

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

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

Annual Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017

or

Transition Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number 1-10560

BENCHMARK ELECTRONICS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Texas
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

74-2211011
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

4141 N. Scottsdale Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251
(623) 300-7000

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of principal executive offices)

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

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, par value \$0.10 per share	New York Stock Exchange, Inc.

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 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter periods 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 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, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

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

Accelerated filer
Smaller reporting company
Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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

As of June 30, 2017, the number of outstanding common shares was 49,845,236. As of such date, the aggregate market value of the common shares held by non-affiliates, based on the closing price of the common shares on the New York Stock Exchange on such date, was approximately \$1.6 billion.

As of February 26, 2018, there were 48,728,886 common shares of Benchmark Electronics, Inc., par value \$0.10 per share, outstanding.

Documents Incorporated by Reference:

Portions of the Company's Proxy Statement for the 2018 Annual Shareholders Meeting (Part III, Items 10-14).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page	
PART I		
Item 1.	Business	1
Item 1A.	Risk Factors	12
Item 1B.	Unresolved Staff Comments	25
Item 2.	Properties	26
Item 3.	Legal Proceedings	26
Item 4.	Mine Safety Disclosures	26
PART II		
Item 5.	Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Shareholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	27
Item 6.	Selected Financial Data	30
Item 7.	Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	31
Item 7A.	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk	42
Item 8.	Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	43
Item 9.	Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	77
Item 9A.	Controls and Procedures	77
Item 9B.	Other Information	78
PART III		
Item 10.	Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance	78
Item 11.	Executive Compensation	78
Item 12.	Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Shareholder Matters	78
Item 13.	Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence	78
Item 14.	Principal Accounting Fees and Services	78
PART IV		
Item 15.	Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules	79
Item 16.	Form 10-K Summary	79
SIGNATURES		83

PART I

Item 1. *Business.*

This Annual Report on Form 10-K (Report) contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (Exchange Act). These forward-looking statements are identified as any statement that does not relate strictly to historical or current facts and may include words such as “anticipate,” “believe,” “intend,” “plan,” “projection,” “forecast,” “strategy,” “position,” “continue,” “estimate,” “expect,” “may,” “will,” or the negative or other variations thereof. In particular, statements, express or implied, concerning future operating results or the ability to generate sales, income or cash flow are forward-looking statements. Undue reliance should not be placed on any forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of performance. They involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are beyond our ability to control or predict, including those discussed under Item 1A of this Report. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual outcomes, including the future results of our operations, may vary materially from those indicated.

The Company’s fiscal year ends on December 31. Consequently, references to 2017 relate to the calendar year ended December 31, 2017; references to 2016 relate to the year ended December 31, 2016, etc.

General

Benchmark Electronics, Inc. (Benchmark), is a Texas corporation that began operations in 1979 and today is worldwide provider of engineering services, integrated technology solutions and manufacturing services (both electronics manufacturing services (EMS) and precision machining services) for more complex products. In this Report, references to Benchmark, the “Company” or use of the words “we”, “our” and “us” include Benchmark’s subsidiaries unless otherwise noted.

We provide our services to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) of industrial equipment, products used in the aerospace and defense (A&D) industries, telecommunication equipment, computers and related products for business enterprises, medical devices, and testing and instrumentation products. Our services include comprehensive and integrated design and manufacturing services and solutions—from initial product concept to volume production, including direct order fulfillment and aftermarket services. Our customer engagement focuses on three principal areas:

- *Engineering Services*, which include design for manufacturability, manufacturing process and test development, concurrent and sustaining engineering, turnkey product design and regulatory services. Our engineering services may be for systems, sub-systems, printed circuit boards and assemblies, and components. We provide these services across all the industries we serve, but focus primarily in regulated industries such as medical, complex industrials, aerospace and defense, and next generation telecommunications.
- *Technology Solutions*, which involve developing a library of building blocks or reference designs primarily in defense solutions, surveillance systems, radio frequency and high-speed design, and front-end Internet-of-things data collection systems. We often merge these technology solutions with engineering services in support of manufacturing services. Our reference designs can be utilized across a variety of industries but we have significant capabilities for the aerospace and defense markets.
- *Manufacturing Services*, which include printed circuit board assemblies (PCBAs) and subsystem assembly, box build and systems integration. Systems integration is often building a finished assembly that includes PCBAs, complex subsystem assemblies, mechatronics, displays, optics, and other components. These final products may be configured to order and delivered directly to the end-customer across all the industries we

serve. Manufacturing services also includes precision technology manufacturing comprised of precision machining, advanced metal joining, assembly and functional testing primarily for customers in the test & instrumentation market (which includes semiconductor capital equipment) as well as the medical and aerospace and defense markets.

Our core strength lies in our ability to provide concept-to-production solutions in support of our customers. Our global manufacturing presence increases our ability to respond to our customers' needs by providing accelerated time-to-market and time-to-volume production of high-quality products – especially for complex products with lower volume and higher mix in regulated markets. These capabilities enable us to build strong strategic relationships with our customers and to become an integral part of their business.

We believe our primary competitive advantages are our engineering services (including product design), technology solutions, and manufacturing services (included electronics and precision technology capabilities) provided by highly skilled personnel. We continue to invest in our business to expand our skills and service offerings from direct customer inputs. We have a closed-loop feedback system in place to respond to customer ideas to enhance our future flexible design and manufacturing solutions in support of the full life cycle of their products. These solutions provide accelerated time-to-market, faster time-to-volume production, and reduced product development costs. Working closely with our customers and responding promptly to their needs, we become an integral part of their process to bring products to market faster and more economically.

In addition, we believe that a strong focus on human capital through the talent we hire and retain is critical to maintaining our competitiveness. We are driving a customer-centric organization with a high degree of accountability and ownership to develop processes necessary to exceed customer expectations and deliver financial performance aligned to our goals. Through our employee feedback process, we solicit and act upon information to improve our company and better support our customers and business processes in the future. We have taken steps to attract the best leaders and are accelerating our efforts to mentor and develop key leaders for the future.

Our Industry

Outsourcing engineering and manufacturing services enables OEMs to concentrate on their core strengths, such as research and development, branding, and marketing and sales. In an outsourcing model, OEMs also benefit from improved efficiencies and reduced production costs, reduced fixed capital investment requirements, improved inventory management, and access to global engineering and manufacturing. OEMs continue to turn to outsourcing to reduce time-to-market and time-to-volume production through utilization of their service providers' product design and engineering services, technology solutions and manufacturing services.

Outsourcing rates fluctuate periodically, and not all industries we serve are experiencing high outsourcing growth rates. The traditional markets of computing and telecommunications have used the outsourcing model for a number of years and have a lower outsourcing growth potential than the under-penetrated medical, industrials, aerospace and defense, and test & instrumentation markets, which we identify as our higher-value markets. The higher-value markets typically provide the opportunity for higher profitability than the traditional markets and in some cases provide the potential for stable growth. The higher-value markets also align well with Benchmark's expertise in more complex and highly regulated products, and we believe we are well-positioned to capitalize on increased outsourcing in these markets.

Our Strategy

Our goal is to be the solutions provider of choice to leading OEMs that we perceive offer the greatest potential for profitable growth. To meet this goal, we have implemented the following strategies:

- *Focus on More Complex Products for Customers.* EMS providers serve a wide range of OEMs in different industries, such as consumer electronics, internet-focused businesses and information technology

equipment. The product scope ranges from easy-to-assemble, low-cost, high-volume products targeted for the consumer market to complicated, state-of-the-art, mission-critical products. Higher volume manufacturing customers in the more traditional markets of computing and telecommunications often compete on price with short product life cycles and require less value-add from EMS providers. Lower-volume manufacturing customers in the medical, industrial, and test & instrumentation markets are often in highly regulated industries where they are increasingly outsourcing higher value-added services to their EMS providers to meet stringent regulatory and time-to-market requirements. In the traditional markets, we focus on customers with more complex requirements such as high-performance computing and next generation telecommunications; in the higher-value markets where outsourcing growth rates are increasing and product life cycles are longer, we focus on customers where there is a strong match between our capabilities and their needs. The ability to serve customers in both markets is important to our strategy. For 2017, 65% of our sales were to customers in the higher-value markets and 35% were to customers in the traditional markets. We have a long-term goal of generating over 70% of our sales from higher-value market customers, which should further expand our margins.

- *Lead with Engineering Solutions and Leverage Advanced Technology.* In addition to strengths in manufacturing complex high-density PCBAs, complex mechanical systems, and full systems integration, we offer customers specialized and tailored advanced design solutions, including technology building blocks and engineering services. We provide this engineering expertise through our design capabilities in our design centers in the Americas, Europe and Asia. Leading with engineering is important in our strategy to increase sales to customers in our targeted higher-value markets where products require high quality and extremely reliable performance and low product failure rates. Through leveraging our advanced technology and engineering solutions, customers can focus on core branding and marketing initiatives while we focus on bringing their products to market efficiently and timely.
- *Maintain and Develop Close, Long-Term Relationships with Customers.* Our strategy is to establish long-term relationships with leading OEMs in expanding industries by becoming an integral part of their concept-to-production and full product life cycle requirements. To accomplish this, we rely on our global and local program and general management teams to respond with speed and flexibility to frequently changing customer design specifications and production requirements. We focus on caring for our customers and ensuring that their needs are met and exceeded.
- *Deliver Complete High- and Low-Volume Manufacturing Solutions Globally.* OEMs increasingly require a wide range of specialized design engineering and manufacturing services from EMS providers in order to reduce costs and accelerate their time-to-market and time-to-volume production. Building on our integrated engineering and manufacturing capabilities, we offer services from initial product design and test to final product assembly and distribution to OEM customers. Our precision machining and complex mechanical manufacturing, along with our systems integration assembly and direct order fulfillment services allow our customers the potential to reduce product cost and risk of product obsolescence by reducing their total work-in-process and finished goods inventory. These services are available at many of our manufacturing locations. We continue to expand our global capabilities:
 - in 2009, we added precision machining assets and capabilities to provide precision machining, metal joining and complex electromechanical manufacturing services in Arizona, California and Mexico;
 - in 2011, we expanded our precision technologies capabilities in Penang, Malaysia. This expansion added sheet metal and frames fabrication services, advanced metal joining and grinding services, along with complex mechanical assembly and machining services to our Asia service offerings;
 - in 2013, we strengthened our capabilities to better serve the aerospace and defense industries and added depth and scope to our new product introduction capabilities on the West Coast; and

- in 2015, we further enhanced our service offerings by adding capabilities to design and produce encrypted and ruggedized communication systems, avionics displays and military-grade components.

These full service capabilities allow us to offer customers the flexibility to move quickly from design and initial product introduction to production and distribution. We offer our customers the opportunity to combine the benefits of low-cost manufacturing (for the portions of their products or systems that can benefit from the use of these geographic areas) with the benefits and capabilities of our higher complexity support in Asia, Europe and the Americas.

- *Continue to Seek Cost Savings and Operational Excellence.* We seek to optimize our network of facilities to provide cost-efficient services for our customers. We have a global culture of continuous improvement, sharing best practices and implementing lean principles. We will continue to drive lean and operational excellence initiatives with common global processes that allow us to optimize our cost structure and capacity. In support of our financial goals, we will continue a strong focus on a cash conversion.
- *Pursue Strategic Acquisitions.* Our capabilities have continued to grow through acquisitions and we will continue to selectively seek close-to-core bolt-on acquisitions which expand our technical capabilities. In addition to expanding our global footprint, our acquisitions have enhanced our business in the following ways:
 - enhanced customer growth opportunities;
 - developed strategic relationships;
 - broadened service and solution offerings;
 - provided vertical solutions;
 - diversified our market sectors; and
 - added experienced management teams.

We have enhanced our capabilities through acquisitions:

- In November 2015, we acquired Secure Communication Systems, Inc. and its subsidiaries (collectively, Secure Technology or Secure) (the Secure Acquisition), a leading provider of customized high-performance electronics, sub-systems, and component solutions for mission critical applications in highly regulated industrial, aerospace and defense markets.
- In October 2013, we acquired the full-service EMS segment of CTS Corporation (the CTS Acquisition). The CTS Acquisition expanded our portfolio of customers in non-traditional and highly regulated markets and strengthened the depth and scope of our new product express capabilities on the West Coast.
- In June 2013, we acquired Suntron Corporation (the Suntron Acquisition) to better serve customers in the aerospace and defense markets and expand our capabilities in Mexico.
- *Capital Allocation.* We will also continue to operate with a balanced approach to capital deployment with ROIC as the key determinant for prioritizing returns of free cash flow to our shareholders. Future investments may include organic growth through targeted investments, close-to-core acquisitions with strong technical capabilities, and a balance between managing our level of outstanding debt and returning capital to shareholders.

Services We Provide

Through the Benchmark network, we offer a wide range of design, engineering, automation, test, manufacturing and fulfillment solutions that support our customers' products from initial concept and design through prototyping, design validation, testing, ramp-to-volume production, worldwide distribution and aftermarket support. With our balanced footprint, we have the ability to serve global and regional customers. We support all of our service

offerings with supply chain management systems, superior quality program management and sophisticated information technology systems. Our comprehensive service offerings enable us to provide a complete solution for our customers' outsourcing requirements. All of our services are supported through a strong quality management system designed to globally provide the process discipline to reliably deliver high quality services, solutions and products to our customers.

Engineering Services and Technology Solutions:

Our approach is to coordinate and integrate our concept, design, prototype and other engineering capabilities in support of our customers' go-to-market and product life cycle requirements. These services strengthen our relationships with our manufacturing customers and help attract new customers requiring specialized design and engineering services. Early engagement with engineering-led solutions is key to our strategy of focusing on products with greater complexity in our targeted markets.

- *New Product Design, Prototype, Testing and Related Engineering Services.* We also offer a full spectrum of new product design, automation, test development, prototype and related engineering for projects contracted by our customers who pay for and own the resulting designs in our contract design services business. We employ a proven 7-step process for concept-to-production in our design services model that enables a shorter product development cycle and gives our customers a competitive advantage in time-to-market and time-to-profit. Our multi-disciplined engineering teams provide expertise in a number of core competencies critical to serving OEMs in our target markets, including award-winning industrial design, mechanical and electrical hardware, firmware, software and systems integration and support. We create specifications, designs and quick-turn prototypes, and validate and ramp our customers' products into high-volume manufacturing.
- *Custom Testing and Automation Equipment Design and Build Services.* We provide our customers a comprehensive range of custom automated test equipment, functional test equipment, process automation and replication solutions. We have expertise in tooling, testers, equipment control, systems planning, automation, floor control, systems integration, replication and programming. Our custom functional test equipment, process automation and replication solutions are available to our customers as part of our full-service product design and manufacturing solutions package or on a stand-alone basis for products designed elsewhere. We also provide custom test equipment and automation system solutions to OEMs, which pay for and own the designs. Our ability to provide these solutions allows us to capitalize on OEMs' increasing needs for custom manufacturing solutions and provides an additional opportunity for us to introduce these customers to our comprehensive engineering and manufacturing services.
- *Technology Solutions.* We are investing in building blocks and solutions such as Secure defense turnkey design and reference platforms in avionics, ground vehicle electronics, munitions, and soldier platforms that require ruggedization for harsh environments and secure communications. We are developing advanced camera integration technology, high-frequency filters and a data collection network that integrates sensors, radios, gateways for data analytics.

Manufacturing Services: Electronics Manufacturing and Testing Services

As OEMs seek to provide greater functionality in smaller products, they increasingly require sophisticated manufacturing technologies and processes. Our investment in advanced manufacturing equipment and process development, as well as our experience in innovative packaging and interconnect technologies, enable us to offer a variety of advanced manufacturing solutions. These packaging and interconnect technologies include:

- *Printed Circuit Board Assembly (PCBA) & Test.* We offer our customers expertise in a wide variety of traditional and advanced manufacturing technologies. Our technical expertise supports complex, printed circuit board assembly and test solutions, assembly of subsystems, circuitry and functionality testing of printed assemblies, environmental and stress testing and component reliability testing.

We provide our customers with a comprehensive set of PCBA manufacturing technologies and solutions, which include:

- Surface mount technology
 - Fine Pitch Ball Grid Array
 - Land Grid Array
 - Quad Flat No-Leads
 - Package on Package
 - 01005 Discrete Components
- Pin in Hole Technology;
- Pin in Paste Technology;
- Hybrid RoHS soldering processes;
- Flip Chip;
- Chip On Board and Wire Bonding;
- In-Circuit Test;
- Microelectronics;
- Board Level Functional Testing; and
- Vibration, ESS, HASS and HALT.

We also provide specialized solutions in support of our customers' components, products and systems, which include:

- Conformal Coating;
 - Ultrasonic Welding;
 - Automation Solutions;
 - Complex Final Assembly;
 - Fluidics Assembly;
 - Splicing and Connectorization for Optical Applications;
 - Hybrid Optical/Electrical Printed Circuit Board Assembly and Testing; and
 - Sub-Micron Alignment of Optical Sub-Assemblies.
-
- *Component Engineering Services.* We provide support to our customers to understand the evolving international environmental laws and regulations on content, packaging, labeling and similar issues concerning the environmental impact of their products including: "RoHS" (EU Directive 2011/65/EC on Restriction of certain Hazardous Substances); "WEEE" (EU Directive 2002/96/EC on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment); "REACH" (EC Regulation No 1907/2006 on Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals); EU Member States' Implementation of the foregoing; and the People's Republic of China (PRC) Measures for Administration of the Pollution Control of Electronic Information Products of 2006. Manufacturing sites in the Americas, Asia and Europe regions are experienced with both water soluble and no-clean processes.
 - *Systems Assembly & Test.* We offer a full spectrum of subsystem and system integration services. These include assembly, configuration and testing for all industries we service. We design, develop and build product-specific manufacturing processes utilizing manual, mechanized or fully automated lines to meet our customers' product volume and quality requirements. We work with our customers to develop product-specific test strategies. Our test capabilities include manufacturing defect analysis, in-circuit tests to check the circuitry of the board and functional tests to confirm that the board or assembly operates in accordance with its final design and manufacturing specifications. We either custom design test equipment and software ourselves or use test equipment and software provided by our customers. We also offer our own internally designed functional test solutions for cost-effective and flexible test solutions, and provide environmental stress tests of assemblies of boards or systems. We also provide product life cycle testing services, such as ongoing reliability testing where units are continuously cycled for extended testing while monitoring for early-life failures.

- *Failure Analysis.* We offer an array of analytical solutions and expertise to challenging issues faced by our customers. This includes focused techniques for failure mode, failure mechanism, and root cause determination. Specialized analytical skill sets associated with electrical, mechanical, and metallurgical disciplines are used in conjunction with a vast array of equipment such as ion chromatography, x-ray fluorescence, and scanning electron microscopy. Our state-of-the-art lab facilities provide customers with detailed reporting and support in an unbiased, timely and cost-effective manner. Mastering emerging technologies, coupled with an understanding of potential failure mechanisms, positions us to exceed customer expectations and maintain our technological diversity.

Mechanical Manufacturing Services: Precision Machining and Complex Vertically Integrated Assemblies

In addition to traditional EMS, we offer complex precision machining including full electromechanical assembly and testing services.

- *Precision Technologies Group.* We provide vertically integrated precision machining and complex electromechanical assemblies. The processes supporting these include:
 - Complex Small / Medium / Large Precision Machining;
 - Multi-Axis Robotic Grinding for demanding applications such as turbine blades and scientific instruments;
 - Complex Clean Room Assembly and Functional Test;
 - Major Electromechanical Assemblies; and
 - Sheet metal and paint;
 - Large precision and industrial frames; and
 - Advanced metal joining including vacuum chamber welding, electron beam laser and brazing.

Our global network of operations includes manufacturing facilities in seven countries, which are strategically located to support full product life cycle services to our customers. We have domestic facilities in Alabama, Arizona, California, Minnesota, New Hampshire and Texas and international facilities in China, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Romania and Thailand. Our network also includes engineering centers leading customer engagements and providing solutions in the Americas, Europe and Asia. Additionally, we are compliant with and/or hold the following certifications and registrations by geography:

	Americas	Europe	Asia
ISO 13485 – Medical	√	√	√
FDA/QSR Compliant – Medical	√		√
ISO 14971 – Medical Risk Management	√		
AS9100 – Aerospace	√	√	√
ITAR (International Traffic and Arms)	√	√	
Nadcap (National Aerospace & Defense Assoc. Program)	√		√
ISO/TS 16949 – Automotive	√	√	√
TL 9000 – Telecommunications	√		
ANSI ESD20:20	√	√	√
ATEX/ IECEx	√		
ISO 14001 – Environmental	√	√	√
OHSAS 18001 – Environmental	√	√	√

Supply Chain, Order Fulfillment, and Aftermarket Support Services

Our customers often face challenges in designing supply chains, planning demand, procuring materials and managing their inventories efficiently due to fluctuations in their customer demand, product design changes, short product life cycles and component price fluctuations.

We employ enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems and lean manufacturing principles to manage the procurement and manufacturing processes in an efficient and cost-effective manner so that, where possible, components arrive on a just-in-time, as- and -when-needed basis. We are a significant purchaser of electronic components and other raw materials and can capitalize on the economies of scale associated with our relationships with suppliers to negotiate price discounts, obtain components and other raw materials that are in short supply, and return excess components. Our agility and expertise in supply chain management and our relationships with suppliers across the supply chain enable us to help reduce our customers' cost of goods sold and inventory exposure.

In support of our engineering services, technology solutions and manufacturing services, we offer our customers a wide array of capabilities from early supply chain design, to order fulfillment to aftermarket services.

- *Value-Added Support Systems.* We support our engineering, manufacturing, distribution and aftermarket support services with an efficient supply chain management system and a superior quality management program. Our value-added support services are primarily implemented and managed through a web-based information technology system that enables us to collaborate with our customers throughout all stages of the engineering, manufacturing and order-fulfillment processes.
- *Supply Chain Management.* We offer full end-to-end supply chain design, inventory-management and volume-procurement capabilities to provide assurance of supply, optimized cost, and reduce total cycle time. Our materials strategy focuses on leveraging our procurement volume Company-wide while providing local execution for maximum flexibility. We employ a full complement of electronic data interchange transactions with our suppliers to coordinate forecasts, orders, reschedules, and inventory and component lead times. Our enterprise resource planning systems provide product and production information to our supply chain management, engineering change management and floor control systems. Our information systems include a proprietary module that controls serialization, production and quality data for all of our facilities around the world using state-of-the-art statistical process control techniques for continuous process improvements. To enhance our ability to rapidly respond to changes in our customers' requirements by effectively managing changes in our supply chain, we utilize web-based interfaces and real-time supply chain management software products, which allow for scaling operations to meet customer needs, shifting capacity in response to product demand fluctuations, reducing materials costs and effectively distributing products to our customers or their end-customers.
- *Direct Order Fulfillment.* We provide direct order fulfillment for some of our OEM customers. Direct order fulfillment involves receiving customer orders, configuring products to quickly fill the orders and delivering the products either to the OEM, a distribution channel or directly to the end customer. We manage our direct order fulfillment processes using a core set of common systems and processes that receive order information from the customer and provide comprehensive supply chain management, including procurement and production planning. These systems and processes enable us to process orders for multiple system configurations and varying production quantities, including single units. Our direct order fulfillment services include build-to-order (BTO) and configure-to-order (CTO) capabilities. BTO involves building a complete system in real-time to a highly customized configuration ordered by the OEM's end customer. CTO involves configuring systems to an end customer's specifications at the time the product is ordered. The end customer typically places this order by choosing from a variety of possible system configurations and options. We are capable of meeting a 2- to 24-hour turnaround time for BTO and CTO. We support our direct order fulfillment services with logistics that include delivery of parts and assemblies to the final assembly site, distribution and shipment of finished systems, and processing of customer returns.

- *Aftermarket Non-Warranty Services.* We provide our customers a range of aftermarket non-warranty services, including repair, replacement, refurbishment, remanufacturing, exchange, systems upgrade and spare part manufacturing throughout a product’s life cycle. These services are tracked and supported by specific information technology systems that can be tailored to meet our customers’ individual requirements.

Marketing and Customers

We market our services and solutions primarily through a direct sales force organized by market sector. In addition, our engineering, operational, and executive management teams are an integral part of our sales and marketing approach. We generally enter into supply arrangements with our customers. These arrangements generally govern the conduct of our business with customers relating to, among other things, the design and manufacturing of products that in some cases were previously produced by the customer. The arrangements also generally identify the specific products to be designed and manufactured, quality and production requirements, product pricing and materials management. There can be no assurance that these arrangements will remain in effect or be renewed, but we focus intently on customer care in an effort to anticipate and meet the current and future needs of our customers.

Our key customer accounts are supported by dedicated teams directly responsible for account management. These teams coordinate activities the Benchmark global network to effectively satisfy customer requirements and have direct access to leadership and executive management to quickly address customer concerns. Local program managers and customer account teams further support the global teams and are linked by a comprehensive communications and information management infrastructure. In addition, our executive management is heavily involved in customer relations and devotes significant attention to broadening existing and developing new customer relationships.

The following table sets forth the percentages of our sales by sector for 2017, 2016 and 2015.

Higher-Value Markets	2017	2016	2015
Industrials	20 %	23 %	25 %
A&D	16	16	8
Medical	15	15	14
Testing & Instrumentation	14	11	9
	65 %	65 %	56 %
Traditional Markets	2017	2016	2015
Telecommunications	13 %	16 %	22 %
Computing	22	19	22
	35 %	35 %	44 %
	100 %	100 %	100 %

A substantial percentage of our sales are made to a small number of customers, and the loss of a major customer, if not replaced, would adversely affect us. Sales to our ten largest customers represented 46%, 43% and 47% of our sales in 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. In 2017, sales to International Business Machines Corporation and Applied Materials, Inc. represented 12% and 10%, respectively, of our sales. In 2016, no single customer represented 10% or more of our sales. For additional information, see “Risk Factors—The loss of a major customer would adversely affect us” in Item 1A of this Report.

Seasonality

Seasonality in our business has historically been driven by customer and product mix, particularly the industries that our customers serve. Although we have historically experienced higher sales during the fourth quarter, this pattern does not repeat itself every year. In addition, we typically experience our lowest sales volume in the first quarter of each year.

Suppliers

We maintain a network of suppliers of components and other materials used in our operations. We procure components when a purchase order or forecast is received from a customer and occasionally utilize components or other materials for which a supplier is the single source of supply. If any of these single-source suppliers were unable to provide these materials, a shortage of components could temporarily interrupt our operations and lower our profits until an alternate component could be identified and qualified for use. For additional information, see “Risk Factors—Shortages or price increases of components specified by our customers would delay shipments and adversely affect our profitability” in Item 1A of this Report. Although we experience component shortages and longer lead times for various components from time to time, we have generally been able to reduce the impact of component shortages by working with customers to reschedule deliveries, with suppliers to provide the needed components using just-in-time inventory programs, or by purchasing components at somewhat higher prices from distributors rather than directly from manufacturers. In addition, by developing long-term relationships with suppliers, we have been better able to minimize the effects of component shortages compared to manufacturers without such relationships. The goal of these procedures is to reduce our inventory risk.

Backlog

We had sales backlog of approximately \$2.0 billion at December 31, 2017, as compared to the 2016 year-end backlog of \$1.8 billion. Backlog consists of purchase orders received, and other forecast requirements under customer contracts which can be subject to change. Although we expect to fill substantially all of our year-end backlog during 2018, we do not currently have long-term agreements with all of our customers, and customer orders can be canceled, changed or delayed. The timely replacement of canceled, changed or delayed orders with orders from new customers cannot be assured, nor can there be any assurance that any of our current customers will continue to utilize our services. Because of these factors, our backlog is not a meaningful indicator of future financial results.

Competition

The services we provide are available from many independent sources as well as from the in-house manufacturing capabilities of current and potential customers. Our competitors include Celestica Inc., Flex Ltd., Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., Ltd., Jabil Circuit, Inc., Plexus Corp and Sanmina Corporation, some of whom have greater financial, manufacturing or marketing resources than we do. We believe that the principal competitive factors in our targeted markets are engineering solutions capabilities, product quality, flexibility, cost and timeliness in responding to design and schedule changes, reliability in meeting product delivery schedules, pricing, technological sophistication and geographic location.

In addition, original design manufacturers (ODMs) that provide design and manufacturing services to OEMs have significantly increased their share of outsourced manufacturing services provided to OEMs in traditional markets, such as computing and telecommunication. Competition from ODMs may increase if our business in these markets grows or if ODMs expand further into or beyond these markets.

Sustainability

Benchmark is committed to being “sustainable”. Being sustainable describes our long-term approach to social, economic and environmental goals to contribute to a more sustained world consistent with our business objectives.

Our sustainability priorities include:

- upholding the principle of human rights and observing fair labor practices within our organization and our supply chain;
- protecting the environment by conserving energy and natural resources and avoiding pollution through appropriate management technology and practices;
- ensuring ethical organizational governance; and
- observing fair, transparent and accountable operating practices.

All Benchmark manufacturing facilities are either currently certified or undergoing certification to ISO 14001. Benchmark endorsed the Electronics Industry Citizenship Coalition Code of Conduct and flows specific requirements to our supply chain through our contracts, Supplier Assurance Manual and Supplier Code of Conduct.

Governmental Regulation

Our operations, and the operations of businesses that we acquire, are subject to foreign, federal, state and local regulatory requirements relating to security clearance, trade compliance, anticorruption, environmental, waste management, and health and safety matters. We seek to operate in compliance with all applicable requirements. Significant costs and liabilities may arise from these requirements or from new, modified or more stringent requirements, which could affect our earnings and competitive position. In addition, our past, current and future operations, and those of businesses we acquire, may give rise to claims of exposure by employees or the public or to other claims or liabilities relating to environmental, waste management or health and safety concerns.

We periodically generate and temporarily handle limited amounts of materials that are considered hazardous waste under applicable law. We contract for the off-site disposal of these materials and have implemented a waste management program to address related regulatory issues. For additional information, see “Risk Factors—Compliance or the failure to comply with environmental regulations could cause us significant expense” in Item 1A of this Report.

Employees

As of December 31, 2017, we employed approximately 10,600 people, of whom approximately 300 were engaged in design and development engineering. None of our domestic employees are represented by a labor union. In certain international locations, our employees are represented by labor unions and by works councils. Some European countries also often have mandatory legal provisions regarding terms of employment, severance compensation and other conditions of employment that are more restrictive than U.S. laws. We have never experienced a strike or similar work stoppage, and we believe that our employee and labor relations are good.

Segments and International Operations

We have manufacturing facilities in the Americas, Asia and Europe to serve our customers. Benchmark is operated and managed geographically, and management evaluates performance and allocates resources on a geographic basis. We currently operate outside the United States in China, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Romania and Thailand. During 2017, 2016 and 2015, 46%, 47% and 50%, respectively, of our sales were from our international operations. See Note 9 and Note 14 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Report for segment and geographical information.

Available Information

Our website may be viewed at <http://www.bench.com>. Reference to our website is for informational purposes only and the information contained therein is not incorporated by reference into this annual report. We make available free of charge through our internet website our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), including our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably practicable after electronically filing such material with, or furnishing it to, the SEC. All reports we file with the SEC are also available free of charge via EDGAR through the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> or to read and copy at the SEC Public Reference Room located at 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549. Information can be obtained on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

Item 1A. Risk Factors.

The following risk factors should be read carefully when reviewing the Company's business, the forward-looking statements contained in this Report, and the other statements the Company or its representatives make from time to time. Any of the following factors could materially and adversely affect the Company's business, operating results, financial condition and the actual results of the matters addressed by the forward-looking statements.

We are exposed to general economic and market conditions that could have a material adverse impact on our business, operating results and financial condition.

Uncertainty over the erosion of global consumer confidence, geopolitical issues, the availability and cost of credit, concerns about volatile energy costs, declining asset values, inflation, rising unemployment, and the stability and solvency of financial institutions, financial markets, businesses, and sovereign nations has slowed global economic growth and resulted in recessions in many countries, including in the United States, Europe and certain countries in Asia over the past several years. The economic recovery of recent years is fragile, and recessionary conditions may return. Any of these potential negative economic conditions may reduce demand for our customers' products and adversely affect our sales. Consequently, our past operating results, earnings and cash flows may not be indicative of our future operating results, earnings and cash flows.

In addition to our customers or potential customers reducing or delaying orders, a number of other negative effects on our business could materialize, including the insolvency of key suppliers, which could result in production delays, shorter payment terms from suppliers due to reduced availability of credit default insurance in the market, the inability of customers to obtain credit, and the insolvency of one or more customers. Any of these effects could impact our ability to effectively manage inventory levels and collect receivables, increase our need for cash, and decrease our net revenue and profitability.

In cases where the evidence suggests a customer may not be able to satisfy its obligation to us, we establish reserves in an amount we determine appropriate for the perceived risk. There can be no assurance that our reserves will be adequate. If the financial condition of our customers were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments, additional receivable and inventory reserves may be required and restructuring charges may be incurred.

Shortages or price increases of components specified by our customers would delay shipments and adversely affect our profitability.

Substantially all of our sales are derived from manufacturing services in which we purchase components specified by our customers. In the past, supply shortages have substantially curtailed production of all assemblies using a particular component and industry-wide shortages of electronic components, particularly of memory and logic devices, have occurred. For example, the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan disrupted the global supply chain

for certain components manufactured in Japan that were incorporated in the products we manufactured. The 2011 Thailand flood had a similar impact. Any such component shortages may result in delayed shipments, which could have an adverse effect on our profit margins. Because of the continued increase in demand for surface mount components, we anticipate component shortages and longer lead times for certain components to occur from time to time. Also, we may bear the risk of component price increases that occur between periodic re-pricings of product during the term of a customer contract. Accordingly, certain component price increases could adversely affect our gross profit margins.

We are dependent on the success of our customers and the markets in which they operate. When our customers or the markets in which they operate experience declines or grow at a significantly slower pace than anticipated, we may be adversely affected.

We are dependent on the continued growth, viability and financial stability of our customers. Our customers are OEMs of:

- industrial equipment,
- equipment for the aerospace and defense industries;
- telecommunication equipment;
- computers and related products for business enterprises;
- medical devices; and
- testing and instrumentation products.

These markets are subject to rapid technological change, vigorous competition, short product life cycles and consequent product obsolescence. When our customers are adversely affected by these factors, we may be similarly affected.

The loss of a major customer would adversely affect us.

Our sales are dependent on the success of our customers, some of which operate in businesses associated with rapid technological change and consequent product obsolescence. Developments adverse to our major customers or their products, or the failure of a major customer to pay for components or services, could have an adverse effect on us. A substantial percentage of our sales are made to a small number of customers, and the loss of a major customer, if not replaced, would adversely affect us. Sales to our ten largest customers represented 46%, 43% and 47% of our sales in 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. In 2017, sales to International Business Machines Corporation and Applied Materials, Inc. represented 12% and 10%, respectively, of our sales.

We expect to continue to depend on sales to our largest customers, and any material delay, cancellation or reduction of orders from these customers or other significant customers would have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. In addition, we generate significant accounts receivable in connection with providing services to our customers. If one or more of our customers were to become insolvent or otherwise unable to pay for the services provided by us, our operating results and financial condition would be adversely affected.

Most of our customers do not commit to long-term production schedules, which makes it difficult for us to schedule production and achieve maximum efficiency of our manufacturing capacity.

The volume and timing of sales to our customers vary due to:

- changes in demand for their products;
- their attempts to manage their inventory;
- design changes;
- changes in their manufacturing strategies; and
- acquisitions of, or consolidations among, customers.

Due in part to these factors, most of our customers do not commit to firm production schedules for more than one quarter in advance. Our inability to forecast the level of customer orders with certainty makes it difficult to schedule production and maximize utilization of manufacturing capacity. In the past, we have been required to increase staffing and other expenses in order to meet the anticipated demand of our customers. Anticipated orders from many of our customers have, in the past, failed to materialize or delivery schedules have been deferred as a result of changes in our customers' business needs, thereby adversely affecting our results of operations. On other occasions, our customers have required rapid increases in production, which have placed an excessive burden on our resources. Such customer order fluctuations and deferrals have had a material adverse effect on us in the past, and may again in the future. A business downturn resulting from any of these external factors could have a material adverse effect on our operating income. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in Item 7 of this Report.

Winning business is subject to lengthy, competitive bid selection processes that often require us to incur significant expense, from which we may ultimately generate no revenue.

Our business is dependent on us winning competitive bid selection processes. These selection processes are typically lengthy and can require us to dedicate significant development expenditures and scarce engineering resources in pursuit of a single customer opportunity. Failure to obtain a particular design win may prevent us from obtaining design wins in subsequent generations of a particular product. This can result in lost revenue and could weaken our position in future competitive bid selection processes.

Our customers may cancel their orders, change production quantities, delay production or change their sourcing strategies.

EMS providers must provide increasingly rapid product turnaround for their customers. We generally do not obtain firm, long-term purchase commitments from our customers, and we continue to experience reduced lead-times in customer orders. Customers may cancel their orders, change production quantities, delay production or change their sourcing strategy for a number of reasons. Cancellations, reductions, delays or changes in the sourcing strategy by a significant customer or by a group of customers could negatively impact our operating income.

In addition, we make significant decisions, including determining the levels of business that we will seek and accept, production schedules, component procurement commitments, personnel needs, capital expenditures and other resource requirements, based on our estimate of customer requirements. The short-term nature of our customers' commitments and the possibility of rapid changes in demand for their products impede our ability to accurately estimate the future requirements of those customers.

The degree of success or failure of our customers' products in the market also affects our business. On occasion, customers require rapid increases in production, which can stress our resources and reduce operating margins. In addition, because many of our costs and operating expenses are relatively fixed, a reduction in customer demand can harm our gross profits and operating results. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in Item 7 of this Report.

We may encounter significant delays or defaults in payments owed to us by customers for products we have manufactured or components that are unique to particular customers.

We structure our agreements with customers to mitigate our risks related to obsolete or unsold inventory. However, enforcement of these contracts may result in material expense and delay in payment for inventory. If any of our significant customers become unable or unwilling to purchase such inventory, our business may be materially harmed. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in Item 7 of this Report.

Government contracts are subject to significant regulation, including rules related to bidding, billing, accounting kickbacks and false claims, and any non-compliance could subject us to fines and penalties or debarment.

Like all government contractors, we are subject to risks associated with this contracting. These risks include substantial civil and criminal fines and penalties if we were to fail to follow procurement integrity and bidding rules or cost accounting standards, employ improper billing practices, receive or pay kickbacks or file false claims. We have been, and expect to continue to be, subjected to audits and investigations by U.S. and foreign government agencies and authorities. The failure to comply with the terms of our government contracts could result in progress payments being withheld, our suspension or debarment from future government contracts or harm to our business reputation.

Our financial results depend, in part, on our ability to perform on our U.S. government contracts, which are subject to uncertain levels of funding, timing and termination.

We provide services both as a prime contractor and subcontractor for the U.S. government. Consequently, a portion of our financial results depends on our performance under these contracts. Delays, cost overruns or product failures in connection with one or more contracts, could lead to their termination and negatively impact our results of operations, financial condition or liquidity. We can give no assurance that we would be awarded new contracts to offset the revenues lost as a result of such a termination.

U.S. government programs require congressional appropriations, which are typically made for a single fiscal year even though a program may extend over several years. Programs often are only partially funded, and additional funding requires further congressional appropriations. The programs in which we participate compete with other programs for consideration and funding during the budget and appropriations process, which can be impacted by shifting and often competing political priorities.

Our government contracts often involve the development, application and manufacture of advanced defense and technology systems and products aimed at achieving challenging goals. New technologies used for these contracts may be untested or unproven and product requirements and specifications may be modified. Consequently, technological and other performance difficulties may cause delays, cost overruns or product failures. Moreover, there can be no assurance that amounts we spend to develop new products or solutions to compete for a government contract will be recovered since we may not be awarded the contract.

Our international operations are subject to certain risks.

During 2017, 2016 and 2015, 46%, 47% and 50%, respectively, of our sales were from our international operations. These international operations are subject to a number of risks, including:

- difficulties in staffing and managing foreign operations;
- coordinating communications and logistics across geographic distances and multiple time zones;
- less flexible employee relationships, which complicate meeting demand fluctuations and can be difficult and expensive to terminate;
- political and economic instability (including acts of terrorism and outbreaks of war), which could impact our ability to ship and/or receive product;
- changes in foreign or domestic government policies, regulatory requirements and laws, which could impact our business;
- longer customer payment cycles and difficulty collecting accounts receivable;
- export duties, import controls and trade barriers (including quotas and border taxes);
- governmental restrictions on the transfer of funds;
- risk of governmental expropriation of our property;
- burdens of complying with a wide variety of foreign laws and labor practices, including various and changing minimum wage regulations;
- fluctuations in currency exchange rates, which could affect foreign taxes due, component costs, local payroll, utility and other expenses; and
- inability to utilize net operating losses incurred by our foreign operations to reduce our U.S. income taxes.

Changes made that impact the way we operate internally could have a negative impact on us and reduce the demand for our foreign manufacturing facilities. Moreover, any retaliatory actions by other countries where we operate could also negatively impact our financial performance.

In addition, several of the countries where we operate have emerging or developing economies, which may be subject to greater currency volatility, negative growth, high inflation, limited availability of foreign exchange and other risks. Certain events, including natural disasters, can impact the infrastructure of a developing country more severely than they would impact the infrastructure of a developed country. A developing country can also take longer to recover from such events, which could lead to delays in our ability to resume full operations. These factors may harm our results of operations, and any measures that we may implement to reduce the effect of volatile currencies and other risks of our international operations may not be effective. In our experience, entry into new international markets requires considerable management time as well as start-up expenses for market development, hiring and establishing office facilities before any significant revenues are generated. As a result, initial operations in a new market may operate at low margins or may be unprofitable.

Certain foreign jurisdictions, as well as the U.S. government, restrict the amount of cash that can be transferred to the U.S. or impose taxes and penalties on such transfers of cash. To the extent we have excess cash in foreign locations that could be used in, or is needed by, our operations in the United States, we may incur significant penalties and/or taxes to repatriate these funds.

Another significant legal risk resulting from our international operations is compliance with the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). In many foreign countries, particularly in those with developing economies, it may be a local custom that businesses operating in such countries engage in business practices that are prohibited by the FCPA, other U.S. laws and regulations, or similar laws of host countries and related anti-bribery conventions. Although we have implemented policies and procedures designed to comply with the FCPA and similar laws, there can be no assurance that all of our employees, agents, or those companies to which we outsource certain of our business operations, will not take actions in violation of our policies. Any such violation, even if prohibited by our policies, could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Regulatory, legislative or self-regulatory/standard developments regarding privacy and data security matters could adversely affect our ability to conduct our business.

U.S. privacy and data security laws apply to our various businesses. We also do business globally in countries that have more stringent data protection laws than those in the United States that may be inconsistent across jurisdictions and are subject to evolving and differing interpretations. Governments, privacy advocates and class action attorneys are increasingly scrutinizing how companies collect, process, use, store, share and transmit personal data. In Europe, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) takes effect on May 25, 2018, requiring us to protect the privacy of certain personal data of European Union (EU) citizens. While we expect to implement processes and controls to timely comply with GDPR requirements, the manner in which the EU will interpret and enforce certain provisions remains unclear and we could incur significant fines of up to 4% of worldwide revenue, individual damages and reputational risks if our controls and processes are ineffective and we fail to comply.

We operate in a highly competitive industry; if we are not able to compete effectively in the EMS industry, our business could be adversely affected.

We compete against many providers of electronics manufacturing services. Some of our competitors have substantially greater resources and more geographically diversified international operations than we do. Our competitors Celestica Inc., Flex Ltd., Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., Ltd., Jabil Circuit, Inc., Plexus Corp and Sanmina Corporation, some of whom have greater financial, manufacturing or marketing resources than we do. In addition, we may in the future encounter competition from other large electronic manufacturers that are selling, or may begin to sell, electronics manufacturing services.

We also face competition from the manufacturing operations of our current and future customers, who are continually evaluating the merits of manufacturing products internally against the advantages of outsourcing to EMS providers. In addition, in recent years, ODMs that provide design and manufacturing services to OEMs, have significantly increased their share of outsourced manufacturing services provided to OEMs in several markets, such as notebook and desktop computers, personal computer motherboards, and consumer electronic products. Competition from ODMs may increase if our business in these markets grows or if ODMs expand further into or beyond these markets.

During periods of recession in the electronics industry, our competitive advantages in the areas of quick turnaround manufacturing and responsive customer service may be of reduced importance to electronics OEMs, who may become more price sensitive. We may also be at a competitive disadvantage with respect to price when compared to manufacturers with lower cost structures, particularly those with more offshore facilities located where labor and other costs are lower.

We experience intense competition, which can intensify further as more companies enter the markets in which we operate, as existing competitors expand capacity and as the industry consolidates. The availability of excess manufacturing capacity at many of our competitors creates intense pricing and competitive pressure on the EMS industry as a whole. To compete effectively, we must continue to provide technologically advanced manufacturing services, maintain strict quality standards, respond flexibly and rapidly to customers' design and schedule changes and deliver products globally on a reliable basis at competitive prices. Our inability to do so could have an adverse effect on us.

We may experience fluctuations in quarterly results.

Our quarterly results may vary significantly depending on various factors, many of which are beyond our control. These factors include:

- the volume of customer orders relative to our capacity;
- customer introduction and market acceptance of new products;
- changes in demand for customer products;
- seasonality in demand for customer products;
- pricing and other competitive pressures;
- the timing of our expenditures in anticipation of future orders;
- our effectiveness in managing manufacturing processes;
- changes in cost and availability of labor and components;
- changes in our product mix;
- changes in tax laws in the jurisdictions in which we operate;
- changes in political and economic conditions; and
- local factors and events that may affect our production volume, such as local holidays or natural disasters.

Additionally, as is the case with many high technology companies, a significant portion of our shipments typically occur in the last few weeks of a given quarter. Accordingly, sales shifts from quarter to quarter may not be readily apparent until the end of a given quarter, and may have a significant effect on projected and reported results.

Acquisitions may pose difficulties for us.

Our capabilities have historically grown through acquisitions, and we may pursue additional acquisitions in the future. Our projections of results and successfully integrating acquired operations into our network involve risks, including:

- integration and management of the operations;
- as noted above, demand can vary, and our projections of results may be wrong due to deferred or reduced demand;
- retention of key personnel;
- integration of purchasing operations and information systems;
- retention of the customer base of acquired businesses;
- management of an increasingly larger and more geographically disparate business;
- the possibility that past transactions or practices may lead to future commercial or regulatory risks; and
- diversion of management's attention from other ongoing business concerns.

Our profitability will suffer if we are unable to successfully integrate an acquisition, if the acquisition does not further our business strategy as we expected or if we do not achieve sufficient revenue to offset the increased expenses associated with these acquisitions. We may overpay for, or otherwise not realize the expected return on, our investments, which could adversely affect our operating results and potentially cause impairments to assets that we record as a part of an acquisition including intangible assets and goodwill.

Start-up costs and inefficiencies related to new or transferred programs can adversely affect our operating results and such costs may not be recoverable if the new programs or transferred programs are cancelled.

Start-up costs, the management of labor and equipment resources in connection with the establishment of new programs and new customer relationships, and the need to estimate required resources in advance can adversely affect our gross margins and operating results. These factors are particularly evident in the early stages of the life cycle of new products and new programs or program transfers and in the opening of new facilities. These factors

also affect our ability to efficiently use labor and equipment. We are currently managing a number of new programs. If any of these new programs or new customer relationships were terminated, our operating results could be harmed, particularly in the short term. We may not be able to recoup these start-up costs or replace anticipated new program revenues.

We may be affected by consolidation in the electronics industry, which could create increased pricing and competitive pressures on our business.

Consolidation in the electronics industry could result in a decrease in manufacturing capacity as companies seek to close plants or take other steps to increase efficiencies and realize synergies of mergers, creating increased pricing and competitive pressures for the EMS industry as a whole and our business in particular. In addition, consolidation could also result in an increasing number of very large electronics companies offering products in multiple sectors of the electronics industry. The growth of these large companies, with significant purchasing and marketing power, could also result in increased pricing and competitive pressures for us. Accordingly, industry consolidation could harm our business. We may need to increase our efficiencies to compete and may incur additional restructuring charges.

We are subject to the risk of increased taxes.

We base our tax position upon the anticipated nature and conduct of our business and upon our understanding of the tax laws of the various countries in which we have assets or conduct activities. Our tax position, however, is subject to review and possible challenge by taxing authorities and to possible changes in law. We cannot determine in advance the extent to which some jurisdictions may assess additional tax or interest and penalties on such additional taxes.

Several countries where we operate allow for tax holidays or provide other tax incentives to attract and retain business. We have obtained holidays or other incentives where available. Our taxes could increase if certain tax holidays or incentives were retracted, or if they were not renewed upon expiration, or tax rates applicable to us in such jurisdictions were otherwise increased. In addition, further acquisitions may cause our effective tax rate to increase. Given the scope of our international operations and our international tax arrangements, changes to the manner in which U.S. based multinational companies are taxed in the U.S. could have a material impact on our financial results and competitiveness.

In 2017, we incurred a net estimated tax expense of \$97.7 million due to the one-time mandatory transition tax on the deemed repatriation of undistributed foreign earnings and the re-measurement of U.S. deferred tax assets and liabilities as a result of the U.S. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (U.S. Tax Reform) enacted in December 2017. In computing our expense, we are allowed under new SEC accounting guidance to record provisional amounts during a measurement period not to extend beyond one year of the enactment date. We consider a number of key estimates we have made with respect to the U.S. Tax Reform to be incomplete due to our continuing analysis of final year-end data and tax positions. Our continuing analysis (which will include evaluation of future U.S. Treasury regulations, administrative interpretations or court decisions interpreting U.S. Tax Reform, accounting interpretations or other developments relating to the U.S. Tax Reform) could affect the measurement of these balances, which could materially affect our tax obligations and effective tax rate. See Part II, Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Results of Operations—Income taxes and Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements of this Report for additional information.

We are exposed to intangible asset risk; our goodwill may become impaired.

We have recorded intangible assets, including goodwill, in connection with business acquisitions. We are required to assess goodwill and intangible assets for impairment at least on an annual basis and whenever events or circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable from estimated future cash flows. A significant and sustained decline in our market capitalization could result in material charges in future periods that

could be adverse to our operating results and financial position. As of December 31, 2017, we had \$191.6 million in goodwill and \$85.1 million of identifiable intangible assets. See Note 1(h) to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Report.

There are inherent uncertainties involved in estimates, judgments and assumptions used in the preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Any changes in estimates, judgments and assumptions could have a material adverse effect on our financial position and results of operations.

The consolidated financial statements included in the periodic reports we file with the SEC are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (U.S. GAAP). The preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP involves making estimates, judgments and assumptions that affect reported amounts of assets (including intangible assets), liabilities and related reserves, revenues, expenses and income. Estimates, judgments and assumptions are inherently subject to change in the future, and any such changes could result in corresponding changes to the amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses and income. Any such changes could have a material adverse effect on our financial position and results of operations.

Any litigation, even where a claim is without merit, could result in substantial costs and diversion of resources.

In the past, we have been notified of claims relating to various matters including intellectual property rights, contractual matters, labor issues or other matters arising in the ordinary course of business. In the event of any such claim, we may be required to spend a significant amount of money and resources, even where the claim is without merit. Accordingly, the resolution of such disputes, even those encountered in the ordinary course of business, could have a material adverse effect on our business, consolidated financial conditions and results of operations.

Our success will continue to depend to a significant extent on our key personnel.

We depend significantly on our executive officers and other key personnel. The unexpected loss of the services of any one of these executive officers or other key personnel, or the failure to attract and retain new personnel, could have an adverse effect on us.

If we are unable to maintain our technological and manufacturing process expertise, our business could be adversely affected.

The market for our manufacturing and engineering services is characterized by rapidly changing technology and continuing process development. We are continually evaluating the advantages and feasibility of new manufacturing processes. We believe that our future success will depend upon our ability to develop and provide manufacturing services that meet our customers' changing needs. This requires that we maintain technological leadership and successfully anticipate or respond to technological changes in manufacturing processes on a cost-effective and timely basis. Our failure to maintain our technological and manufacturing process expertise could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We are subject to breach of our security systems and interruptions in our information systems.

We have implemented security systems to secure our physical facilities and protect our confidential information, as well as that of our customers and suppliers. Information technology plays an essential role in business; we maintain some of our information systems and, rely on third parties for a portion of our needs. The recent successes of sophisticated hackers have been well publicized and, despite our efforts, we are subject to breach of security systems, which could result in unauthorized access to our facilities and the information we are trying to protect. If unauthorized parties gain physical access to one of our facilities or electronic access to our information systems, or if information is misdirected, lost or stolen during transmission or transport, any theft or misuse of such information could result, among other things, in unfavorable publicity, governmental inquiry and oversight, difficulty in

marketing our services, allegations of contractual breach, litigation by affected parties and possible financial obligations for damages related to the theft or misuse of the information, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our revenue, profitability, cash flow and relationships with affected customers. In addition, we rely on our information systems to run our business; despite our efforts to create appropriate redundancies and ensure continuous information flow, even simple failures in these systems resulting from natural disasters or facility damage can lead to supply or production interruptions that result in lost revenue, profits, contractual penalties and reputational damage.

Any delay in the upgrade of our information systems could disrupt our operations and cause unanticipated increases in our costs.

We are currently upgrading our enterprise resource planning system in our manufacturing facilities, which we anticipate taking several years. Failure to complete the upgrade could leave us with sites without the systems capabilities to flexibly support future customer requirements for manufacturing capabilities, data driven analytics and unanticipated increases in costs.

Our stock price is volatile.

Our common shares have experienced significant price volatility, which may continue in the future. The price of our shares can fluctuate widely in response to a range of factors, including our financial results and changing conditions in the economy generally or in our industry in particular. In addition, stock markets generally experience significant price and volume volatility from time to time which may affect the market price of our shares for reasons unrelated to our performance.

Provisions in our governing documents and state law may make it harder for others to obtain control of the Company.

Certain provisions of our governing documents and the Texas Business Organizations Code may delay, inhibit or prevent someone from gaining control of the Company through a tender offer, business combination, proxy contest or some other method, even if shareholders might consider such a development beneficial. These provisions include:

- a provision in our certificate of formation granting the Board of Directors authority to issue preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the relative rights and preferences of such preferred stock;
- provisions in our bylaws restricting shareholders from acting by less than unanimous written consent and requiring advance notification of shareholder nominations and proposals;
- a provision in our bylaws restricting anyone, other than the Chief Executive Officer, the President, the Board of Directors or the holders of at least 10% of all outstanding shares entitled to vote, from calling a special meeting of the shareholders;
- a statutory restriction on the ability of shareholders to take action by less than unanimous written consent; and
- a statutory restriction on business combinations with some types of interested shareholders.

Our business or stock price could be negatively affected by the actions of activist shareholders or others.

Responding to actions by activist shareholders or others can be costly and time-consuming, disrupt our operations and divert the attention of management and our employees. Our ability to execute our strategic plan could also be impaired. In addition, a proxy contest for the election of directors would require us to incur significant fees and expenses, as well as requiring significant time and attention by management and our Board of Directors. Perceived uncertainties as to our future direction also could affect the market price and volatility of our common shares, our ability to attract and retain qualified personnel and business partners and may affect our relationships with vendors, customers or others.

Compliance or the failure to comply with environmental regulations could cause us significant expense.

We are subject to a variety of federal, state, local and foreign environmental laws and regulations relating to environmental, waste management, and health and safety concerns, including the handling, storage, discharge and disposal of hazardous materials used in or derived from our manufacturing processes. If we or companies we acquire have failed or fail in the future to comply with such laws and regulations, then we could incur liabilities and fines and our operations could be suspended. Such laws and regulations could also restrict our ability to modify or expand our facilities, could require us to acquire costly equipment, or could impose other significant expenditures. In addition, our operations may give rise to claims of property contamination or human exposure to hazardous chemicals or conditions.

Our worldwide operations are subject to local laws and regulations. Over the last several years, we have become subject to the RoHS directive and the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. These directives restrict the distribution of products containing certain substances, including lead, within applicable geographies and require a manufacturer or importer to recycle products containing those substances.

These directives affect the worldwide electronics and electronics components industries as a whole. If we or our customers fail to comply with such laws and regulations, we could incur liabilities and fines and our operations could be suspended.

In addition, as climate change concerns become more prevalent, the U.S. and foreign governments have sought to limit the effects of any such changes. This increasing governmental focus on climate change may result in new environmental regulations that may negatively affect us, our suppliers and our customers. This could cause us to incur additional direct costs or obligations in complying with any new environmental regulations, as well as increased indirect costs resulting from our customers, suppliers or both incurring additional compliance costs that get passed on to us. These costs may adversely impact our operations and financial condition.

Our business may be adversely impacted by geopolitical events.

As a global business, we operate and have customers located in many countries. Geopolitical events such as terrorist acts may affect the overall economic environment and negatively impact the demand for our customers' products or our ability to ship or receive products. As a result, customer orders may be lower and our financial results may be adversely affected.

Our business may be adversely impacted by natural disasters.

Some of our facilities, including our corporate headquarters, are located in areas that may be impacted by hurricanes, earthquakes, water shortages, tsunamis, floods, typhoons, fires, extreme weather conditions and other natural or manmade disasters. Our insurance coverage for natural disasters is limited and is subject to deductibles and coverage limits. This coverage may not be adequate, or may not continue to be available at commercially reasonable rates and terms.

In addition, some of our facilities possess certifications necessary to work on specialized products that our other locations lack. If work is disrupted at one of these facilities, it may be impractical, or we may be unable, to transfer such specialized work to another facility without significant costs and delays. Thus, any disruption in operations at a facility with specialized certifications could adversely affect our ability to provide products and services to our customers, and thus negatively affect our relationships and financial results.

We bear the risk of uninsured losses.

As a result of extensive 2011 flooding in Thailand, we have been unable to obtain cost-effective flood insurance to adequately cover assets at our facilities in Thailand. We continue to monitor the insurance market in Thailand. We

maintain insurance on all our properties and operations—including our assets in Thailand—for risks and in amounts customary in the industry. While such insurance includes general liability, property & casualty, and directors & officers liability coverage, not all losses are insured, and we retain certain risks of loss through deductibles, limits and self-retentions. In the event we experience a significant uninsured loss in Thailand or elsewhere, it could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our level of indebtedness may limit our flexibility in operating our business and reacting to changes in our business or industry, or prevent us from making payments on our debt or obtaining additional financing.

As of December 31, 2017, our total outstanding debt (excluding unamortized debt issuance costs) was \$211.7 million, substantially all of which represented borrowings under our \$230.0 million term loan facility (the Term Loan). Our level of indebtedness could have important consequences. For example, it could:

- increase our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions;
- impair our ability to obtain additional debt or equity financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions or other purposes;
- require us to dedicate a material portion of our cash flows from operations to the payment of principal and interest on our indebtedness, thereby reducing the availability of our cash flows to fund working capital needs, capital expenditures, acquisitions and other purposes;
- expose us to the risk of increased interest rates since the Term Loan has a variable rate;
- limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business or industry;
- place us at a disadvantage compared to our competitors that have less debt; and
- make it more difficult for us to satisfy our debt obligations.

Any of these risks could materially impact our ability to fund our operations or limit our ability to expand our business, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We may be exposed to interest rate fluctuations.

We have exposure to interest rate risk on our outstanding borrowings under our variable rate credit agreement. These borrowings' interest rates are based on the spread, at our option, over the London interbank offered rate as administered by the ICE Benchmark Administration (LIBO), the bank's prime rate or the federal funds rate. We are also exposed to interest rate risk on our invested cash balances.

Changes in financial accounting standards or policies have affected, and in the future may affect, our reported financial condition or results of operations. Additionally, changes in securities laws and regulations could increase our operating costs.

We prepare our financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP. These principles are subject to interpretation by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the SEC and various bodies formed to interpret and create appropriate accounting policies. A change in these policies can have a significant effect on our reported results and may affect our reporting of transactions that are completed before a change is announced. Changes to those rules or questions as to how we interpret or implement them may have a material adverse effect on our reported financial results or on the way we conduct business. For example, in May 2014 the FASB issued a new standard (commonly referred to as ASC 606) which will change the way we recognize revenue and significantly expand the disclosures requirements for revenue arrangements. We adopted the requirements of this new standard on January 1, 2018. The Company has determined that the new standard will change the timing of revenue recognition for a significant portion of its business, whereby revenue will be recognized earlier than under the current accounting rules, as we incur costs, as opposed to when units are shipped. This standard will also have material impact to the Company's balance sheet, primarily related to a reduction in finished goods and work-in-process inventories and an increase in contract assets. New controls will be needed to comply with such changes and we may fail to adequately implement the needed changes. See Note 1(q) of the Notes

to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Report for additional information relating to our adoption of the new revenue recognition standard.

We review our internal controls over financial reporting annually. In doing so, we may identify deficiencies in those controls. A material weakness or deficiency in our internal controls could increase the likelihood that a material misstatement or lack of disclosure within the annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected. Adverse publicity related to the disclosure of a material weakness or deficiency in internal controls over financial reporting could have a negative impact on our reputation, business and stock price.

Corporate governance, public disclosure and compliance practices continue to evolve based upon government action and the policies of stockholder advisory groups. As a result, the number of rules and regulations applicable to us may increase, which would also increase our legal and financial compliance costs and the amount of time management must devote to compliance activities. For example, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act contains provisions instituted to improve transparency and accountability concerning the supply of certain minerals originating from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and adjoining countries that are believed to benefit armed groups. The European Union is contemplating similar legislation. The SEC adopted new due diligence, disclosure and reporting requirements for companies that manufacture products that include components containing such minerals, regardless of whether the minerals are mined in the DRC or adjoining countries. These requirements may decrease the acceptable sources of supply of such minerals, increase their cost and disrupt our supply chain if we need to obtain components from different suppliers. Since we manufacture products containing such minerals for our customers, we are required to comply with these rules. The compliance process is time-consuming and costly. Failure to comply with applicable new regulations could result in additional costs (including fines and penalties) as well as affect our reputation. Increasing regulatory burdens could also make it more difficult for us to attract and retain members of our board of directors, particularly to serve on our audit committee, and executive officers in light of an increase in actual or perceived workload and liability for serving in such positions.

Energy price increases may negatively impact our results of operations.

Some of the components that we use in our manufacturing activities are petroleum-based. In addition, we, along with our suppliers and customers, rely on various energy sources (including oil) in our transportation activities. While significant uncertainty exists about the future levels of energy prices, a significant increase is possible. Increased energy prices could cause an increase in our raw material and transportation costs. In addition, increased costs of our suppliers or customers could be passed along to us, and we may not be able to increase our product prices enough to offset them. Moreover, any increase in our product prices may reduce our future customer orders and profitability.

Introducing programs requiring implementation of new competencies, including new process technology within our mechanical operations, could affect our operations and financial results.

The introduction of programs requiring implementation of new competencies, including new process technology within our mechanical operations, presents challenges in addition to opportunities. Deployment of such programs may require us to invest significant resources and capital in facilities, equipment and/or personnel. We may not meet our customers' expectations or otherwise execute properly or in a cost-efficient manner, which could damage our customer relationships and result in remedial costs or the loss of our invested capital and anticipated revenues and profits. In addition, there are risks of market acceptance and product performance that could result in less demand than anticipated and our having excess capacity. The failure or inability to reflect the anticipated costs, risks and rewards of such an opportunity in our customer contracts could adversely affect our profitability. If we do not meet one or more of these challenges, our operations and financial results could be adversely affected.

If our manufacturing processes and services do not comply with applicable regulatory requirements, or if we manufacture products containing design or manufacturing defects, demand for our services may decline and we may be subject to liability claims.

We manufacture and design products to our customers' specifications; in some cases, our processes and facilities must comply with applicable regulatory requirements. For example, medical devices that we manufacture or design, as well as the facilities and manufacturing processes that we use to produce them, are regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or non-U.S. counterparts of this agency. Similarly, items we manufacture for customers in the aerospace and defense industries, as well as the processes we use to produce them, are regulated by the Department of Defense and the Federal Aviation Authority, which have increased their focus and penalties related to counterfeit materials. In addition, our customers' products and the manufacturing processes or documentation that we use to produce them often are highly complex. As a result, products that we manufacture may at times contain manufacturing or design defects, and our manufacturing processes may be subject to errors or noncompliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. Defects in the products we manufacture or design, whether caused by a design, manufacturing or component failure or error, or deficiencies in our manufacturing processes, may result in delayed shipments to customers or reduced or cancelled customer orders. If these defects or deficiencies were significant, our business reputation could also be damaged. The failure of our products, manufacturing processes or facilities to comply with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements could subject us to fines or penalties and, in some cases, require us to shut down or incur considerable expense to correct a product, process or facility. In addition, these defects may result in liability claims against us or expose us to liability to pay for the recall of a product. The magnitude of any such claim may increase as we expand our medical and aerospace and defense manufacturing services, as defects in medical, aerospace or defense devices or systems could seriously harm or kill users of these products and others. Even if our customers are responsible for the defects, they may not, or may not have resources to, assume responsibility for any costs or liabilities arising from these defects, which could expose us to additional liability claims.

Customer relationships with emerging companies may present more risks than with established companies.

Customer relationships with emerging companies present special risks because these companies do not have an extensive product history. As a result, there is less demonstration of market acceptance of their products, making it harder for us to anticipate needs and requirements than with established customers. In addition, funding for such companies may be more difficult to obtain and these customer relationships may not continue or materialize to the extent we plan or previously experienced. This tightening of financing for start-up customers, together with many start-up customers' lack of prior operations and unproven product markets increase our credit risk, especially in trade accounts receivable and inventories. Although we perform ongoing credit evaluations of our customers and adjust our allowance for doubtful accounts receivable for all customers, including start-up customers, based on the information available, these allowances may not be adequate. This risk may exist for any new emerging company customers in the future.

Item 1B. *Unresolved Staff Comments.*

None.

Item 2. Properties.

Our customers market numerous products throughout the world and therefore need to access manufacturing services on a global basis. To enhance our service offerings, we seek to locate our facilities either near our customers and our customers' end markets in major centers for the electronics industry or, where appropriate, in lower cost locations.

The following chart summarizes the approximate square footage of our principal manufacturing facilities by country:

Location	Sq. Ft.
United States:	
Alabama	200,000
Arizona	199,000
California	412,000
Minnesota	441,000
New Hampshire	171,000
Texas	155,000
China	326,000
Malaysia	380,000
Mexico	830,000
Netherlands	166,000
Romania	131,000
Thailand	<u>756,000</u>
Total	<u>4,167,000</u>

Our principal manufacturing facilities consist of 1.9 million square feet in facilities that we own, with the remaining 2.3 million square feet in leased facilities whose terms expire between 2018 and 2028. We currently lease our corporate headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona. This lease consists of approximately 27,000 square feet and expires in 2019. We lease other facilities with a total of 32,000 square feet dedicated to engineering, sales and procurement services.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings.

We are involved in various legal actions arising in the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of management, the ultimate disposition of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.

Not applicable.

PART II

Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Shareholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities.

Our common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "BHE." The following table shows the high and low sales prices for our common shares as reported on the New York Stock Exchange for the quarters (or portions thereof) indicated.

	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
2018		
First quarter (through February 26, 2018)	\$31.25	\$27.05
2017		
Fourth quarter	\$35.80	\$29.00
Third quarter	\$35.25	\$30.80
Second quarter	\$34.45	\$30.30
First quarter	\$33.45	\$29.63
2016		
Fourth quarter	\$31.20	\$24.25
Third quarter	\$25.24	\$20.55
Second quarter	\$23.14	\$18.54
First quarter	\$23.09	\$18.36

The last reported sale price of our common shares on February 26, 2018, as reported by the New York Stock Exchange, was \$30.45. There were approximately 500 record holders of our common shares as of February 26, 2018. Because many of our common shares are held by brokers and other institutions on behalf of shareholders, we are unable to estimate the total number of shareholders represented by these record holders.

We have not paid any cash dividends on our common shares in the past. In addition, our credit facility contains financial covenants which could restrict the amount of dividends we may pay to shareholders. We continually reevaluate our capital allocation approach as we manage our level of outstanding debt and the return of capital to our shareholders.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table provides information about the Company's repurchase of its equity securities that are registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act during the quarter ending December 31, 2017, at a total cost of \$23.5 million:

Period	(a) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased⁽¹⁾	(b) Average Price Paid per Share (or Unit)⁽²⁾	(c) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	(d) Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares (or Units) that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs⁽³⁾
October 1 to 31, 2017	80,000	\$30.57	80,000	\$84.4 million
November 1 to 30, 2017	324,517	\$30.21	324,517	\$74.6 million
December 1 to 31, 2017	375,000	\$29.85	375,000	\$63.4 million
Total	779,517	\$30.08	779,517	

⁽¹⁾ All share repurchases were made on the open market.

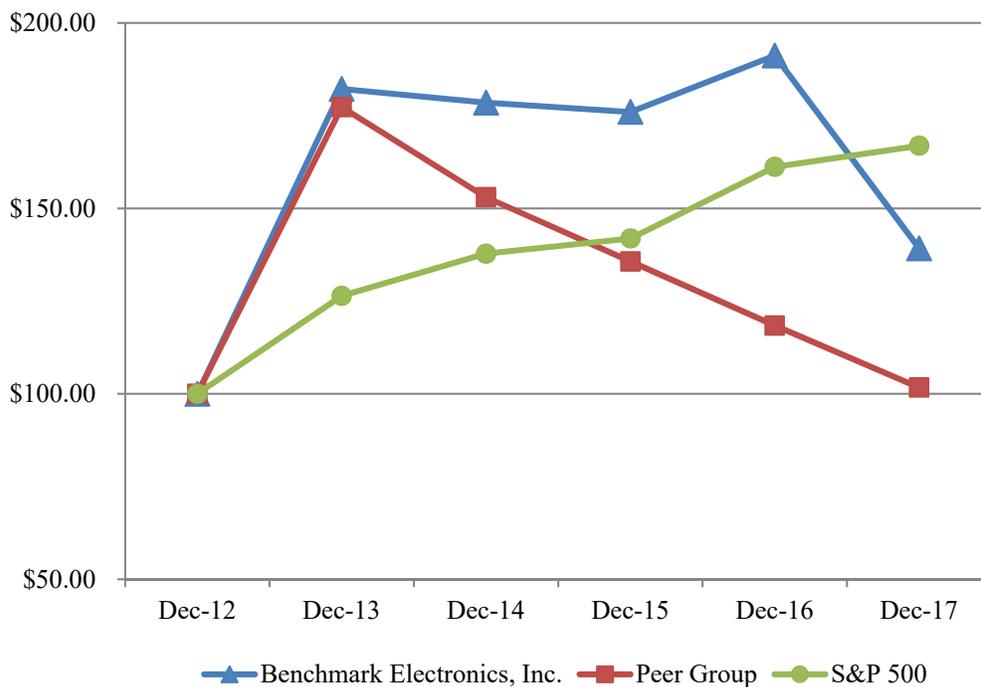
⁽²⁾ Average price paid per share is calculated on a settlement basis and excludes commissions.

⁽³⁾ In December 2015, the Board of Directors approved the repurchase of up to \$100 million of the Company's outstanding common shares. Share purchases may be made in the open market, in privately negotiated transactions or block transactions, at the discretion of the Company's management and as market conditions warrant. Purchases will be funded from available cash and may be commenced, suspended or discontinued at any time without prior notice. Shares repurchased under the program are retired.

During 2017, the Company repurchased a total of 1.0 million common shares for \$29.3 million at an average price of \$30.46 per share. Since 2013, the Company has repurchased a total of 9.9 million common shares for \$224.6 million at an average price of \$22.57 per share.

Performance Graph

The following graph compares the cumulative total shareholder return on our common shares for the five-year period commencing December 31, 2012 and ending December 31, 2017, with the cumulative total return of the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index (which does not include Benchmark), and the Peer Group Index, which is composed of Celestica Inc., Flex Ltd., Jabil Circuit, Inc., Plexus Corp and Sanmina Corporation. Dividend reinvestment has been assumed.



	<u>Dec-12</u>	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>
Benchmark Electronics, Inc.	\$ 100.00	\$ 182.20	\$ 178.50	\$ 176.00	\$ 191.20	\$ 139.20
Peer Group	\$ 100.00	\$ 177.30	\$ 153.00	\$ 135.70	\$ 118.40	\$ 101.70
S&P 500	\$ 100.00	\$ 126.40	\$ 137.80	\$ 141.90	\$ 161.20	\$ 166.90

Item 6. Selected Financial Data.

(in thousands, except per share data)	Year Ended December 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Selected Statements of Income Data					
Sales	\$ 2,466,811	\$ 2,310,415	\$ 2,540,873	\$ 2,797,061	\$ 2,506,467
Cost of sales	2,239,114	2,096,952	2,321,619	2,576,745	2,318,841
Gross profit	227,697	213,463	219,254	220,316	187,626
Selling, general and administrative expenses	130,401	113,448	107,462	112,378	97,171
Amortization of intangible assets	10,065	11,838	4,962	3,781	3,302
Restructuring charges and other costs ⁽¹⁾	8,628	12,539	13,861	7,131	9,348
Thailand flood-related items, net of insurance ⁽²⁾	—	—	—	(1,571)	(41,325)
Asset impairment charge and other ⁽³⁾	—	—	—	(1,547)	2,606
Income from operations	78,603	75,638	92,969	100,144	116,524
Interest expense	(9,405)	(9,304)	(2,996)	(1,890)	(1,934)
Interest income	5,370	2,136	1,207	2,048	1,688
Other expense	(1,786)	(282)	(1,141)	(1,673)	(315)
Income tax expense (benefit) ⁽⁴⁾	104,747	4,141	(5,362)	17,388	5,018
Net income (loss)	\$ (31,965)	\$ 64,047	\$ 95,401	\$ 81,241	\$ 110,945
Earnings (loss) per share: ⁽⁵⁾					
Basic	\$ (0.64)	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.52	\$ 2.05
Diluted	\$ (0.64)	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.50	\$ 2.03
Weighted-average number of shares outstanding:					
Basic	49,680	49,298	51,573	53,538	54,213
Diluted	49,680	49,825	52,088	54,222	54,779

(in thousands)	December 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Selected Balance Sheet Data					
Working capital	\$ 1,140,354	\$ 1,119,281	\$ 1,055,534	\$ 1,019,538	\$ 932,940
Total assets	2,097,317	1,998,668	1,893,878	1,675,348	1,655,086
Total debt	211,680	223,648	235,193	9,521	10,103
Shareholders' equity	\$ 1,328,819	\$ 1,365,465	\$ 1,321,904	\$ 1,289,625	\$ 1,226,819

- (1) See Note 17 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion of the restructuring charges and integration and acquisition-related charges occurring in 2017, 2016 and 2015. Also during 2017, we incurred \$3.7 million in costs related to the relocation and transition of our corporate headquarters to Arizona. In 2016, we also recognized \$4.3 million of costs in connection with a proxy contest relating to our 2016 annual shareholders meeting, \$3.0 million in connection with the separation of our former Chief Executive Officer in September 2016 and \$0.4 million in other charges. During 2014 and 2013, the Company recognized restructuring charges totaling \$7.1 million and \$7.1 million, respectively, related to reductions in workforce and the resizing and closure of certain facilities. Also during 2013, the Company recognized \$2.3 million of integration and acquisition-related charges related to the Suntron and CTS acquisitions.
- (2) During the first quarter of 2014, we received the final \$1.6 million of insurance proceeds related to the flooding of our facilities in Ayudhaya, Thailand during the fourth quarter of 2011. As a result of the flooding and temporary closing of these facilities, the Company incurred property losses and flood related costs during 2012, which were partially offset by insurance recoveries. During 2013, Thailand flood-related items resulted in a gain of \$41.3 million.
- (3) During the fourth quarter of 2014, the Company recorded a \$1.5 million gain on the sale of its Tianjin, China subsidiary, including its manufacturing facility, which had been held for sale since 2008. During the second quarter of 2013, the Company recorded a non-cash impairment charge of \$3.8 million related to this facility. Also during the second quarter of 2013, the Company disposed of a non-manufacturing facility in Thailand for \$1.6 million resulting in a gain of \$1.2 million.
- (4) See Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion of income taxes. During the fourth quarter of 2017, the Company recorded the estimated impact of the U.S. Tax Reform totaling \$97.7 million. During the fourth quarter of 2016, the Company reduced its unrecognized tax benefits reserve by \$8.3 million (including penalties and interest). During the fourth quarter of 2015, the Company reduced its deferred tax valuation allowance by \$19.5 million and reduced its unrecognized tax benefits reserve by \$1.7 million. During the fourth quarter of 2013, the Company reduced its deferred tax valuation allowance in the U.S. by \$17.5 million.
- (5) See Note 1(i) to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the basis of computing earnings per share.

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto in Item 8 of this Report. You should also bear in mind the Risk Factors set forth in Item 1A, any of which could materially and adversely affect the Company's business, operating results, financial condition and the actual results of the matters addressed by the forward-looking statements contained in the following discussion.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Sales for 2017 were \$2.5 billion, a 7% increase from sales of \$2.3 billion in 2016. During 2017, sales to customers in our various industry sectors fluctuated from 2016 as follows:

- Industrials decreased by 8%,
- A&D increased by 10%,
- Medical increased by 9%,
- Test & Instrumentation increased by 42%,
- Computing increased by 22%, and
- Telecommunications decreased by 17%.

The overall revenue increase was driven by strong Test & Instrumentation growth in our precision machining serving the semi-capital equipment market, A&D growth primarily from defense programs, Medical growth from higher demand and program ramps from new and existing customers, and Computing strength from existing storage and new security programs.

Our sales depend on the success of our customers, some of which operate in businesses associated with rapid technological change and consequent product obsolescence. Developments adverse to our major customers or their products, or the failure of a major customer to pay for components or services, can adversely affect us. A substantial percentage of our sales are made to a small number of customers, and the loss of a major customer, if not replaced, would adversely affect us. Sales to our ten largest customers represented 46% and 43% of our sales in 2017 and 2016, respectively. In 2017, sales to International Business Machines Corporation and Applied Materials, Inc. represented 12% and 10%, respectively, of our sales. In 2016, no single customer represented 10% or more of our sales.

During 2017, we incurred a \$2.7 million charge for the write-down of inventory and a provision to accounts receivable associated with the insolvency of a customer. These net charges increased cost of sales by \$1.0 million and SG&A by \$1.7 million.

We experience fluctuations in gross profit from period to period. Different programs contribute different gross profits depending on factors such as the type of services involved, location of production, size of the program, complexity of the product and level of material costs associated with the various products. Moreover, new programs can contribute relatively less to our gross profit in their early stages when manufacturing volumes are usually lower, resulting in inefficiencies and unabsorbed manufacturing overhead costs. In addition, a number of our new and higher-volume programs remain subject to competitive constraints that can exert downward pressure on our margins. During periods of low production volume, we generally have idle capacity and reduced gross profit.

We have undertaken initiatives to restructure our business operations with the intention of improving utilization and reducing costs. During 2017, we recognized \$4.9 million of restructuring charges in connection with reductions in workforce of certain facilities primarily in the Americas. In addition, we incurred \$3.7 million in costs related to the relocation and transition of our corporate headquarters to Arizona.

Recent Developments

On December 22, 2017, the U.S. Tax Reform was enacted. The legislation significantly changed as of January 1, 2018 U.S. tax law by, among other things, lowering corporate income tax rates from 35% to 21%, repealing the alternative minimum tax (AMT), limiting the deductibility of U.S. interest expense, limiting the ability to utilize net operating losses generated in the future and implementing a territorial tax system. As part of the transition to a territorial system, the U.S. Tax Reform also imposes a one-time transition tax on deemed repatriated earnings of foreign subsidiaries to be recorded as of the period ended December 31, 2017. The provisional net impact of the U.S. Tax Reform for the period ended December 31, 2017 on income tax expense was \$97.7 million due to the one-time mandatory transition tax on the deemed repatriation of undistributed foreign earnings and the re-measurement of U.S. deferred tax assets and liabilities as a result of the lower U.S. corporate income tax rate. See Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Report.

To minimize tax base erosion with a territorial tax system, beginning in 2018, the U.S. Tax Reform provides for a new global intangible low-taxed income (GILTI) provision. Under the GILTI provision, certain foreign subsidiary earnings in excess of an allowable return on the foreign subsidiary's depreciable tangible assets are included in U.S. taxable income offset by a limited deemed paid foreign tax credit. As a result of our foreign tax holidays in our certain of our foreign jurisdictions, we expect to be subject to GILTI; however, the inclusion is expected to be offset by net operating loss carry forwards in the U.S. We are still evaluating, pending further interpretive guidance, whether to make a policy election to treat the GILTI tax as a period expense or to provide U.S. deferred taxes on foreign temporary differences that are expected to generate GILTI income when they reverse in future years.

We consider the accounting for the U.S. Tax Reform to be incomplete due to the forthcoming guidance and our ongoing analysis of final data and tax positions which may impact these calculations.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following table presents the percentage relationship that certain items in our Consolidated Statements of Income bear to sales for the periods indicated. The financial information and the discussion below should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto in Item 8 of this Report.

	Year ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Sales	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Cost of sales	90.8	90.8	91.4
Gross profit	9.2	9.2	8.6
Selling, general and administrative expenses	5.3	4.9	4.2
Amortization of intangible assets	0.4	0.5	0.2
Restructuring charges and other costs	0.3	0.5	0.5
Income from operations	3.2	3.3	3.7
Other expense, net	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.1)
Income before income taxes	3.0	3.0	3.6
Income tax expense (benefit)	4.3	0.2	(0.2)
Net income (loss)	(1.3)%	2.8 %	3.8 %

2017 Compared With 2016

Sales

As noted above, sales increased 7% in 2017. The percentages of our sales by sector were as follows:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<u>Higher-Value Markets</u>		
Industrials	20 %	23 %
A&D	16	16
Medical	15	15
Testing & instrumentation	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>
	65	65
<u>Traditional Markets</u>		
Telecommunications	13	16
Computing	<u>22</u>	<u>19</u>
	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>
Total	<u>100 %</u>	<u>100 %</u>

Industrials. 2017 sales decreased 8% to \$497.1 million from \$543.1 million in 2016 primarily as a result of softness across several of our top customers.

Aerospace and Defense. 2017 sales increased 10% to \$397.9 million from \$361.4 million in 2016 primarily due to increased demand from our defense customers.

Medical. 2017 sales increased 9% to \$375.8 million from \$346.2 million in 2016 from higher demand and program ramps from new and existing customers.

Testing & Instrumentation. 2017 sales increased 42% to \$347.1 million from \$243.8 million in 2016. The increase reflected strong growth in our precision machining serving the semi-capital equipment market.

Computing. 2017 sales increased 22% to \$541.4 million from \$445.4 million in 2016. The increase is primarily due to increased strength from our existing storage customers and new security programs.

Telecommunications. 2017 sales decreased 17% to \$307.5 million from \$370.5 million in 2016. The decrease is primarily due to sales from new programs not offsetting lower demand from our existing customer base.

Our international operations are subject to the risks of doing business abroad. See Item 1A for factors pertaining to international sales, fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and a discussion of potential adverse effects in operating results associated with the risks of doing business abroad. During 2017 and 2016, 46% and 47%, respectively, of our sales were from international operations.

Gross Profit

Gross profit increased 7% to \$227.7 million for 2017 from \$213.5 million in 2016. During 2017, we incurred a \$1.0 million charge for the write-down of inventory associated with the insolvency of a customer. Including the inventory charge, gross profit as a percentage of sales was 9.2%. Excluding the inventory charge, gross profit as a percentage of sales increased to 9.3% from 9.2% in 2016 primarily due to higher sales and a better mix of higher-value sales.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

SG&A increased to \$130.4 million in 2017 from \$113.4 million in 2016. The increase was primarily a result of increased variable and stock-based compensation, investments in our sales and marketing organization and a \$1.7 million charge for a provision to accounts receivable associated with the insolvency of a customer. Including this provision to accounts receivable, SG&A, as a percentage of sales, increased to 5.3% in 2017 from 4.9% in 2016. Excluding this provision to accounts receivable, SG&A as a percentage of sales increased to 5.2% in 2017 from 4.9% in 2016. The increase in SG&A as a percentage of sales related primarily to increased variable and stock-based compensation and the investment in our sales and marketing organization.

Amortization of Intangible Assets

Amortization of intangible assets decreased to \$10.1 million in 2017 from \$11.8 million in 2016 due primarily to certain customer relationship intangible assets that became fully amortized as of December 31, 2016.

Restructuring Charges and Other Costs

During 2017, we recognized \$4.9 million of restructuring charges in connection with reductions in workforce of certain facilities primarily in the Americas. In addition, we incurred \$3.7 million in costs related to the relocation and transition of our corporate headquarters to Arizona. During 2016, we recognized \$4.7 million of restructuring charges in connection with reductions in workforce of certain facilities primarily in the Americas, and \$0.1 million of integration costs. In 2016, we also recognized \$4.3 million of costs in connection with a proxy contest relating to our 2016 annual shareholders meeting, \$3.0 million in connection with the separation of our former Chief Executive Officer in September 2016 and \$0.4 million in other charges. See Notes 2 and 17 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Report.

Interest Income

Interest income increased to \$5.4 million in 2017 from \$2.1 million in 2016 due to investment of higher levels of available cash in interest bearing cash equivalents at higher interest rates.

Income Tax Expense.

Income tax expense of \$104.7 million in 2017 represented a 143.9% effective tax rate for 2017, compared with \$4.1 million for 2016 that represented an effective tax rate of 6.0%. In 2017, we incurred a net estimated tax expense of \$97.7 million due to the one-time mandatory transition tax on the deemed repatriation of undistributed foreign earnings and the re-measurement of U.S. deferred tax assets and liabilities as a result of the U.S. Tax Reform. Also during 2017, we recorded a \$1.7 million excess tax benefit for stock based compensation. In 2016, we recorded the reversal of uncertain tax benefits of \$8.3 million relating to the expiration of the statute of limitations for a liquidated foreign subsidiary. Excluding these tax items, the effective tax rate would have been 11.9% in 2017 compared to 18.2% in 2016. The decrease in the effective tax rate results primarily from a taxable loss in the U.S. and higher taxable income in geographies with lower tax rates.

We have been granted certain tax incentives, including tax holidays, for our subsidiaries in China, Malaysia and Thailand that will expire at various dates, unless extended or otherwise renegotiated, through 2018 in China, 2021 in Malaysia, and 2028 in Thailand. See Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Report.

Net Income (Loss)

We reported a net loss of \$32.0 million, or \$0.64 per diluted share for 2017, compared with net income of \$64.0 million, or \$1.29 per diluted share for 2016. The net decrease of \$96.0 million in 2017 is primarily the result of the tax expense related to the effects of the 2017 U.S. Tax Reform discussed above.

2016 Compared With 2015

Sales

Sales for 2016 were \$2.3 billion, a 9% decrease from sales of \$2.5 billion in 2015. The percentages of our sales by sector were as follows:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<u>Higher-Value Markets</u>		
Industrials	23 %	25 %
A&D	16	8
Medical	15	14
Testing & instrumentation	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>
	65	56
<u>Traditional Markets</u>		
Telecommunications	16	22
Computing	<u>19</u>	<u>22</u>
	<u>35</u>	<u>44</u>
Total	<u>100 %</u>	<u>100 %</u>

Industrials. 2016 sales decreased 16% to \$543.1 million from \$644.2 million in 2015 primarily as a result of broad based end customer demand softness.

Aerospace and Defense. 2016 sales increased 80% to \$361.4 million from \$201.3 million in 2015 primarily as a result of the Secure Acquisition.

Telecommunications. 2016 sales decreased 35% to \$370.5 million from \$570.9 million in 2015. The decrease related primarily to a maturing and non-recurring program at one of our top customers and some customers experiencing order declines.

Computing. 2016 sales decreased 19% to \$445.4 million from \$552.3 million in 2015. The decrease was primarily due to lower demand from most of our Computing customers.

Medical. 2016 sales decreased 1% to \$346.2 million from \$350.5 million in 2015.

Testing & Instrumentation. 2016 sales increased 10% to \$243.8 million from \$221.7 million in 2015. The increase stemmed primarily from strong demand from our semi-cap equipment customers.

During 2016 and 2015, 47% and 50%, respectively, of our sales were from international operations.

Gross Profit

Gross profit decreased to \$213.5 million for 2016 from \$219.2 million in 2015. Our 2016 gross profit as a percentage of sales increased to 9.2% from 8.6% in 2015 primarily due to benefits from our increased higher-value market revenue base and capacity alignment and operational excellence initiatives, offset by decreased utilization associated with lower sales volumes.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

SG&A increased to \$113.4 million in 2016 from \$107.5 million in 2015, primarily related to the Secure Acquisition and investments in our sales and marketing organization. SG&A expenses, as a percentage of sales were 4.9% and

4.2%, respectively, for 2016 and 2015. The increase in SG&A as a percentage of sales related primarily to the decreased sales volumes and the items noted above.

Amortization of Intangible Assets

Amortization of intangible assets increased to \$11.8 million in 2016 from \$5.0 million in 2015 due to the impact of the Secure Acquisition.

Restructuring Charges and Other Costs

During 2016, we recognized \$4.7 million of restructuring charges in connection with reductions in workforce of certain facilities primarily in the Americas, and \$0.1 million of integration costs. In addition, we recognized \$4.3 million of costs in connection with a proxy contest relating to our 2016 annual shareholders meeting, \$3.0 million in connection with the separation of our former Chief Executive Officer in September 2016 and \$0.4 million in other charges. In 2015, we recognized \$13.9 million of restructuring charges and integration and acquisition-related costs primarily related to the Secure Acquisition.

Interest Expense

Interest expense increased to \$9.3 million in 2016 from \$3.0 million in 2015 due to the additional debt incurred in connection with the Secure Acquisition.

Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense of \$4.1 million represented a 6.1% effective tax rate for 2016, compared with a \$5.4 million benefit that represented an effective tax rate of negative 6.0% for 2015. In 2016, we recorded the reversal of uncertain tax benefits of \$8.3 million relating to the expiration of the statute of limitations for a liquidated foreign subsidiary. In 2015, we recorded discrete tax benefits of \$21.2 million related to a reduced valuation allowance on U.S. net operating losses and the release of tax reserves associated with a foreign subsidiary for which the statutory period for tax audits expired. Excluding these tax items, the effective tax rate would have been 18.2% in 2016 compared to 17.6% in 2015. The increase in the effective tax rate results primarily from the geographic mix of profitability.

Net Income

We reported net income of \$64.0 million, or \$1.29 per diluted share for 2016, compared with net income of \$95.4 million, or \$1.83 per diluted share for 2015. The net decrease of \$31.4 million in 2017 derived from the factors discussed above.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

We have historically financed our organic growth and operations through funds generated from operations and occasional borrowings under our revolving credit facility. Cash and cash equivalents totaled \$742.5 million at December 31, 2017 and \$681.4 million at December 31, 2016, of which \$673.4 million and \$626.2 million, respectively, were held outside the U.S. in various foreign subsidiaries.

During the three months ended December 31, 2017, as a result of the U.S. Tax Reform, all cumulative undistributed foreign earnings of our subsidiaries were subject to the U.S. mandatory transition tax, which resulted in a provisional tax expense of \$101.6 million. After reduction by U.S. tax loss carryforwards and U.S. tax credit carryforwards, we accrued a provisional U.S. income tax liability of \$87.7 million at December 31, 2017. We plan to pay the transition tax liability over an eight-year payment schedule as prescribed by the U.S. Tax Reform. Approximately \$7.0 million is payable in less than one year, \$14.0 million is payable between 1 to 3 years, another

\$14.0 million is payable between 3 to 5 years, and the remaining \$52.7 million is payable in more than 5 years. Though these foreign earnings have been deemed to be repatriated from a U.S. federal tax perspective, we have not yet completed our assessment of the U.S. Tax Reform on our plans to reinvest foreign earnings and as such have not changed our prior conclusion that the earnings are indefinitely reinvested.

Cash provided by operating activities was \$145.8 million in 2017. The cash provided by operations during 2017 consisted primarily of \$32.0 million of net loss, adjusted for \$48.7 million of depreciation and amortization, a \$6.4 million decrease in accounts receivable, a \$87.3 million increase in income tax liabilities, net and a \$29.5 million increase in accounts payable. The increase in income tax liabilities is a result of the estimated impact of U.S. Tax Reform. The increase in accounts payable was a result of the timing of payments. Working capital was \$1.1 billion at December 31, 2017 and \$1.1 billion at December 31, 2016.

We purchase components only after customer orders or forecasts are received, which mitigates, but does not eliminate, the risk of loss on inventories. Supplies of electronic components and other materials used in operations are subject to industry-wide shortages. In certain instances, suppliers may allocate available quantities to us. If shortages of these components and other material supplies used in operations occur, vendors may not ship the quantities we need for production, and we may be forced to delay shipments, which can increase backorders and impact cash flows.

Cash used in investing activities was \$56.1 million in 2017 primarily due to purchases of additional property, plant and equipment totaling \$50.8 million. The purchases of property, plant and equipment were primarily for machinery and equipment in the Americas and Asia.

Cash used in financing activities was \$31.4 million in 2017. Share repurchases totaled \$29.3 million, net principal payments on long-term debt totaled \$12.4 million, and we received \$11.2 million from the exercise of stock options.

Under the terms of our \$430.0 million Credit Agreement, in addition to the Term Loan facility, we have a \$200.0 million five-year revolving credit facility to be used for general corporate purposes with a maturity date of November 12, 2020. The Credit Agreement includes an accordion feature pursuant to which total commitments under the facility may be increased by an additional \$150.0 million, subject to satisfaction of certain conditions. As of December 31, 2017, we had \$207.0 million in borrowings outstanding under the Term Loan facility and \$2.6 million in letters of credit outstanding under our revolving credit facility. During 2017, the Company borrowed and repaid \$100.0 million of under the revolving credit facility. \$197.4 million remains available for future borrowings under the revolving credit facility. See Note 6 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Report for more information regarding the terms of the Credit Agreement.

Our operations, and the operations of businesses we acquire, are subject to certain foreign, federal, state and local regulatory requirements relating to environmental, waste management, health and safety matters. We believe we operate in substantial compliance with all applicable requirements and we seek to ensure that newly acquired businesses comply or will comply substantially with applicable requirements. To date, the costs of compliance and workplace and environmental remediation have not been material to us. However, material costs and liabilities may arise from these requirements or from new, modified or more stringent requirements in the future. In addition, our past, current and future operations, and the operations of businesses we have or may acquire, may give rise to claims of exposure by employees or the public, or to other claims or liabilities relating to environmental, waste management or health and safety concerns.

As of December 31, 2017, we had cash and cash equivalents totaling \$742.5 million and \$197.4 million available for borrowings under the Credit Agreement. During the next 12 months, we believe our capital expenditures will approximate \$50 to \$60 million, principally for machinery and equipment to support our ongoing business around the globe.

In December 2015, our Board of Directors approved the repurchase of up to \$100.0 million of our outstanding

common shares. As of December 31, 2017, we had \$63.4 million remaining under the repurchase program to purchase additional shares. We are under no commitment or obligation to repurchase any particular amount of common shares.

Management believes that our existing cash balances and funds generated from operations will be sufficient to permit us to meet our liquidity requirements over the next 12 months. Management further believes that our ongoing cash flows from operations and any borrowings we may incur under our revolving credit facility will enable us to meet operating cash requirements in future years. If we consummated significant acquisitions in the future, our capital needs would increase and could possibly result in our need to increase available borrowings under our Credit Agreement or access public or private debt and equity markets. There can be no assurance, however, that we would be successful in raising additional debt or equity on acceptable terms.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

Management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations is based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Our significant accounting policies are summarized in Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Report. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. On an ongoing basis, we evaluate our estimates, including those related to accounts receivable, inventories, income taxes, long-lived assets, stock-based compensation and contingencies and litigation. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ materially from these estimates. We believe the following critical accounting policies affect our more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

Our accounts receivable balance is recorded net of allowances for amounts not expected to be collected from our customers. Because our accounts receivable are typically unsecured, we periodically evaluate their collectibility based on a combination of factors, including a particular customer's ability to pay as well as the age of the receivables. To evaluate a specific customer's ability to pay, we analyze financial statements, payment history and various information or disclosures by the customer or other publicly available information. In cases where the evidence suggests a customer may not be able to satisfy its obligation to us, we establish a specific allowance in an amount we determine appropriate for the perceived risk. If the financial condition of our customers were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments, additional allowances may be required.

Inventory Obsolescence

We purchase inventory based on forecasted demand and record inventory at the lower of cost or market. We write down inventory for estimated obsolescence as necessary in an amount equal to the difference between the cost of inventory and estimated market value based on assumptions of future demands and market conditions. We evaluate our inventory on a quarterly basis based on current and forecasted usage and the latest forecasts of product demand and production requirements from our customers. Customers frequently make changes to their forecasts, which requires us to make changes to our inventory purchases, commitments, and production scheduling and may require us to cancel open purchase commitments with our vendors. This process may lead to on-hand inventory quantities and on-order purchase commitments that exceed our customers' revised needs, or parts that become obsolete before use in production. We write down excess and obsolete inventory when we determine that our customers are not responsible for it, or if we believe our customers will be unable to fulfill their obligation to ultimately purchase it. If actual market conditions are less favorable than those we projected, additional inventory write-downs may be required.

Income Taxes

We estimate our income tax provision in each of the jurisdictions where we operate, including estimating exposures related to uncertain tax positions. We must also make judgments regarding the ability to realize our deferred tax assets. We record a valuation allowance to reduce our deferred tax assets to the amount that we believe is more likely than not to be realized. Our valuation allowance as of December 31, 2017 of \$15.8 million primarily relates to deferred tax assets from our foreign net operating loss tax carryforwards of \$11.8 million.

Differences in our future operating results as compared to the estimates utilized in the determination of the valuation allowances could result in adjustments in valuation allowances in future periods. For example, a significant increase in our operations in the United States, future accretive acquisitions in the United States and any movement in the mix of profits from our international operations to the United States would result in a reduction in the valuation allowance and would increase income in the period such determination was made. Alternatively, significant economic downturns in the United States generating additional operating loss carryforwards and potential movements in the mix of profits to international locations would result in an increase in the valuation allowance and would decrease income in the period such determination was made.

During 2015, we evaluated the recoverability of our deferred tax assets using the criteria described above and concluded that our projected future taxable income in the U.S. was sufficient to utilize additional net operating loss carryforwards and other deferred tax assets. As a result, we reduced our U.S. valuation allowance by \$19.6 million in 2015.

On December 22, 2017, the SEC staff issued Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 118 (SAB 118), which provides guidance on accounting for the tax effects of the U.S. Tax Reform. SAB 118 provides a measurement period that should not extend beyond one year from the U.S. Tax Reform enactment date for companies to complete their accounting of the impact on income taxes. Until the accounting is complete, companies may record provisional estimates. As a result of the U.S. Tax Reform, we have recorded provisional amounts in relation to the accounting of the transition tax in 2017. We consider the accounting of the transition tax and other items as further disclosed in Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Report to be incomplete due to the forthcoming guidance and our ongoing analysis of final data and tax positions which may impact these calculations. We expect to complete our analysis within the measurement period in accordance with SAB 118.

We are subject to examination by tax authorities for different periods in various U.S. and foreign tax jurisdictions. During the course of such examinations, disputes may occur as to matters of fact and/or law. In most tax jurisdictions the passage of time without examination will result in the expiration of applicable statutes of limitations, thereby precluding the taxing authority from examining the relevant tax period(s). We believe that we have adequately provided for our tax liabilities.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets and Goodwill

Long-lived assets, such as property, plant, and equipment and purchased intangibles subject to amortization, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. The recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to the estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its estimated undiscounted future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized by the amount that the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the fair value of the asset.

Goodwill is tested for impairment on an annual basis, at a minimum, and whenever events and circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may be impaired. Circumstances that may lead to impairment include unforeseen decreases in future performance or industry demand or the restructuring of our operations as a result of a change in our business strategy. We perform a qualitative assessment to determine if goodwill is potentially impaired. If the qualitative assessment indicates that it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its

carrying amount, or if we elect not to perform a qualitative assessment, then we would be required to perform a quantitative impairment test for goodwill. This two-step process involves determining the fair values of the reporting units and comparing those fair values to the carrying values, including goodwill, of the reporting unit. An impairment loss would be recognized to the extent that the carrying amount exceeds the asset's fair value. For purposes of performing our goodwill impairment assessment, our reporting units are the same as our operating segments as defined in Note 14 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Report. As of both December 31, 2017 and 2016, we had goodwill of approximately \$191.6 million associated with our Americas and Asia business segments.

Based on our qualitative assessments of goodwill as of December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, we concluded that it was more likely than not that the fair value of our Americas and Asia business segments were greater than their carrying amounts, and therefore no further testing was required.

Changes in economic and operating conditions that occur after the annual impairment analysis or an interim impairment analysis, and that impact these assumptions, may result in a future goodwill impairment charge.

Stock-Based Compensation

We recognize stock-based compensation expense in our consolidated statements of income. For performance-based restricted stock unit awards, compensation expense is based on the probability that the performance goals will be achieved, which is monitored by management throughout the measurement period. If it becomes probable, based on our expectation of performance during that measurement period, that more or less than the previous estimate of the awarded shares will vest, an adjustment to stock-based compensation expense is recognized as a change in accounting estimate. If actual results or future changes in estimates differ significantly from our current estimates, stock-based compensation could increase or decrease. See Note 1(l) to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Report.

Recently Enacted Accounting Principles

See Note 1(q) to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Report for a discussion of recently enacted accounting principles.

CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

We have certain contractual obligations that extend beyond 2018 under lease obligations and debt arrangements. Non-cancelable purchase commitments do not typically extend beyond the normal lead-time of several weeks. Purchase orders beyond this time frame are typically cancelable. We do not use off-balance sheet financing techniques other than traditional operating leases, and we have not guaranteed the obligations of any entity that is not one of our wholly owned subsidiaries. The total contractual cash obligations in existence at December 31, 2017 due pursuant to contractual commitments are:

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>Payments due by period</u>				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Less than 1 year</u>	<u>1-3 years</u>	<u>3-5 years</u>	<u>More than 5 years</u>
Operating lease obligations	\$ 69,127	\$ 13,750	\$ 22,428	\$ 13,723	\$ 19,226
Capital lease obligations	9,373	1,712	3,527	3,669	465
Long-term debt obligations	207,000	17,250	189,750	—	—
Deemed repatriation tax ⁽¹⁾	<u>87,692</u>	<u>7,015</u>	<u>14,031</u>	<u>14,031</u>	<u>52,615</u>
Total obligations	<u>\$ 373,192</u>	<u>\$ 39,727</u>	<u>\$ 229,736</u>	<u>\$ 31,423</u>	<u>\$ 72,306</u>

⁽¹⁾ U.S federal income tax on deemed mandatory repatriation is payable over 8 years pursuant to the U.S. Tax Reform. See Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Report.

OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

As of December 31, 2017, we did not have any significant off-balance sheet arrangements. See Note 11 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Report.

Item 7A. *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.*

Our international sales comprise a significant portion of our net sales. We are exposed to risks associated with operating internationally, including:

- Foreign currency exchange risk;
- Import and export duties, taxes and regulatory changes;
- Inflationary economies or currencies; and
- Economic and political instability.

Additionally, some of our operations are in developing countries. Certain events, including natural disasters, can impact the infrastructure of a developing country more severely than they would impact the infrastructure of a developed country. A developing country can also take longer to recover from such events, which could lead to delays in our ability to resume full operations.

We transact business in various foreign countries and are subject to foreign currency fluctuation risks. We use natural hedging and forward contracts to economically hedge transactional exposure primarily associated with trade accounts receivable, other receivables and trade accounts payable that are denominated in a currency other than the functional currency of the respective operating entity. We do not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes. The forward contracts in place as of December 31, 2017 have not been designated as accounting hedges and, therefore, changes in fair value are recorded within our Consolidated Statements of Income.

Our sales are substantially denominated in U.S. dollars. Our foreign currency cash flows are generated in certain European and Asian countries and Mexico.

We are also exposed to market risk for changes in interest rates on our financial instruments, a portion of which relates to our invested cash balances. We do not use derivative financial instruments in our investing activities. We place cash and cash equivalents and investments with various major financial institutions. We protect our invested principal funds by limiting default risk, market risk and reinvestment risk. We mitigate default risk by generally investing in investment grade securities.

We are also exposed to interest rate risk on borrowings under our Credit Agreement. As of December 31, 2017, we had \$207.0 million outstanding on the floating rate term loan facility, and we have an interest rate swap agreement with a notional amount of \$155.3 million. Under this swap agreement, we receive variable rate interest rate payments and pay fixed rate interest payments. The effect of this swap is to convert a portion of our floating rate interest expense to fixed interest rate expense. The interest rate swap is designated as a cash flow hedge.

For additional information, see Note 11 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Report.

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

BENCHMARK ELECTRONICS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Balance Sheets

(in thousands, except par value)	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 742,546	\$ 681,433
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$105 and \$2,838, respectively	436,560	440,692
Inventories	397,181	381,334
Prepaid expenses and other assets	42,263	28,057
Income taxes receivable	120	146
Total current assets	<u>1,618,670</u>	<u>1,531,662</u>
Property, plant and equipment, net	186,473	166,148
Goodwill	191,616	191,616
Deferred income taxes	4,034	6,572
Other, net	96,524	102,670
	<u>\$ 2,097,317</u>	<u>\$ 1,998,668</u>
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Current liabilities:		
Current installments of long-term debt and capital lease obligations	\$ 18,274	\$ 12,396
Accounts payable	362,701	326,249
Income taxes payable	11,662	3,534
Accrued liabilities	85,679	70,202
Total current liabilities	<u>478,316</u>	<u>412,381</u>
Long-term debt and capital lease obligations, less current installments	193,406	211,252
Other long-term liabilities	89,749	9,570
Deferred income taxes	7,027	—
Shareholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, \$0.10 par value; 5,000 shares authorized, none issued	—	—
Common stock, \$0.10 par value; 145,000 shares authorized; issued and outstanding – 49,143 and 49,330, respectively	4,914	4,933
Additional paid-in capital	634,192	626,306
Retained earnings	697,862	748,402
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(8,149)	(14,176)
Total shareholders' equity	<u>1,328,819</u>	<u>1,365,465</u>
Commitments and contingencies		
	<u>\$ 2,097,317</u>	<u>\$ 1,998,668</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

BENCHMARK ELECTRONICS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss)

(in thousands, except per share data)	Year ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Sales	\$ 2,466,811	\$ 2,310,415	\$ 2,540,873
Cost of sales	<u>2,239,114</u>	<u>2,096,952</u>	<u>2,321,619</u>
Gross profit	227,697	213,463	219,254
Selling, general and administrative expenses	130,401	113,448	107,462
Amortization of intangible assets	10,065	11,838	4,962
Restructuring charges and other costs	<u>8,628</u>	<u>12,539</u>	<u>13,861</u>
Income from operations	78,603	75,638	92,969
Interest expense	(9,405)	(9,304)	(2,996)
Interest income	5,370	2,136	1,207
Other expense	<u>(1,786)</u>	<u>(282)</u>	<u>(1,141)</u>
Income before income taxes	72,782	68,188	90,039
Income tax expense (benefit)	<u>104,747</u>	<u>4,141</u>	<u>(5,362)</u>
Net income (loss)	<u>\$ (31,965)</u>	<u>\$ 64,047</u>	<u>\$ 95,401</u>
Earnings (loss) per share:			
Basic	\$ (0.64)	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.85
Diluted	\$ (0.64)	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.83
Weighted-average number of shares outstanding:			
Basic	49,680	49,298	51,573
Diluted	49,680	49,825	52,088

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

BENCHMARK ELECTRONICS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>Year ended December 31,</u>		
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Net income (loss)	\$ (31,965)	\$ 64,047	\$ 95,401
Other comprehensive income (loss):			
Foreign currency translation adjustments	4,977	(1,465)	(3,391)
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments, net of tax	33	21	(31)
Unrealized gain on derivative, net of tax	1,192	286	—
Other	<u>(175)</u>	<u>(2)</u>	<u>(119)</u>
Other comprehensive gain (loss)	<u>6,027</u>	<u>(1,160)</u>	<u>(3,541)</u>
Comprehensive income (loss)	<u>\$ (25,938)</u>	<u>\$ 62,887</u>	<u>\$ 91,860</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

BENCHMARK ELECTRONICS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity

(in thousands)	Shares	Common stock	Additional paid-in capital	Retained earnings	Accumulated other comprehensive loss	Total shareholders' equity
Balances, December 31, 2014	52,994	\$ 5,300	\$ 649,715	\$ 644,085	\$ (9,475)	\$ 1,289,625
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	7,709	—	—	7,709
Shares repurchased and retired	(3,066)	(307)	(33,477)	(34,581)	—	(68,365)
Stock options exercised	114	11	1,965	—	—	1,976
Vesting of restricted stock units, net						
of restricted share forfeitures	160	16	(16)	—	—	—
Shares withheld for taxes	(24)	(2)	(569)	—	—	(571)
Excess tax shortfall of						
stock-based compensation	—	—	(330)	—	—	(330)
Net income	—	—	—	95,401	—	95,401
Other comprehensive loss	—	—	—	—	(3,541)	(3,541)
Balances, December 31, 2015	50,178	5,018	624,997	704,905	(13,016)	1,321,904
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	5,322	—	—	5,322
Shares repurchased and retired	(1,959)	(196)	(21,396)	(20,337)	—	(41,929)
Stock options exercised	928	93	18,732	—	—	18,825
Vesting of restricted stock units, net						
of restricted share forfeitures	209	21	(21)	—	—	—
Shares withheld for taxes	(26)	(3)	(565)	—	—	(568)
Excess tax shortfall of						
stock-based compensation	—	—	(976)	—	—	(976)
Net income	—	—	—	64,047	—	64,047
Other comprehensive loss	—	—	—	—	(1,160)	(1,160)
Balances, December 31, 2016	49,330	4,933	626,093	748,615	(14,176)	1,365,465
Cumulative effect of accounting change	—	—	213	(213)	—	—
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	7,815	—	—	7,815
Shares repurchased and retired	(963)	(97)	(10,676)	(18,575)	—	(29,348)
Stock options exercised	582	58	11,150	—	—	11,208
Vesting of restricted stock units	206	21	(21)	—	—	—
Shares withheld for taxes	(12)	(1)	(382)	—	—	(383)
Net income	—	—	—	(31,965)	—	(31,965)
Other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	6,027	6,027
Balances, December 31, 2017	49,143	\$ 4,914	\$ 634,192	\$ 697,862	\$ (8,149)	\$ 1,328,819

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

BENCHMARK ELECTRONICS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income (loss)	\$ (31,965)	\$ 64,047	\$ 95,401
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation	36,668	41,398	42,822
Amortization	12,004	13,741	6,850
Deferred income taxes	9,262	7,055	(12,781)
Asset impairments	42	142	1,201
Gain on the sale of property, plant and equipment	(202)	(224)	(85)
Stock-based compensation expense	7,815	5,322	7,709
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation	-	(663)	(481)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of effects from business acquisitions:			
Accounts receivable	6,354	37,573	52,847
Inventories	(14,015)	27,749	3,974
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(10,434)	3,147	(3,202)
Accounts payable	29,542	76,039	(41,388)
Accrued liabilities	13,519	(28)	(4,533)
Income taxes	87,252	(2,210)	(959)
Net cash provided by operations	145,842	273,088	147,375
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Proceeds from sales of investments at par	250	200	50
Additions to property, plant and equipment	(50,786)	(30,478)	(37,128)
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	280	357	605
Additions to purchased software	(3,720)	(1,856)	(934)
Business acquisitions, net of cash acquired	—	10,750	(229,582)
Other	(2,145)	(218)	188
Net cash used in investing activities	(56,121)	(21,245)	(266,801)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Proceeds from stock options exercised	11,208	18,825	1,976
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation	—	663	481
Employee taxes paid for shares withheld	(383)	(568)	(571)
Borrowings under credit agreement	100,000	25,000	250,000
Principal payments on long-term debt and capital lease obligations	(112,396)	(37,301)	(20,676)
Share repurchases	(29,348)	(41,929)	(68,365)
Debt issuance costs	(433)	—	(3,779)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(31,352)	(35,310)	159,066
Effect of exchange rate changes	2,744	(1,095)	(1,021)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	61,113	215,438	38,619
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	681,433	465,995	427,376
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 742,546	\$ 681,433	\$ 465,995

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
(amounts in thousands, except per share data, unless otherwise noted)

Note 1—Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Business

Benchmark Electronics, Inc. (the Company) is a Texas corporation that provides worldwide integrated electronic manufacturing services (EMS), engineering and design services, and precision machining services. The Company provides services to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in the following industries: industrial controls, aerospace and defense (A&D), telecommunications, computers and related products for business enterprises, medical devices, and testing and instrumentation. The Company has manufacturing operations located in the United States and Mexico (the Americas), Asia and Europe.

(b) Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (U.S. GAAP) and include the financial statements of Benchmark Electronics, Inc. and its wholly owned and majority owned subsidiaries. All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

(c) Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Company considers all highly liquid debt instruments with an original maturity at the date of purchase of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Cash equivalents of \$581.4 million and \$531.8 million at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively, consisted primarily of money-market funds and time deposits with an initial term of less than three months.

(d) Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

Accounts receivable are recorded net of allowances for amounts not expected to be collected. In estimating the allowance, management considers a specific customer's financial condition, payment history, and various information or disclosures by the customer or other publicly available information. Accounts receivable are charged against the allowance after all reasonable efforts to collect the full amount (including litigation, where appropriate) have been exhausted. During 2017, the Company recorded a \$1.7 million charge for provisions to accounts receivable associated with the insolvency of a customer.

(e) Inventories

Inventories include material, labor and overhead and are stated at the lower of cost (principally first-in, first-out method) or market.

(f) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation is calculated on the straight-line method over the useful lives of the assets – 5 to 40 years for buildings and building improvements, 2 to 15 years for machinery and equipment, 2 to 12 years for furniture and fixtures and 2 to 8 years for vehicles. Leasehold improvements are amortized on the straight-line method over the shorter of the useful life of the improvement or the remainder of the lease term.

(g) Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Goodwill represents the excess of purchase price over fair value of net assets acquired. Goodwill and intangible assets acquired in a business combination and determined to have an indefinite useful life are not amortized, but instead assessed for impairment at least annually. Intangible assets with estimable useful lives are amortized over their respective estimated useful lives to their estimated residual values.

(h) Impairment of Long-Lived Assets and Goodwill

Long-lived assets, such as property, plant, and equipment, and purchased intangibles subject to amortization, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is evaluated by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its estimated undiscounted future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized by the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the estimated fair value of the asset. Assets to be disposed of would be separately disclosed and reported at the lower of the carrying amount or estimated fair value less costs to sell, and are no longer depreciated. The assets and liabilities of a disposed group classified as held for sale would be disclosed separately in the appropriate asset and liability sections of the consolidated balance sheet.

Goodwill is tested for impairment on an annual basis, at a minimum, and whenever events and changes in circumstances suggest that the carrying amount may be impaired. Circumstances that may lead to the impairment of goodwill include unforeseen decreases in future performance or industry demand or the restructuring of our operations as a result of a change in our business strategy. A qualitative assessment is allowed to determine if goodwill is potentially impaired. Based on this qualitative assessment, if the Company determines that it is more likely than not that the reporting unit's fair value is less than its carrying value, then it performs a two-step goodwill impairment test, otherwise no further analysis is required. In connection with its annual goodwill impairment assessments as of December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, the Company concluded that goodwill was not impaired.

(i) Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share is computed using the weighted-average number of shares outstanding. Diluted earnings per share is computed using the weighted-average number of shares outstanding adjusted for the incremental shares attributed to outstanding stock equivalents. Stock equivalents include common shares issuable upon the exercise of stock options and other equity instruments, and are computed using the treasury stock method. Under the treasury stock method, the exercise price of a share, the amount of compensation cost, if any, for future service that the Company has not yet recognized are assumed to be used to repurchase shares in the current period.

The following table sets forth the calculation of basic and diluted earnings (loss) per share.

(in thousands, except per share data)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Net income (loss)	\$ <u>(31,965)</u>	\$ <u>64,047</u>	\$ <u>95,401</u>
Denominator for basic earnings per share – weighted-average number of common shares outstanding during the period	49,680	49,298	51,573
Incremental common shares attributable to exercise of dilutive options	—	313	318
Incremental common shares attributable to outstanding restricted stock units	—	214	197
Denominator for diluted earnings per share	<u>49,680</u>	<u>49,825</u>	<u>52,088</u>
Basic earnings (loss) per share	<u>\$ (0.64)</u>	<u>\$ 1.30</u>	<u>\$ 1.85</u>
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	<u>\$ (0.64)</u>	<u>\$ 1.29</u>	<u>\$ 1.83</u>

Potentially dilutive securities totaling 0.6 million common shares in 2017 were not included in the computation of diluted loss per share because their effect would have decreased the loss per share. Options to purchase 0.4 million and 1.3 million common shares in 2016 and 2015, respectively, were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share because their effect would have been anti-dilutive.

(j) Revenue Recognition

Revenue from the sale of manufactured products built to customer specifications and excess inventory is recognized when title and risk of ownership have passed, the price to the buyer is fixed or determinable and recoverability is reasonably assured, which generally is when the goods are shipped. Revenue from design, development and engineering services is recognized when the services are performed and collectibility is reasonably certain. Such services provided under fixed price contracts are accounted for using the percentage-of-completion method. The Company assumes no significant obligations after shipment as it typically warrants workmanship only. Therefore, the warranty provisions are generally not significant.

(k) Income Taxes

Income taxes are accounted for under the asset and liability method. Deferred income taxes are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred taxes of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. The Company records a valuation allowance to reduce its deferred tax assets to the amounts that are more likely than not to be realized. The Company has considered the scheduled reversal of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income and tax planning strategies in assessing the need for the valuation allowance.

(l) Stock-Based Compensation

All share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options, are recognized in the financial statements based on their grant date fair values. The total compensation cost recognized for stock-based awards was \$7.8 million, \$5.3 million and \$7.7 million for 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. The total income tax benefit recognized in the income statement for stock-based awards was \$2.8 million, \$1.1 million and \$3.1 million for 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. The compensation expense for stock-based awards is recognized over the vesting period of the awards using the straight-line method. Awards of restricted shares, restricted stock units and performance-based restricted stock units are valued at the closing market price of the Company's common shares on the date of grant. For performance-based restricted stock units, compensation expense is based on the probability that the performance goals will be achieved, which is monitored by management throughout the requisite service period. When it becomes probable, based on the Company's expectation of performance during the measurement period, that more or less than the previous estimate of the awarded shares will vest, an adjustment to stock-based compensation expense is recognized as a change in accounting estimate.

As of December 31, 2017, the unrecognized compensation cost and remaining weighted-average amortization related to stock-based awards were as follows:

(in thousands)	Stock	Restricted	Performance-
	Options	Stock	based
	Units	Units	Restricted
		Units⁽¹⁾	Stock
Unrecognized compensation cost	\$ 535	\$ 10,738	\$ 3,345
Remaining weighted-average amortization period	0.6 years	2.2 years	1.8 years

⁽¹⁾ Based on the probable achievement of the performance goals identified in each award.

The fair value of each option grant is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. The weighted-average fair value per option granted during 2015 was \$8.76. No options were granted during 2017 or 2016. The weighted-average assumptions used to value the options granted during the year ended December 31, 2015 were as follows:

(in thousands)	
Options granted	289
Expected term of options	6.4 years
Expected volatility	35%
Risk-free interest rate	1.886%
Dividend yield	zero

The expected term of the options represents the estimated period of time until exercise and is based on historical experience, giving consideration to the contractual terms, vesting schedules and expectations of future plan participant behavior. Separate groups of plan participants that have similar historical exercise behavior are considered separately for valuation purposes. Expected stock price volatility is based on the historical volatility of the Company's common shares. The risk-free interest rate is based on the U.S. Treasury zero-coupon rates in effect at the time of grant with an equivalent remaining term. The dividend yield reflects that the Company has not paid any cash dividends since inception and does not anticipate paying cash dividends in the foreseeable future.

The total cash received as a result of stock option exercises in 2017, 2016 and 2015 was approximately \$11.2 million, \$18.8 million and \$2.0 million, respectively. The actual tax benefit realized as a result of stock option exercises and the vesting of other share-based awards during 2017, 2016 and 2015 was \$5.0 million, \$3.7 million and \$2.1 million, respectively. For 2017, 2016 and 2015, the total intrinsic value of stock options exercised was \$7.7 million, \$5.1 million and \$0.7 million, respectively.

The Company awarded performance-based restricted stock units to employees during 2017, 2016 and 2015. The number of performance-based restricted stock units that will ultimately be earned will not be determined until the end of the corresponding performance periods, and may vary from as low as zero to as high as 2.5 times the target number depending on the level of achievement of certain performance goals. The level of achievement of these goals is based upon the financial results of the Company for the last full calendar year within the performance period. The performance goals consist of certain levels of achievement using the following financial metrics: revenue growth, operating margin expansion, and return on invested capital. If the performance goals are not met based on the Company's financial results, the applicable performance-based restricted stock units will not vest and will be forfeited. Shares subject to forfeited performance-based restricted stock units will be available for issuance under the Company's 2010 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan (the 2010 Plan).

(m) Use of Estimates

Management of the Company has made a number of estimates and assumptions relating to the reporting of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities to prepare these financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. On an ongoing basis, management evaluates these estimates, including those related to accounts receivable, inventories, income taxes, long-lived assets, stock-based compensation and contingencies and litigation. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(n) Fair Values of Financial Instruments

Fair value is defined as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. A three-tier fair value hierarchy of inputs is employed to determine fair value measurements.

- Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets and liabilities.
- Level 2 inputs are observable prices that are not quoted on active exchanges, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations whose inputs are observable or whose significant value drivers are observable.
- Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs employed for measuring the fair value of assets or liabilities.

This hierarchy requires the Company to use observable market data, when available, and to minimize the use of unobservable inputs when determining fair value.

The Company's financial instruments include cash equivalents, accounts and other receivables, accounts payable, accrued liabilities and long-term debt and capital lease obligations. The Company believes that the carrying values of these instruments approximate their fair value. As of December 31, 2017, all of the Company's long-term investments and derivative instruments were recorded at fair value using Level 3 inputs. See Note 11.

(o) Foreign Currency

For foreign subsidiaries using the local currency as their functional currency, assets and liabilities are translated at exchange rates in effect at the balance sheet date and income and expenses are translated at average exchange rates. The effects of these translation adjustments are reported in other comprehensive income. Exchange losses arising from transactions denominated in a currency other than the functional currency of the entity involved are included in other expense and totaled approximately \$2.1 million, \$0.5 million and \$2.3 million in 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. These amounts include the amount of gain (loss) recognized in income due to forward currency exchange contracts.

(p) Derivative Instruments

All derivative instruments are recorded on the balance sheet at fair value. The Company uses derivative instruments to manage the variability of foreign currency obligations and interest rates. The Company does not enter into derivative arrangements for speculative purposes. Generally, if a derivative instrument is designated as a cash flow hedge, the change in the fair value of the derivative is recorded in other comprehensive income to the extent the derivative is effective, and recognized in the consolidated statement of income when the hedged item affects earnings. Changes in fair value of derivatives that are not designated as hedges are recorded in earnings. Cash receipts and cash payments related to derivative instruments are recorded in the same category as the cash flows from the items being hedged on the consolidated statements of cash flows.

(q) New Accounting Pronouncements

Adopted in 2017

Effective January 1, 2017, the Company adopted a new accounting standards update that simplifies several aspects of the accounting for employee share-based payment transactions, including accounting for income taxes, forfeitures, and statutory withholding requirements, as well as classification in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows. As required by this standard, excess tax benefits recognized on stock-based compensation expense are reflected in the accompanying Consolidated Income Statement as a component of the provision for income taxes on a prospective basis (See Note 9). As a result of including the income tax effects from excess tax benefits in income tax expense, the effects of the excess tax benefits are no longer included in the calculation of diluted shares outstanding, resulting in an increase in the number of diluted shares outstanding. The Company adopted this change in the method of calculating diluted shares outstanding on a prospective basis. Additionally, excess tax benefits or deficiencies recognized on stock-based compensation expense are classified as an operating activity in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows. The Company has applied this provision prospectively. Additionally, the Company is now required to present the cost of shares withheld from the employee to satisfy the employees' income tax liability as a financing activity on the statement of cash flows rather than as an operating cash flow. The Company adopted this change retrospectively. As a result, in both of the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, net cash provided by operations increased by \$0.6 million with a corresponding offset to net cash used in financing activities. The standard also allows for the option to account for forfeitures as they occur when determining the amount of compensation cost to be recognized, rather than estimating expected forfeitures over the course of a vesting period. The Company elected to account for forfeitures as they occur. The net cumulative effect to the Company from the adoption of this accounting standard update was an increase to paid-in capital of \$0.2 million and a reduction to retained earnings of \$0.2 million.

Effective January 1, 2017, the Company adopted an accounting standards update which applies to inventory that is measured using first-in, first-out or average cost, with new guidance on simplifying the measurement of inventory. Inventory within the scope of this update is required to be measured at the lower of its cost or net realizable value, with net realizable value being the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less reasonably predictable costs of completion, disposal, and transportation. The adoption of this update by the Company did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Adopted in 2018

In May 2017, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued a new accounting standards update that provides guidance about which changes to the terms or conditions of a share-based payment award require an entity to apply modification accounting. This update is effective for annual periods, and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2017, with early adoption permitted. The Company is evaluating the impact of the adoption of this guidance on its consolidated financial statements and related disclosures but does not expect it to have a material impact. The Company adopted the new guidance effective January 1, 2018.

In August 2016, the FASB issued a new accounting standards update, which seeks to reduce the existing diversity in how certain cash receipts and cash payments are presented and classified in the statement of cash flows. The Company adopted this new update effective January 1, 2018.

In May 2014, the FASB issued a new standard (commonly referred to as ASC 606), which will change the way the Company recognizes revenue and significantly expands the disclosure requirements for revenue arrangements. The new standard is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017.

The Company adopted the requirements of the new standard on January 1, 2018 using the full retrospective transition method. We will adjust prior period consolidated financial statements to reflect full retrospective adoption beginning with the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the first quarter of 2018. As ASC 606 supersedes

substantially all existing revenue guidance affecting the Company under current U.S. GAAP, it will impact revenue and cost recognition across its business, as well as its business processes. The Company has substantially completed the implementation of changes to internal controls over financial reporting to allow the Company to timely compile the information needed to account for transactions under this new guidance and to adjust its prior periods' consolidated financial statements.

Under ASC 606, revenue will be recognized as or when the customer obtains control of the goods or services promised in the contract. Given the nature of the terms and conditions in substantially all of the Company's customer contracts, the customer obtains control as the Company performs work under the contract. For these contracts, the Company expects to recognize revenue over time. Revenue for all other goods will be recognized at a point in time, upon transfer of control of the product to the customer (i.e., effectively no change to current accounting).

The Company currently recognizes the majority of its manufacturing revenue when title and risk of ownership have passed, the price to the buyer is fixed or determinable and recoverability is reasonably assured, which generally is when the goods are shipped. Under ASC 606, the Company will recognize revenue over time for a significant majority of its manufacturing contracts. This will change the timing of revenue recognition for a significant portion of the Company's business, whereby revenue will be recognized earlier than under the current accounting rules. ASC 606 will also have material impacts to the Company's balance sheet, primarily related to a reduction in finished goods and work-in-process inventories and an increase in contract assets.

The Company has completed its preliminary assessment of adopting ASC 606 on the Company's 2017 and 2016 operating results, which will reduce diluted earnings per share by approximately \$0.02 for 2017 and increase diluted earnings per share by approximately \$0.02 for 2016. The impact of adopting ASC 606 on the Company's 2017 and 2016 operating results may not be indicative of the adoption impacts in future periods or of its operating performance. Total net cash provided by operating activities and net cash used by investing and financing activities on its consolidated statements of cash flows will not be impacted by the adoption of ASC 606.

Not Yet Adopted

In February 2018, the FASB issued new accounting guidance on the reclassification of certain tax effects from accumulated other comprehensive income to retained earnings. This optional guidance is effective January 1, 2019, with early adoption permitted. The Company is evaluating whether it will adopt this new guidance along with any impacts on the Company's financial position, results of operations and cash flows, none of which are expected to be material.

In June 2016, the FASB issued a new accounting standards update, which replaces the current incurred loss impairment methodology with a methodology that reflects expected credit losses and requires consideration of a broader range of reasonable and supportable information to inform credit loss estimates. This update is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019. The Company does not expect the implementation of this update to have a material impact on its consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In February 2016, the FASB issued a new accounting standards update changing the accounting for leases and including a requirement to record all leases on the consolidated balance sheets as assets and liabilities. This update is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018. The Company will adopt this update effective January 1, 2019, which will impact its consolidated balance sheet. The Company is currently evaluating the impact this standard will have on its consolidated financial statements.

The Company has determined that all other recently issued accounting standards will not have a material impact on its consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows, or do not apply to its operations.

Note 2—Acquisition

On November 12, 2015, the Company acquired all of the outstanding common stock of Secure Communication Systems, Inc. and its subsidiaries (collectively referred to as Secure Technology or Secure) (the Secure Acquisition) for a purchase price of \$219.8 million, as adjusted in accordance with the acquisition agreement. Secure Technology is a leading provider of customized high-performance electronics, sub-systems, and component solutions for mission critical applications. The transaction was financed with borrowings under the Company's term loan facility.

The allocation of the Secure Acquisition's net purchase price resulted in \$145.6 million of goodwill. The final allocation of the purchase price, which the Company completed in September 2016, reflects a \$10.8 million purchase price adjustment received during the quarter ended September 30, 2016. The Secure Acquisition deepened Benchmark's engineering capabilities and enhanced its ability to serve customers in highly regulated industrial markets, including aerospace and defense. The goodwill recognized in connection with the acquisition represents the future economic benefit arising from assets acquired that could not be individually identified and separately recognized and is attributable to the general reputation, acquisition synergies and expected future cash flows of the acquisition, as well as the nature of Secure's products and services and its competitive position in the marketplace.

The purchase price for Secure has been allocated as follows (in thousands):

	December 31, 2015 (as initially reported)	Measurement period adjustment	December 31, 2016 (as adjusted)
Purchase price paid	\$ 230,504	\$ (10,750)	\$ 219,754
Cash acquired	(922)	—	(922)
Purchase price, net of cash received	<u>\$ 229,582</u>	<u>\$ (10,750)</u>	<u>\$ 218,832</u>
Acquisition-related costs for 2016			<u>\$ 132</u>
Recognized amounts of identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed:			
Cash	\$ 922	\$ —	\$ 922
Accounts receivable	12,839	(318)	12,521
Inventories	16,020	(2,536)	13,484
Other current assets	1,569	—	1,569
Property, plant and equipment	2,048	—	2,048
Other assets	97	—	97
Trade names and trademarks intangible	7,800	—	7,800
Technology licenses intangible	15,500	—	15,500
Customer relationships intangible	67,100	—	67,100
Current liabilities	(16,714)	(222)	(16,936)
Long-term debt	(24)	—	(24)
Other long-term liabilities	(800)	—	(800)
Deferred income taxes	(29,173)	—	(29,173)
Total identifiable net assets	<u>77,184</u>	<u>(3,076)</u>	<u>74,108</u>
Goodwill	153,320	(7,674)	145,646
Net assets acquired	<u>\$ 230,504</u>	<u>\$ (10,750)</u>	<u>\$ 219,754</u>

The following summary pro forma condensed consolidated financial information reflects the Secure Acquisition as if it had occurred on January 1, 2015 for purposes of the statements of income. This summary pro forma information is not necessarily representative of what the Company's results of operations would have been had these acquisitions in fact occurred on January 1, 2015, and is not intended to project the Company's results of operations for any future period.

Pro forma condensed consolidated financial information for the year ended December 31, 2015 (unaudited):

<u>(in thousands)</u>	
Net sales	\$ 2,622,246
Net income	\$ 95,595

Note 3—Inventories

Inventory costs are summarized as follows:

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Raw materials	\$ 258,228	\$ 233,111
Work in process	108,535	113,496
Finished goods	30,418	34,727
	<u>\$ 397,181</u>	<u>\$ 381,334</u>

Note 4—Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment consists of the following:

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Land	\$ 6,169	\$ 6,169
Buildings and building improvements	90,577	90,330
Machinery and equipment	476,466	445,537
Furniture and fixtures	8,468	8,089
Vehicles	1,244	1,231
Leasehold improvements	25,153	21,167
Construction in progress	10,439	—
	618,516	572,523
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(432,043)</u>	<u>(406,375)</u>
	<u>\$ 186,473</u>	<u>\$ 166,148</u>

Note 5—Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

The changes each year in goodwill allocated to the Company's reportable segments were as follows:

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>Americas</u>	<u>Asia</u>	<u>Total</u>
Goodwill as of December 31, 2014	\$ 7,868	\$ 38,102	\$ 45,970
Acquisition	<u>153,320</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>153,320</u>
Goodwill as of December 31, 2015	161,188	38,102	199,290
Purchase accounting adjustments	<u>(7,674)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(7,674)</u>
Goodwill as of December 31, 2016	<u>\$ 153,514</u>	<u>\$ 38,102</u>	<u>\$ 191,616</u>
Goodwill as of December 31, 2017	<u>\$ 153,514</u>	<u>\$ 38,102</u>	<u>\$ 191,616</u>

The purchase accounting adjustments in 2016 related to the Secure Acquisition were based on management's estimates resulting from review of information obtained after the acquisition that related to facts and circumstances that existed at the acquisition date. See Note 2.

Other assets consist primarily of acquired identifiable intangible assets and capitalized purchased software costs. Acquired identifiable intangible assets as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 were as follows:

(in thousands)	Gross	Accumulated	Net
	Carrying	Amortization	Carrying
	Amount	Amount	Amount
Customer relationships	\$ 100,200	\$ (34,372)	\$ 65,828
Purchased software costs	35,328	(29,612)	5,716
Technology licenses	28,800	(17,887)	10,913
Trade names and trademarks	7,800	—	7,800
Other	868	(261)	607
Intangible assets, December 31, 2017	<u>\$ 172,996</u>	<u>\$ (82,132)</u>	<u>\$ 90,864</u>

(in thousands)	Gross	Accumulated	Net
	Carrying	Amortization	Carrying
	Amount	Amount	Amount
Customer relationships	\$ 100,053	\$ (27,883)	\$ 72,170
Purchased software costs	31,582	(28,508)	3,074
Technology licenses	26,800	(14,189)	12,611
Trade names and trademarks	7,800	—	7,800
Other	868	(237)	631
Intangible assets, December 31, 2016	<u>\$ 167,103</u>	<u>\$ (70,817)</u>	<u>\$ 96,286</u>

Customer relationships are being amortized on a straight-line basis over a period of 10 to 14 years. Capitalized purchased software costs are amortized straight-line over the estimated useful life of the related software, which ranges from 2 to 10 years. Technology licenses are being amortized over their estimated useful lives in proportion to the economic benefits consumed. During 2017, 2016 and 2015, \$3.7 million, \$1.9 million and \$0.9 million, respectively, of purchased software costs were capitalized. During 2015, in connection with the Secure Acquisition, the Company acquired trade names and trademarks that have been determined to have an indefinite life.

Amortization on the statements of cash flow for 2017, 2016 and 2015 was as follows:

(in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Amortization of intangible assets	\$ 10,065	\$ 11,838	\$ 4,962
Amortization of capitalized purchased software costs	1,078	1,147	1,785
Amortization of debt costs	861	756	103
	<u>\$ 12,004</u>	<u>\$ 13,741</u>	<u>\$ 6,850</u>

The increased amortization of intangible assets in 2016 reflects the impact of the Secure Acquisition. See Note 2.

The estimated future amortization expense of acquired intangible assets for each of the next five years is as follows (in thousands):

<u>Year ending December 31,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2018	\$ 11,069
2019	10,999
2020	10,198
2021	7,160
2022	7,136

Note 6—Borrowing Facilities

Long-term debt and capital lease obligations outstanding as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 consists of the following:

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Term loan	\$ 207,000	\$ 218,500
Capital lease obligations	7,172	8,068
Total principal amount	214,172	226,568
Less unamortized debt issuance costs	2,492	2,920
Long-term debt and capital lease obligations	<u>\$ 211,680</u>	<u>\$ 223,648</u>

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>Unamortized</u>	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Debt Issuance Costs</u>
Term loan, due in 2020	\$ 207,000	\$ 2,492
Capital lease obligations, due in 2023	7,172	—
Total	<u>\$ 214,172</u>	<u>\$ 2,492</u>

The Company has a \$430 million Credit Agreement (the Credit Agreement) with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as administrative agent and collateral agent (the Administrative Agent), and the financial institutions acting as lenders thereunder from time to time. This Credit Agreement provides for a five-year \$200 million revolving credit facility and a five-year \$230 million term loan facility (the Term Loan), both with a maturity date of November 12, 2020. The revolving credit facility is available for general corporate purposes, may be drawn in foreign currencies up to an amount equivalent to \$20 million, and may be used for letters of credit up to \$20 million. The Credit Agreement includes an accordion feature, pursuant to which total commitments under the facility may be increased by an additional \$150 million, subject to satisfaction of certain conditions.

The Term Loan is payable in minimum quarterly principal installments of \$4.3 million in 2018, \$5.8 million in 2019, and \$8.6 million in 2020, with the balance payable on the maturity date.

Interest on outstanding borrowings under the Credit Agreement accrues, at our option, at (a) the adjusted London interbank offered rate (LIBOR) plus 1.25% to 2.25%, or (b) the alternative base rate plus 0.25% to 1.25%, and is payable quarterly in arrears. The alternative base rate is equal to the highest of (i) the Administrative Agent's prime rate, (ii) the federal funds rate plus 0.50% and (iii) the adjusted LIBOR rate plus 1.00%. The margin on the interest rates fluctuates based upon the ratio of the Company's debt to its consolidated EBITDA. As of December 31, 2017, \$155.3 million of the outstanding debt under the Credit Agreement was effectively at a fixed interest rate as a result of a \$155.3 million notional amount of interest rate swap contract discussed in Note 11. A commitment fee of 0.30% to 0.40% per annum (based on the debt to EBITDA ratio) on the unused portion of the revolving credit line is payable quarterly in arrears.

The Credit Agreement is generally secured by a pledge of (a) all the capital stock of the Company's domestic subsidiaries and 65% of the capital stock of its directly owned foreign subsidiaries, (b) any debt owed to Benchmark and its subsidiaries and (c) all or substantially all other personal property of Benchmark and its domestic subsidiaries (including, accounts receivable, inventory and fixed assets of Benchmark and its domestic subsidiaries), in each case, subject to customary exceptions and limitations. The Credit Agreement contains financial covenants as to debt leverage and interest coverage, and certain customary affirmative and negative covenants, including restrictions on our ability to incur additional debt and liens, pay dividends, repurchase shares, sell assets and merge or consolidate with other persons. Amounts due under the Credit Agreement may be accelerated upon specified events of default, including a failure to pay amounts due, breach of a covenant, material inaccuracy of a representation, or occurrence of bankruptcy or insolvency, subject, in some cases, to cure periods. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the Company was in compliance with all of these covenants and restrictions.

As of December 31, 2017, the Company had \$207.0 million in borrowings outstanding under the Term Loan facility and \$2.6 million in letters of credit outstanding under the revolving credit facility. The Company has \$197.4 million available for future borrowings under the revolving credit facility.

The Company's Thailand subsidiary has a multi-purpose credit facility with Kasikornbank Public Company Limited (the Thai Credit Facility) that provides for 350 million Thai baht working capital availability. The Thai Credit Facility is secured by land and buildings in Thailand owned by the Company's Thailand subsidiary. Availability of funds under the Thai Credit Facility is reviewed annually and is currently accessible through October 2018. As of both December 31, 2017 and 2016, there were no working capital borrowings outstanding under the facility.

The aggregate maturities of long-term debt and capital lease obligations for each of the five years subsequent to December 31, 2017 are as follows: 2018, \$18.3 million; 2019, \$24.2 million; 2020, \$168.1 million; 2021, \$1.5 million; and 2022, \$1.7 million.

Note 7—Commitments

The Company leases certain manufacturing equipment, office equipment, vehicles and office, warehouse and manufacturing facilities under operating leases. Some of the leases provide for escalation of the lease payments as maintenance costs and taxes increase. The leases expire at various times through 2028. Leases for office space and manufacturing facilities generally contain renewal options. Rental expense for 2017, 2016 and 2015 was \$15.8 million, \$14.4 million and \$13.5 million, respectively.

The Company is obligated under a capital lease that expires in 2023. As of December 31, 2017, property, plant and equipment included the following amounts under this capital lease obligation (in thousands):

Buildings and building improvements	\$ 12,207
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(8,263)</u>
	<u>\$ 3,944</u>

Capital lease obligations outstanding consist of the following:

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Capital lease obligations	\$ 7,172	\$ 8,068
Less current installments	<u>1,025</u>	<u>896</u>
Capital lease obligations, less current installments	<u>\$ 6,147</u>	<u>\$ 7,172</u>

Future minimum capital lease payments and future minimum lease payments under noncancelable operating leases are as follows (in thousands):

<u>Year ending December 31,</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Operating</u>
	<u>Leases</u>	<u>Leases</u>
2018	\$ 1,712	\$ 13,750
2019	1,746	12,342
2020	1,781	10,086
2021	1,816	7,980
2022	1,853	5,743
Thereafter	<u>465</u>	<u>19,226</u>
Total minimum lease payments	\$ 9,373	\$ <u>69,127</u>
Less: amount representing interest	<u>2,201</u>	
Present value of minimum lease payments	7,172	
Less: current installments	<u>1,025</u>	
Capital lease obligations, less current installments	<u>\$ 6,147</u>	

The Company enters into contractual commitments to deliver products and services in the ordinary course of business. The Company believes that all such contractual commitments will be performed or renegotiated such that no material adverse financial impact on the Company's financial position, results of operations or liquidity will result from these commitments.

Note 8—Common Stock and Stock-Based Awards Plans

In December 2015, the Board of Directors approved the repurchase of up to \$100.0 million of the Company's outstanding common shares. As of December 31, 2017, the Company had \$63.4 million remaining under the program to repurchase additional shares.

Share purchases may be made in the open market, in privately negotiated transactions or block transactions, at the discretion of the Company's management and as market conditions warrant. Purchases will be funded from available cash and may be commenced, suspended or discontinued at any time without prior notice. Shares repurchased under the program are retired. During 2017, the Company repurchased a total of 1.0 million common shares for \$29.3 million at an average price of \$30.46 per share. During 2016, the Company repurchased a total of 2.0 million common shares for \$41.9 million at an average price of \$21.40 per share. During 2015, the Company repurchased a total of 3.1 million common shares for \$68.4 million at an average price of \$22.27 per share.

The Company's 2010 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan (the 2010 Plan) authorizes, the Company, upon approval of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors, to grant a variety of awards, including stock options, restricted shares and restricted stock units (both time-based and performance-based) and other forms of equity awards, or any combination thereof, to any director, officer, employee or consultant (including any prospective director, officer, employee or consultant) of the Company. Stock options (which have not been awarded since 2015) are granted to employees with an exercise price equal to the market price of the Company's common shares on the date of grant, generally vest over a four-year period from the date of grant and have a term of 10 years. Time-based restricted stock units granted to employees generally vest over a four-year period from the date of grant,

subject to the continued employment of the employee by the Company. Performance-based restricted stock units generally vest over a three-year performance cycle, which includes the year of the grant, and are based upon the Company's achievement of specified performance metrics. Awards under the 2010 Plan to non-employee directors have been in the form of restricted stock units, which vest in equal quarterly installments over a one-year period, starting on the grant date.

As of December 31, 2017, 3.1 million additional common shares were available for issuance under the Company's 2010 Plan.

The following table summarizes activities related to the Company's stock options:

<u>(in thousands, except per share data)</u>	<u>Number of Options</u>	<u>Weighted- Average Exercise Price</u>	<u>Weighted- Average Remaining Contractual Term (Years)</u>	<u>Aggregate Intrinsic Value</u>
Outstanding as of December 31, 2014	2,437	\$ 20.07		
Granted	289	23.14		
Exercised	(114)	17.39		
Forfeited or expired	<u>(32)</u>	<u>23.40</u>		
Outstanding as of December 31, 2015	2,580	20.49		
Exercised	(928)	20.29		
Forfeited or expired	<u>(455)</u>	<u>23.49</u>		
Outstanding as of December 31, 2016	1,197	19.51		
Exercised	(582)	19.28		
Forfeited or expired	<u>(19)</u>	<u>19.76</u>		
Outstanding as of December 31, 2017	<u>596</u>	<u>\$ 19.72</u>	<u>5.28</u>	<u>\$ 5,592</u>
Exercisable as of December 31, 2017	<u>443</u>	<u>\$ 18.56</u>	<u>3.65</u>	<u>\$ 4,667</u>

The aggregate intrinsic value in the table above is before income taxes and is calculated as the difference between the exercise price of the underlying options and the Company's closing stock price as of the last business day of 2017 for options that had exercise prices that were below the closing price.

As of December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, the number of options exercisable was 0.4 million, 0.9 million and 1.8 million, respectively, and the weighted-average exercise price of those options was \$18.56, \$18.53 and \$20.19, respectively.

During 2016, the Company's remaining outstanding restricted shares vested, and, as of December 31, 2016 and 2017, the Company had no restricted shares outstanding. Restricted stock units, time-based and performance-based, remain outstanding as detailed below.

The following table summarizes the activities related to the Company's time-based restricted stock units:

(in thousands, except per share data)	Number of Units	Weighted- Average Grant Date Fair Value
Non-vested awards outstanding as of December 31, 2014	412	\$ 20.33
Granted	228	23.06
Vested	(161)	20.51
Forfeited	<u>(12)</u>	<u>21.03</u>
Non-vested awards outstanding as of December 31, 2015	467	21.59
Granted	392	22.71
Vested	(209)	21.07
Forfeited	<u>(125)</u>	<u>21.85</u>
Non-vested awards outstanding as of December 31, 2016	525	22.57
Granted	314	31.56
Vested	(206)	21.84
Forfeited	<u>(40)</u>	<u>24.21</u>
Non-vested awards outstanding as of December 31, 2017	<u><u>593</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 27.47</u></u>

The following table summarizes the activities related to the Company's performance-based restricted stock units:

(in thousands, except per share data)	Number of Units	Weighted- Average Grant Date Fair Value
Non-vested units outstanding as of December 31, 2014	274	\$ 18.56
Granted ⁽¹⁾	85	22.93
Forfeited	<u>(53)</u>	<u>18.57</u>
Non-vested units outstanding as of December 31, 2015	306	19.77
Granted ⁽¹⁾	184	21.63
Forfeited	<u>(263)</u>	<u>19.64</u>
Non-vested units outstanding as of December 31, 2016	227	21.43
Granted ⁽¹⁾	172	31.60
Forfeited	<u>(53)</u>	<u>18.81</u>
Non-vested units outstanding as of December 31, 2017	<u><u>346</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 26.88</u></u>

⁽¹⁾ Represents target number of units that can vest based on the achievement of the performance goals.

Note 9—Income Taxes

Income tax expense (benefit) based on income before income taxes consisted of the following:

(in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Current:			
U.S. Federal	\$ 85,634	\$ (1,033)	\$ 619
State and local	804	498	798
Foreign	<u>9,047</u>	<u>(2,379)</u>	<u>6,002</u>
	95,485	(2,914)	7,419
Deferred:			
U.S. Federal	10,177	3,926	(12,322)
State and local	(213)	1,196	1,194
Foreign	<u>(702)</u>	<u>1,933</u>	<u>(1,653)</u>
	9,262	7,055	(12,781)
	<u>\$ 104,747</u>	<u>\$ 4,141</u>	<u>\$ (5,362)</u>

Worldwide income (loss) before income taxes consisted of the following:

(in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
United States	\$ (12,131)	\$ 6,520	\$ 18,599
Foreign	<u>84,913</u>	<u>61,668</u>	<u>71,440</u>
	<u>\$ 72,782</u>	<u>\$ 68,188</u>	<u>\$ 90,039</u>

Income tax expense differed from the amounts computed by applying the U.S. Federal statutory income tax rate to income before income taxes as a result of the following:

(in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Tax at statutory rate	\$ 25,474	\$ 23,866	\$ 31,514
State taxes, net of federal tax effect	384	1,102	1,295
Effect of foreign operations and tax incentives	(20,703)	(15,496)	(21,820)
Change in valuation allowance	(203)	(1,152)	(19,640)
Excess tax-benefits of stock-based compensation	(1,658)	—	—
Provisional impact of U.S. Tax Reform	97,707	—	—
Losses in foreign jurisdictions for which no benefit has been provided	106	2,106	3,711
Change in uncertain tax benefits reserve	—	(8,270)	(1,653)
Other	<u>3,640</u>	<u>1,985</u>	<u>1,231</u>
Total income tax expense	<u>\$ 104,747</u>	<u>\$ 4,141</u>	<u>\$ (5,362)</u>

The U.S. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (U.S. Tax Reform), which was signed into law on December 22, 2017, significantly changes U.S. tax law by, among other things, lowering corporate income tax rates, implementing a territorial tax system and imposing a transition tax on deemed repatriated earnings of foreign subsidiaries. The Tax Reform Act reduces the U.S. corporate income tax rate from a maximum of 35% to a flat 21% rate, effective January 1, 2018. Under the accounting rules, companies are required to recognize the effects of changes in tax laws and tax rates on deferred tax assets and liabilities in the period in which the new legislation is enacted.

As of December 31, 2017, the Company had approximately \$928 million in cumulative undistributed foreign earnings outside the U.S. All of these undistributed earnings are subject to the U.S. mandatory transition tax and are

eligible to be repatriated to the U.S. without additional U.S. tax under the U.S. Tax Reform. As of December 31, 2017, the Company has provisional income tax expense of \$101.6 million for the estimated mandatory deemed repatriation of undistributed foreign earnings. After reduction by U.S. tax loss carryforwards and U.S. tax credit carryforwards, the Company accrued U.S. income tax liabilities of \$87.7 million in 2017. The Company intends to pay this estimated tax liability over an eight-year payment schedule as prescribed by the U.S. Tax Reform. As such, other long-term liabilities includes \$80.7 million of this estimated liability. Though these foreign earnings have been deemed to be repatriated from a U.S. federal tax perspective, the Company has not yet completed its assessment of the U.S. Tax Reform on its plans to reinvest foreign earnings and as such has not changed its prior conclusion that the earnings are indefinitely reinvested. The repatriation tax is based on currently available information and technical guidance related to the new tax law. The provisional estimate will be updated when additional information related to undistributed foreign earnings, foreign taxes and foreign cash and equivalents becomes available, prepared and analyzed.

In addition, as a result of the reduction in the U.S. corporate income tax rate from 35% to 21%, the Company remeasured its ending net deferred tax liabilities at December 31, 2017 and recognized a provisional \$3.9 million deferred tax benefit.

Given the significance of the legislation, the SEC staff issued Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 118 (SAB 118), which provides guidance on accounting for the tax effects of the Tax Reform Act. SAB 118 provides a measurement period that should not extend beyond one year from the U.S. Tax Reform enactment date for companies to complete their accounting. The Company has recognized the provisional tax impacts related to deemed repatriated earnings and the revaluation of deferred tax assets and liabilities and included these amounts in its consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017. These preliminary estimates are subject to the finalization of management's analysis related to certain matters, such as developing interpretations of the provisions of the U.S. Tax Reform, changes to certain estimates and amounts related to the earnings and profits of certain subsidiaries and the filing our tax returns. U.S. Treasury regulations, administrative interpretations or court decisions interpreting the U.S. Tax Reform may require further adjustments and changes in the Company's estimates. The Company will finalize its accounting of the impact no later than the fourth quarter of 2018.

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities are presented below:

(in thousands)	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Deferred tax assets:		
Carrying value of inventories	\$ 2,474	\$ 2,400
Accrued liabilities and allowances deductible for tax purposes on a cash basis	6,387	5,663
Goodwill	2,732	4,814
Stock-based compensation	2,359	3,856
Net operating loss carryforwards	22,096	38,988
Tax credit carryforwards	2,007	8,688
Other	<u>5,924</u>	<u>6,812</u>
	43,979	71,221
Less: valuation allowance	<u>(15,823)</u>	<u>(16,026)</u>
Net deferred tax assets	28,156	55,195
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Plant and equipment, due to differences in depreciation	(8,543)	(11,499)
Intangible assets, due to differences in amortization	(20,891)	(35,492)
Other	<u>(1,715)</u>	<u>(1,632)</u>
Gross deferred tax liability	<u>(31,149)</u>	<u>(48,623)</u>
Net deferred tax asset (liability)	<u>\$ (2,993)</u>	<u>\$ 6,572</u>

The net deferred tax asset (liability) is classified as follows:

Long-term asset	\$ 4,034	\$ 6,572
Long-term liability	<u>(7,027)</u>	<u>—</u>
Total	<u>\$ (2,993)</u>	<u>\$ 6,572</u>

All deferred taxes are classified as non-current on the balance sheet as of December 31, 2017 and 2016. All deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset and presented as a single net noncurrent amount by each tax jurisdiction. During 2017, the Company utilized its U.S. federal tax loss carryforwards, and various US federal tax credit carryforwards against the provisional mandatory deemed repatriation tax.

The net change in the total valuation allowance for 2017, 2016 and 2015 was a decrease of \$0.2 million, \$1.2 million and \$19.5 million, respectively. In assessing the realizability of deferred tax assets, management considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The ultimate realization of deferred tax assets is dependent upon the generation of future taxable income during the periods in which those temporary differences become deductible. Management considers the scheduled reversal of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income and tax planning strategies in making this assessment. Based upon the level of historical taxable income and projections for future taxable income over the periods which the deferred tax assets are deductible, management believes it is more likely than not the Company will realize the benefits of these deductible differences, net of the existing valuation allowances as of December 31, 2017. During 2015, the Company evaluated the recoverability of its deferred tax assets using the criteria described above and concluded that the Company's projected future taxable income in the U.S. is sufficient to utilize additional net operating loss carryforwards and other deferred tax assets. As a result, during 2015, the Company reduced its valuation allowance by \$19.6 million.

As of December 31, 2017, the Company had \$32.4 million in U.S. Federal operating loss carryforwards which will

expire from 2025 to 2036; state operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$77.5 million which will expire from 2018 to 2031; foreign operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$24.6 million with indefinite carryforward periods; and foreign operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$25.7 million which will expire at varying dates through 2027. The utilization of these net operating loss carryforwards is limited to the future operations of the Company in the tax jurisdictions in which such carryforwards arose. The Company has state tax credit carryforwards of \$2.0 million which will expire at varying dates through 2036.

The Company has been granted certain tax incentives, including tax holidays, for its subsidiaries in China, Malaysia and Thailand that will expire at various dates, unless extended or otherwise renegotiated, through 2018 in China, 2021 in Malaysia and 2028 in Thailand, and are subject to certain conditions with which the Company expects to comply. The net impact of these tax incentives was to lower income tax expense for 2017, 2016, and 2015 by approximately \$7.2 million (approximately \$0.15 per diluted share), \$6.7 million (approximately \$0.13 per diluted share) and \$13.7 million (approximately \$0.26 per diluted share), respectively, as follows:

(in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
China	\$ 1,398	\$ 1,302	\$ 5,347
Malaysia	4,295	2,346	2,075
Thailand	1,545	3,068	6,271
	<u>\$ 7,238</u>	<u>\$ 6,716</u>	<u>\$ 13,693</u>

The Company must determine whether it is “more-likely-than-not” that a tax position will be sustained upon examination, including resolution of any related appeals or litigation processes, based on the technical merits of the position. Once it is determined that a position meets the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold, the position is measured to determine the amount of benefit to recognize in the financial statements. As of December 31, 2017, the total amount of the reserve for uncertain tax benefits including interest and penalties was \$0.8 million. A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits, excluding interest and penalties, is as follows:

(in thousands)	December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Balance as of January 1	\$ 7,791	\$ 13,114	\$ 14,756
Additions related to current year tax positions	220	—	—
Decreases as a result of a lapse of applicable statute of limitations in current year	—	(5,079)	(1,653)
Additions related to prior year tax positions	894	89	800
Decreases related to prior year tax positions	<u>(8,197)</u>	<u>(333)</u>	<u>(789)</u>
Balance as of December 31	<u>\$ 708</u>	<u>\$ 7,791</u>	<u>\$ 13,114</u>

During 2017, the Company released \$0.9 million of uncertain tax benefits related to the liquidation of a foreign subsidiary company. Also during 2017, the Company received a denial of its appeal to the local tax authorities related to an examination for a subsidiary in Thailand for the years 2004 to 2005. Consequently, the Company recorded \$0.9 million of additional accruals for uncertain tax benefits. The Company decided not to challenge this decision, therefore, the \$7.3 million reserve for uncertain tax benefits was written off. This decrease in the unrecognized tax benefit reserve did not impact the Company’s effective tax rate. The decrease in the reserve during 2016 of \$5.1 million was a result of the expiration of the statute of limitations for a foreign subsidiary that was liquidated in 2011 and closed its operations in 2005. The decrease in the reserve during 2015 of \$1.7 million was the result of the expiration of the statute of limitations for a dormant foreign subsidiary in Thailand.

The reserve is classified as a current or long-term liability in the consolidated balance sheet based on the Company's expectation of when the items will be settled. The Company records interest expense and penalties accrued in relation to uncertain income tax benefits as a component of current income tax expense. The amount of accrued potential interest on unrecognized tax benefits included in the reserve as of December 31, 2017 is \$0.1 million. There was no reserve for potential penalties. The decrease in the reserve relating to interest and penalties on unrecognized tax benefits from \$3.3 million in 2015 to \$0.1 million in 2016 results from the corresponding reduction for the Thailand subsidiary discussed above. The total amount of interest and penalties included in income tax expense was \$0.1 million during 2015. The Company did not incur any interest and penalties in 2017 or 2016.

The Company and its subsidiaries in Brazil, China, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Romania, Singapore, Thailand and the United States remain open to examination by the various local taxing authorities, in total or in part, for fiscal years 2011 to 2017.

The Company is currently under examination by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for 2014. In addition, Secure Communication Systems, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the Secure Group), companies that the Company acquired on November 11, 2015, are under a U.S. income tax audit for calendar years 2013, 2014 and through November 11, 2015. Since this audit is for the period of time prior to the acquisition of the Secure Group by the Company, any resulting tax liabilities are the responsibility of the seller. The Company does not expect to incur any income tax costs with respect to this audit. During the course of such examinations, disputes may occur as to matters of fact or law. Also, in most tax jurisdictions, the passage of time without examination will result in the expiration of applicable statutes of limitations thereby precluding examination of the tax period(s) for which such statute of limitation has expired. The Company believes that it has adequately provided for its tax liabilities.

Note 10—Major Customers

The Company's customers operate in industries that are, to a varying extent, subject to rapid technological change, vigorous competition and short product life cycles. Developments adverse to the electronics industry, the Company's customers or their products could impact the Company's overall credit risk.

The Company extends credit based on evaluation of its customers' financial condition and generally does not require collateral or other security from its customers and would incur a loss equal to the carrying value of the accounts receivable if its customer failed to perform according to the terms of the credit arrangement.

Sales to the ten largest customers represented 46%, 43% and 47% of total sales for 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. Sales to our largest customers were as follows for the indicated periods:

(in thousands)	Year ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
International Business Machines Corporation	\$ 284,636	\$ *	\$ 284,098
Applied Materials, Inc.	\$ 248,183	\$ *	\$ *

* amount is less than 10% of total.

Note 11—Financial Instruments and Concentration of Credit Risk

The Company's financial instruments include cash equivalents, accounts and other receivables, accounts payable, accrued liabilities and long-term debt and capital lease obligations. The Company believes that the carrying values of these instruments approximate fair value. As of December 31, 2017, the Company's long-term investments and derivative instruments were recorded at fair value using Level 3 inputs. The Company uses derivative instruments to manage the variability of foreign currency obligations and interest rates. The Company does not enter into derivative arrangements for speculative purposes.

The forward contracts in place as of December 31, 2017 have not been designated as accounting hedges and, therefore, changes in fair value are recorded within our Consolidated Statements of Income.

The Company has an interest rate swap agreement with a notional amount of \$155.3 million and \$163.9 million as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively, to hedge a portion of its interest rate exposure on outstanding borrowings under the Credit Agreement. Under this interest rate swap agreement, the Company receives variable rate interest rate payments based on the one-month LIBOR rate and pays fixed rate interest payments. The fixed interest rate for the contract is 1.4935%. The effect of this swap is to convert a portion of the floating rate interest expense to fixed interest rate expense. Based on the terms of the interest rate swap contract and the underlying borrowings outstanding under the Credit Agreement, the interest rate contract was determined to be highly effective, and thus qualifies and has been designated as a cash flow hedge. As such, changes in the fair value of the interest rate swap are recorded in other comprehensive income on the accompanying Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets until earnings are affected by the variability of cash flows. The fair value of the interest rate swap was a \$2.0 million asset as of December 31, 2017 and \$0.5 as of December 31, 2016, which was its effective date. During the year ended December 31, 2017, the Company recorded unrealized gains of \$1.5 million (\$0.9 million net of tax) on the swap in other comprehensive income. During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Company recorded unrealized gains of \$0.5 million (\$0.3 million net of tax) on the swap in other comprehensive income. See Note 19.

Financial instruments that subject the Company to credit risk consist of cash and cash equivalents, investments and trade accounts receivable. Management maintains the majority of the Company's cash and cash equivalents with financial institutions. One of the most significant credit risks is the ultimate realization of accounts receivable. This risk is mitigated by (i) sales to well established companies, (ii) ongoing credit evaluation of customers, and (iii) frequent contact with customers, thus enabling management to monitor current changes in business operations and to respond accordingly. Management considers these concentrations of credit risks in establishing our allowance for doubtful accounts and believes these allowances are adequate. The Company had two customers whose gross accounts receivable exceeded 10% of total gross accounts receivable as of December 31, 2017. One customer represented 19% of our total gross accounts receivable and the second customer represented 11%.

Note 12—Concentrations of Business Risk

Substantially all of the Company's sales are derived from manufacturing services in which the Company purchases components specified by its customers. The Company uses numerous suppliers of electronic components and other materials for its operations. Some components used by the Company have been subject to industry-wide shortages, and suppliers have been forced to allocate available quantities among their customers. The Company's inability to obtain any needed components during periods of allocation could cause delays in manufacturing and could adversely affect results of operations.

Note 13—Accounts Receivable Sale Program

In connection with a trade accounts receivable sale program with an unaffiliated financial institution, the Company may elect to sell, at a discount, on an ongoing basis, up to a maximum of \$40.0 million, of specific accounts receivable at any one time. The program was executed on March 29, 2017, is an uncommitted facility and is scheduled to expire in one year with options to automatically extend the agreement, although any party may elect to terminate the agreement upon 60 days prior notice.

During the year ended December 31, 2017, the Company sold \$145.0 million of accounts receivable under this program, and in exchange, the Company received cash proceeds of \$144.7 million, net of the discount. The loss on the sale resulting from the discount during the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$0.3 million and was recorded to other expense within the Consolidated Statements of Income.

Note 14—Segment and Geographic Information

The Company currently has manufacturing facilities in the Americas, Asia and Europe to serve its customers. The Company is operated and managed geographically, and management evaluates performance and allocates the Company's resources on a geographic basis. Intersegment sales are generally recorded at prices that approximate arm's length transactions. Operating segments' measure of profitability is based on income from operations. The accounting policies for the reportable operating segments are the same as for the Company taken as a whole. The Company has three reportable operating segments: Americas, Asia, and Europe. Information about operating segments is as follows:

(in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Net sales:			
Americas	\$ 1,606,642	\$ 1,552,980	\$ 1,615,393
Asia	768,588	675,801	878,307
Europe	176,401	161,007	146,648
Elimination of intersegment sales	<u>(84,820)</u>	<u>(79,373)</u>	<u>(99,475)</u>
	<u>\$ 2,466,811</u>	<u>\$ 2,310,415</u>	<u>\$ 2,540,873</u>
Depreciation and amortization:			
Americas	\$ 21,972	\$ 23,275	\$ 23,881
Asia	11,849	15,832	17,031
Europe	2,891	2,794	2,628
Corporate	<u>11,960</u>	<u>13,238</u>	<u>6,132</u>
	<u>\$ 48,672</u>	<u>\$ 55,139</u>	<u>\$ 49,672</u>
Income from operations:			
Americas	\$ 71,638	\$ 84,457	\$ 77,213
Asia	73,263	48,285	62,967
Europe	10,814	10,424	7,149
Corporate and intersegment eliminations	<u>(77,112)</u>	<u>(67,528)</u>	<u>(54,360)</u>
	<u>\$ 78,603</u>	<u>\$ 75,638</u>	<u>\$ 92,969</u>
Capital expenditures:			
Americas	\$ 27,139	\$ 20,766	\$ 18,390
Asia	18,115	7,858	11,851
Europe	4,915	1,441	4,323
Corporate	<u>4,337</u>	<u>2,269</u>	<u>3,498</u>
	<u>\$ 54,506</u>	<u>\$ 32,334</u>	<u>\$ 38,062</u>
Total assets:			
Americas	\$ 804,698	\$ 864,388	\$ 867,858
Asia	670,807	634,838	604,554
Europe	470,264	393,443	305,833
Corporate and other	<u>151,548</u>	<u>105,999</u>	<u>115,633</u>
	<u>\$ 2,097,317</u>	<u>\$ 1,998,668</u>	<u>\$ 1,893,878</u>

Geographic net sales information provided below reflects the destination of the product shipped. Long-lived assets information is based on the physical location of the asset.

(in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Geographic net sales:			
United States	\$ 1,659,404	\$ 1,615,749	\$ 1,848,503
Asia	434,332	334,305	314,160
Europe	292,490	252,972	221,911
Other	80,585	107,389	156,299
	<u>\$ 2,466,811</u>	<u>\$ 2,310,415</u>	<u>\$ 2,540,873</u>
Long-lived assets:			
United States	\$ 167,858	\$ 167,367	\$ 172,958
Asia	77,750	67,998	77,237
Europe	11,042	8,415	9,704
Other	25,830	24,290	31,046
	<u>\$ 282,480</u>	<u>\$ 268,070</u>	<u>\$ 290,945</u>

Note 15—Employee Benefit Plans

The Company has defined contribution plans qualified under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code for the benefit of all its U.S. employees. The Company's contributions to the plans are based on employee contributions and compensation. During 2017, 2016 and 2015, the Company made contributions to the plans of approximately \$5.2 million, \$5.2 million and \$4.8 million, respectively. The Company also has defined contribution benefit plans for certain of its international employees primarily dictated by the custom of the regions in which it operates. During 2017, 2016 and 2015, the Company made contributions to the international plans of approximately \$0.1 million, \$0.1 million and \$0.1 million, respectively.

Note 16—Contingencies

The Company is involved in various legal actions arising in the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of management, the ultimate disposition of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial position or results of operations.

Note 17—Restructuring Charges

The Company has undertaken initiatives to restructure its business operations to improve utilization and realize cost savings. These initiatives have included changing the number and location of production facilities, largely to align capacity and infrastructure with current and anticipated customer demand. This alignment includes transferring programs from higher cost geographies to lower cost geographies. The process of restructuring entails moving production between facilities, reducing staff levels, realigning our business processes, reorganizing our management and other activities.

The Company recognized restructuring charges during 2017, 2016 and 2015 primarily related to the closure of facilities in the Americas, capacity reduction and reductions in workforce in certain facilities across various regions.

The following table summarizes the 2017 activity in the accrued restructuring balances related to the various restructuring activities initiated prior to December 31, 2017:

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>Balance as of December 31, 2016</u>	<u>Restructuring Charges</u>	<u>Cash Payment</u>	<u>Non-Cash Activity</u>	<u>Foreign Exchange Adjustments</u>	<u>Balance as of December 31, 2017</u>
2017 Restructuring:						
Severance	\$ —	\$ 2,172	\$ (2,125)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 47
Lease facility costs	—	264	(264)	—	—	—
Other exit costs	—	531	(335)	—	2	198
	<u>—</u>	<u>2,967</u>	<u>(2,724)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>245</u>
2016 Restructuring:						
Severance	738	(42)	(667)	—	—	29
Lease facility costs	-	58	(58)	—	—	—
Other exit costs	545	1,953	(2,442)	(42)	2	16
	<u>1,283</u>	<u>1,969</u>	<u>(3,167)</u>	<u>(42)</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>45</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,283</u>	<u>\$ 4,936</u>	<u>\$ (5,891)</u>	<u>\$ (42)</u>	<u>\$ 4</u>	<u>\$ 290</u>

The components of the restructuring charges initiated during 2017 were as follows:

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>Americas</u>	<u>Asia</u>	<u>Total</u>
Severance costs	\$ 1,985	\$ 187	\$ 2,172
Lease facility costs	264	—	264
Other exit costs	531	—	531
	<u>\$ 2,780</u>	<u>\$ 187</u>	<u>\$ 2,967</u>

During 2017, the Company recognized \$2.2 million of employee termination costs associated with the involuntary terminations of 163 employees in connection with reductions in workforce worldwide. The identified involuntary employee terminations by reportable geographic region amounted to approximately 160 and 3 for the Americas and Asia, respectively.

The following table summarizes the 2016 activity in the accrued restructuring balances related to the various restructuring activities initiated prior to December 31, 2016:

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>Balance as of December 31, 2015</u>	<u>Restructuring Charges</u>	<u>Cash Payment</u>	<u>Non-Cash Activity</u>	<u>Foreign Exchange Adjustments</u>	<u>Balance as of December 31, 2016</u>
2016 Restructuring:						
Severance	\$ —	\$ 3,630	\$ (2,892)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 738
Other exit costs	—	977	(411)	(21)	—	545
	<u>—</u>	<u>4,607</u>	<u>(3,303)</u>	<u>(21)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,283</u>
2015 Restructuring:						
Severance	222	(1)	(224)	—	3	—
Lease facility costs	928	109	(1,037)	—	—	—
Other exit costs	186	(22)	(164)	—	—	—
	<u>1,336</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>(1,425)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>—</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,336</u>	<u>\$ 4,693</u>	<u>\$ (4,728)</u>	<u>\$ (21)</u>	<u>\$ 3</u>	<u>\$ 1,283</u>

The components of the restructuring charges initiated during 2016 were as follows:

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>Americas</u>	<u>Asia</u>	<u>Europe</u>	<u>Total</u>
Severance costs	\$ 1,726	\$ 1,904	\$ —	\$ 3,630
Other exit costs	924	—	53	977
	<u>\$ 2,650</u>	<u>\$ 1,904</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>\$ 4,607</u>

During 2016, the Company recognized \$3.6 million of employee termination costs associated with the involuntary terminations of 582 employees in connection with reductions in workforce worldwide. The identified involuntary employee terminations by reportable geographic region amounted to approximately 370 and 212 for the Americas and Asia, respectively.

The components of the restructuring charges initiated during 2015 were as follows:

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>Americas</u>	<u>Asia</u>	<u>Europe</u>	<u>Total</u>
Severance costs	\$ 1,564	\$ 506	\$ 472	\$ 2,542
Facility lease costs	2,462	—	—	2,462
Other exit costs	3,099	—	202	3,301
	<u>\$ 7,125</u>	<u>\$ 506</u>	<u>674</u>	<u>\$ 8,305</u>

During 2015, the Company recognized \$2.5 million of employee termination costs associated with the involuntary terminations of 672 employees in connection with reductions in workforce worldwide. The identified involuntary employee terminations by reportable geographic region amounted to approximately 223, 438, and 11 for the Americas, Asia and Europe, respectively.

Note 18—Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited)

The following table sets forth certain unaudited quarterly information with respect to the Company's results of operations for the years 2017, 2016 and 2015. Earnings per share are computed independently for each of the quarters presented. Therefore, the sum of the quarterly earnings per share may not equal the total earnings per share amounts for the fiscal year.

(in thousands, except per share data)	2017 Quarter			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Sales	\$ 566,501	\$616,904	\$ 603,550	\$ 679,856
Gross profit	49,060	58,587	58,155	61,895
Net income (loss)	9,687	17,176	17,512	(76,340)
Earnings (loss) per common share:				
Basic	0.20	0.35	0.35	(1.54)
Diluted	0.19	0.34	0.35	(1.54)

(in thousands, except per share data)	2016 Quarter			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Sales	\$ 549,225	\$579,342	\$ 574,341	\$ 607,507
Gross profit	50,317	52,854	52,822	57,470
Net income	11,052	12,685	21,742	18,568
Earnings per common share:				
Basic	0.22	0.26	0.44	0.38
Diluted	0.22	0.26	0.44	0.37

(in thousands, except per share data)	2015 Quarter			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Sales	\$ 620,925	\$664,038	\$ 630,191	\$ 625,719
Gross profit	51,785	55,997	54,563	56,909
Net income	14,205	21,210	20,565	39,421
Earnings per common share:				
Basic	0.27	0.41	0.40	0.78
Diluted	0.27	0.40	0.40	0.77

Note 19—Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss

The changes in accumulated other comprehensive loss by component were as follows:

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>Foreign currency translation adjustments</u>	<u>Derivative instruments, net of tax</u>	<u>Unrealized loss on investments, net of tax</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balances, December 31, 2014	\$ (9,688)	\$ —	\$ (64)	\$ 277	\$ (9,475)
Other comprehensive loss before reclassifications	(3,391)	—	(31)	(106)	(3,528)
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(13)</u>	<u>(13)</u>
Net current period other comprehensive loss	<u>(3,391)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(31)</u>	<u>(119)</u>	<u>(3,541)</u>
Balances, December 31, 2015	(13,079)	—	(95)	158	(13,016)
Other comprehensive gain (loss) before reclassifications	(1,465)	286	21	(1)	(1,159)
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>(1)</u>
Net current period other comprehensive gain (loss)	<u>(1,465)</u>	<u>286</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>(2)</u>	<u>(1,160)</u>
Balances, December 31, 2016	(14,544)	286	(74)	156	(14,176)
Other comprehensive gain (loss) before reclassifications	4,977	1,192	33	(175)	6,027
Net current period other comprehensive gain (loss)	<u>4,977</u>	<u>1,192</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>(175)</u>	<u>6,027</u>
Balances, December 31, 2017	<u>\$ (9,567)</u>	<u>\$ 1,478</u>	<u>\$ (41)</u>	<u>\$ (19)</u>	<u>\$ (8,149)</u>

See Note 11 for further explanation of the change in derivative instruments that is recorded to Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss. Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss during 2016 and 2015 primarily affected selling, general and administrative expenses.

Note 20—Supplemental Cash Flow and Non-Cash Information

The following is additional information concerning supplemental disclosures of cash payments.

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>Year ended December 31,</u>		
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Income taxes paid, net	\$ 6,453	\$ 7,865	\$ 8,561
Interest paid	\$ 8,698	\$ 8,305	\$ 2,472
Non-cash investing activity:			
Additions to property, plant and equipment in accounts payable	\$ 7,761	\$ 2,111	\$ 2,761

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Shareholders and Board of Directors
Benchmark Electronics, Inc.:

Opinions on the Consolidated Financial Statements and Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Benchmark Electronics, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the related consolidated statements of income (loss), comprehensive income (loss), shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2017, and the related notes and financial statement schedule listed in Item 15(2) (collectively, the consolidated financial statements). We also have audited the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, based on criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2017, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, based on criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

Basis for Opinions

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

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud, and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects.

Our audits of the consolidated financial statements included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

Definition and Limitations of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail,

accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

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

(signed) KPMG LLP

We have served as the Company's auditor since 1986.

Houston, Texas
February 28, 2018

Management's Report

Benchmark's management has prepared and is responsible for the consolidated financial statements and related financial data contained in this Report. The consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and necessarily include certain amounts based upon management's best estimates and judgments. The financial information contained elsewhere in this Report is consistent with that in the consolidated financial statements.

The Company maintains internal accounting control systems that are adequate to prepare financial records and to provide reasonable assurance that the assets are safeguarded from loss or unauthorized use. We believe these systems are effective, and the cost of the systems does not exceed the benefits obtained.

The Audit Committee, composed exclusively of independent, outside directors, has reviewed all financial data included in this Report and recommended to the full Board inclusion of the audited financial statements contained in the Report. The committee meets periodically with the Company's management and independent registered public accountants on financial reporting matters. The independent registered public accountants have complete access to the Audit Committee and may meet with the committee, without management present, to discuss their audit results and opinions on the quality of financial reporting.

The role of independent registered public accountants is to render a professional, independent opinion on management's financial statements to the extent required by the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Benchmark's responsibility is to conduct its affairs according to the highest standards of personal and corporate conduct.

Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure.

None.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures.

Conclusion Regarding the Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

As of the end of the period covered by this Report, the Company's management (with the participation of its chief executive officer and chief financial officer) conducted an evaluation pursuant to Rule 13a-15e promulgated under the Exchange Act, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures. Based on this evaluation, the Company's chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that as of the end of the period covered by this Report such disclosure controls and procedures were effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by the Company in reports it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the SEC, and include controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in such reports is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including the Company's chief executive officer and chief financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

There has been no change in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the last fiscal quarter covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, does not expect that our disclosure controls and internal controls will prevent all errors and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within the company have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty, and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by management override of the control. The design of any system of controls also is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions; over time, a control may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. Because of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected.

Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f). Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Based on our evaluation under the framework, our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2017.

The effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017 has been audited by KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report included in Item 8 of this Report.

Item 9B. Other Information.

Not applicable.

PART III

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance.

The information under the captions “Election of Directors,” “Executive Officers” and “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” in the Company’s Proxy Statement for the 2018 Annual Shareholders Meeting (the 2018 Proxy Statement), to be filed not later than 120 days after the close of the Company’s fiscal year, is incorporated herein by reference in response to this item.

Item 11. Executive Compensation.

The information under the captions “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” and “Report of Compensation Committee” in the 2018 Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference in response to this item.

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Shareholder Matters.

The information under the caption “Common Share Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management” in the 2018 Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference in response to this item.

The following table sets forth certain information relating to our equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2017:

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	<u>1,535,101⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>\$19.72⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>1,535,101</u>

⁽¹⁾ Includes 938,660 restricted share units and performance restricted share units. The weighted-average exercise price does not take these awards into account.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence.

The information under the caption “Election of Directors” in the 2018 Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference in response to this item.

Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services.

The information under the caption “Audit Committee Report to Shareholders” in the 2018 Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference in response to this item.

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules.

(a) (1) Financial statements of the Company filed as part of this Report:

See Item 8 - Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

(2) Financial statement schedule filed as part of this Report:

Schedule II - Valuation Accounts

<u>(in thousands)</u>	<u>Balance at Beginning of Period</u>	<u>Additions</u>		<u>Deductions</u>	<u>Balance at End of Period</u>
		<u>Charges to Operations</u>	<u>Other</u>		
Year ended December 31, 2017:					
Allowance for doubtful accounts ⁽¹⁾	\$ 2,838	1,697	—	4,430	105
Year ended December 31, 2016:					
Allowance for doubtful accounts ⁽¹⁾	\$ 3,417	—	—	579	2,838
Year ended December 31, 2015:					
Allowance for doubtful accounts ⁽¹⁾	\$ 2,943	499	—	25	3,417

⁽¹⁾ Deductions in the allowance for doubtful accounts represent write-offs, net of recoveries, of amounts determined to be uncollectible.

See accompanying Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm incorporated herein by reference.

Item 16. Form 10-K Summary.

None.

Exhibit Number	Description of Exhibit
2.1	Purchase Agreement dated October 20, 2015 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 12, 2015 (Commission file number 1-10560))
3.1	Restated Certificate of Formation dated May 17, 2016 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 17, 2016) (the 8-K) (Commission file number 1-10560)
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company dated May 11, 2016 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the 8-K)
4.1	Specimen form of certificate evidencing the Common Shares (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2014) (the 10-Q) (Commission file number 1-10560)
10.1	Form of Indemnity Agreement between the Company and its directors and senior officers (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the 10-Q)
10.2 ⁽¹⁾	Benchmark Electronics, Inc. 2000 Stock Awards Plan (2000 Plan) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.8 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration Number 333-54186))
10.3 ⁽¹⁾	Form of nonqualified stock option agreement for use under the 2000 Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.4 ⁽¹⁾	Benchmark Electronics, Inc. 2002 Stock Option Plan for Non-Employee Directors (2002 Plan) (incorporated by reference to Appendix A to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed April 15, 2002 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.5 ⁽¹⁾	Amendment No. 1 to the 2002 Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.3 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 19, 2006 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.6 ⁽¹⁾	Benchmark Electronics, Inc. 2010 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan (2010 Plan) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration Number 333-168427))
10.7 ⁽¹⁾	First Amendment to the 2010 Plan (incorporated by reference to Annex A to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed March 28, 2014 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.8 ⁽¹⁾	Form of option award agreement for use under the 2010 Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.10 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration Number 333-168427))

Exhibit Number	Description of Exhibit
10.9 ⁽¹⁾	Form of restricted share award agreement for use under the 2010 Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.11 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration Number 333-168427))
10.10 ⁽¹⁾	Form of restricted stock unit award agreement for use under the 2010 Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.12 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration Number 333-168427))
10.11 ⁽¹⁾	Amended form of restricted stock unit award agreement for use under the 2010 Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2017 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.12 ⁽¹⁾	Form of performance-based restricted stock unit award agreement for use under the 2010 Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on May 10, 2016 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.13 ⁽¹⁾	Amended form of performance-based restricted stock unit award agreement for use under the 2010 Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2017 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.14 ⁽¹⁾	Benchmark Electronics, Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan dated as of December 16, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Company's Form S-8 (Registration Number 333-156202))
10.15 ⁽¹⁾	Employment Agreement dated December 1, 2016 between the Company and Paul J. Tufano (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 1, 2016 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.16 ⁽¹⁾	Employment Agreement between the Company and Donald F. Adam dated as of March 10, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 10, 2009 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.17 ⁽¹⁾	Agreement between the Company and Jon J. King dated as of May 15, 2017 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's quarterly report on Form 10-Q filed for the quarter ended June 30, 2017 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.18 ⁽¹⁾	Form of Executive Severance Agreement (incorporated by referent to Exhibit 10.15 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.19	Code of Conduct (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.20 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.20	Credit Agreement dated November 12, 2015 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 12, 2015 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.21	Amendment No. 1 to the Credit Agreement dated November 12, 2015 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2017 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.22 ⁽¹⁾	Separation Agreement dated September 15, 2016 between the Company and Gayla J. Delly (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report Form 8-K dated September 15, 2016 (Commission file number 1-10560))

Exhibit Number	Description of Exhibit
10.23	Cooperation Agreement, dated as of December 19, 2016, by and among the Company and Engaged Capital, LLC, Engaged Capital Flagship Master Fund, LP, Engaged Capital Flagship Fund, LP, Engaged Capital Flagship Fund, Ltd. and Engaged Capital Holdings, LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 19, 2016 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.24 ⁽¹⁾	Form of Key Management Severance Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 11, 2017 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.25 ⁽¹⁾	Transition Agreement and Release of All Claims by and between Scott Peterson and the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 11, 2017 (Commission file number 1-10560))
10.26 ⁽¹⁾	Transition Agreement and Release of All Claims by and between Donald F. Adam and the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 20, 2017 (Commission file number 1-10560))
11	Statement regarding Computation of Per-Share Earnings (incorporated by reference to "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Note 1(i) – Earnings Per Share" in Item 8 of this Report)
16	Letter of Hein & Associates LLP dated November 21, 2017 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 16.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 21, 2017 (Commission file number 1-10560))
21 ⁽²⁾	Subsidiaries of Benchmark Electronics, Inc.
23 ⁽²⁾	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm concerning incorporation by reference in the Company's Registration Statements on Form S-8 (Registration No. 333-28997, No. 333-101744, No. 333-156202, No. 333-168427 and No. 333-198404)
31.1 ⁽²⁾	Section 302 Certification of Chief Executive Officer
31.2 ⁽²⁾	Section 302 Certification of Chief Financial Officer
32.1 ⁽²⁾	Section 1350 Certification of Chief Executive Officer
32.2 ⁽²⁾	Section 1350 Certification of Chief Financial Officer
101.INS ⁽³⁾	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH ⁽³⁾	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL ⁽³⁾	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.LAB ⁽³⁾	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE ⁽³⁾	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document
101.DEF ⁽³⁾	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document

⁽¹⁾ Indicates management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

⁽²⁾ Filed herewith.

⁽³⁾ XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language) information is furnished and not filed or a part of a registration statement or prospectus for purposes of Sections 11 or 12 of the Securities Act of 1933, is deemed not filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and otherwise is not subject to liability under these sections.

SIGNATURES

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

BENCHMARK ELECTRONICS, INC.

By: /s/ Paul J. Tufano

Paul J. Tufano

Chief Executive Officer

Date: February 28, 2018

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ David W. Scheible</u> David W. Scheible	Chairman of the Board	<u>February 28, 2018</u>
<u>/s/ Paul J. Tufano</u> Paul J. Tufano	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (principal executive officer)	<u>February 28, 2018</u>
<u>/s/ Roop K. Lakkaraju</u> Roop K. Lakkaraju	Chief Financial Officer (principal financial and accounting officer)	<u>February 28, 2018</u>
<u>/s/ Bruce A. Carlson</u> Bruce A. Carlson	Director	<u>February 28, 2018</u>
<u>/s/ Douglas G. Duncan</u> Douglas G. Duncan	Director	<u>February 28, 2018</u>
<u>/s/ Robert K. Gifford</u> Robert K. Gifford	Director	<u>February 28, 2018</u>
<u>/s/ Kenneth T. Lamneck</u> Kenneth T. Lamneck	Director	<u>February 28, 2018</u>
<u>/s/ Jeffrey S. McCreary</u> Jeffrey S. McCreary	Director	<u>February 28, 2018</u>
<u>/s/ Clay C. Williams</u> Clay C. Williams	Director	<u>February 28, 2018</u>