

Hudson Global, Inc.  
Form PRE 14A  
May 15, 2018

**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement  
**Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**  
Definitive Proxy Statement  
Definitive Additional Materials  
Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**Hudson Global, Inc.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

**PRELIMINARY PROXY STATEMENT– SUBJECT TO COMPLETION**

**HUDSON GLOBAL, INC.**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**To Be Held July 19, 2018**

**To the Stockholders of Hudson Global, Inc.:**

We are providing notice that the annual meeting of stockholders of Hudson Global, Inc. will be held on Thursday, July 19, 2018, at 8:00 A.M., local time, at the offices of Foley & Lardner LLP, 90 Park Avenue, 35<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10016, for the following purposes:

1. To elect four directors to hold office until the 2019 annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified;
2. To approve, by advisory vote, the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in the accompanying proxy statement;
3. To ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as independent registered public accounting firm to audit Hudson Global, Inc.'s financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018;
4. To adopt and approve an amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation designed to protect the tax benefits of our net operating losses; and
5. To adopt and approve an amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to reduce the minimum number of directors constituting the entire Board of Directors from five to three.

We also will consider and act upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the meeting.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on May 25, 2018 will be entitled to vote at the annual meeting and any adjournment or postponement of the meeting.

**Your vote is important no matter how large or small your holdings may be. To assure your representation at the annual meeting, please vote your shares over the Internet or via the toll-free telephone number, as instructed in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. You also may request a printed proxy card to submit your vote by mail. You will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials unless you request them, as instructed in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials.**

**For directions to the annual meeting, please write Philip A. Skalski, Corporate Secretary, Hudson Global, Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10019 or call (212) 351-7300.**

By Order of the Board of Directors  
HUDSON GLOBAL, INC.

Philip A. Skalski  
*Corporate Secretary*

New York, New York

June 8, 2018

**PROXY STATEMENT**

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**HUDSON GLOBAL, INC.**

**1325 Avenue of the Americas, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**New York, New York 10019**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**For**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**To Be Held July 19, 2018**

**ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION**

Our Board of Directors is soliciting proxies for use at our annual meeting of stockholders, which will be held on Thursday, July 19, 2018, at 8:00 A.M., local time, at the offices of Foley & Lardner LLP, 90 Park Avenue, 35<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10016, and all adjournments or postponements of the meeting, for the purposes set forth in the attached Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

**On or before June 8, 2018, we mailed to you and our other stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials containing instructions on how to access this proxy statement and our annual report on the Internet and to vote your shares over the Internet or by telephone. You will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials unless you request them. If you would like to receive a printed copy of our proxy materials, including a printed proxy card on which you may submit your vote by mail, then you should follow the instructions for obtaining a printed copy of our proxy materials contained in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials.**

Submitting your proxy over the Internet, by telephone or by executing and returning a printed proxy card will not affect your right to attend the annual meeting and to vote in person. However, your presence at the annual meeting will not in itself revoke your submitted proxy. You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is exercised only by notifying us in writing or in open meeting.



If you submit your proxy over the Internet or by telephone, or you request a printed proxy card and properly execute and return the proxy card by mail, then the persons named as proxies will vote the shares represented by your proxy according to your instructions. If you request a printed proxy card and properly execute and return the proxy card by mail, but do not mark voting instructions on the proxy card, then the persons named as proxies will vote (i) FOR the four nominees for election as directors referred to in this proxy statement, (ii) FOR the approval of the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement, (iii) FOR the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018, (iv) FOR the adoption and approval of an amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation designed to protect the tax benefits of our net operating losses, and (v) FOR the adoption and approval of an amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to reduce the minimum number of directors constituting the entire Board of Directors from five to three. Our management knows of no matters other than those set forth in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be brought before the annual meeting. However, if any other business or matters properly shall come before the annual meeting, then the persons named as proxies in the form of proxy will vote the shares represented by each proxy in accordance with their judgment on such other business or matters.

Only holders of record of our common stock at the close of business on May 25, 2018 are entitled to vote at the annual meeting. On May 25, 2018, there were [\_\_\_\_\_] shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. Each share is entitled to one vote.

**If you would like to attend the annual meeting, you must demonstrate that you were a stockholder on May 25, 2018 and you must bring photo identification with you to the annual meeting. If your shares are held through a broker, bank or nominee, you must bring to the annual meeting a copy of your brokerage account statement, which you can obtain from your broker, bank or nominee that holds your shares. If your shares are registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, Computershare, Inc., you need only bring photo identification with you to the annual meeting.**

## PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS

## Management and Directors

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of May 25, 2018 by: (i) each director and nominee for director; (ii) each of the executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table set forth below; and (iii) all of the directors, nominees and executive officers (including the executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table) as a group. Each of the holders listed below has sole voting and investment power over the shares beneficially owned by such holder. None of the holders listed below have pledged any of their shares as security.

| Name of Beneficial Owner  | Shares of    | Percent of   |
|---|--------------|--------------|
|   | Common       | Common       |
|   | Stock        | Stock        |
|   | Beneficially | Beneficially |
|   | Owned        | Owned        |
| Alan L. Bazaar (1)  | 199,235      | *            |
| Richard K. Coleman, Jr. (1)   | 266,881      | *            |
| Ian V. Nash (1)(2)  | 246,430      | *            |
| Jeffrey E. Eberwein (1)(3)  | 1,272,079    | 4.08%        |
| Patrick Lyons   | 59,302       | *            |
| David F. Kirby  | 56,726       | *            |
| Stephen A. Nolan (4)  | 917,360      | 2.94%        |
| All directors, nominees and executive officers as a group (7 persons) (1)(2)(3) | 3,018,013    | 9.68%        |

\*Denotes less than 1%.

(1) Includes the following share units under our Director Deferred Share Plan, which are payable only in shares of common stock upon a director ceasing service as a Board member: Alan L. Bazaar, 199,235; Richard K. Coleman, Jr., 263,881; Jeffrey E. Eberwein, 259,567; Ian V. Nash, 196,430; and all directors, nominees and executive officers as a group, 919,113 shares.

(2) Includes the following shares of common stock subject to stock options, which are exercisable within 60 days of May 25, 2018: Ian V. Nash, 50,000; and all directors, nominees and executive officers as a group, 50,000 shares.

(3) Includes 7,458 shares owned directly by Lone Star Value Investors GP, LLC (“Lone Star Value GP”). Mr. Eberwein, solely by virtue of his position as the manager of Lone Star Value GP, may be deemed to beneficially own the shares owned directly by Lone Star Value GP. Mr. Eberwein expressly disclaims beneficial ownership of all of such shares except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.

(4) Mr. Nolan resigned as chief executive officer and a director of our company and his employment and service as a director with our company ended April 1, 2018.

## Other Beneficial Owners

The following table sets forth certain information regarding beneficial ownership by other persons known to us to own more than 5% of our outstanding common stock as of May 25, 2018.

| Name and Address of Beneficial Owner  | Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership(1) |           | Investment Power |           | Aggregate Percent of Class |
|---|--|-----------|------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
|   | Voting Power<br>Sole                         | Shared    | Sole             | Shared    |                            |
| Hotchkis and Wiley Capital Management, LLC<br>725 South Figueroa St., 39th Floor<br>Los Angeles, CA 90017     | 4,069,278                                    | 0         | 5,232,678        | 0         | 5,232,678 16.79%           |
| Heartland Advisors, Inc.<br>789 North Water St.<br>Milwaukee, WI 53202  | 0  | 3,797,051 | 0                | 4,052,952 | 4,052,952 13.00%           |
| Cannell Capital, LLC<br>245 Meriwether Circle<br>Alta, WY 83414   | 0  | 2,244,914 | 0                | 2,244,914 | 2,244,914 7.20%            |
| Polar Asset Management Partners, Inc.<br>401 Bay Street,<br>Suite 1900, PO Box 19<br>Toronto, Ontario M5H 2Y4 | 1,708,765                                    | 0         | 1,708,765        | 0         | 1,708,765 5.48%            |

These amounts represent the number of shares beneficially owned as disclosed in reports regarding beneficial (1) ownership filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission under Section 13(g) or Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

## PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated By-Laws provide that all of our directors stand for election on an annual basis. At the 2018 annual meeting, our stockholders will elect four directors to hold office until the 2019 annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Due to the resignation of Stephen A. Nolan as our Chief Executive Officer and as a director on April 1, 2018, there is currently one vacancy on the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has not at this time nominated a candidate to fill the vacancy to be created by Mr. Nolan's resignation. As a result, there is one fewer nominee for election to the Board of Directors than there are available positions on the Board of Directors pursuant to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation. Regardless of this vacancy, your proxies may be voted only for the number of nominees for director named in this proxy statement.

Listed below are the nominees of our Board of Directors for election at the 2018 annual meeting.

### Nominees for Election at the Annual Meeting

**Alan L. Bazaar**, 48, has served as a director since June 2015. Mr. Bazaar is the Chief Executive Officer of Hollow Brook Wealth Management LLC, a position he has held since December 2013, where he is responsible for firm-wide operations, investment research and portfolio management, and previously served in this position as Co-Executive Officer since January 2013. Prior to that, Mr. Bazaar served at Hollow Brook as Managing Director from 2010 through 2012. Mr. Bazaar also is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Wireless Telecom Group, Inc., which designs and manufactures radio frequency and microwave-based products for wireless and advanced communications industries, and has served as a director of that company since June 2013. Since May 2016, Mr. Bazaar also has served as a director of Sparton Corporation, a contract designer and manufacturer of complex electromechanical devices. Mr. Bazaar served as a director of LoJack Corporation, a provider of tracking and recovery systems as well as equipment and fleet telematics, from March 2015 until the completion of its sale in March 2016. Mr. Bazaar also served as a director of NTS, Inc., a broadband services and telecommunications company, from 2012 until the completion of its sale in 2014. From 2004 until 2008, Mr. Bazaar served as a director of Media Sciences International, Inc., which manufactured and distributed business color printer supplies and industrial ink applications in the United States. From 1999 until 2009, Mr. Bazaar was a Managing Director and Portfolio Manager at Richard L. Scott Investments, LLC where he co-managed the public equity portfolio and was responsible for all elements of due diligence. Previously, Mr. Bazaar served as a director of Airco Industries, Inc., a privately held manufacturer of aerospace products, and was employed by Arthur Andersen LLP in the Assurance and Financial Buyer's Practices group and in the Business Fraud and Investigation Services Unit. Mr. Bazaar is a certified public accountant, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bucknell University and a Master of Science and Master of Business Administration from the Stern School of Business at New York University. The particular experience, qualifications, attributes or skills that led our Board of

Directors to conclude that Mr. Bazaar should continue to serve as a director of our company include his public market, financial and accounting expertise.

**Richard K. Coleman, Jr.**, 61, has served as a director since May 2014. Mr. Coleman is the President, Chief Executive Officer and director of Command Center, Inc., a provider of on-demand flexible employment solutions, positions he has held since April 2018. Mr. Coleman has deep experience serving in senior executive positions and on various public company boards, and has gained extensive expertise in business development and operations. Mr. Coleman also is the founder and President of Rocky Mountain Venture Services, a firm that helps companies plan and launch new business ventures and restructuring initiatives. Mr. Coleman also has served in a variety of senior operational roles, including President and Chief Executive Officer of Crossroads Systems, Inc., CEO of Vroom Technologies Inc., Chief Operating Officer of MetroNet Communications, and President of US West Long Distance. He also has held significant officer-level positions with Frontier Communications, Centex Telemanagement and Sprint Communications. He formerly served as a director of Crossroads Systems, Inc., an intellectual property licensing company, from 2013 to 2017, Ciber, Inc., a leading global information technology company, from 2014 to 2017, NTS, Inc., a broadband services and telecommunications company, On Track Innovations Ltd., one of the pioneers of cashless payment technology, from 2012 to 2014, and Aetrium Incorporated, a recognized world leader in the global semiconductor industry from 2013 to 2014. The particular experience, qualifications, attributes or skills that led our Board of Directors to conclude that Mr. Coleman should continue to serve as a director of our company include his extensive business development and operating expertise, his public company board experience, and his broad leadership experience.

**Jeffrey E. Eberwein**, 47, has served as a director since May 2014. Mr. Eberwein is the Chief Executive Officer of our company and has served in that capacity since April 1, 2018. Mr. Eberwein is the Chief Executive Officer of Lone Star Value Management, an investment firm he founded in 2013, and which is in the process of winding down. He has 25 years of Wall Street experience, and has valuable public company and financial expertise gained through his employment history and directorships. Prior to founding Lone Star in 2013, Mr. Eberwein was a private investor and served as a portfolio manager at Soros Fund Management from 2009 to 2011 and Viking Global Investors from 2005 to 2008. Mr. Eberwein also is chairman of the board at three other publicly traded companies: AMERI Holdings, Inc., an IT services company; ATRM Holdings, Inc., a modular building company; and Digirad Corporation, a medical imaging company. Additionally, Mr. Eberwein served as a director of Novation Companies, Inc. from April 2015 to March 2018. Mr. Eberwein previously served as chairman of the board of Crossroads Systems, Inc. from June 2013 to May 2016; NTS, Inc. and On Track Innovations Ltd. from 2012 to 2014 and Goldfield Corporation from 2012 to 2013. Mr. Eberwein earned an MBA from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania and a BBA with High Honors from The University of Texas at Austin. The particular experience, qualifications, attributes or skills that led our Board of Directors to conclude that Mr. Eberwein should continue to serve as a director of our company include his expertise in finance and experience in the investment community. On February 14, 2017, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission issued an order (Securities Exchange Act Release No. 80038) (the "Order") finding that certain groups of investors failed to properly disclose ownership information during a series of five campaigns to influence or exert control over microcap companies, including Hudson Global, Inc. The Order alleged violations of Section 13(d)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") and Rule 13d-1 thereunder, Section 13(d)(2) of the Exchange Act and Rule 13d-2(a) thereunder and Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act and Rules 16a-2 and 16a-3 thereunder by Mr. Eberwein and a hedge fund adviser headed by him, Lone Star Value Management, mutual fund adviser Heartland Advisors and another investor. Without admitting or denying the findings, they consented to the Order and agreed to cease and desist from committing any violations of the above-referenced Exchange Act provisions and civil penalties of \$90,000 for Mr. Eberwein, \$120,000 for Lone Star Value Management, \$180,000 for Heartland Advisors and \$30,000 for the other investor.

**Ian V. Nash**, 62, has served as a director since October 2015. Mr. Nash has 30 years of experience within the recruitment industry. Mr. Nash served as Chief Financial Officer and as a director of Robert Walters PLC, a London Stock Exchange-listed global recruitment company, from 2001 to 2007. Prior to that, Mr. Nash served as Chief Financial Officer of Michael Page International PLC, a London Stock Exchange-listed global recruitment company, from 1987 to 1999. From 2007 to 2010, Mr. Nash provided consultancy services to several recruitment companies. Currently, Mr. Nash serves as Chairman of two privately-held recruiting firms: Acre Resources Limited, which specializes in sustainability recruitment, and EarthStream Global Limited (a subsidiary of Cloudstream Group Holdings Limited since 2018), a technology and engineering recruiting firm. Mr. Nash has served as Chairman of Acre Resources Limited and EarthStream Global Limited since 2010. Mr. Nash also has served as a director of Cloudstream Group Holdings Limited since 2018. Mr. Nash also has served since 2012 as a director, and until 2018 as Chairman, of Fulfil(1) TopCo Limited, which does business as Investigo Limited, and specializes in professional services recruitment. Mr. Nash also has served since 2013 as a director of Morgan Hunt Holdings Limited, a public-sector recruitment firm. Mr. Nash is a chartered accountant. The particular experience, qualifications, attributes or skills that led our Board of Directors to conclude that Mr. Nash should continue to serve as a director of our company include his extensive recruitment industry experience and expertise in finance.



## Vote Required

Each director will be elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the annual meeting (assuming a quorum is present). Consequently, any shares not voted at the annual meeting, whether due to abstentions, broker non-votes or otherwise, will have no impact on the election of the directors. Shares of common stock represented by executed, but unmarked, proxies will be voted in favor of the election as directors of the persons named as nominees; provided that, if you hold your shares of our common stock through a broker-dealer, bank nominee, custodian or other securities intermediary, the intermediary will not vote those shares for the election of any nominee for director unless you give the intermediary specific voting instructions on a timely basis directing the intermediary to vote for such nominee. Our Board of Directors has no reason to believe that the listed nominees will be unable or unwilling to serve as directors if elected. However, if any nominee should be unable to serve or will not serve, then the shares represented by proxies received will be voted for another nominee selected by our Board of Directors.

**Our Board of Directors recommends that the nominees identified above be elected as directors and urges you to vote “FOR” their election.**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

### Independent Directors

Of the four directors currently serving on our Board of Directors, the Board has determined that Messrs. Bazaar, Coleman, and Nash are independent directors under the independence standards of the Nasdaq Global Select Market. Mr. Eberwein was an independent director, but as of April 1, 2018 is no longer considered an independent director under the independence standards of the Nasdaq Global Select Market because he became our Chief Executive Officer on that date.

### Board Committees

Our Board of Directors has standing Audit, Compensation, Nominating and Governance and Strategic Planning Committees. Under the listing standards of the Nasdaq Global Select Market, the members of the Audit, Compensation and Nominating and Governance Committees must be comprised solely of independent directors. Accordingly, Mr. Eberwein is not eligible to serve on such committees. All directors receive materials for all Board committee meetings even if they do not serve, or are not eligible to serve, on the committee.

The Board has adopted, and may amend from time to time, a written charter for each of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, Nominating and Governance Committee and Strategic Planning Committee. We maintain a Web site at [www.hudson.com](http://www.hudson.com) and make available on that Web site, free of charge, copies of each of the charters for the Audit, Compensation and Nominating and Governance Committees. We are not including the information contained on or available through this Web site as a part of, or incorporating such information by reference into, this proxy statement.

*Audit Committee*

The Audit Committee presently consists of Ian V. Nash (Chairman), Alan L. Bazaar and Richard K. Coleman, Jr., each of whom is an independent director under the independence standards of the Nasdaq Global Select Market and Securities and Exchange Commission rules. Our Board of Directors has determined that each of Messrs. Nash, Bazaar and Coleman qualify as an “audit committee financial expert,” as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Audit Committee held four meetings in 2017.

The Audit Committee’s primary duties and responsibilities are to assist our Board of Directors in monitoring:

the integrity of our financial statements;

the independent registered public accounting firm’s qualifications and independence;

the performance of our internal audit function and of the independent registered public accounting firm; and

our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

*Compensation Committee*

The Compensation Committee presently consists of Richard K. Coleman, Jr. (Chairman), Alan L. Bazaar and Ian V. Nash, each of whom is an independent director under the independence standards of the Nasdaq Global Select Market and Securities and Exchange Commission rules. Our Compensation Committee members also qualified as “outside directors” under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code with respect to years prior to 2018. The Compensation Committee held four meetings in 2017.

The Compensation Committee’s primary responsibility is to assure that the non-employee members of our Board of Directors, the executive officers, including the Chief Executive Officer, and key management are compensated effectively and in a manner consistent with our stated compensation strategy, internal equity considerations, competitive practices and the requirements of the appropriate regulatory bodies. The Compensation Committee has overall responsibility for approving and evaluating the compensation of executive officers (including the Chief Executive Officer), key management and outside directors, and administers our long-term incentive programs, including our equity compensation plan.



The Compensation Committee has retained the services of an independent, external compensation consultant, Pay Governance LLC. Pay Governance LLC has served as the independent compensation consultant to the Compensation Committee since 2010. The mandate of the consultant is to work for the Compensation Committee in its review of executive and director compensation practices, including the competitiveness of pay levels, executive compensation design issues, market trends and technical considerations. The consultant does not determine or recommend amounts or forms of compensation. The historical and ongoing nature and scope of services rendered by the independent compensation consultant on the Compensation Committee's behalf is described below:

competitive market pay analyses, Board of Director pay studies, dilution analyses, and market trends;

ongoing support with regard to the latest relevant regulatory, technical, and/or accounting considerations affecting executive compensation and benefit programs;

guidance on overall compensation program structure and executive employment agreement terms; and

preparation for and attendance at selected management, Board committee, or Board of Director meetings.

The Compensation Committee has the final authority to hire and terminate Pay Governance LLC or any other compensation adviser. The Compensation Committee also evaluates Pay Governance LLC periodically. In addition, the Compensation Committee has the responsibility to consider the independence of Pay Governance LLC or any other compensation adviser before engaging the adviser. During 2017, the Compensation Committee reviewed the independence of Pay Governance LLC and the individual representatives of Pay Governance LLC who served as the Compensation Committee's consultants pursuant to the requirements of Nasdaq and the Securities and Exchange Commission and the specific independence factors that the requirements cite and concluded, based on such review, that Pay Governance LLC's work for the Compensation Committee does not raise any conflict of interest. In 2017, Pay Governance LLC did not provide any services to the Compensation Committee other than the executive and director compensation-related consulting services as described previously. Management did not obtain any services from Pay Governance LLC in 2017.

#### *Nominating and Governance Committee*

The Nominating and Governance Committee presently consists of Alan L. Bazaar (Chairman), Richard K. Coleman, Jr., and Ian V. Nash, each of whom is an independent director under the independence standards of the Nasdaq Global Select Market. The Nominating and Governance Committee held four meetings in 2017.

The Nominating and Governance Committee provides assistance to our Board of Directors by:

identifying individuals qualified to become directors and recommending to the Board candidates for all directorships to be filled by the Board or by our stockholders;

identifying directors qualified to serve on the committees established by the Board and recommending to the Board members for each committee to be filled by the Board;

identifying directors qualified to serve as Chairman of the Board and recommending to the Board nominees for Chairman of the Board; and

developing and recommending to the Board a set of corporate governance principles, including matters of:

Board organization, membership and function;

Board committee structure and membership;

succession planning for our Chief Executive Officer; and

taking a leadership role in shaping our corporate governance.

In identifying and evaluating nominees for director, the Nominating and Governance Committee seeks to ensure that our Board of Directors possesses, in the aggregate, the strategic, managerial and financial skills and experience necessary to fulfill its duties and to achieve its objectives. The Nominating and Governance Committee also seeks to ensure that the Board is comprised of directors who have broad and diverse backgrounds, possessing knowledge in areas that are important to us. In addition, the Nominating and Governance Committee believes it is important that at least one director has the requisite experience and expertise to be designated as an “audit committee financial expert.” The Nominating and Governance Committee looks at each nominee on a case-by-case basis regardless of who recommended the nominee.

In looking at the qualifications of each candidate to determine if their election would further the goals described above, the Nominating and Governance Committee takes into account all factors it considers appropriate, which may include strength of character, mature judgment, career specialization, relevant technical skills or financial acumen, diversity of viewpoint and industry knowledge. The Nominating and Governance Committee also believes that candidates should be selected so that the Board of Directors is a diverse body, with diversity reflecting, among other things, age, gender, race and professional experience. At a minimum, each director nominee must have displayed the highest personal and professional ethics, integrity and values, and sound business judgment. In addition, the Nominating and Governance Committee believes a director should possess the following minimum qualifications to be recommended by the Nominating and Governance Committee to the Board:

A director must be highly accomplished in his or her respective field, with superior credentials and recognition and broad experience at the administrative and/or policy-making level in business, government, education, technology or public interest.

A director must have expertise and experience relevant to our business and be able to offer advice and guidance to the Chief Executive Officer based on that expertise and experience.

A director must be independent of any particular constituency, be able to represent all of our stockholders and be committed to enhancing long-term stockholder value.

A director must have sufficient time available to devote to activities of the Board and to enhance his or her knowledge of our business.

The Nominating and Governance Committee has the authority to retain a search firm to assist it in identifying director nominees, and the Nominating and Governance Committee provides the search firm with the criteria for the director nominees as described above.

The Nominating and Governance Committee will consider persons recommended by stockholders to become nominees for election as directors in accordance with the foregoing and other criteria set forth in our Nominating and Governance Committee Charter, which is available on our website as described above. Recommendations for consideration by the Nominating and Governance Committee should be sent to our Corporate Secretary in writing, together with appropriate biographical information concerning each proposed nominee. Our By-Laws also set forth certain requirements for stockholders wishing to nominate director candidates directly for consideration by the stockholders. With respect to an election of directors to be held at an annual meeting, a stockholder must, among other things, give notice of an intent to make such a nomination to our Corporate Secretary in advance of the meeting in compliance with the terms and within the time period specified in our By-Laws. Pursuant to our By-Laws, a stockholder must give a written notice of intent to our Corporate Secretary not less than 45 days and not more than 75 days prior to the first anniversary of the date on which we first mailed our proxy materials for the preceding year's annual meeting of stockholders. See "Other Matters – Stockholder Proposals" for the specific deadlines for submitting stockholder proposals to our Corporate Secretary in connection with the 2019 annual meeting of stockholders.



*Strategic Planning Committee*

The Strategic Planning Committee presently consists of Ian V. Nash (Chairman), Alan L. Bazaar, and Richard K. Coleman, Jr. The Strategic Planning Committee held five meetings in 2017.

The Strategic Planning Committee provides assistance to our Board of Directors by:

assisting our Board of Directors in assessing whether our management has the resources necessary to implement our company's strategy;

assessing external developments and factors, including changes in the economy, competition, and technology, on our company's strategy and execution of its strategy; and

advising on strategic development activities, including those not in the ordinary course of business, under consideration from time to time by our company.

Board Leadership Structure

We have separate positions of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. The reasons why our Board of Directors separates the positions of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer include that we believe this leadership structure helps to promote more effective governance and oversight of our company by our Board of Directors and to allow our Chief Executive Officer to focus on the execution of our company's strategy and operations.

Our independent directors meet regularly without management, including our Chief Executive Officer, and are active in the oversight of our company. Our Board of Directors and each Board committee have access to members of our management and the authority to retain independent legal, accounting or other advisors as they deem necessary or appropriate. Our Chief Executive Officer does not serve on any Board committee.

The duties and responsibilities of our independent Chairman include the following:

coordinate the activities of the independent directors and serve as a liaison between the independent directors and our Chief Executive Officer;

chair meetings and executive sessions at which only the independent directors attend;

advise our Chief Executive Officer as to the quality, quantity and timeliness of the flow of information from management that is necessary for the independent directors to effectively perform their duties;

jointly with the Compensation Committee, conduct an annual evaluation of the performance of the Chief Executive Officer and report to the Board of Directors the results of that evaluation;

in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer, consider potential conflicts of interest of directors;

conduct, as appropriate, exit interviews of senior management upon resignation; and

recommend to the Chief Executive Officer the retention of outside advisors and consultants who report directly to the Board of Directors.

We believe that our board leadership structure provides an appropriate balance between strong and strategic leadership and independent oversight of our company, and that our board leadership structure continues to serve the best interests of our company and stockholders.

#### Risk Oversight

The Audit Committee of our Board of Directors oversees our risk management process. Our Risk Committee, which consists of certain members of our senior management and our Internal Audit, Enterprise Risk and Controls consultant, has day-to-day responsibility for our risk management process. The members of the Risk Committee are our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Counsel and our Internal Audit, Enterprise Risk and Controls consultant. Our Internal Audit, Enterprise Risk and Controls consultant serves as the liaison between the Risk Committee and the Audit Committee. Our Internal Audit, Enterprise Risk and Controls consultant provides periodic updates to the Audit Committee on behalf of the Risk Committee regarding, among other things, risk assessments and actions taken to mitigate risks. In addition, our Internal Audit, Enterprise Risk and Controls consultant reports directly to the Chairman of the Audit Committee and provides periodic updates to the Audit Committee about risk management issues, particularly those regarding accounting and finance related risks. Also, our Corporate Counsel provides periodic updates to our Board of Directors regarding claims against our company.

#### Corporate Governance Guidelines

Our Board of Directors has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines to further promote the effective functioning of our Board and Board committees and to set forth a common set of expectations as to how our Board and Board committees should perform their functions. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines are available, free of charge, on our Web site at [www.hudson.com](http://www.hudson.com).

#### Compensation Recovery Policy

In December 2016, our Board of Directors adopted a compensation recovery policy, effective January 1, 2017, pursuant to which certain incentive-based compensation received by our executive officers on the basis of financial results that are later restated may be subject to recovery. The incentive-based compensation subject to the policy includes any compensation that is granted, earned or vested based wholly or in part upon the attainment of a measure that is determined and presented in accordance with the accounting principles used in preparing our financial statements, any measures that are derived wholly or in part from such measures, or stock price or total shareholder return. We intend to amend the policy as and when necessary to reflect applicable changes in law and stock exchange listing standards, including the requirements of the final regulations and listing standards expected to be promulgated pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010.

## Meetings and Attendance

Our Board of Directors held eleven meetings in 2017. Each of the directors currently serving on our Board of Directors attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of meetings of the Board held in 2017 and meetings held by each committee of the Board on which such director served during the period that the director so served in 2017. Directors are expected to attend our annual meeting of stockholders each year. At the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders, all of the directors then serving were in attendance either in-person or by teleconference.

## Communications with Board of Directors

You may communicate with our Board of Directors by writing to our Corporate Secretary at Hudson Global, Inc., c/o the Board of Directors (or, at your option, c/o a specific director), 1325 Avenue of the Americas, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10019. The Corporate Secretary will deliver this communication to the Board or the specified director, as the case may be.

## Policies and Procedures Regarding Related Person Transactions

Our Board of Directors has adopted written policies and procedures regarding related person transactions. For purposes of these policies and procedures:

a “related person” means any of our directors, executive officers or nominees for director or any of their immediate family members; and

a “related person transaction” generally is a transaction (including any indebtedness or a guarantee of indebtedness) in which we were or are to be a participant and the amount involved exceeds \$120,000, and in which a related person had or will have a direct or indirect material interest.

Each of our executive officers, directors or nominees for director is required to disclose to the Audit Committee certain information relating to related person transactions for review, approval or ratification by the Audit Committee. Disclosure to the Audit Committee should occur before, if possible, or as soon as practicable after the related person transaction is effected, but in any event as soon as practicable after the executive officer, director or nominee for director becomes aware of the related person transaction. The Audit Committee’s decision whether or not to approve or ratify a related person transaction is to be made in light of the Audit Committee’s determination that consummation of

the transaction is not or was not contrary to our best interests. Any related person transaction must be disclosed to the full Board of Directors.

## DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

The following table sets forth information regarding the compensation received during 2017 by each of our directors during 2017, other than Mr. Nolan who did not receive any compensation for serving as a director and whose compensation as an executive officer is set forth below under “Executive Compensation—Summary Compensation Table.”

| Name                    | Fees                            |                        |                         | Total     |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
|                         | Earned<br>or<br>Paid in<br>Cash | Stock<br>Awards<br>(1) | Option<br>Awards<br>(2) |           |
| Alan L. Bazaar          | \$0                             | \$124,003              | \$0                     | \$124,003 |
| Richard K. Coleman, Jr. | \$0                             | \$137,003              | \$0                     | \$137,003 |
| Jeffrey E. Eberwein (3) | \$0                             | \$134,003              | \$0                     | \$134,003 |
| Ian V. Nash             | \$75,000                        | \$124,503              | \$0                     | \$199,503 |

The dollar amount shown reflects the aggregate grant date fair value calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 for all awards of share units granted during the fiscal year under our Director Deferred Share Plan. (1) Assumptions used in the calculation of these amounts are included in Note 6 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

During 2017, no directors were granted options to purchase shares of our common stock. The aggregate number of (2) outstanding stock options as of December 31, 2017 for each of our directors named above was: Mr. Bazaar, 0; Mr. Coleman, 0; Mr. Eberwein, 0; and Mr. Nash, 50,000.

Mr. Eberwein became our Chief Executive Officer on April 1, 2018 and, as such, will not receive compensation as a director after that date. See “Executive Compensation – Executive Employment Agreement with Jeffrey E. (3) Eberwein” for more information regarding compensation Mr. Eberwein will be entitled to for serving as our Chief Executive Officer.

*Retainer and Meeting Fees*

Each non-employee director is entitled to receive an annual retainer of \$25,000 paid in quarterly installments, a fee of \$2,000 for each Board and Board committee meeting attended in person, and a fee of \$1,000 for each telephonic Board and Board committee meeting in which the director participates. The Chairmen of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, Nominating and Governance Committee and Strategic Planning Committees receive an additional annual retainer of \$25,000, \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$75,000, respectively, paid in quarterly installments. The annual retainer, the fees for attending in-person and telephonic Board and Board committee meetings, and the retainer for serving as a Chairman of a Board committee, except for the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee, are paid in share units each pursuant to the "Director Deferred Share Plan" as described below. The retainer for serving as the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee is paid in cash in quarterly installments. Also, each non-employee director is entitled to receive \$65,000 annually paid in share units as described below under "Director Deferred Share Plan." Additionally, directors are reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses associated with attending meetings of the Board and Board committees.



### *Director Deferred Share Plan*

Each quarter, effective seven calendar days following the release of our earnings, the retirement account of each non-employee director is credited under our Director Deferred Share Plan with the applicable number of share units for the quarterly portion of the annual retainer, the fees for attending in-person and telephonic Board and Board committee meetings, and the quarterly portion of the retainer for serving as a chairman of a Board committee. Also, on the date of our annual meeting of stockholders, the retirement account of each non-employee director is credited under the Director Deferred Share Plan with \$65,000 of share units. All share units fully vest on the date of grant. All share units are equivalent to one share of our common stock and are payable only in common stock issued under our 2009 Incentive Stock and Awards Plan upon a director ceasing service as a Board member.

### *Stock Options*

In October 2015, the Compensation Committee established a new stock option program under our 2009 Incentive Stock and Awards Plan for new non-employee directors. Under the program, upon first being elected or appointed as a director, we will grant each non-employee director an option to purchase 50,000 shares of our common stock. The exercise price for options is the fair market value of a share of our common stock on the date of grant. Options have a term of five years and become exercisable as follows: 50% immediately on the date of grant and 100% upon the first anniversary of the grant date (provided that if our Board of Directors does not designate such individual as a director nominee for election as a director at our first annual meeting of stockholders following the grant date, then the remainder of such option that has not yet vested will immediately vest). If a director ceases service on our Board of Directors for any reason other than death, then that portion of the option grant that is exercisable on the date the director ceases service will remain exercisable for a period of two years after such date. If the director's service ceases by reason of the director's death, then the option will remain exercisable by the director's beneficiary for a period of two years after the date of the director's death.

### *Stock Ownership Policy*

The Board of Directors considers ownership of our common stock to be an important factor in aligning the interest of our directors with those of our stockholders. Our Board of Directors has established a Stock Ownership Policy for non-employee directors. The Stock Ownership Policy became effective January 1, 2012. Under the Stock Ownership Policy, non-employee directors are required to own shares of our common stock with a market value equal to at least three times the director's then-current annual cash retainer. A director must satisfy the ownership requirements within five years from the date of the director's appointment to the Board or five years from the effective date of the Stock Ownership Policy, whichever occurs later. Stock ownership can consist of shares owned directly by the director and deferred shares, but vested and unvested stock options and unvested restricted shares are not included. The value of our common stock held by directors is measured annually using the greater of the value of our common stock on the

date when the shares were vested or purchased and the value of our common stock as of December 31 of the applicable year. Once the value of a director's shares reaches the required market value, the director is deemed to have met the stock ownership requirements and must retain only the number of shares that were required to meet the stock ownership requirements as of the date the director first met the requirements. As of December 31, 2017, the last measurement date for compliance with the Stock Ownership Policy, all non-employee directors met the stock ownership requirements imposed by the Stock Ownership Policy.

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

## Summary Compensation Table

The following table sets forth certain information concerning the compensation earned for 2017 by (i) our Chief Executive Officer, (ii) our Chief Financial Officer, and (iii) our other most highly compensated executive officer who was serving as an executive officer at the end of 2017. The persons named in the table are also referred to in this proxy statement as the “named executive officers.”

| Name and Principal Position   | Year | Salary    | Bonus | Stock Awards(2) | Option Awards(3) | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation | All Other Compensation(4) | Total       |
|---|------|-----------|-------|-----------------|------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------|
|   | 2017 | \$600,000 | \$0   | \$500,000       | \$0              | \$622,080                              | \$0                       | \$1,722,080 |
| Stephen A. Nolan,<br>Former Chief Executive Officer (1)                   | 2016 | \$600,000 | \$0   | \$0             | \$0              | \$194,400                              | \$44,820                  | \$839,220   |
| Patrick Lyons,<br>Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer    | 2017 | \$325,000 | \$0   | \$60,000        | \$0              | \$250,848                              | \$8,068                   | \$643,916   |
|   | 2016 | \$325,000 | \$0   | \$167,400       | \$0              | \$78,390                               | \$7,439                   | \$578,229   |
| David F. Kirby,<br>Senior Vice President, Treasury and Investor Relations | 2017 | \$230,000 | \$0   | \$15,000        | \$0              | \$132,480                              | \$8,100                   | \$385,580   |
|   | 2016 | \$230,000 | \$0   | \$34,875        | \$0              | \$41,400                               | \$8,767                   | \$315,042   |

(1) Mr. Nolan resigned as chief executive officer of our company and his employment with our company ended April 1, 2018.

(2)

The dollar amount shown reflects the aggregate grant date fair value calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 (excluding the effect of estimated forfeitures) for all awards of restricted stock units granted during the relevant fiscal year. Assumptions used in the calculation of these amounts are included in Note 6 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017. Awards of restricted stock units that we granted in 2017 to our named executive officers are subject to performance conditions and service conditions as described below under “Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2017.”

(3) The dollar amount shown reflects the aggregate grant date fair value calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 (excluding the effect of estimated forfeitures) for all awards of stock options granted during the relevant fiscal year. Assumptions used in the calculation of these amounts are included in Note 6 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

(4) Consists only of our matching contributions under our 401(k) Savings Plan of \$8,068 for Mr. Lyons and \$8,100 for Mr. Kirby. Certain personal benefits we provided to the named executive officers are not included in the table because the aggregate amount of such personal benefits for each named executive officer was less than \$10,000.

#### Disclosure Regarding Summary Compensation Table

#### *Executive Employment Agreements*

We have Executive Employment Agreements with each of our named executive officers currently employed with our company and had, prior to his resignation on April 1, 2018, an Executive Employment Agreement with Mr. Nolan. These agreements were put in place to allow us to attract and retain key talent to our business. They are designed to provide reasonable financial security (in general, not exceeding one year's salary and target bonus) to our executive officers in the event of certain kinds of separations from our company, while providing our company with appropriate releases from potential claims and commitments not to solicit our clients or employees during a set period.

The Executive Employment Agreements entitle our currently employed executives, and entitled Mr. Nolan prior to his resignation, to:

an annual base salary in the amount of at least \$600,000 for Mr. Nolan, \$325,000 for Mr. Lyons and \$230,000 for Mr. Kirby;

eligibility to receive an annual bonus as provided in our Senior Management Bonus Plan (equal to 90% of base salary for Mr. Nolan, 67% of base salary for Mr. Lyons and 50% of base salary for Mr. Kirby);

eligibility to receive a grant of equity of our company under our Senior Management Bonus Plan (90% of base salary for Mr. Nolan and as determined from time to time by the Compensation Committee for Messrs. Lyons and Kirby);

four weeks of vacation per year;

severance and health and dental benefits upon termination or non-renewal of employment;

severance and health and dental benefits upon a termination of employment after a change in control of our company; and

other benefits of employment comparable to other senior management of our company.

Neither Mr. Lyons nor Mr. Kirby is entitled to an excise tax gross-up payment after a change in control of our company under their employment agreements. However, upon a termination of the employment of Messrs. Lyons or Kirby after a change in control of our company, if any portion of the executive's termination payment would constitute an "excess parachute payment," then the termination payment made to the executive will either be made in full or made in the greatest amount such that no portion of the termination payment would be subject to the excise tax, whichever results in the receipt by the executive of the greatest benefit on an after-tax basis. Prior to his resignation, Mr. Nolan's Executive Employment Agreement contained provisions similar to those discussed above for Messrs. Lyons and Kirby. In connection with entering into the employment agreements, each of Messrs. Nolan, Lyons and Kirby executed a Confidentiality, Non-solicitation and Work Product Assignment Agreement with us.

We have the right to terminate each executive's employment at any time, subject to the provisions of the Executive Employment Agreements described below under "Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control—Executive Employment Agreements."

*Consulting Agreement with Stephen A. Nolan*

On April 1, 2018, in connection with Mr. Nolan's resignation as chief executive officer and a director of our company, our company and Mr. Nolan entered into a consulting agreement. Pursuant to the consulting agreement, Mr. Nolan agrees to serve as a consultant to our company to assist with certain transition matters from April 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018. In consideration for his services as a consultant, we will pay Mr. Nolan \$45,000 per month.

*2017 Incentive Compensation Program*

Our Compensation Committee annually sets bonus performance targets to help drive growth in our financial performance year-over-year. In February 2017, the Compensation Committee established the following specific adjusted EBITDA and corporate costs performance targets under the 2017 Incentive Compensation Program applicable for all named executive officers:

*adjusted EBITDA (portion of bonus: 80%):* achievement of an aggregated regional adjusted EBITDA (determined on a constant currency basis and before corporate cost allocation) threshold of \$10.3 million and target of \$14.7 million measured in dollars of adjusted EBITDA was required to earn 40% and 100% payouts, respectively. No (a) bonus was payable for adjusted EBITDA performance below threshold. For adjusted EBITDA performance from 70% of target up to and including target, bonuses were payable on a pro rata basis from 40% to 100% based on dollars of adjusted EBITDA. For adjusted EBITDA performance exceeding target up to 150% of target, the executive officers would be paid bonuses on a pro rata basis between 100% up to a cap of 180%.

*corporate costs (portion of bonus: 20%):* achievement of a corporate costs threshold of \$8.1 million and target of \$7.3 million was required to earn 50% and 100% payouts, respectively. No bonus was payable for corporate costs performance below threshold. For corporate costs performance from 90% of target up to and including target, (b) bonuses were payable on a pro rata basis from 50% to 100% based on dollars of corporate costs. For corporate costs performance exceeding target up to 120% of target, the executive officers would be paid bonuses on a pro rata basis between 100% up to a cap of 180%.

For 2017, our adjusted EBITDA performance, on a constant currency basis, was \$15.5 million and our corporate cost performance was \$6.5 million. As a result of our adjusted EBITDA performance and corporate costs performance relative to the 2017 bonus targets, Mr. Nolan, Mr. Lyons, and Mr. Kirby received a bonus of \$622,080, \$250,848, and \$132,480, respectively.

*Restricted Stock Units*

The grants of restricted stock units made to our named executive officers in March 2017 vest based on performance conditions and service conditions, as described below in Footnote 1 under “Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2017.” See “Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control—Restricted Stock Agreements” for a description of the terms of the restricted stock units triggered upon a termination of the employment of a named executive officer or a change in control of our company.

*Stock Ownership Guidelines*

The Board of Directors has established a Stock Ownership Policy for senior management, including our named executive officers, and it is intended to further align the interests of management and stockholders. Under the Stock Ownership Policy, executives, other than the Chief Executive Officer, are required to own shares of our common stock with a value equal to at least one times their respective base salaries. The Chief Executive Officer must own shares of our common stock with a value equal to at least two times his annual base salary. An executive must satisfy the ownership requirements within five years of the date of the executive's appointment to a position covered by the Stock Ownership Policy. Stock ownership can consist of shares owned directly by the executive, vested restricted shares, deferred shares, shares in the executive's 401(k) account and shares owned through the Employee Stock Purchase Plan. Vested and unvested stock options, unvested restricted stock units and unvested restricted shares will not apply to the ownership level. The value of our common stock held by executives is measured annually using the greater of the value of our common stock on the date when the shares were vested or purchased and the value of our common stock as of December 31 of the applicable year. Once the value of an executive's shares reaches the required market value, the executive will be deemed to have met the stock ownership requirements and must retain only the number of shares that were required meet the stock ownership requirements as of the date the executive first met the requirements. As of December 31, 2017, the last measurement date for compliance with the Stock Ownership Policy, the named executive officers continuing in office had not met their respective stock ownership requirements, but were on track to do so within the five-year prescribed period. No named executive officer continuing in office who had not met his stock ownership requirement sold shares or exercised options during 2017.



### *Benefits*

We provide our employees with customary health care benefits and offer a defined contribution plan (401(k) plan) in lieu of a pension plan to eligible employees, including our named executive officers, who, if they meet the plan eligibility requirements, may elect to participate. Under our 401(k) plan, we have the discretion to make a matching contribution at the end of each plan year to each participant's account in an amount up to 50% of the participant's salary reduction contributions for the plan year, taking into account salary reduction contributions between 1% and 6% of the participant's eligible compensation. Other than these savings programs, we provide no retirement benefits to employees or supplemental retirement benefits to our executive officers.

### *Perquisites*

We provide no perquisites to our named executive officers as a group, and in 2017, we did not provide perquisites in an aggregate amount greater than \$10,000 to any individual named executive officer.

### *Impact of Tax Treatment on Compensation*

Under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, the tax deduction available to corporate taxpayers, such as us, is limited with respect to the compensation of certain executive officers unless such compensation is based upon performance objectives meeting certain regulatory criteria or is otherwise excluded from the limitation. The Compensation Committee intends, except in limited circumstances, to qualify compensation paid to our executive officers prior to January 1, 2018 for deductibility by us under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code provides, among other things, rules for when compensation may be deferred and when, if deferred, it may be paid. Our compensation plans and agreements are intended to be compliant with Section 409A.

As a result of changes made by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, starting with compensation paid in 2018, Section 162(m) will limit us from deducting compensation, including performance-based compensation, in excess of \$1 million paid to anyone who, starting with 2018, serves as the chief executive officer or chief financial officer, or who is among the three most highly compensated executive officers for any fiscal year. The only exception to this rule is for compensation that is paid pursuant to a binding contract in effect on November 2, 2017 that would have otherwise been deductible under the prior Section 162(m) rules.



## Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2017

The following table sets forth information on outstanding stock option, restricted stock and restricted stock unit awards held by the named executive officers at December 31, 2017, including the number of shares underlying both exercisable and unexercisable portions of each stock option, the exercise price and expiration date of each outstanding option and the market value of shares of restricted stock and restricted stock units that have not vested based on the closing market price for our common stock on December 29, 2017, the last business day of our fiscal year, of \$2.25.

| Name             | Option Awards   |   |                       |                        | Stock Awards                                   |  |
|------------------|---|---|-----------------------|------------------------|--|--|
|                  | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options – Exercisable | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options – Unexercisable | Option Exercise Price | Option Expiration Date | Number of Shares of Stock That Have Not Vested | Market Value of Shares of Stock That Have Not Vested |
| Stephen A. Nolan | 0   | 0   | —                     | —                      | 500,000(1)                                     | \$1,125,000  |
| Patrick Lyons    | 0   | 0   | —                     | —                      | 60,000(1)                                      | \$135,000  |
| David F. Kirby   | 0   | 0   | —                     | —                      | 15,000(1)                                      | \$33,750   |

(1) The shares of restricted stock units were granted on March 9, 2017 with the following vesting criteria:

100.0% of the restricted stock units (the “Group EBITDA Restricted Stock Units”) shall vest upon the determination by the Compensation Committee that our company achieved for the year ending December 31, 2017 a “target” Group EBITDA (defined as our company’s earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization, non-operating income or expense, goodwill and other impairment charges, business reorganization expenses and other charges, and excluding stock compensation expense and after corporate costs, for the year ending December 31, 2017) of \$7.4 million; provided that 40.0% to 99.9% of the Group EBITDA Restricted Stock Units will vest if the Group EBITDA is between \$5.744 million and \$8.205 million (such vesting percentage determined pro rata for Group EBITDA achievement within such range), and a number of units equal to 100.1% to 180.0% of the Group EBITDA Restricted Stock Units will vest (in the case of a number of units up to 100.0% of the Group EBITDA Restricted Stock Units) or be granted (in the case of units in excess of 100.0% of the Group EBITDA Restricted Stock Units) if the Group EBITDA is between \$8.207 million and \$12.309 million (such vesting percentage determined pro rata for Group EBITDA achievement within such range), subject in each case to the satisfaction of the service vesting conditions; and provided further that any such newly granted units in excess of 100.0% of the Group EBITDA Restricted Stock Units shall be deemed restricted stock units subject to all of the terms and conditions of the restricted stock award agreement.

The executive shall forfeit the number of Group EBITDA Restricted Stock Units that do not vest pursuant to the paragraph above. To the extent the performance vesting conditions set forth in the paragraph above are satisfied, the service vesting conditions with respect to the restricted stock units shall be satisfied as follows: (i) 33% of the restricted stock units shall vest on the later of the determination of the satisfaction of the performance vesting conditions or the first anniversary of the grant date, (ii) 33% of the restricted stock units shall vest on the second anniversary of the grant date, and (iii) 34% of the restricted stock units shall vest on the third anniversary of the grant date; provided that, in each case, the executive remains employed by our company from the grant date through the date the performance vesting conditions are satisfied, in the case of clause (i), or the applicable anniversary date, in the cases of clauses (ii) and (iii).

#### Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control

We have entered into agreements and maintain plans that require us to provide compensation to the named executive officers in the event of a termination of employment or a change in control of our company. These agreements provide that a change in control of our company will occur if, among other things, our stockholders approve the sale of substantially all of our assets. On March 20, 2018, at a special meeting of stockholders, our stockholders approved the sale of substantially all of our assets and, on March 31, 2018, a change in control of our company occurred because we sold substantially all our company's assets upon completion of the sales of our recruitment and talent management businesses in each of Belgium, Europe (excluding Belgium) and Asia Pacific.

The estimated amount of compensation that will be payable to Mr. Nolan as a result of the change in control of our company on March 31, 2018 and his termination for good reason from our company on April 1, 2018 is listed in the table below. The value of the restricted stock payable to Mr. Nolan is based on our common stock valued at \$1.93, the closing market price for our common stock as of April 2, 2018. The estimated amount of compensation payable to Messrs. Lyons and Kirby in the event of a termination of employment or a change in control of our company is listed in the table below, assuming that the termination and/or change in control of our company occurred at December 29, 2017, the last business day of our fiscal year, and that our common stock is valued at \$2.25, the closing market price for our common stock on December 29, 2017. Descriptions of the circumstances that would trigger payments or the provision of other benefits to these named executive officers, how such payments and benefits are determined under the circumstances, material conditions and obligations applicable to the receipt of payments or benefits and other material factors regarding such agreements and plans, and other material assumptions that we have made in calculating the estimated compensation, follow these tables.

#### Payments and Benefits to Stephen A. Nolan

|                                   | Termination by<br>Company for<br>Cause or by<br>Executive | Termination by<br>Company Without<br>Cause or by Executive<br>for Good Reason | Death     | Disability | Change in<br>Control | Change in Control and<br>Termination by Company<br>Without Cause or by<br>Executive for Good Reason |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|-----------|------------|----------------------|---|
| Severance                         | \$0   | \$600,000   | \$0       | \$0        | \$0                  | \$1,710,000   |
| Health and<br>Dental              | \$0   | \$19,196  | \$0       | \$0        | \$0                  | \$28,794  |
| Insurance                         |   |   |           |            |                      |   |
| Advisor Fees                      | \$0   | \$0   | \$0       | \$0        | \$0                  | \$15,000  |
| Vesting of<br>Restricted<br>Stock | \$0   | \$0   | \$872,843 | \$0        | \$0                  | \$872,843   |
| Vesting of<br>Stock<br>Options    | \$0   | \$0   | \$0       | \$0        | \$0                  | \$0   |
| Total                             | \$0   | \$619,196   | \$872,843 | \$0        | \$0                  | \$2,626,637   |

#### Payments and Benefits to Patrick Lyons

|                      | Termination by<br>Company for Cause<br>or by Executive | Termination by<br>Company<br>Without Cause | Death     | Disability | Change in<br>Control | Change in Control and<br>Termination by Company<br>Without Cause or by<br>Executive for Good Reason |
|----------------------|--|--|-----------|------------|----------------------|---|
| Severance            | \$0  | \$325,000                                  | \$0       | \$0        | \$0                  | \$542,750   |
| Health and<br>Dental | \$0  | \$18,341                                   | \$0       | \$0        | \$0                  | \$18,341  |
| Insurance            |  |  |           |            |                      |   |
| Advisor Fees         | \$0  | \$0  | \$0       | \$0        | \$0                  | \$0   |
| Total                | \$0  | \$0  | \$135,000 | \$0        | \$0                  | \$135,000   |

|                                   |     |           |           |     |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|-----|-----------|
| Vesting of<br>Restricted<br>Stock |     |           |           |     |           |
| Vesting of<br>Stock Options       | \$0 | \$0       | \$0       | \$0 | \$0       |
| Total                             | \$0 | \$343,341 | \$135,000 | \$0 | \$696,091 |

**Payments and Benefits to David F. Kirby**

|                                   | <b>Termination by<br/>Company for Cause<br/>or by Executive</b> | <b>Termination by<br/>Company<br/>Without Cause</b> | <b>Death</b> | <b>Disability</b> | <b>Change in<br/>Control</b> | <b>Change in Control and<br/>Termination by Company<br/>Without Cause or by<br/>Executive for Good Reason</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Severance                         | \$0   | \$230,000   | \$0          | \$0               | \$0                          | \$345,000   |
| Health and<br>Dental<br>Insurance | \$0   | \$18,122  | \$0          | \$0               | \$0                          | \$18,122  |
| Advisor Fees                      | \$0   | \$0   | \$0          | \$0               | \$0                          | \$0   |
| Vesting of<br>Restricted<br>Stock | \$0   | \$0   | \$33,750     | \$0               | \$0                          | \$33,750  |
| Vesting of<br>Stock Options       | \$0   | \$0   | \$0          | \$0               | \$0                          | \$0   |
| Total                             | \$0   | \$248,122   | \$33,750     | \$0               | \$0                          | \$396,872   |

*Executive Employment Agreements*

We have Executive Employment Agreements with Messrs. Lyons and Kirby, and had, prior to his resignation, an Executive Employment Agreement with Mr. Nolan. If the executive officer dies during the term of the Executive Employment Agreement, if we terminate the executive officer's employment as a result of the executive officer's disability or for cause, or if the executive officer voluntarily terminates employment with us then we will have no further obligation to the executive officer or his estate, except to pay base salary earned through the date of death or termination.

If we terminate the executive officer's employment without cause or do not renew the executive officer's employment agreement then, subject to the executive officer executing our then-current form of general release agreement, the executive officer will be entitled to receive (i) base salary earned through the date of termination, (ii) a severance payment equal to his then-current base salary for a period of up to twelve months following such termination made in equal installments on our regular pay dates, and (iii) our portion of the premiums for providing continued health and dental insurance benefits to the executive officer for up to twelve months after termination (with only the executive's portion of such premiums deducted from the executive officer's severance payment). The severance payment, plus accrued interest, will not be paid to the executive officer until six months after the executive officer's termination, unless the severance payment is less than a certain amount, as prescribed by statute. In the case of Mr. Nolan, if we were to have terminated his employment without cause or if he had terminated for good reason, he would have been entitled to receive the benefits described above and up to an aggregate amount of \$20,000 for outplacement services to be provided to Mr. Nolan for up to six months following such termination.

After a change in control of our company, if the executive officer's employment is terminated by us other than by reason of death, disability or for cause or by the executive officer for good reason, then the executive officer is entitled to a lump-sum severance payment equal to the executive officer's annual base salary immediately prior to termination, and the executive officer's target annual bonus under our Senior Management Bonus Plan for the year in which the termination occurs, plus health and dental insurance benefits for a period of up to twelve months after termination. The Executive Employment Agreements provide that, upon a termination of employment after a change in control of our company, if any portion of the executive's termination payment would constitute an "excess parachute payment" then the termination payment made to the executive shall either be delivered in full or delivered in the greatest amount such that no portion of the termination payment would be subject to the excise tax, whichever results in the receipt by the executive of the greatest benefit on an after-tax basis. The Executive Employment Agreements do not provide for an excise tax gross-up payment.



For Mr. Nolan, after a change in control of our company, if his employment were to be terminated by us other than by reason of death, disability or for cause or by Mr. Nolan for good reason, then Mr. Nolan would be entitled to severance equal to 1.5 times his annual base salary immediately prior to termination and 1.5 times his target annual bonus under our Senior Management Bonus Plan for the year in which the termination occurs paid in equal installments over eighteen months following termination, plus health and dental insurance benefits for a period of up to eighteen months after termination and up to an aggregate amount of \$20,000 for outplacement services to be provided to Mr. Nolan for up to six months following such termination.

The amounts set forth in the tables above for the named executive officers who have an Executive Employment Agreement assume that:

health and dental insurance benefits will continue for twelve months (eighteen months for Mr. Nolan pursuant to his employment agreement) after termination at the current cost per year for each executive officer;

for purposes of determining whether any excise tax is triggered, we would be able to overcome any presumption that restricted stock unit grants in 2017 were made in contemplation of a change in control pursuant to regulations issued under the Internal Revenue Code; and

legal and accounting advisor fees are the maximum possible under the Executive Employment Agreements.

As a condition to entering into the Executive Employment Agreement, each executive officer agreed to keep confidential information of ours confidential and to return such information to us upon termination of employment, to not solicit for one year clients who we provided services during the twelve months preceding the date of the executive officer's termination and not to solicit or hire for one year any individual we employed on the date of the executive officer's termination.

The Executive Employment Agreements define the following terms:

“Cause” (other than under the Executive Employment Agreement with Mr. Nolan) means:

the willful failure to perform, or gross negligence in, the performance of, the executive's duties and obligations in any material respect or compliance with the reasonable and legal business directions of our Chief Executive Officer, following delivery to executive of a written notice from our company which describes the basis for our company's reasonable belief that executive has not substantially performed executive's duties and executive's failure to remedy such performance concerns within 30 days;

executive's willful failure to comply with a material employment policy or contractual obligation to our company; or

executive's commission of a felony, criminal dishonesty or fraud.

Under Mr. Nolan's Executive Employment Agreement, "cause" means:

the willful failure of the executive to perform the executive's duties and obligations in any material respect, which failure is not cured within 30 days after receipt of written notice of such failure;

intentional acts of dishonesty or willful misconduct by the executive with respect to us;

conviction of a felony or violation of any law involving dishonesty, disloyalty or fraud, or a pleading of guilty or nolo contendere to such charge;

repeated refusal to perform the reasonable and legal instructions of our board of directors;

any material breach of the agreement or the Confidentiality, Non-Solicitation and Work Product Assignment Agreement that the executive entered into with us;

failure to confirm compliance with our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics after ten days' written notice requesting confirmation; or

any violation of the terms, including any non-competition, non-disclosure, non-solicitation or confidentiality provisions, of any written or oral agreement, arrangement or understanding to which the executive is a party or by which the executive is bound, other than his agreements with our company.

"Change in control" means:

the consummation of a consolidation, merger, share exchange or reorganization involving us, except for certain transactions that do not result in another person acquiring control of us;

our stockholders approve a plan of complete liquidation or dissolution of us or an agreement for the sale of substantially all of our assets, other than sale of substantially all of our assets to an entity at least 75% of the combined voting power of the voting securities of which are owned by our stockholders in substantially the same proportions as their ownership immediately prior to such sale;

any person, with certain exceptions, is or becomes the beneficial owner of our securities representing more than 20% of our outstanding shares of common stock or combined voting power of our outstanding voting securities; or

individuals who were directors as of the date of the agreement and any new director whose appointment or election was approved or recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the directors then in office who were either directors on the date of agreement or whose appointment or election was previously so approved or recommended cease to constitute a majority of our directors.

“Disability” (defined only in the Executive Employment Agreement with Mr. Nolan) in the means the executive is unable to perform the executive’s essential job duties and responsibilities due to mental or physical disability for a total of twelve weeks, whether consecutive or not, during any rolling twelve-month period.

“Good reason” (other than under the Executive Employment Agreement with Mr. Nolan) means:

any breach of the Executive Employment Agreement by us, other than an isolated, insubstantial and inadvertent failure not occurring in bad faith that we remedy promptly after receipt of notice;

any reduction in the executive’s base salary, percentage of base salary available as incentive compensation or bonus opportunity or benefits, in each case, relative to those most favorable to the executive in effect during the 180-day period prior to a change in control;

the removal of the executive from, or failure to reelect or reappoint the executive to, any of the positions held with us on the date of a change in control or any other positions to which the executive is thereafter elected or appointed;

a good faith determination by the executive that there has been a material adverse change in the executive’s working conditions or status with us relative to the most favorable working conditions or status during the 180-day period prior to a change in control;

the relocation of the executive’s principal place of employment to a location more than 50 miles from the executive’s principal place of employment on the date 180 days prior to a change in control; or

we require the executive to travel on our business 20% in excess of the average number of days per month the executive was required to travel during the 180-day period prior to the change in control.

Under Mr. Nolan’s Executive Employment Agreement, “good reason” prior to a change in control means:

any changes in the executive’s authority, duties and responsibilities which would result in the executive no longer being our Chief Executive Officer;

any material reduction of the executive’s salary, aggregate incentive compensation opportunities or aggregate benefits;

a material breach of the Executive Employment Agreement by us; or

the executive notifies us that our business in terms of size, scope of operations and prospects does not present a professional opportunity to Mr. Nolan at a level similar to or better than our business on May 13, 2015.

Under Mr. Nolan’s Executive Employment Agreement, “good reason” following a change in control means:

any material breach of the Executive Employment Agreement by us, other than an isolated, insubstantial and inadvertent failure not occurring in bad faith that we remedy promptly after receipt of notice;

any material reduction in the executive's base salary, percentage of base salary available as incentive compensation or bonus opportunity or benefits, in each case, relative to those most favorable to the executive in effect during the one-year period prior to a change in control;

the removal of the executive from, or failure to reelect or reappoint the executive to, any of the positions held with us on the date of a change in control or any other positions to which the executive is thereafter elected or appointed when such removal or failure constitutes a material diminution of the executive's authority, duties, or responsibilities;

a material adverse change, without the executive's written consent, in the executive's working conditions or authority, duties, or responsibilities with the us relative to the most favorable working conditions or authority, duties, or responsibilities in effect during the one year period prior to the change in control;

the relocation of the executive's principal place of employment to a location more than 50 miles from the executive's principal place of employment on the date one year prior to a change in control; or

we require the executive to travel on our business 20% in excess of the average number of days per month the executive was required to travel during the one-year period prior to the change in control.

#### *Restricted Stock Agreements*

When we make grants of restricted stock to our executive officers, including the named executive officers, we enter into Restricted Stock Agreements with such executive officers that contain provisions that are triggered upon a termination of an executive officer or a change in control of our company.

If an executive officer's employment or service with us is terminated for any reason other than death, then the shares of restricted stock that have not yet become fully vested will automatically be forfeited.

If the executive officer's employment terminates by reason of the executive officer's death, then the shares of restricted stock that have not yet become fully vested as a result of a service vesting condition not being satisfied will automatically become fully vested and the restrictions imposed upon the restricted stock will immediately lapse, but only if and to the extent that the performance vesting conditions shall have been achieved on or prior to the date of such termination of employment.

For awards of restricted stock granted before November 6, 2015, effective upon a change in control of our company, if the executive is employed by us or an affiliate of ours immediately prior to the date of such change in control, the shares of restricted stock will fully vest and the restrictions imposed upon the restricted stock will be immediately deemed to have lapsed. For awards of restricted stock granted beginning on November 6, 2015, effective upon a change in control of our company, if the executive is employed by us or an affiliate of ours immediately prior to the date of such change in control and is subsequently terminated within 12 months following the date of such change in

control, the shares of restricted stock will fully vest and the restrictions imposed upon the restricted stock will be immediately deemed to have lapsed. No named executive officer has any unvested restricted stock.

As a condition to the grant of the restricted stock, the Restricted Stock Agreements provide that the executive officer will agree to keep confidential information of ours confidential during and after employment and to return such information to us upon termination of employment, not to solicit for one year clients to whom we provided services during the twelve months preceding the date of the executive officer's termination and not to solicit or hire for one year any individual we employed as of the date of the executive officer's termination. "Change in control" in the Restricted Stock Agreements has the same meaning set forth previously under "Executive Employment Agreements."



*Restricted Stock Unit Agreements*

When we make grants of restricted stock units to our executive officers, including the named executive officers, we enter into Restricted Stock Unit Agreements with such executive officers that contain provisions that are triggered upon a termination of an executive officer or a change in control of our company.

If an executive officer's employment or service with us is terminated for any reason other than death, then the restricted stock units that have not yet become fully vested will automatically be forfeited.

If the executive officer's employment terminates by reason of the executive officer's death, then the restricted stock units that have not yet become fully vested as a result of a service vesting condition not being satisfied will automatically become fully vested and the restrictions imposed upon the restricted stock units will immediately lapse, but only if and to the extent that the performance vesting conditions shall have been achieved on or prior to the date of such termination of employment.

For awards of restricted stock units granted beginning on March 10, 2016, effective upon a change in control of our company, if the executive is employed by us or an affiliate of ours immediately prior to the date of such change in control and is subsequently terminated within 12 months following the date of such change in control, the restricted stock units will fully vest and the restrictions imposed upon the restricted stock units will be immediately deemed to have lapsed.

The amounts set forth in the tables above include the value attributable to unvested restricted stock units held, in the case of Mr. Nolan, valued at the closing market price of our common stock on April 2, 2018, the date Mr. Nolan received his previously unvested restricted stock units following his resignation from our company on April 1, 2018, and, in the case of Messrs. Lyons and Kirby, valued at the closing market price of our common stock on December 29, 2017, the last business day of our 2017 fiscal year.

As a condition to the grant of the restricted stock units, the Restricted Stock Units Agreements provide that the executive officer will agree to keep confidential information of ours confidential during and after employment and to return such information to us upon termination of employment, not to solicit for one year clients to whom we provided services during the twelve months preceding the date of the executive officer's termination and not to solicit or hire for one year any individual we employed as of the date of the executive officer's termination. "Change in control" in the Restricted Stock Units Agreements has the same meaning set forth previously under "Executive Employment Agreements."

*Stock Option Agreements*

When we make grants of options to our executive officers, including the named executive officers, we enter into Stock Option Agreements with such executive officers that contain provisions that are triggered upon a termination of an executive officer or a change in control of our company.

If we terminate the executive officer's employment for cause, then any option held by the executive officer will immediately terminate and cease to be exercisable. If an executive officer ceases to be employed by us for any reason other than death or for cause, then that portion of the option which is exercisable on the date of the executive officer's termination of employment will remain exercisable for a period of six months after such date and the remaining portion of the option will automatically expire on such date. If the executive officer's employment terminates by reason of the executive officer's death, then the option will become fully vested and will remain exercisable by the executive officer's beneficiary for a period of one year after the date of the executive officer's death. Effective upon a change in control of our company, the option will fully vest and will immediately become exercisable, except if our stockholders will receive capital stock of another corporation in connection with a change in control of our company and our Board of Directors determines that the option will be converted into an option to purchase shares of such capital stock. No named executive officer has any unvested stock options.

As a condition to the grant of the option, the Stock Option Agreements provide that the executive officer will agree to keep confidential information of ours confidential during and after employment and to return such information to us upon termination of employment, not to solicit for one year clients to whom we provided services during the twelve months preceding the date of the executive officer's termination and not to solicit or hire for one year any individual we employed as of the date of the executive officer's termination. "Cause" and "change in control" in the Stock Option Agreements have the same meanings set forth previously under "Executive Employment Agreements."

#### Executive Employment Agreement with Jeffrey E. Eberwein

On April 1, 2018, following the resignation of Mr. Nolan, our Board of Directors appointed Mr. Eberwein as chief executive officer of our company. In connection with his appointment as chief executive officer, our company and Mr. Eberwein entered into an Executive Employment Agreement. Pursuant to Mr. Eberwein's Executive Employment Agreement, our company will employ Mr. Eberwein as the chief executive officer of our company for a term from April 1, 2018 until December 31, 2018, with automatic, annual extensions for additional one-year terms.

Under the Executive Employment Agreement, Mr. Eberwein is entitled to: (i) a base salary of \$400,000 on an annualized basis, subject to increase (but not decrease) from time to time by the Compensation Committee; (ii) eligibility to receive an annual bonus contingent on achievement of performance goals as determined by the Compensation Committee, which bonus opportunity (assuming company performance at target) will be \$75,000 for 2018 and \$100,000 for 2019 and later years; (iii) eligibility to receive an annual equity award in the form of share units settled in shares of our company's common stock with a grant date fair value equal to \$352,500 for 2018 and \$470,000 for 2019 and later years and the number of share units earned based on the achievement of performance goals achieved as of the end of the performance period as determined by the Compensation Committee with two-thirds of the share units earned vesting after completion of such performance period and the remaining one-third of the share units vesting in two equal installments on the first and second anniversaries of the last day of the performance period; (iv) four weeks of paid vacation per year; and (v) other benefits of employment comparable to other senior management of our company.

Under the Executive Employment Agreement, our company has the right to terminate Mr. Eberwein's employment at any time upon 60 days' notice. If we terminate Mr. Eberwein's employment without cause (as defined in the Executive Employment Agreement) or do not renew Mr. Eberwein's employment, or if Mr. Eberwein terminates his employment for good reason (as defined in the Executive Employment Agreement), then Mr. Eberwein will be entitled to receive: (i) base salary and other compensation and benefits earned, but unpaid, through the date of such termination; and (ii) subject to Mr. Eberwein executing a general release and waiver agreement and covenant not to sue, (A) a pro-rata portion of the bonus for the year during which the termination occurs, calculated based on actual performance at the end of the year, (B) vesting of a pro-rata portion of any share units for which the performance period has not been completed, calculated based on the level of achievement of the performance goals at the end of the performance period, and (C) vesting of any share units for which the performance period has been completed. If Mr. Eberwein dies during the term of the Executive Employment Agreement, if we terminate Mr. Eberwein's employment as a result of

Mr. Eberwein's disability (as defined in the Executive Employment Agreement) or for cause, or if Mr. Eberwein voluntarily terminates his employment with our company other than for good reason, then we will have no further obligation to Mr. Eberwein or his estate, except to pay base salary and other compensation and benefits earned, but unpaid, through the date of Mr. Eberwein's death or termination of employment.

After a change in control of our company (as defined in the Executive Employment Agreement), if we terminate Mr. Eberwein's employment other than by reason of death, disability or for cause, or if Mr. Eberwein terminates his employment for good reason, then Mr. Eberwein will be entitled to receive: (i) base salary and other compensation and benefits earned, but unpaid, through the date of such termination; and (ii) subject to Mr. Eberwein executing a general release and waiver agreement and covenant not to sue, (A) a termination payment equal to the sum of (x) Mr. Eberwein's base salary for twelve months calculated based on Mr. Eberwein's annual base salary in effect immediately prior to such termination plus (y) Mr. Eberwein's target annual bonus for the year in which such termination occurs, payable in equal installments in accordance with the payroll practices of our company through the twelve month anniversary of the termination, (B) vesting of a pro-rata portion of any share units for which the performance period has not been completed, calculated based on the level of achievement of the performance goals at the end of the performance period, and (C) vesting of any share units for which the performance period has been completed. The Executive Employment Agreement also provides that, upon a termination of Mr. Eberwein's employment after a change in control of our company, if any portion of Mr. Eberwein's termination payment would constitute an "excess parachute payment," then the termination payment made to Mr. Eberwein shall either be made in full or made in the greatest amount such that no portion of the termination payment would be subject to the excise tax, whichever results in the receipt by Mr. Eberwein of the greatest benefit on an after-tax basis. The Executive Employment Agreement does not provide for an excise tax gross-up payment.

In connection with entering into the Executive Employment Agreement, Mr. Eberwein also executed a Confidentiality, Non-solicitation and Work Product Assignment Agreement with our company.

## COMPENSATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES AND RISK

We monitor and assess periodically our enterprise risks, including risks from our compensation policies and practices for our employees. Based on our periodic assessments, we believe that risks arising from our compensation policies and practices for our employees, including our named executive officers, are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on our company.

Our compensation policies and practices also do not encourage the taking of excessive or inappropriate risks for several reasons, including:

salaries are generally targeted at median market levels for comparable companies;

cash bonuses are capped, except in extremely rare cases, and are determined using objective and subjective criteria;

equity awards have service, and usually performance, vesting requirements;

we have stock ownership guidelines for our executive officers;

we have a compensation recovery policy for our executive officers that provides our company with authority to recoup certain compensation in the event of a financial restatement; and

we offer only customary benefits, such as health care and a defined contribution plan.

We believe these compensation policies and practices provide an appropriate balance between short-term and long-term incentives, encourage our employees to produce superior results for our company without having to take excessive or inappropriate risks to do so, and continue to serve the best interests our company and stockholders.

## PROPOSAL 2: ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE THE COMPENSATION OF OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

We are required by Section 14A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide our stockholders with an advisory vote to approve the compensation of our named executive officers. This proposal, commonly known as “Say-on-Pay,” asks our stockholders to vote, on a non-binding, advisory basis, on a resolution approving the compensation of our named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K, in the “Executive Compensation” section of this proxy statement.

We have established comprehensive compensation programs for our executive officers, including our named executive officers, and the “Executive Compensation” section of this proxy statement discloses information regarding the compensation of our named executive officers. Stockholders should reference and consider the information in this section when evaluating our approach to compensating our named executive officers.

Our Board of Directors, the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee’s independent compensation consultant, when appropriate, monitor executive compensation programs and adopt changes, when appropriate, to our compensation programs to reflect the competitive market in which we compete for talent, as well as general economic, regulatory and legislative developments affecting executive compensation.

The objectives of our executive compensation programs are to attract and retain the talented individuals needed to achieve long-term success and to motivate them to achieve goals designed to enhance long-term stockholder value. With these objectives in mind, the Compensation Committee has taken the following compensation actions.

Targeting total cash compensation, which is comprised of base salary plus annual incentive (cash bonus), at median market levels for comparable companies:

Targeting base salaries at median market levels for comparable companies, and

Designing annual cash incentives to provide awards above median market levels for comparable companies only for above median market performance.

Linking the vesting of most restricted stock and restricted stock unit awards to our financial performance as described above under Footnote 1 to “Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2017.”

Limiting the perquisites that we make available to our named executive officers, who are entitled to few benefits that are not otherwise available to our employees. The aggregate amount of such perquisites for each continuing named executive officer in any year reflected under “Executive Compensation – Summary Compensation Table” has not exceeded \$10,000.

Requiring named executive officers to maintain certain stock ownership levels through the establishment of stock ownership guidelines.



Maintaining employment agreements that do not provide for an excise tax gross-up upon a change in control of our company.

Using a form of agreement for equity awards that provides for double-trigger, not single-trigger, vesting upon a change in control of our company.

Adopting a compensation recovery policy for our executive officers that provides our company with authority to recoup certain compensation in the event of a financial restatement.

The Compensation Committee will continue to emphasize compensation arrangements that align the financial interests of our executive officers with the interests of our stockholders and to require our executive officers to own a significant amount of our common stock.

The vote on the compensation of our named executive officers is advisory and not binding on us, our Board of Directors or the Compensation Committee. The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares having voting power present in person or represented by proxy at the annual meeting (assuming a quorum is present) is required to approve, on a non-binding, advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement. Consequently, broker non-votes will have no effect on approval of the resolution, but abstentions will act as a vote against approval of the resolution. Shares of common stock represented by executed, but unmarked, proxies will be voted in favor of the approval of the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement; provided that, if you hold your shares of our common stock through a broker-dealer, bank nominee, custodian or other securities intermediary, the intermediary will not vote those shares for the compensation of our named executive officers unless you give the intermediary specific voting instructions on a timely basis directing the intermediary to vote in such manner. Although the outcome of this advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers is non-binding, our Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee will review and consider the outcome of this vote when making future compensation decisions for our named executive officers.

**Our Board of Directors recommends that you vote “FOR” the approval of the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement.**

## AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The primary purpose of the Audit Committee is to oversee our accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of our financial statements. The Audit Committee's function is more fully described in its written charter, which our Board of Directors has adopted and which the Audit Committee reviews on an annual basis. Our Board of Directors annually reviews the independence of the Audit Committee members under standards of independence for audit committee members established by the Nasdaq Global Select Market and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Our Board of Directors has determined that each member of the Audit Committee is independent under those standards.

Management is responsible for the preparation, presentation and integrity of our financial statements, accounting and financial reporting principles, internal controls, and procedures designed to ensure compliance with accounting standards, applicable laws and regulations. Our independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, was responsible for performing an independent audit of the consolidated financial statements and effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. KPMG LLP was also responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of those financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting.

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed our audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 and management's assessment of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, with our management and has discussed with KPMG LLP the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard No. 1301 of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, *Communications With Audit Committees*, and Rule 2-07 of Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-X. In addition, KPMG LLP has provided the Audit Committee with the written disclosures and the letter required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, and the Audit Committee has discussed with KPMG LLP their independence.

Based on these reviews and discussions, the Audit Committee recommended to our Board of Directors that the audited financial statements and management's report on its assessment of internal control over financial reporting be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Hudson Global, Inc.  
AUDIT COMMITTEE

Ian V. Nash, Chairman  
Alan L. Bazaar  
Richard K. Coleman, Jr.



PROPOSAL 3: RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF KPMG LLP

AS INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

General

The Audit Committee has appointed KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm to audit our financial statements and management’s assessment of internal controls over financial reporting for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. Our Board of Directors is seeking stockholder ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year 2018. KPMG LLP has served as our independent registered public accounting firm since March 2008.

Representatives of KPMG LLP will be available to answer appropriate questions from stockholders at the annual meeting and will be free to make statements, if they desire to do so, during the meeting.

Fees Paid to Our Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The following table presents fees billed for professional audit services rendered by KPMG LLP for the audit of our annual financial statements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016 and fees billed for other services rendered by KPMG LLP during those periods.

|                       | 2017         | <b>2016</b>  |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Audit fees(1)         | \$ 1,476,400 | \$ 1,537,000 |
| Audit-related fees(2) | 0            | 56,000       |
| Tax fees(3)           | 0            | 0            |
| All other fees(4)     | 0            | 0            |
| Total fees            | \$ 1,476,400 | \$ 1,593,000 |

Audit fees consist of the aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by KPMG LLP for the audit and (1)review of financial statements and services provided in connection with statutory and regulatory filings (domestic and international) and the audit of management’s assessment of internal control over financial reporting.

(2) For 2016, audit-related fees consist of the aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by KPMG LLP for employee benefit plan audits, certain due diligence services and accounting consultation.

(3) None.

(4) None.

The Audit Committee has concluded that the provision of the non-audit services listed above was compatible with maintaining the independence of KPMG LLP, and all such services were approved by the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee has established a policy regarding pre-approval of the audit and non-audit services performed by the independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee will not approve any service that will impair the independence of the independent registered public accounting firm. The pre-approval policy requires each audit service and each non-audit service in excess of \$50,000 performed by the independent registered public accounting firm to receive the specific prior approval of the entire Audit Committee. The Chairman of the Audit Committee has authority to approve any non-audit service equal to or less than \$50,000, and any subsequent fee adjustments which, in the aggregate for each non-audit service, are equal to or less than \$15,000. Only if the cost of any audit or non-audit service exceeds by the greater of ten percent or \$5,000 the amount previously approved by the Audit Committee or the Chairman of the Audit Committee must the Audit Committee or the Chairman of the Audit Committee give prior approval for the additional cost. The Chairman of the Audit Committee reports any approvals pursuant to such authority to the Audit Committee at its next scheduled meeting. The Audit Committee's pre-approval policies do not permit the delegation of the Audit Committee's pre-approval responsibilities to management. The independent registered public accounting firm must provide the Audit Committee or the Chairman of the Audit Committee with a description of each specific audit or non-audit service to be rendered and detailed documentation for any fee increase requests.

#### Vote Required

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares having voting power present in person or represented by proxy at the annual meeting (assuming a quorum is present) is required for the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year 2018. Consequently, broker non-votes will have no effect on the ratification of the appointment, but abstentions will act as a vote against ratification of the appointment. Shares of common stock represented by executed, but unmarked, proxies will be voted in favor of the ratification of the appointment. If the appointment is not ratified by a majority of the votes cast, the adverse vote will be considered as an indication to the Audit Committee that it should consider selecting another independent registered public accounting firm for the following fiscal year. Even if the appointment is ratified, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may select a new independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it believes that such a change would be in our best interest.

**Our Board of Directors recommends that you vote "FOR" the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as independent registered public accounting firm to audit our financial statements and management's assessment of internal controls over financial reporting for our fiscal year 2018.**

PROPOSAL 4: APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO OUR AMENDED AND RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION designed to protect the tax benefits of our net operating losses

Background

Our company has significant deferred tax assets, which we may be able to use to offset future taxable income. At December 31, 2017, our company had U.S. federal income tax net operating losses (“NOLs”) of approximately \$327.1 million.

Our ability to utilize our NOLs to offset future taxable income may be significantly limited if we experience an “ownership change” as defined in Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). In general, an ownership change will occur when the percentage of our ownership (by value) by one or more “5-percent shareholders” (as defined in the Code) has increased by more than 50% over the lowest percentage owned by such stockholders at any time during the prior three years (calculated on a rolling basis). An entity that experiences an ownership change generally will be subject to an annual limitation on its pre-ownership change tax losses and credit carryforwards equal to the equity value of the entity immediately before the ownership change, multiplied by the long-term, tax-exempt rate posted monthly by the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) (subject to certain adjustments). The annual limitation would be increased each year to the extent that there is an unused limitation in a prior year. The limitation on our ability to utilize our NOLs arising from an ownership change under Section 382 would depend on the value of our equity at the time of any ownership change.

For the purpose of determining whether there has been an ownership change, the change in ownership as a result of purchases by 5-percent shareholders will be aggregated with certain changes in ownership that occurred over the three-year period ending on the date of such purchases. If our company were to experience an ownership change, it is possible that a significant portion of our NOLs would expire before we would be able to use them to offset future taxable income.

In 2015, our stockholders approved an amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to generally prohibit transfers of our common stock that could result in an ownership change (the “2015 NOL Protective Amendment”). However, the provisions of the 2015 NOL Protective Amendment will expire pursuant to their terms on June 15, 2018.

Description of the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment

After careful consideration, our Board of Directors believes the most effective way to continue to preserve the benefits of our NOLs for long-term stockholder value is to amend our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to extend the expiration of the 2015 NOL Protective Amendment for a three-year period after the annual meeting (the “2018 NOL Protective Amendment” and, together with the 2015 NOL Protective Amendment, the “NOL Protective Provisions”).

We are asking you to adopt and approve the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment to help prevent certain transfers of our common stock that could result in an ownership change under Section 382 and, therefore, significantly impair the value of our NOLs. Our Board of Directors believes it is advisable and in the best interests of our stockholders to adopt the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment to help protect our NOLs. Our Board of Directors has unanimously approved the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment, and recommends that our stockholders adopt and approve the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment.



The purpose of the NOL Protective Amendment is to protect the long-term value to our company of our accumulated NOLs by limiting direct or indirect transfers of our common stock that could affect the percentage of our common stock that is treated as being owned by a holder of 4.99% or more of our common stock. In addition, the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment includes a mechanism to block the impact of such transfers while allowing purchasers to receive their money back from prohibited purchases.

This description of the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment is a summary and is qualified by and subject to the full text of the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment, which is attached to this proxy statement as Appendix A. Additions of text to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation contained in Appendix A are indicated by underlining and deletions of text are indicated by strike-outs. In addition, we have included below a description of the provisions of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation relating to NOL Protective Provisions.

If stockholders approve and adopt the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment, it will become effective upon the filing of a Certificate of Amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, which we intend to file shortly after the annual meeting. We intend to enforce the restrictions in the NOL Protective Provisions immediately thereafter to preserve the future use of our NOLs. We also intend to include a legend reflecting the transfer restrictions included in the NOL Protective Provisions on certificates representing newly issued or transferred shares, to disclose such restrictions to persons holding our common stock in uncertificated form and to disclose such restrictions to the public generally.

If the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment is approved and adopted by our stockholders, the NOL Protective Provisions would expire on the earliest of (i) the close of business on the date that is the third anniversary of the filing of the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, (ii) our Board's determination that the NOL Protective Provisions are no longer necessary for the preservation of our NOLs because of the repeal of Section 382 or any successor statute, (iii) the beginning of a taxable year to which our Board determines that none of our NOLs may be carried forward and (iv) such date as our Board otherwise determines in accordance with the NOL Protective Provisions. Our Board may also accelerate the expiration date of the NOL Protective Provisions in the event of a change in the law if our Board has determined that the continuation of the restrictions contained in the NOL Protective Provisions is no longer reasonably necessary for the preservation of our NOLs or such action is otherwise reasonably necessary or advisable.

If the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment is not adopted and approved by our stockholders, the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment will not become effective and the NOL Protective Provisions contained in the 2015 NOL Protective Amendment will expire.

Description of NOL Protective Provisions

*Prohibited Transfers.* The NOL Protective Provisions generally will restrict any direct or indirect transfer (such as transfers of our common stock that result from the transfer of interests in other entities that own our common stock) if the effect would be to:

increase the direct or indirect ownership of our common stock by any Person (as defined below) from less than 4.99% to 4.99% or more of our common stock; or

increase the percentage of our common stock owned directly or indirectly by a Person owning or deemed to own 4.99% or more of our common stock.

“Person” means any individual, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, firm, corporation, unincorporated association or organization, trust or other entity or any group of such “Persons” having a formal or informal understanding among themselves to make a “coordinated acquisition” of shares of our common stock within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.382-3(a)(1) or who are otherwise treated as an “entity” within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.382-3(a)(1), and includes any successor (by merger or otherwise) of any such entity or group.

Restricted transfers include sales to Persons whose resulting percentage ownership (direct or indirect) of our common stock would exceed the 4.99% threshold discussed above, or to Persons whose direct or indirect ownership of our common stock would by attribution cause another Person to exceed such threshold. Complicated stock ownership rules prescribed by the Code (and regulations promulgated thereunder) will apply in determining whether a Person is a 4.99% stockholder under the NOL Protective Provisions. A transfer from one member of a “public group” (as that term is defined under Section 382) to another member of the same public group does not increase the percentage of our common stock owned directly or indirectly by the public group and, therefore, such transfers are not restricted. For purposes of determining the existence and identity of, and the amount of our common stock owned by, any stockholder, we will be entitled to rely on the existence or absence of certain public securities filings as of any date, and our actual knowledge of the ownership of our common stock. The NOL Protective Provisions include the right to require a proposed transferee, as a condition to registration of a transfer of our common stock, to provide all information reasonably requested regarding such person’s direct and indirect ownership of our common stock.

These transfer restrictions may result in the delay or refusal of certain requested transfers of our common stock, or prohibit ownership (thus requiring dispositions) of our common stock due to a change in the relationship between two or more persons or entities or to a transfer of an interest in an entity other than us that, directly or indirectly, owns our common stock. The transfer restrictions will also apply to proscribe the creation or transfer of certain “options” (which are broadly defined by Section 382) with respect to our common stock to the extent that, in certain circumstances, the creation, transfer or exercise of the option would result in a proscribed level of ownership.

*Consequences of Prohibited Transfers.* Any direct or indirect transfer attempted in violation of the NOL Protective Provisions would be void as of the date of the prohibited transfer as to the purported transferee (or, in the case of an indirect transfer, the ownership of the direct owner of our common stock would terminate simultaneously with the transfer), and the purported transferee (or in the case of any indirect transfer, the direct owner) would not be recognized as the owner of the shares owned in violation of the NOL Protective Provisions for any purpose, including for purposes of voting and receiving dividends or other distributions in respect of such shares, or in the case of options, receiving shares in respect of their exercise. In this proxy statement, we refer to our common stock purportedly acquired in violation of the NOL Protective Provisions as “excess stock.”

In addition to a prohibited transfer being void as of the date it is attempted, upon demand, the purported transferee must transfer the excess stock to our agent along with any dividends or other distributions paid with respect to such excess stock. Our agent is required to sell such excess stock in an arm’s-length transaction (or series of transactions) that would not constitute a violation under the NOL Protective Provisions. The net proceeds of the sale, together with

any other distributions with respect to such excess stock received by our agent, after deduction of all costs incurred by the agent, will be transferred first to the purported transferee in an amount, if any, up to the cost (or in the case of gift, inheritance or similar transfer, the fair market value of the excess stock on the date of the prohibited transfer) incurred by the purported transferee to acquire such excess stock, and the balance of the proceeds, if any, will be transferred to a charitable beneficiary. If the excess stock is sold by the purported transferee, such person will be treated as having sold the excess stock on behalf of the agent, and will be required to remit all proceeds to our agent (except to the extent we grant written permission to the purported transferee to retain an amount not to exceed the amount such person otherwise would have been entitled to retain had our agent sold such shares).

To the extent permitted by law, any stockholder who knowingly violates the NOL Protective Provisions will be liable for any and all damages we suffer as a result of such violation, including damages resulting from any limitation in our ability to use our NOLs and any professional fees incurred in connection with addressing such violation.

With respect to any transfer that does not involve a transfer of our “securities” within the meaning of Delaware law but that would cause any stockholder of 4.99% or more of our common stock to violate the NOL Protective Provisions, the following procedures will apply in lieu of those described above. In such case, such stockholder and/or any person whose ownership of our securities is attributed to such stockholder will be deemed to have disposed of (and will be required to dispose of) sufficient securities, simultaneously with the transfer, to cause such holder not to be in violation of the NOL Protective Provisions, and such securities will be treated as excess stock to be disposed of through an agent designated by our Board under the provisions summarized above, with the maximum amount payable to such stockholder or such other person that was the direct holder of such excess stock from the proceeds of sale by the agent being the fair market value of such excess stock at the time of the prohibited transfer.

*Public Groups; Modification and Waiver of Transfer Restrictions.* In order to facilitate sales by stockholders into the market, the NOL Protective Provisions permit otherwise prohibited transfers of our common stock where the transferee is a public group.

In addition, our Board will have the discretion to approve a transfer of our common stock that would otherwise violate the transfer restrictions if it determines that the transfer is in our and our stockholders’ best interests. If our Board decides to permit such a transfer, that transfer or later transfers may result in an ownership change that could limit our use of our NOLs. In deciding whether to grant a waiver, our Board may seek the advice of counsel and tax experts with respect to the preservation of our federal tax attributes pursuant to Section 382. In addition, our Board may request relevant information from the acquirer and/or selling party in order to determine compliance with the NOL Protective Provisions or the status of our federal income tax benefits, including an opinion of counsel selected by our Board (the cost of which will be borne by the transferor and/or the transferee) that the transfer will not result in a limitation on the use of the NOLs under Section 382. If our Board decides to grant a waiver, it may impose conditions on such waiver on the acquirer or selling party.

In the event of a change in law, our Board will be authorized to modify the applicable allowable percentage ownership interest (currently 4.99%) or modify any of the definitions, terms and conditions of the transfer restrictions or to eliminate the transfer restrictions, provided that our Board determines, by adopting a written resolution, that such action is reasonably necessary or advisable to preserve the NOLs or that the continuation of these restrictions is no longer reasonably necessary for such purpose, as applicable. Our stockholders will be notified of any such determination through a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission or such other method of notice as our corporate secretary shall deem appropriate.

Our Board may establish, modify, amend or rescind bylaws, regulations and procedures for purposes of determining whether any transfer of common stock would jeopardize our ability to use our NOLs.

## Effectiveness and Enforceability

Although the NOL Protective Provisions are intended to reduce the likelihood of an ownership change, we cannot eliminate the possibility that an ownership change will occur even if the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment is adopted given that:

Our Board can permit a transfer to an acquirer that results or contributes to an ownership change if it determines that such transfer is in our and our stockholders' best interests.

A court could find that part or all of the NOL Protective Provisions are not enforceable, either in general or as applied to a particular stockholder or fact situation. Under the laws of the State of Delaware, our jurisdiction of incorporation, a corporation is conclusively presumed to have acted for a reasonable purpose when restricting the transfer of its securities in its certificate of incorporation for the purpose of maintaining or preserving any tax attribute (including NOLs). Delaware law provides that transfer restrictions with respect to shares of our common stock issued prior to the effectiveness of the restrictions will be effective against (i) stockholders with respect to shares that were voted in favor of this proposal and (ii) purported transferees of shares that were voted in favor of this proposal if (A) the transfer restriction is conspicuously noted on the certificate(s) representing such shares or (B) the transferee had actual knowledge of the transfer restrictions (even absent such conspicuous notation). We intend to disclose such restrictions to persons holding our common stock in uncertificated form, and to cause any shares of our common stock issued in certificated form to be issued with the relevant transfer restriction conspicuously noted on the certificate(s) representing such shares. Therefore, under Delaware law, such newly issued shares will be subject to the transfer restriction. For the purpose of determining whether a stockholder is subject to the NOL Protective Provisions, we intend to take the position that all shares issued prior to the effectiveness of the NOL Protective Provisions that are proposed to be transferred were voted in favor of the NOL Protective Provision, unless the contrary is established. We may also assert that stockholders have waived the right to challenge or otherwise cannot challenge the enforceability of the NOL Protective Provisions, unless a stockholder establishes that it did not vote in favor of the NOL Protective Provisions. Nonetheless, a court could find that the NOL Protective Provisions are unenforceable, either in general or as applied to a particular stockholder or fact situation.

Despite the NOL Protective Provisions, there is still a risk that certain changes in relationships among stockholders or other events could cause an ownership change under Section 382. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that an ownership change will not occur even if the NOL Protective Provisions are effective.

As a result of these and other factors, the NOL Protective Provisions are intended to reduce, but does not eliminate, the risk that we will undergo an ownership change that would limit our ability to utilize our NOLs.

## Section 382 Ownership Change Determinations

The rules of Section 382 are very complex and are beyond the scope of this summary discussion. Some of the factors that must be considered in determining whether a Section 382 ownership change has occurred include the following:

Each stockholder who owns less than 5% of our common stock is generally (but not always) aggregated with other such stockholders and treated as a single “5-percent shareholder” for purposes of Section 382. Transactions in the public markets among such stockholders are generally (but not always) excluded from the Section 382 calculation.



There are several rules regarding the aggregation and segregation of stockholders who otherwise do not qualify as Section 382 “5-percent shareholders.” Ownership of stock is generally attributed to its ultimate beneficial owner without regard to ownership by nominees, trusts, corporations, partnerships or other entities.

Acquisitions by a person that cause the person to become a Section 382 “5-percent shareholder” generally result in a 5% (or more) change in ownership, regardless of the size of the final purchase(s) that caused the threshold to be exceeded.

Certain constructive ownership rules, which generally attribute ownership of stock owned by estates, trusts, corporations, partnerships or other entities to the ultimate indirect individual owner thereof, or to related individuals, are applied in determining the level of stock ownership of a particular stockholder. Special rules can result in the treatment of options (including warrants) or other similar interests as having been exercised if such treatment would result in an ownership change.

Our redemption or buyback of our common stock will increase the ownership of any Section 382 “5-percent shareholders” (including groups of stockholders who are not individually 5-percent stockholders) and can contribute to an ownership change. In addition, it is possible that a redemption or buyback of shares could cause a holder of less than 5% to become a Section 382 “5-percent shareholder,” resulting in a 5% (or more) change in ownership.

#### Vote Required

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote at the annual meeting is required for approval of the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment. Both broker non-votes and abstentions will act as a vote against the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment. Shares of common stock represented by executed, but unmarked, proxies will be voted in favor of the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment.

**Our Board of Directors recommends that you vote “FOR” the adoption and approval of the 2018 NOL Protective Amendment.**

#### PROPOSAL 5: APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO OUR AMENDED AND RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION TO REDUCE THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF DIRECTORS CONSTITUTING THE ENTIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FROM FIVE TO THREE

We are asking you to adopt and approve an amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to reduce the minimum number of directors. Our Board of Directors believes that implementing an amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to the minimum number of directors constituting the entire Board

of Directors from five to three (the “Board Size Change Amendment”) is advisable and in the best interests of our company and its stockholders. Our Board of Directors has unanimously approved the Board Size Change Amendment, and recommends that our stockholders adopt and approve the Board Size Change Amendment.

The purpose of the Board Size Change Amendment is to decrease the minimum number of directors to no less than three to reflect what the Board of Directors believes to be a more appropriately sized Board of Directors to effectively manage our company. As the size of our company has become smaller following the sales of our recruitment and talent management businesses in Belgium, Europe (excluding Belgium) and Asia Pacific, our Board of Directors believes a smaller board will be sufficient to effectively manage the business and affairs of our company.

This description of the Board Size Change Amendment is a summary and is qualified by and subject to the full text of the Board Size Change Amendment, which is attached to this proxy statement as Appendix B. Additions of text to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation contained in Appendix B are indicated by underlining and deletions of text are indicated by strike-outs.

If stockholders approve and adopt the Board Size Change Amendment, it will become effective upon the filing of a Certificate of Amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, which we intend to file shortly after the annual meeting.

If the Board Size Change Amendment is approved and adopted by stockholders, our Board of Directors would be permitted from time to time to decrease the size of our Board of Directors to no fewer than three (or, without taking into account the Board Size Change Amendment, increase the size of our Board of Directors to no more than eleven) without obtaining the prior approval of our stockholders. Following the effectiveness of the Board Size Change Amendment, our Board of Directors intends to reduce the size of our Board of Directors to four, representing the current number of directors on our Board of Directors and eliminating the current vacancy on the Board of Directors.

If the Board Size Change Amendment is not approved and adopted by our stockholders, our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation will not be amended as set forth above and the minimum number of directors will remain at five. In this event, unless the Board of Directors appoints a new director to the Board, we would continue to have one vacancy on our Board of Directors.

#### Vote Required

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote at the annual meeting is required for approval the Board Size Change Amendment. Both broker non-votes and abstentions will act as a vote against the Board Size Change Amendment. Shares of common stock represented by executed, but unmarked, proxies will be voted in favor of the Board Size Change Amendment.

**Our Board of Directors recommends that you vote “FOR” the adoption and approval of the Board Size Change Amendment.**

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires our directors and executive officers to file reports concerning their ownership of our equity securities with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Based solely on a review of the copies of such forms furnished to us and on written representations that no Form 5 was required to be filed, we believe that, during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, all of our directors and executive officers timely complied with the Section 16(a) filing requirements.

## OTHER MATTERS

### Stockholder Proposals

Proposals which our stockholders intend to present at, and wish to have included in our proxy statement for, the 2019 annual meeting of stockholders pursuant to Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 must be delivered to our Corporate Secretary at our New York office located at 1325 Avenue of the Americas, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10019 by February 8, 2019. In addition, a stockholder who intends to present business, including nominating persons for election as directors, other than pursuant to Rule 14a-8 at the 2019 annual meeting must comply with the requirements set forth in our By-Laws. Among other things, to bring business before an annual meeting, a stockholder must give written notice of such business, complying with our By-Laws, to our Corporate Secretary not less than 45 days and not more than 75 days prior to the first anniversary of the date on which we first mailed proxy materials for the preceding year's annual meeting (subject to certain exceptions if the annual meeting is advanced or delayed a certain number of days). Under our By-Laws, if we do not receive notice of a stockholder proposal submitted otherwise than pursuant to Rule 14a-8 (*i.e.*, proposals stockholders intend to present at the 2019 annual meeting, but do not intend to include in our proxy statement for such meeting) on or after March 25, 2019 and on or prior to April 24, 2019, then the notice will be considered untimely and we will not be required to present the proposal at the 2019 annual meeting. If our Board of Directors chooses to present the proposal at the 2019 annual meeting, then the persons named in proxies solicited by our Board of Directors for the 2019 annual meeting may exercise discretionary voting power with respect to such proposal.

### Proxy Solicitation

We will pay all costs that we incur in connection with the solicitation of proxies for the annual meeting. In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, certain of our officers and other employees may solicit proxies personally, by telephone or by electronic communication. We will reimburse brokers and other nominees for their reasonable expenses in communicating with the persons for whom they hold our common stock. We have retained InvestorCom, Inc. to aid in the solicitation at an estimated cost of \$6,000 plus reimbursable out-of-pocket expenses.

### Stockholders Sharing the Same Address

Pursuant to the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, services that deliver our communications to stockholders that hold their shares through a bank, broker or other holder of record may deliver to multiple stockholders sharing the same address a single copy of our annual report to stockholders and proxy statement, unless we have received contrary instructions from one or more of the stockholders. Upon written or oral request, we will

promptly deliver a separate copy of the annual report to stockholders and/or proxy statement to any stockholder at a shared address to which a single copy of each document was delivered. Stockholders sharing an address who are currently receiving multiple copies of the annual report to stockholders and/or proxy statement may also request delivery of a single copy upon oral or written request. Stockholders may notify us of their requests by writing Philip A. Skalski, Corporate Secretary, Hudson Global, Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10019 or calling (212) 351-7300.

By Order of the Board of Directors  
HUDSON GLOBAL, INC.

Philip A. Skalski  
*Corporate Secretary*

New York, New York  
June 8, 2018

Appendix A

**2018 NOL Protective Amendment to Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation**

*Paragraph (g) of Section 1 of Article XIV of the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Hudson Global, Inc. is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:*

(g) “Effective Date” means July 20, 2018~~the date of filing of this Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware.~~

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Appendix B

**Amendment to Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to Reduce the Minimum Number of Directors Constituting the Entire Board of Directors from Five to Three**

*Section 2 of Article V of the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Hudson Global, Inc. is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:*

(2) Number of Directors. The number of directors constituting the entire board of directors shall be fixed, and may be increased or decreased from time to time, exclusively by resolutions of the board of directors, and such number shall never be more than eleven nor less than ~~five~~ three.

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