-off rights for consumers and members;

• require us or our members to obtain a license from, or register with, governmental agencies;

• impose reporting requirements; and

• impose upon us requirements, such as requiring members to maintain levels of retail sales to qualify to receive commissions, to ensure that members are being compensated for sales of products and not for recruiting new

members.

The laws and regulations governing direct selling are modified from time to time, and, like other direct selling companies, we may be subject from time to time to government reviews, examinations or investigations in our various markets related to our direct selling activities. This can require us to make changes to our business model and aspects of our global compensation plan in the markets impacted by such changes and examinations.

Based on advice of our engaged outside professionals in existing markets, the nature and scope of inquiries from government regulatory authorities and our history of operations in those markets to date, we believe our method of distribution complies in all material respects with the laws and regulations related to direct selling of the countries in which we currently operate.

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At the end of 2005, China adopted new direct selling and anti-pyramiding regulations that are restrictive and contain various limitations, including a restriction on the ability to pay multi-level compensation to independent members. We are not conducting direct selling in China. Rather, consumers and members purchase our products via our Hong Kong-based website or our e-commerce retail platform in China. The regulatory environment in China is complex, and our operations in China can receive regulatory and media attention.

The Chinese government scrutinizes activities of direct selling companies. Our business continues to be subject to regulations and examinations by municipal and provincial level regulators. At times, actions by government regulators have impacted our members' activities in certain locations, and have resulted in a few cases of enforcement actions. In each of these cases, we helped our members with their defense in the legality of their conduct. So far, no material changes to our business model have been required. We expect to receive continued guidance and direction as we work with regulators to address our business model and any changes that need to be made to comply with the direct selling regulations.

We believe that neither our Hong Kong-based website nor our e-commerce platform in China require a direct selling license in China, which we currently do not hold. We have previously sought to obtain a direct selling license, and in August 2015 initiated the process for submitting a new preliminary application for a direct selling license in China. If we are able to obtain a direct selling license in China, we believe that the incentives inherent in the direct selling model in China would incrementally benefit our existing business. Increased sales in China that could be derived from obtaining a direct selling license may be partially offset by the higher fixed costs associated with the establishment and maintenance of required service centers and branch offices. We are unable to predict whether and when we will be successful in obtaining a direct selling license to operate in China, and if we are successful, when we will be permitted to conduct direct selling operations and whether such operations would be profitable.

Regulation of Our Products

Our products and related promotional and marketing activities are subject to extensive governmental regulation by numerous governmental agencies and authorities in the United States, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (the "FDA"), the Federal Trade Commission (the "FTC"), the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the United States Department of Agriculture, State Attorneys General and other state regulatory agencies. In our foreign markets, the products are generally regulated by similar government agencies.

Our personal care products are subject to various laws and regulations that regulate cosmetic products and set forth regulations for determining whether a product can be marketed as a "cosmetic" or requires further approval as an over-the-counter (OTC) drug. In the United States, regulation of cosmetics is under the jurisdiction of the FDA. The Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act defines cosmetics by their intended use, as "articles intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled, or sprayed on, introduced into, or otherwise applied to the human body . . . for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance." Among the products included in this definition are skin moisturizers, eye and facial makeup preparations, perfumes, lipsticks, fingernail polishes, shampoos, permanent waves, hair colors, toothpastes and deodorants, as well as any material intended for use as a component of a cosmetic product. Conversely, a product will not be considered a cosmetic, but may be considered a drug if it is intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, or is intended to affect the structure or any function of the body. A product's intended use can be inferred from marketing or product claims. The other markets in which we operate have similar regulations. In Japan, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare regulates the sale and distribution of cosmetics and requires us to have an import business license and to register each personal care product imported into Japan. In Taiwan, all "medicated" cosmetic products require registration. In China, personal care products are placed into one of two categories, "general" and "drug." Products in both categories require submission of formulas and other information with the health authorities, and drug products require human clinical studies. The product registration process in China for these products can take from nine to more than 18 months or longer. Such

regulations in any given market can limit our ability to import products and can delay product launches as we go through the registration and approval process for those products. The sale of cosmetic products is regulated in the European Union under the European Union Cosmetics Directive, which requires a uniform application for foreign companies making personal care product sales.

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The markets in which we operate all have varied regulations that distinguish foods and nutritional health supplements from “drugs” or “pharmaceutical products.” Because of the varied regulations, some products or ingredients that are recognized as a “food” in certain markets may be treated as a “pharmaceutical” in other markets. These regulations may require us to either modify a product or refrain from selling the product in a given market. As a result, we must regularly modify the ingredients and/or the levels of ingredients in our products for certain markets. In some circumstances, the regulations in foreign markets may require us to obtain regulatory approval prior to introduction of a new product or limit our uses of certain ingredients altogether. There has been an increased movement in the United States and other markets to expand the regulation of dietary supplements. This could impose additional restrictions or requirements in the future. Because of this increased regulatory focus, our internal review efforts have been enhanced in order to comply with our understanding of current regulations.

FDA regulations require current good manufacturing practices (cGMP) for dietary supplements. The regulations ensure that dietary supplements are produced in a quality manner, do not contain contaminants or impurities, and are accurately labeled. The regulations include requirements for establishing quality control procedures for us and our vendors and suppliers, designing and constructing manufacturing plants, and testing ingredients and finished products. The regulations also include requirements for record keeping and handling consumer product complaints. If dietary supplements contain contaminants or do not contain the type or quantity of dietary ingredient they are represented to contain, the FDA would consider those products to be adulterated or misbranded.

Our business is subject to additional FDA regulations, such as those implementing an adverse event reporting system (“AER’s”), which requires us to document and track adverse events and report serious adverse events, which are events involving hospitalization or death, associated with consumers’ use of our products.

Most of our major markets also regulate advertising and product claims regarding the efficacy of products. This is particularly true with respect to our dietary supplements because we typically market them as foods or health foods. For example, in the United States, we are unable to claim that any of our nutritional supplements will diagnose, cure, mitigate, treat or prevent disease. In the United States, the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act, however, permits substantiated, truthful and non-misleading statements of nutritional support to be made in labeling, such as statements describing general well-being resulting from consumption of a dietary ingredient or the role of a nutrient or dietary ingredient in affecting or maintaining a structure or a function of the body. Most of the other markets in which we operate have not adopted similar legislation, although we may be subject to more restrictive limitations on the claims we can make about our products in these markets.

Other Regulatory Issues

As a United States entity operating through subsidiaries in foreign jurisdictions, we are subject to foreign exchange control, transfer pricing and custom laws that regulate the flow of funds between our subsidiaries and us for product purchases, management services and contractual obligations, such as the payment of member commissions. As is the case with most companies that operate in our product categories, we might receive inquiries from time to time from government regulatory authorities regarding the nature of our business and other issues, such as compliance with local direct selling, transfer pricing, customs, taxation, foreign exchange control, securities and other laws.

Product Warranties and Returns

Our refund policies and procedures closely follow industry and country-specific standards, which vary greatly by country. For example, in the United States, the Direct Selling Association recommends that direct sellers permit returns during the twelve-month period following the sale, while in Hong Kong the standard return policy is 14 days following the sale. Our return policies typically conform to local laws or the recommendation of the local direct selling association. In most cases, members who timely return unopened product that is in resalable condition may

receive a refund. The amount of the refund may be dependent on the country in which the sale occurred, the timeliness of the return, and any applicable re-stocking fee. NHT Global must be notified of the return in writing and such written requests would be considered a termination notice of the membership. We may alter our return policy in response to special circumstances.

Significant Customers

Sales are made to our members and no single customer accounted for 10% or more of our net sales. However, our business model can result in a concentration of sales to several different members and their network of members. Although no single member accounted for 10% or more of net sales, the loss of a key member or that member's network could have an adverse effect on our net sales and financial results.

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Our Industry

We are engaged in the direct selling industry, selling wellness, herbal, beauty, lifestyle and home products. More specifically, we are engaged in what is called network marketing or multi-level marketing. This type of organizational structure and approach to marketing and sales include companies selling lifestyle enhancement products, cosmetics and dietary supplements, or selling other types of consumer products. Generally, direct selling is based upon an organizational structure in which independent members purchasing a company's products are compensated for sales made directly to consumers.

Our members are compensated based on sales generated by members they have enrolled and all subsequent members enrolled by their "down-line" network of members. The experience of the direct selling industry has been that once a sizeable network of members is established, new and alternative products and services can be offered to those members for sale to consumers and additional members.

Competition

The network marketing industry is very diverse, with giant multinational corporations as well as smaller, local operators. Big network marketing companies include Nu Skin Enterprises, Inc., USANA Health Sciences, Inc., and Herbalife, Ltd, which have much greater name recognition and financial resources than we do and also have many more members. They are publicly traded and therefore serve as informational benchmarks, but we don't overlap with them in terms of marketplace or product range. On the other hand, many medium- and small-sized privately held Chinese, Taiwanese and Hong Kong companies are fierce competitors and are much closer to directly competing with us. Also, a number of our former employees and members now work for competitors, and sometimes try to use relationships and knowledge obtained to compete with us.

Our ability to compete with other network marketing companies depends, in significant part, on our success in attracting and retaining members. There can be no assurance that our programs for attracting and retaining members will be successful. The pool of individuals interested in network marketing is limited in each market and is reduced to the extent other network marketing companies successfully attract these individuals into their businesses. Although we believe that we offer an attractive opportunity for our members, there can be no assurance that other network marketing companies will not be able to recruit our existing members or deplete the pool of potential members in a given market.

The direct selling channel tends to sell products at a higher price compared to traditional retailers, which poses a degree of competitive risk. There is no assurance that we would continue to compete effectively against retail stores, internet-based retailers or other direct sellers.

Item 1A. RISK FACTORS

We are exposed to a variety of risks that are present in our business and industry. The following are some of the more significant factors that could affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We could be adversely affected by management changes or an inability to attract and retain key management, directors and consultants.

We incur a low level of overhead and are run by a small number of executives, who rely on a small group of employees. Our future success depends to a significant degree on the skills, experience and efforts of our top management and directors. We also depend on the ability of our executive officers and other members of senior

management to work effectively as a team. The loss of one or more of our executive officers, members of our senior management or directors could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. Moreover, as our business evolves, we may require additional or different management members, directors or consultants, and there can be no assurance that we will be able to locate, attract and retain them if and when they are needed.

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Because our Hong Kong operations account for a substantial portion of our overall business, and substantially all of our Hong Kong business is derived from the sale of products to members in China, any material adverse change in our business relating to either Hong Kong or China would likely have a material adverse impact on our overall business.

In 2016, 2015 and 2014, approximately 92%, 93% and 89% of our revenue, respectively, was generated in Hong Kong. Substantially all of our Hong Kong revenues are derived from the sale of products that are delivered to members in China. This geographic concentration in our business means that events or conditions that could negatively impact this geographic region or our operations in this region would have a greater adverse impact upon our overall business and financial results than would be the case with a company having greater geographic diversification.

Our operations in China are subject to compliance with a myriad of applicable laws and regulations, and any actual or alleged violations of those laws or government actions otherwise directed at us could have a material adverse impact on our business and the value of our company.

In contrast to our operations in other parts of the world, we have not implemented a direct sales model in China. The Chinese government permits direct selling only by organizations that have a license, which we are in the process of applying for, and has also adopted anti-multilevel marketing legislation. We operate an e-commerce direct selling model in Hong Kong and recognize the revenue derived from sales to both Hong Kong and Chinese members as being generated in Hong Kong. Products purchased by members in China are delivered to third parties that act as the importers of record under agreements to pay applicable duties. In addition, through a Chinese entity, we sell products in China using an e-commerce retail model. The Chinese entity operates separately from the Hong Kong entity, and a Chinese member may elect to participate separately or in both.

After consulting with outside professionals, we believe that our e-commerce direct selling model in Hong Kong does not violate any applicable laws in China, even though it is used for the internet purchase of our products by members in China. We also believe that our Chinese entity, including its e-commerce retail platform, is operating in compliance with applicable Chinese laws. However, there can be no assurance that the Chinese authorities will agree with our interpretations of applicable laws and regulations or that China will not adopt new laws or regulations. Should the Chinese government determine that our activities violate China's direct selling or anti-multilevel marketing legislation, or should new laws or regulations be adopted, there could be a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The Chinese government scrutinizes the activities of direct selling companies. Our business continues to be subject to regulations and examinations by municipal and provincial level regulators. At times, actions by government regulators have impacted our members' activities in certain locations and have resulted in a few cases of enforcement actions. In each of these cases, we helped our members with their defense of the legality of their conduct, and no material changes to our business model were required.

However, our business operations and the value of our company can be adversely affected by Chinese government scrutiny of our operations, even if that scrutiny does not result in investigations of our operations. For example, one or more parties encouraged the Beijing City governmental authorities to conduct an investigation of our business, which resulted in a meeting in January 2016 involving members of our Beijing office staff, Beijing City governmental officials, and two complainants. Even though the Beijing City governmental officials advised our staff and the complainants at that meeting that there was insufficient evidence to warrant an investigation of us, gross mischaracterizations of the meeting immediately appeared in several "news reports." Similarly, a subsequent meeting between several Guangzhou City government officials and members of our Guangzhou office staff that resulted in our providing routine information about our operations to the government officials was also grossly mischaracterized in an

online posting made immediately following the meeting. Although we remain in regular contact with Chinese government officials and take other steps to address the risks posed by these events, our business and the value of our company remain vulnerable to Chinese government scrutiny of our operations, whether or not initiated by third parties.

Various other factors could harm our business in Hong Kong and China, such as worsening economic conditions in Hong Kong or China, adverse local publicity or other events that may be out of our control. For example, we were advised to voluntarily suspend marketing activities in China during the third quarter of 2007 when the Chinese government was expected to impose a more intense enforcement program against illegal chain sales activities. We did not want to run the risk of being inadvertently entangled in the government enforcement actions and voluntarily withdrew all marketing activities from China during that period. It may be necessary or advisable to repeat this or similar actions from time to time in the future, and such periods of reduced activity could have a material adverse effect on our business.

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Although we attempt to work closely with both national and local Chinese governmental agencies in conducting our business, our efforts to comply with national and local laws may be harmed by a rapidly evolving regulatory climate, concerns about activities resembling violations of direct selling or anti-multi-level marketing legislation, subjective interpretations of laws and regulations, and activities by individual members that may violate laws notwithstanding our strict policies prohibiting such activities. Any determination that our operations or activities, or the activities of our individual members or employee sales representatives, or importers of record are not in compliance with applicable laws and regulations could result in the imposition of substantial fines, extended interruptions of business, restrictions on our future ability to obtain business licenses or expand into new locations, changes to our business model, the termination of required licenses to conduct business, or other actions, any of which could materially harm our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our failure to maintain and expand our member relationships could adversely affect our business.

We distribute our products through independent members, and we depend upon them directly for all of our sales in most of our markets. Accordingly, our success depends in significant part upon our ability to attract, retain and motivate a large base of members. Our direct selling organization is headed by a relatively small number of key members. The loss of a significant number of members, or the loss of one or more key members, could materially and adversely affect sales of our products and could impair our ability to attract new members. Moreover, the replacement of members could be difficult because, in our efforts to attract and retain members, we compete with other direct selling organizations, including but not limited to those in the personal care, cosmetic product and nutritional supplement industries. Our members may terminate their services with us at any time and, in fact, like most direct selling organizations, we have a high rate of attrition.

The number of active members or their productivity may not increase and could decline in the future. We cannot accurately predict any fluctuation in the number and productivity of members because we primarily rely upon existing members to enroll and train new members and to motivate new and existing members. Operating results could be adversely affected if our existing and new business opportunities and products do not generate sufficient economic incentive or interest to retain existing members and to attract new members.

The number and productivity of our members could be harmed by several factors, including:

- adverse publicity or negative perceptions regarding us, our products, our method of distribution or our competitors;
- lack of interest in, or the technical failure of, existing or new products;
- lack of interest in our existing compensation plan for members or in enhancements or other changes to that compensation plan;
- our actions to enforce our policies and procedures;
- regulatory actions or charges or private actions against us or others in our industry;
- general economic and business conditions;
- changes in management or the loss of one or more key member leaders;
- entry of new competitors, or new products or compensation plan enhancements by existing competitors, in our markets; and

potential saturation or maturity levels in a given country or market which could negatively impact our ability to attract and retain members in such market.

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We are currently being sued in three lawsuits alleging, among other things, that we made materially false and misleading statements regarding the legality of our business operations in China.

We, together with our executive officers, have been named as defendants in three complaints (one of which also names our directors as defendants) relating to alleged materially false and misleading statements regarding the legality of our business operations in China, among other things. These complaints seek an indeterminate amount of damages, and one of the complaints also seeks various equitable remedies. Notwithstanding potentially applicable insurance coverage, these complaints, or others filed alleging similar facts, could result in monetary or other penalties that may adversely affect our operating results and financial condition. Moreover, the negative publicity stemming from these complaints and the allegations they make could harm our business and operations. Accordingly, any adverse determination against us in these suits, or even the allegations contained in the suits regardless of whether they are ultimately found to be without merit, could harm our business, operations and financial condition.

We are currently involved in, and may in the future face, litigation claims and governmental proceedings and inquiries that could harm our business.

We are currently, and have in the past, been a party to lawsuits, claims and governmental proceedings and inquiries. Prosecuting and defending these matters may require significant expense and attention of our management. There can be no assurance that we will be able to successfully defend or resolve any such litigation, claims or governmental proceedings or inquiries, or that the significant money, time and effort spent in defending these matters will not adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Although our members are independent contractors, improper member actions that violate laws or regulations could harm our business.

Our members are independent contractors and, accordingly, we are not in a position to directly provide the same direction, motivation and oversight as we would if members were our own employees. As a result, there can be no assurance that our members will participate in our marketing strategies or plans, accept our introduction of new products, or comply with our member policies and procedures. Extensive federal, state, local and foreign laws regulate our business, our products and our network marketing program. Because we have expanded into foreign countries, our policies and procedures for our members differ due to the different legal requirements of each country in which we do business. While we have implemented member policies and procedures designed to govern member conduct and to protect the goodwill associated with our trademarks and trade names, it can be difficult to enforce these policies and procedures because of the large number of members and their independent status.

Given the size and diversity of our member force, we experience problems with members from time to time, especially with respect to our members in foreign markets. For example, if our members engage in illegal activities in China, those actions could be attributed to us. Chinese laws regarding how and when members may assemble and the activities that they may conduct, or the conditions under which the activities may be conducted, are subject to interpretations and enforcement that sometimes vary from province to province, among different levels of government, and from time to time. Members can be accused of violating one or more of the laws regulating these activities, notwithstanding training that we attempt to provide. Enforcement measures regarding these violations, which can include arrests, raise the uncertainty and perceived risk associated with conducting this business, especially among those who are aware of the enforcement actions but not the specific activities leading to the enforcement action. We believe that this has led some existing members in China - who are signed up as members in Hong Kong - to leave the business or curtail their selling activities and has led some potential members to choose not to participate. Among other things, we are managing this risk with more training and public relations efforts that are designed, among other things, to distinguish our company from businesses that make no attempt to comply with the law. This environment creates uncertainty about the future of doing this type of business in China generally and under our

business model, specifically.

In addition, members often desire to enter a market before we have received approval to do business in order to gain an advantage in the marketplace. Improper member activity in new geographic markets could result in adverse publicity and can be particularly harmful to our ability to ultimately enter these markets. Violations by our members of applicable law or of our policies and procedures in dealing with customers could reflect negatively on our products and operations, and harm our business reputation. In addition, it is possible that a judicial or administrative body could hold us civilly or criminally accountable based on vicarious liability because of the actions of our members. If any of the above or related events involving our members occur, our business, financial condition, or results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

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Direct-selling laws and regulations may prohibit or severely restrict our direct sales efforts and cause our revenue and profitability to decline, and regulators could adopt new regulations that harm our business.

Our direct selling system is subject to extensive laws, governmental regulations, administrative determinations, court decisions and similar constraints. These laws and regulations are generally intended to prevent fraudulent or deceptive schemes, often referred to as “pyramid” schemes, which compensate participants for recruiting additional participants irrespective of product sales, use high pressure recruiting methods and/or do not involve legitimate products. They also seek to ensure that claims regarding the ability of participants to earn money are truthful and substantiated.

Complying with these widely varying and sometimes inconsistent rules and regulations can be difficult and may require the devotion of significant resources on our part. There can be no assurance that we or our members are in compliance with all of these regulations. Our failure or our members’ failure to comply with these regulations or new regulations could lead to the imposition of significant penalties or claims and could negatively impact our business. If we are unable to continue business in existing markets or commence operations in new markets because of these laws, our revenue and profitability may decline.

We are also subject to the risk that new laws or regulations might be implemented or that current laws or regulations might change, which could require us to change or modify the way we conduct our business in certain markets. This could be particularly detrimental to us if we have to change or modify the way we conduct business in markets that represent a significant percentage of our revenue.

The high level of competition in our industry could adversely affect our business.

The business of marketing personal care, cosmetic, nutritional supplements, and lifestyle enhancement products is highly competitive. This market segment includes numerous manufacturers, members, marketers, and retailers that actively compete for the business of consumers both in the United States and abroad. The market is highly sensitive to the introduction of new products, which may rapidly capture a significant share of the market. Sales of similar products by competitors may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We are subject to significant competition for the recruitment of members from other direct selling organizations, including those that market similar products. Many of our competitors are substantially larger than we are, offer a wider array of products, have far greater financial resources and many more active members than we have. Even more numerous are those medium- and small-sized, all privately held Chinese, Taiwanese and Hong Kong companies that are fierce competitors and are much closer to directly competing with us. Our ability to remain competitive depends, in significant part, on our success in recruiting and retaining members with our products, attractive compensation plan and other incentives. We believe that we have an attractive product line and that our compensation and incentive programs provide our members with significant earning potential. However, we cannot be sure that our programs for recruitment and retention of members will be successful.

Some of our competitors have employed or otherwise contracted for the services of our former officers, employees, consultants, and members, who may try to use information and contacts obtained while under contract with us for competitive advantage. While we seek to protect our information through contractual and other means, there can be no assurance that we will timely learn of such activity, have the resources to attempt to stop it, or have adequate remedies available to us.

Challenges by third parties to the legality of our business operations could harm our business.

We are also subject to the risk of private party challenges to the legality of our operations, including our direct selling system. The regulatory requirements concerning direct selling systems generally do not include “bright line” rules and are inherently fact-based and subject to judicial or administrative interpretation. An adverse judicial or administrative determination against us with respect to our direct selling system, or in proceedings not involving us directly but which challenge the legality of other direct selling marketing systems, could have a material adverse effect on our business. There is also risk that challenges and settlements involving other parties could provide incentives for similar actions by members against us and other direct selling companies. Moreover, challenges to our business system and operations in important markets may come from short sellers, hedge funds, other investors, bloggers and reporters. Other companies in our industry have recently faced such challenges. Any challenges regarding us or others in our industry could harm our business if such challenges result in the imposition of any fines or damages on our business, create adverse publicity, increase scrutiny or investigations of us or our industry, detrimentally affect our efforts to recruit or motivate members and attract customers, or interpret laws in a manner inconsistent with our current business practices.

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An increase in the amount of compensation paid to members would reduce profitability.

A significant expense is the payment of compensation to our members, which represented approximately 44%, 48% and 46% of net sales during 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. We compensate our members by paying commissions, bonuses, and certain awards and prizes. Factors impacting the overall commission payout include the growth and depth of the member network, the member retention rate, the level of promotions, local promotional programs and business development agreements. Any increase in compensation payments to members as a percentage of net sales will reduce our profitability.

Our compensation plan includes a cap that may be enforced on member compensation paid out on a weekly dollar limit or as a percentage of product sales. There can be no assurance that enforcement of this cap will ensure profitability (which depends on many other factors). Moreover, enforcement of this cap could cause key members affected by the cap to leave and join other companies.

Currency exchange rate fluctuations could lower our revenue and net income.

In 2016, 98% of our revenue was recorded by subsidiaries located outside of North America. Revenue transactions and related commission payments, as well as other incurred expenses, are typically denominated in the local currency. Accordingly, our international subsidiaries use the local currency as their functional currency. The results of operations of our international subsidiaries are exposed to foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations during consolidation since we translate into U.S. dollars using the average exchange rates for the period. As exchange rates vary, revenue and other operating results may differ materially from our expectations. Additionally, we may record significant gains or losses related to foreign-denominated cash and cash equivalents and the re-measurement of inter-company balances.

Our most significant foreign exchange exposure, the Hong Kong dollar, is for now pegged to the U.S. dollar. We also purchase a significant majority of inventories in U.S. dollars. Our foreign currency exchange rate exposure to South Korean won, Taiwan dollar, Japanese yen, Chinese yuan, Russian ruble, Kazakhstani tenge, Singaporean dollar, Malaysian ringgit, Canadian dollar and European euro represented approximately 7%, 6% and 10% of our revenue in 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Our foreign currency exchange rate exposure may increase in the near future as we develop opportunities in Southeast Asia, Canada, Central America, South America and Europe. Additionally, our foreign currency exchange rate exposure would significantly increase if the Hong Kong dollar were no longer pegged to the U.S. dollar. Finally, we also experience indirect exchange rate exposure due to the concentration of our sales in China and the recent performance of the Chinese yuan. Following the 2015 devaluation of the Chinese yuan, the Chinese yuan experienced depreciation against the Hong Kong dollar of 7% for the year ended December 31, 2016, the cumulative effect of which has been to erode our Chinese members' purchasing power and, we believe, to adversely affect our product sales.

Given our inability to predict the degree of exchange rate fluctuations, we cannot estimate the effect these fluctuations may have upon future reported results, product pricing or our overall financial condition. Further, to date we have not attempted to reduce our exposure to short-term exchange rate fluctuations by using foreign currency exchange contracts.

Changes in tax or duty laws, and unanticipated tax or duty liabilities, could adversely affect our net income.

In the course of doing business we may be subject to various taxes, such as sales and use, value-added, and franchise. We are also subject to income taxes in the United States and numerous foreign jurisdictions. We earn a substantial portion of our income in foreign jurisdictions. If our capital or financing needs in the United States (including the repurchase of our stock and payment of dividends in the United States) require us to repatriate earnings from foreign

jurisdictions, our effective income tax rates for the affected periods could be negatively impacted. Economic and political conditions make tax rules in any jurisdiction, including the United States, subject to significant change. There have been proposals to reform U.S. and foreign tax laws that could significantly impact how U.S. multinational corporations are taxed on foreign earnings. Although we cannot predict whether or in what form these proposals will pass, several of the proposals considered, if enacted into law, could have an adverse impact on our income tax expense and cash flows.

Our principal domicile is the United States. Under tax treaties, we are eligible to receive foreign tax credits in the United States for taxes paid abroad. Taxes paid to foreign taxing authorities may exceed the credits available to us, resulting in the payment of a higher overall effective tax rate on our worldwide operations.

Our effective income tax rate in the future could be adversely affected by a number of factors, including changes in the mix of earnings in countries with differing statutory tax rates, changes in the valuation of deferred tax assets and liabilities, changes in tax laws, the outcome of income tax audits in various jurisdictions around the world, and any repatriation of non-U.S. earnings for which we have not previously provided for U.S. taxes.

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We may also be subject to examinations of our tax returns and other tax matters by the Internal Revenue Service and other tax authorities and governmental bodies. We regularly assess the likelihood of an adverse outcome resulting from these examinations to determine the adequacy of our provision for taxes, which is subject to significant discretion. There can be no assurance as to the outcome of these examinations. If our effective tax rates were to increase, particularly in the U.S., or if the ultimate determination of taxes owed is for an amount in excess of amounts previously accrued, our financial results or operations could be adversely affected.

In addition, our operations are subject to regulations designed to ensure that appropriate levels of customs duties are assessed on the importation of our products. The failure to properly calculate, report and pay such duties when we are subject to them could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Any change in the laws or regulations regarding such duties, or any interpretation thereof, could result in an increase in the cost of doing business.

Transfer pricing regulations affect our business and results of operations.

In many countries, including the United States, we are subject to transfer pricing and other tax regulations designed to ensure that appropriate levels of income are reported as earned by our United States or local entities and are taxed accordingly. We have adopted transfer pricing agreements with our subsidiaries to regulate inter-company transfers, which agreements are subject to transfer pricing laws that regulate the flow of funds between the subsidiaries and the parent corporation for product purchases, management services, and contractual obligations, such as the payment of member compensation. We believe that we operate in compliance with all applicable transfer pricing laws, and we intend to continue to operate in compliance with such laws. However, there can be no assurance that we will continue to be found to be operating in compliance with transfer pricing laws, or that those laws would not be modified, which, as a result, may require changes in our operating procedures or otherwise may have a material adverse effect on our financial results or operations.

Our products and related activities are subject to extensive government regulation, which could delay, limit or prevent the sale of some of our products in some markets.

The formulation, manufacturing, packaging, labeling, importation, advertising, distribution, sale and storage of certain of our products are subject to extensive regulation by various federal agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration (the “FDA”), the FTC, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the United States Department of Agriculture and by various agencies of the states, localities and foreign countries in which our products are manufactured, distributed and sold. For example, the FDA requires us and our suppliers to meet relevant current good manufacturing practice (cGMP) regulations for the preparation, packing and storage of foods and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs. We are also now required to report serious adverse events associated with consumer use of certain of our products. Other laws and regulations govern or restrict the claims that may be made about our products and the information that must be included and excluded on labels.

In markets outside the United States, prior to commencing operations or marketing new products, we may be required to obtain approvals, licenses, or certifications from a ministry of health or a comparable agency. Moreover, a foreign jurisdiction may pass laws that would prohibit the use of certain ingredients in their particular market. Compliance with these regulations can create delays and added expense in introducing new products to certain markets.

Failure by our members or us to comply with those regulations could lead to the imposition of significant penalties or claims and could materially and adversely affect our business. If we are not able to satisfy the various regulations, then we would have to cease sales of that product in that market. In addition, the adoption of new regulations or changes in the interpretation of existing regulations may result in significant compliance costs or discontinuation of

product sales and may adversely affect the marketing of our products, resulting in significant loss of revenues.

We cannot predict the nature of any future laws, regulations, interpretations, or applications, nor can we determine what effect additional governmental regulations or administrative orders, when and if promulgated, could have on our business. These potential effects could include, however, requirements for the reformulation of certain products to meet new standards, the recall or discontinuance of certain products, additional recordkeeping and reporting requirements, expanded documentation of the properties of certain products, expanded or different labeling, or additional scientific substantiation. Any or all of these requirements could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, or results of operations.

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Failure of new products to gain member and market acceptance could harm our business.

An important component of our business is our ability to develop new products that create enthusiasm among our member force. If we fail to introduce new products on a timely basis, our member productivity could be harmed. In addition, if any new products fail to gain market acceptance, are restricted by regulatory requirements, or have quality problems, this would harm our results of operations. Factors that could affect our ability to continue to introduce new products include, among others, limited capital and human resources, government regulations, proprietary protections of competitors that may limit our ability to offer comparable products and any failure to anticipate changes in consumer tastes and buying preferences.

New regulations governing the marketing and sale of nutritional supplements could harm our business.

There has been an increasing movement in the United States and other markets to increase the regulation of dietary supplements, which could impose additional restrictions or requirements in the future. In the United States, for example, some legislators and industry critics continue to push for increased regulatory authority by the FDA over nutritional supplements. Our business could be harmed if more restrictive legislation is successfully introduced and adopted in the future. In particular, the adoption of legislation requiring FDA approval of supplements or ingredients could delay or inhibit our ability to introduce new supplements. We face similar pressures in our other markets. In the United States the FTC Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising (“Guides”) require disclosure of material connections between an endorser and the company they are endorsing and require the disclosure of typical results when these are different from those reported by the endorser. The requirements and restrictions of the Guides may diminish the impact of our marketing efforts and negatively impact our sales results. If we or our members fail to comply with these Guides, the FTC could bring an enforcement action against us and we could be fined and/or forced to alter our operations. Our operations also could be harmed if new laws or regulations are enacted that restrict our ability to market or distribute nutritional supplements or impose additional burdens or requirements on nutritional supplement companies or require us to reformulate our products.

Regulations governing the production and marketing of our personal care products could harm our business.

Our personal care products are subject to various domestic and foreign laws and regulations that regulate cosmetic products and set forth regulations for determining whether a product can be marketed as a “cosmetic” or requires further approval as an over-the-counter drug. A determination that our cosmetic products impact the structure or function of the human body, or improper marketing claims by our members, may lead to a determination that such products require pre-market approval as a drug. Such regulations in any given market can limit our ability to import products and can delay product launches as we go through the registration and approval process for those products. Furthermore, if we fail to comply with these regulations, we could face enforcement action against us and we could be fined, forced to alter or stop selling our products and/or required to adjust our operations. Our operations also could be harmed if new laws or regulations are enacted that restrict our ability to market or distribute our personal care products or impose additional burdens or requirements on the contents of our personal care products or require us to reformulate our products.

If we are found not to be in compliance with good manufacturing practices our operations could be harmed.

Regulations on good manufacturing practices and adverse event reporting requirements for the nutritional supplement industry are in effect and require good manufacturing processes for us and our vendors, including stringent vendor qualifications, ingredient identification, manufacturing controls and record keeping. We are also required to report serious adverse events associated with consumer use of our products. Our operations could be harmed if regulatory authorities make determinations that we or our vendors are not in compliance with the regulations. A finding of noncompliance may result in administrative warnings, penalties or actions impacting our ability to continue selling

certain of our products. In addition, compliance with these regulations has increased and may further increase the cost of manufacturing certain of our products as we work with our vendors to assure they are qualified and in compliance.

Failure to comply with domestic and foreign laws and regulations governing product claims and advertising could harm our business.

Our failure to comply with FTC or state regulations, or with regulations in foreign markets that cover our product claims and advertising, including direct claims and advertising by us, as well as claims and advertising by members for which we may be held responsible, may result in enforcement actions and imposition of penalties or otherwise materially and adversely affect the distribution and sale of our products. Member activities in our existing markets that violate applicable governmental laws or regulations could result in governmental or private actions against us in markets where we operate. Given the size of our member force, we cannot ensure that our members will comply with applicable legal requirements.

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Adverse publicity associated with our products, ingredients or network marketing program, or those of similar companies, could harm our financial condition and operating results.

Adverse publicity concerning any actual or claimed failure by us or our members to comply with applicable laws and regulations regarding product claims and advertising, good manufacturing practices, the regulation of our network marketing program, the licensing of our products for sale in our target markets or other aspects of our business, whether or not resulting in enforcement actions or the imposition of penalties, could have an adverse effect on our goodwill and could negatively affect our ability to attract, motivate and retain members, which would negatively impact our ability to generate revenue. We cannot ensure that all members will comply with applicable legal requirements relating to the advertising, labeling, licensing or distribution of our products.

In addition, our members' and consumers' perception of the safety and quality of our products and ingredients, as well as similar products and ingredients distributed by other companies, can be significantly influenced by media attention, publicized scientific research or findings, widespread product liability claims and other publicity concerning our products or ingredients or similar products and ingredients distributed by other companies. Adverse publicity, whether or not accurate or resulting from consumers' use or misuse of our products, that associates consumption of our products or ingredients or any similar products or ingredients with illness or other adverse effects, questions the benefits of our or similar products or claims that any such products are ineffective, inappropriately labeled or have inaccurate instructions as to their use, could negatively impact our reputation or the market demand for our products.

We are subject to risks relating to product concentration and lack of revenue diversification.

Although we have in recent years expanded our line of products, we derive more than 10% of our total revenue from each of our *Premium Noni Juice* and *Enhanced Essential Probiotics*® products. Further, we currently source each such product from a single supplier. If demand decreases significantly, government regulation restricts their sale, we are unable to adequately source or deliver the products, or we are unable to offer the products for any reason without suitable replacements, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected. Our future success will also depend on our ability to reduce our dependence on these few products by developing and introducing new products and product or feature enhancements in a timely manner. Even if we are able to develop and commercially introduce new products and enhancements, they may not achieve market acceptance and the revenue generated from these new products and enhancements may not offset the costs, which could substantially impair our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We rely on a limited number of independent third parties to manufacture and supply our products.

All of our products are manufactured by a limited number of independent third parties. There is no assurance that our current manufacturers will continue to reliably supply products to us at the level of quality we require. If a key manufacturer suffers liquidity problems or experiences operational or other problems assisting with our products, our results could suffer. In the event any of our third-party manufacturers become unable or unwilling to continue to provide the products in required volumes and quality levels at acceptable prices, we will be required to identify and obtain acceptable replacement manufacturing sources or replacement products. There is no assurance that we will be able to obtain alternative manufacturing sources or products or be able to do so on a timely basis. An extended interruption in the supply of certain of our products may result in a substantial loss of revenue. In addition, any actual or perceived degradation of product quality as a result of our reliance on third party manufacturers may have an adverse effect on revenue or result in increased product returns.

Growth may be impeded by the political and economic risks of entering and operating foreign markets.

Our ability to achieve future growth is dependent, in part, on our ability to continue our international expansion efforts. However, there can be no assurance that we would be able to grow in our existing international markets, enter new international markets on a timely basis, or that new markets would be profitable. We must overcome significant regulatory and legal barriers before we can begin marketing in any foreign market.

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Also, it is difficult to assess the extent to which our products and sales techniques would be accepted or successful in any given country. In addition to significant regulatory barriers, we may also encounter problems conducting operations in new markets with different cultures and legal systems from those elsewhere. We may be required to reformulate certain of our products before commencing sales in a given country. Once we have entered a market, we must adhere to the regulatory and legal requirements of that market. No assurance can be given that we would be able to successfully reformulate our products in any of our current or potential international markets to meet local regulatory requirements or attract local customers. The failure to do so could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operations. There can be no assurance that we would be able to obtain and retain necessary permits and approvals.

In many markets, other direct selling companies already have significant market penetration, the effect of which could be to desensitize the local member population to a new opportunity or to make it more difficult for us to recruit qualified members. There can be no assurance that, even if we are able to commence operations in foreign countries, there would be a sufficiently large population of potential members inclined to participate in a direct selling system offered by us. We believe our future success could depend in part on our ability to seamlessly integrate our business methods, including member compensation plan, across all markets in which our products are sold. There can be no assurance that we would be able to further develop and maintain a seamless compensation program.

We may be held responsible for certain taxes or assessments relating to the activities of our members, which could harm our financial condition and operating results.

Our members are subject to taxation, and in some instances, legislation or governmental agencies impose an obligation on us to collect the taxes, such as value added taxes, and to maintain appropriate records. In addition, we are subject to the risk in some jurisdictions of being responsible for social security and similar taxes with respect to our members.

We may be unable to protect or use our intellectual property rights.

We rely on trade secret, copyright and trademark laws and confidentiality agreements with employees and third parties, all of which offer only limited protection of our confidential information and trademarks. Moreover, the laws of some countries in which we market our products may afford little or no effective protection of our intellectual property rights. The unauthorized copying, use or other misappropriation of our confidential information, trademarks and other intellectual property could enable third parties to benefit from such property without paying us for it. This could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition. If we resort to legal proceedings to enforce our intellectual property rights, the proceedings could be burdensome, expensive and result in inadequate remedies. It is also possible that our use of our intellectual property rights could be found to infringe on prior rights of others and, in that event, we could be compelled to stop or modify the infringing use, which could be burdensome and expensive.

We do not have a comprehensive product liability insurance program and product liability claims could hurt our business.

Currently, we do not have a comprehensive product liability insurance program, although the insurance carried by our suppliers may cover certain product liability claims against us. As a marketer of dietary supplements, cosmetics and other products that are ingested by consumers or applied to their bodies, we may become subjected to various product liability claims, including that:

- our products contain contaminants or unsafe ingredients;

- our products include inadequate instructions as to their uses; or
- our products include inadequate warnings concerning side effects and interactions with other substances.

If our suppliers' product liability insurance fails to cover product liability claims or other product liability claims, or any product liability claims exceeds the amount of coverage provided by such policies or if we are unsuccessful in any third party claim against the manufacturer or if we are unsuccessful in collecting any judgment that may be recovered by us against the manufacturer, we could be required to pay substantial monetary damages which could materially harm our business, financial condition and results of operations. As a result, we may become required to pay high premiums and accept high deductibles in order to secure adequate insurance coverage in the future. Especially since we do not have direct product liability insurance, it is possible that product liability claims and the resulting adverse publicity could negatively affect our business.

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Our internal controls and accounting methods may require modification.

We continue to review and develop controls and procedures sufficient to accurately report our financial performance on a timely basis. If we do not develop and implement effective controls and procedures, we may not be able to report our financial performance on a timely basis and our business and stock price would be adversely affected.

If we fail to achieve and maintain an effective system of internal controls in the future, we may not be able to accurately report our financial results or prevent fraud. As a result, investors may lose confidence in our financial reporting.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 requires that we report annually on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. Among other things, we must perform systems and processes evaluation and testing. We must also conduct an assessment of our internal controls to allow management to report on our assessment of our internal control over financial reporting, as required by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. We are required to provide management's assessment of internal controls in conjunction with the filing of our Annual Report on Form 10-K. As disclosed under "Item 9A. Controls and Procedures" of this report, our management has delivered its report concluding that our internal control over financial reporting was effective at December 31, 2016, and our independent registered public accounting firm has also delivered its attestation to the report. In the future, our continued assessment, or the assessment by our independent registered public accounting firm, could reveal significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in our internal controls, which may need to be disclosed in future Annual Reports on Form 10-K. We believe, at the current time, that we are taking appropriate steps to mitigate these risks. However, disclosures of this type can cause investors to lose confidence in our financial reporting and may negatively affect the price of our common stock. Moreover, effective internal controls are necessary to produce reliable financial reports and to prevent fraud. Deficiencies in our internal controls over financial reporting may negatively impact our business and operations.

We rely on and are subject to risks associated with our reliance upon information technology systems.

Our success is dependent on the accuracy, reliability, and proper use of information processing systems and management information technology. Our information technology systems are designed and selected to facilitate order entry and customer billing, maintain member records, accurately track purchases and member compensation payments, manage accounting operations, generate reports, and provide customer service and technical support. Any interruption in these systems could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

Although we believe that the members of our software development team have the qualifications, know-how and experience to perform the necessary software development and other information technology services, there can be no assurance that there will not be delays or interruptions in these services. An interruption or delay in availability of these services could, if it lasted long enough, prevent us from accepting orders, cause members to leave our business, or otherwise materially adversely affect our business.

System failures and attacks could harm our business.

Because of our diverse geographic operations and our internationally applicable member compensation plans, our business is highly dependent on the efficient functioning of our information technology systems and operations, which are vulnerable to damage or interruption from fires, earthquakes, telecommunications failures, computer viruses and worms, hacking, denial of service attacks, software defects and other events. They are also subject to break-ins, sabotage, acts of vandalism and similar misconduct, as well as human error. Despite precautions implemented by our information technology staff, problems could result in interruptions in services and materially and adversely affect our

business, financial condition and results of operations.

Moreover, hackers could attack our system seeking to retrieve personal or confidential information of ours or of third parties, such as credit card information used to purchase our products on-line. Although we take steps to prevent such loss of information, there can be no assurance that our system will not be successfully hacked. Laws in the United States and other jurisdictions where we do business require prompt notice of any such loss of information. Failure to comply with those reporting obligations could result in material penalties. In addition, if our system were hacked, we could incur material costs in investigating the incidents and could be liable for damages. Any such damages may or may not be covered by insurance.

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Terrorist attacks, cyber-attacks, acts of war, epidemics or other communicable diseases or any other natural disasters may seriously harm our business.

Terrorist attacks, cyber-attacks, or acts of war or natural disasters may cause damage or disruption to us, our employees, our facilities and our members and customers, which could impact our revenues, expenses and financial condition. The potential for future terrorist attacks, the national and international responses to terrorist attacks, and other acts of war or hostility, such as challenges to Chinese sovereignty claims in the South China Sea or Chinese objection to the Taiwan independence movement and the resultant tension in the Taiwan Strait, could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations, and financial condition in ways that we currently cannot predict. Additionally, natural disasters less severe than the Indian Ocean tsunami that occurred in December 2004 may adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Because our systems, software and data reside on third-party servers, our access could be temporarily or permanently interrupted.

Beginning in 2012, most of our systems, software and data reside in the “cloud” on third-party servers to which we have contractual access. Cyber-attacks or hacking on these servers unrelated to us, or system or hardware failures experienced by the third party vendor, could result in disclosure of or damage to our systems, software and data. Moreover, any delay or failure in payment of the third party vendors, disputes with such vendors, or business interruption or failure of the third party vendors could result in loss of or interruption in access to our systems, software or data. It is possible that our systems, software and data could in the future be moved to servers of different third parties or to our own servers. Any such move could result in temporary or permanent loss of access to our systems, software or data. Any protracted loss of such access would materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We may experience substantial negative cash flows, which may have a significant adverse effect on our business and could threaten our solvency.

We experienced substantial negative cash flows during the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, primarily due to declines in our revenues greater than the decreases in expenditures we could manage. If we again experience negative cash flows, any resulting decreasing cash balance could impair our ability to support our operations and, eventually, threaten our solvency, which would have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition, as well as our stock price. Negative cash flows and the related adverse market perception associated therewith may have negatively affected, and may in the future negatively affect, our ability to attract new members and/or sell our products. There can be no assurance that we will be successful in maintaining an adequate level of cash resources and we could be forced to act more aggressively in the area of expense reduction in order to conserve cash resources as we look for alternative solutions.

If we experience negative cash flows, we may need to seek additional debt or equity financing, which may not be available on acceptable terms or at all. If available, it could have a highly dilutive effect on the holdings of existing stockholders.

Unless we are able to maintain revenues, control expenses and achieve positive cash flows, our ability to support our obligations could be impaired and our liquidity could be adversely affected and our solvency and our ability to repay our debts when they come due could be threatened. We may need to seek additional debt or equity financing on acceptable terms in order to improve our liquidity. However, we may not be able to obtain additional debt or equity financing on satisfactory terms, or at all, and any new financing could have a dilutive effect to our existing stockholders.

Disappointing quarterly revenue or operating results could cause the price of our common stock to fall.

Our quarterly revenue and operating results are difficult to predict and may fluctuate significantly from quarter to quarter. If our quarterly revenue or operating results fall below the expectations of investors or securities analysts, the price of our common stock could fall substantially.

Our common stock is particularly subject to volatility because of the industry in which we operate.

The market prices of securities of direct selling companies have been extremely volatile, and have experienced fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of such companies. These broad market fluctuations could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

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Our common stock continues to experience wide fluctuations in trading volumes and prices. This may make it more difficult for holders of our common stock to sell shares when they want and at prices they find attractive.

The public market for our common stock has historically been very volatile. Notwithstanding the transition in trading of our common stock from the OTC Market to the NASDAQ Capital Market in February 2015, our stock continues to experience wide fluctuations in trading volumes and prices. There are a number of factors that may contribute to this volatility, including the following:

- active participation of speculative traders in our stock (including short sellers);
- market rumors regarding our business operations;
- government scrutiny of our business;
- adverse publicity related to our business or industry; and
- fluctuations in our operating results.

This market volatility for our stock may make it more difficult for holders of our stock to sell shares when they want and at prices they find attractive. There can be no assurance that a larger or more liquid market will be developed or maintained for our common stock.

Future sales by us or our existing stockholders could depress the market price of our common stock.

If we or our existing stockholders sell a large number of shares of our common stock, the market price of our common stock could decline significantly. Further, even the perception in the public market that we or our existing stockholders might sell shares of common stock could depress the market price of our common stock.

Item 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

Item 2. PROPERTIES

We lease 4,900 square feet of office space in Rolling Hills Estates, California for our corporate headquarters with terms expiring in September 2025. In addition, we lease 2,400 and 1,600 square feet of retail space in Monterey Park, California and Vancouver, British Columbia, respectively, to help further develop the market for our products in North America. The Monterey Park and Vancouver locations have terms expiring in August 2020 and February 2021, respectively. We also maintain an office in Dallas, Texas.

Outside of North America, we lease 7,300 square feet of office space in Hong Kong with terms expiring in February 2018, nine branch offices throughout China, and additional office space in Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Cayman Islands. We also lease a multi-purpose facility and factory in Zhongshan, China and 11 service stations throughout the city of Guangzhou, China that serve or will in the future serve the needs of our Chinese consumers. We contract with third parties for fulfillment and distribution operations in all of our international markets. Through a local service provider, we maintain marketing and member centers in Almaty, Kazakhstan and Moscow, Russia. We believe that our existing office space is in good condition, and is suitable and adequate for the conduct of our business.

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Item 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Securities Class Action

In January 2016, two putative securities class action complaints were filed against us and our top executives in the United States District Court for the Central District of California: *Ford v. Natural Health Trends Corp.* and *Li v. Natural Health Trends Corp.* On March 29, 2016, the court consolidated these actions, appointed two Lead Plaintiffs, Messrs. Dao and Juan, and appointed the Rosen Law Firm and Levi & Korsinsky LLP as co-Lead Counsel for the purported class. Plaintiffs filed a consolidated complaint on April 29, 2016. The consolidated complaint purports to assert claims on behalf of all persons who purchased or otherwise acquired our common stock between March 6, 2015 and March 15, 2016 under (i) Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder against Natural Health Trends Corp., Chris T. Sharng, and Timothy S. Davidson, and (ii) Section 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 against Chris T. Sharng, Timothy S. Davidson, and George K. Broady. The consolidated complaint alleges, inter alia, that we made materially false and misleading statements regarding the legality of our business operations in China, including running an allegedly illegal multi-level marketing business. The consolidated complaint seeks an indeterminate amount of damages, plus interest and costs. We filed a motion to dismiss the consolidated complaint on June 15, 2016 and a reply in support of our motion to dismiss on August 22, 2016. On December 5, 2016, the Court denied our motion to dismiss. On February 17, 2017, we filed an answer to the consolidated complaint. We believe that these claims are without merit and intend to vigorously defend against them.

Shareholder Derivative Claims

In February 2016, a purported shareholder derivative complaint was filed in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles: *Zhou v. Sharng*. In March 2016, a purported shareholder derivative complaint was filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California: *Kleinfeldt v. Sharng* (collectively the “Derivative Complaints”). The Derivative Complaints purport to assert claims for breach of fiduciary duties, unjust enrichment, abuse of control, gross mismanagement and corporate waste against certain of our officers and directors. The Derivative Complaints also purport to assert fiduciary duty claims based on alleged insider selling and conspiring to enter into several stock repurchase agreements, which allegedly harmed us and our assets. The Derivative Complaints allege, inter alia, that we made materially false and misleading statements regarding the legality of our business operations in China, including running an allegedly illegal multi-level marketing business, and that certain officers and directors sold common stock on the basis of this allegedly material, adverse non-public information. The Derivative Complaints seek an indeterminate amount of damages, plus interest and costs, as well as various equitable remedies. On February 1, 2017, pursuant to a stipulation among the parties, the Los Angeles Superior Court entered a stay of the *Zhou* action pending conclusion of the related federal class action in the United States District Court for the Central District of California: *Ford v. Natural Health Trends Corp.* and *Li v. Natural Health Trends Corp.* A nearly identical stipulated stay was entered in the *Kleinfeldt* case on February 28, 2017. We believe that these claims are without merit and intend to vigorously defend against them.

Item 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

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Our common stock is currently traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market ("Nasdaq") under the symbol "NHTC." Prior to February 17, 2015, our common stock was quoted under the trading symbol "NHTC" on the OTCQB tier of the OTC Market. The following table sets forth the range of the high and low bid quotations of our common stock as reported by Nasdaq and the OTC Markets Group, Inc. The bid quotations reflect inter-dealer prices, without retail mark-up, mark-down or commission and may not necessarily represent actual transactions.

	2016		2015	
	High	Low	High	Low
First quarter	\$36.19	\$17.75	\$18.29	\$10.49
Second quarter	38.25	26.24	44.18	17.78
Third quarter	34.30	25.89	43.33	21.91
Fourth quarter	29.95	21.44	53.72	32.96

On March 7, 2017, the closing price of our common stock as reported by Nasdaq was \$27.95 per share.

Holders of Record

At March 7, 2017, there were approximately 125 record holders of our common stock (although we believe that the number of beneficial owners of our common stock is substantially greater).

Dividends

The following tables summarize all cash dividend activity during 2016 and 2015 (in thousands, except per share data), all of which dividend payments were made to holders of our common stock:

Declaration Date	Per Share	Amount	Payment Date
October 23, 2016 (special)	\$0.35	\$ 3,941	November 25, 2016
October 23, 2016	0.08	901	November 25, 2016
July 19, 2016	0.07	787	August 26, 2016
April 21, 2016	0.06	686	May 20, 2016
March 1, 2016	0.05	576	March 24, 2016
Total	\$0.61	\$ 6,891	

Declaration Date	Per Share	Amount	Payment Date
October 21, 2015	\$0.05	\$ 598	November 20, 2015
July 28, 2015	0.04	489	August 28, 2015
May 4, 2015	0.03	372	May 29, 2015
February 27, 2015	0.02	250	March 27, 2015
Total	\$0.14	\$ 1,709	

Additionally, on January 24, 2017, the Board of Directors declared a cash dividend of \$0.09 and a special cash dividend of \$0.35 on each share of common stock outstanding. Such dividends were paid on March 3, 2017 to

stockholders of record on February 21, 2017. Payment of any future dividends on shares of common stock will be at the discretion of our Board of Directors.

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Set forth below is a line graph and table comparing the performance of our common stock to the S&P 500 Index and to a market-weighted index of publicly traded peers from the period from December 31, 2011 through December 31, 2016. The graph assumes \$100 was invested in our common stock, the S&P 500 Index and the index of publicly traded peers on December 31, 2011 and that all dividends were reinvested. The publicly traded companies in the peer group consist of Nature's Sunshine Products, Nu Skin Enterprises Inc., USANA Health Sciences Inc., and Herbalife Ltd. The graph represents past performance and should not be considered to be an indication of future performance.

Period	NHTC	S&P 500	Peer Group
December 31, 2011	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
December 31, 2012	155	116	74
December 31, 2013	492	154	224
December 31, 2014	1,766	175	135
December 31, 2015	5,194	177	167
December 31, 2016	3,944	198	161

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The following selected consolidated financial data, which have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements, are not necessarily indicative of the results of future operations and should be read in conjunction with “Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations”, and the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K (in thousands, except per share data).

	Year Ended December 31				
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:					
Net sales	\$287,728	\$264,860	\$124,590	\$52,527	\$37,514
Cost of sales	54,903	54,098	26,981	12,551	9,685
Gross profit	232,825	210,762	97,609	39,976	27,829
Operating expenses:					
Commissions expense	125,050	126,598	56,997	24,053	15,724
Selling, general and administrative expenses	43,245	36,024	19,687	11,634	9,415
Depreciation and amortization	394	263	105	66	45
Total operating expenses	168,689	162,885	76,789	35,753	25,184
Income from operations	64,136	47,877	20,820	4,223	2,645
Other expense, net	(59)	(84)	(184)	(32)	(39)
Income before income taxes	64,077	47,793	20,636	4,191	2,606
Income tax provision (benefit)	8,991	552	266	102	(24)
Net income	55,086	47,241	20,370	4,089	2,630
Preferred stock dividends	—	—	(10)	(15)	(17)
Net income available to common stockholders	\$55,086	\$47,241	\$20,360	\$4,074	\$2,613
Income per common share:					
Basic	\$				