

SINA CORP
Form 10-Q
November 09, 2005

Table of Contents

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

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2005

OR

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

**For the transition period from to
Commission File Number 000-30698**

SINA CORPORATION
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Cayman Islands
**(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)**

52-2236363
**(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)**

Room 1802, United Plaza
1468 Nan Jing Road West
Shanghai 200040, China
(86-21) 6289 5678

**(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Registrant's principal executive
offices)**

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes ☒ No ☐

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

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

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's ordinary shares as of November 4, 2005 was 53,133,687.

SINA CORPORATION
INDEX

Page no.

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

<u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004</u>	3
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004</u>	4
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity and Comprehensive Income for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004</u>	5
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004</u>	6
<u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	8
<u>Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	21
<u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	48
<u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u>	48
<u>PART II. OTHER INFORMATION</u>	
<u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u>	49
<u>Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>	49
<u>Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u>	49
<u>Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</u>	49
<u>Item 5. Other Information</u>	49
<u>Item 6. Exhibits</u>	50
<u>SIGNATURE</u>	51

Table of Contents**PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements**

SINA CORPORATION
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(In thousands, except par value)

	September 30, 2005 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2004 (Audited)
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 113,305	\$ 153,768
Short-term investments	175,331	121,867
Accounts receivable, net of allowances for doubtful accounts of \$2,239 and \$1,754, respectively	32,908	39,942
Short-term deferred tax assets	689	689
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	10,904	10,699
Total current assets	333,137	326,965
Investment in Tidetime Sun	1,151	5,468
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$24,558 and \$19,446, respectively	22,202	16,152
Equity investments	5,145	4,541
Intangible assets, net of accumulated amortization of \$7,307 and \$5,151, respectively	10,167	13,218
Goodwill	69,847	61,172
Other assets	3,631	2,909
Total assets	\$ 445,280	\$ 430,425

LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,947	\$ 2,052
Accrued liabilities *	34,874	68,384
Income taxes payable	3,460	4,502
Total current liabilities	40,281	74,938
Convertible Debt	100,000	100,000
Other long-term liabilities	1,286	2,142
Total liabilities	141,567	177,080

Commitments and contingencies (Note 14)

Shareholders' equity:

Ordinary Shares: \$0.133 par value; 150,000 shares authorized; 53,131 and 51,359 shares issued and outstanding	7,067	6,834
Additional paid-in capital	280,812	263,912
Ordinary share subject to subsequent issuance	1,098	
Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)	12,298	(17,058)
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss):		
Unrealized loss on investment in marketable securities	(1,807)	(395)
Cumulative translation adjustments	4,245	52
 Total shareholders' equity	 303,713	 253,345
 Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	 \$ 445,280	 \$ 430,425

* Accrued liabilities as of December 31, 2004 included an additional consideration of \$28,087 to Crillion Corporation for its achievement of the 2004 performance target. Such additional consideration was paid in the first six months of 2005.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

SINA CORPORATION
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(Unaudited, in thousands, except per share amount)

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Net revenues:				
Advertising	\$ 22,968	\$ 18,516	\$ 59,989	\$ 47,146
Non-advertising	26,656	33,989	81,613	95,942
	49,624	52,505	141,602	143,088
Cost of revenues:				
Advertising	7,410	7,144	19,845	16,437
Non-advertising	8,670	9,711	25,504	27,241
	16,080	16,855	45,349	43,678
Gross profit	33,544	35,650	96,253	99,410
Operating expenses:				
Sales and marketing	15,735	10,646	37,937	26,816
Product development	3,816	3,034	11,038	7,151
General and administrative	4,210	4,065	13,985	11,220
Amortization of intangible assets	602	1,041	2,684	2,451
Total operating expenses	24,363	18,786	65,644	47,638
Income from operations	9,181	16,864	30,609	51,772
Interest and other income, net	1,698	1,296	4,794	3,596
Amortization of convertible debt issuance cost	(172)	(172)	(514)	(514)
Gain on the sale of a business	1,487		1,487	
Loss on investments and investment in Tidetime Sun	(1,458)	(1,675)	(2,740)	(1,616)
Loss on equity investments	(996)	(1,082)	(2,420)	(2,171)
Income before income taxes	9,740	15,231	31,216	51,067
Provision for income taxes	(647)	(728)	(1,860)	(2,504)
Net income	\$ 9,093	\$ 14,503	\$ 29,356	\$ 48,563
Basic net income per share	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.56	\$ 0.98
Diluted net income per share	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.85

Weighted average shares:

Basic	53,099	50,387	52,214	50,043
Diluted	58,774	57,763	58,680	57,995

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

SINA CORPORATION
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY AND
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(Unaudited, in thousands)

	Ordinary Shares		Additional Paid-in Capital		Ordinary Shares Subject to Subsequent Issuance	Deficit) / Retained Earnings	Other Comprehensive Income (loss)	Total Shareholder Equity	Comprehensive Income
	Shares	Amount	Capital		Issuance	Earnings	(loss)	Equity	Income
Balances at December 31, 2004	51,359	\$ 6,834	\$ 263,912	\$		\$ (17,058)	\$ (343)	\$ 253,345	
Issuance of ordinary shares pursuant to stock plans	1,497	196	5,702					5,898	
Business acquisition	275	37	11,198		1,098			12,333	
Comprehensive income:									
Net income						29,356		29,356	\$ 29,356
Unrealized loss on investments in marketable securities							(1,412)	(1,412)	\$ (1,412)
Currency translation adjustments							4,193	4,193	4,193
Comprehensive income									\$ 32,137
Balances at September 30, 2005	53,131	\$ 7,067	\$ 280,812	\$	1,098	\$ 12,298	\$ 2,438	\$ 303,713	

	Ordinary Shares		Additional Paid-in Capital		Ordinary Shares Subject to Subsequent Issuance	Accumulated Deficit	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Total Shareholder Equity	Comprehensive Income
	Shares	Amount	Capital		Issuance	Deficit	Loss	Equity	Income
Balances at December 31,	48,627	\$ 6,471	\$ 236,222	\$	1,349	\$ (83,054)	\$ (1,481)	\$ 159,507	

2003									
Issuance of ordinary shares pursuant to stock plans	1,413	188	9,269				9,457		
Business acquisition	372	49	9,835	1,051			10,935		
Comprehensive income:									
Net income					48,563		48,563	\$	48,563
Unrealized loss on investments in marketable securities						(421)	(421)		(421)
Currency translation adjustments						(18)	(18)		(18)
Comprehensive income								\$	48,124

Balances at September 30, 2004	50,412	\$ 6,708	\$ 255,326	\$ 2,400	\$ (34,491)	\$ (1,920)	\$ 228,023		
--------------------------------------	--------	----------	------------	----------	-------------	------------	------------	--	--

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

SINA CORPORATION
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Unaudited, in thousands)

	Nine months ended September 30,	
	2005	2004
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 29,356	\$ 48,563
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Allowances for doubtful accounts	441	93
Loss on equity investments	2,420	2,171
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	150	24
Depreciation	6,767	4,128
Amortization of convertible debt issuance cost	514	514
Amortization of intangible assets	2,684	2,451
Gain on sale of business	(1,487)	
Loss on investments and investment in Tidetime Sun	2,740	1,616
Changes in assets and liabilities (net of effect of acquisition):		
Accounts receivable	7,096	(21,439)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	1,823	(2,715)
Other assets	(1,222)	24
Accounts payable	(144)	1,324
Income taxes payable	(1,088)	555
Accrued liabilities	(6,148)	7,144
Net cash provided by operating activities	43,902	44,453
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Acquisition of property and equipment	(12,593)	(9,678)
Cash paid for business acquisition, net of cash acquired	(26,141)	(27,233)
Equity investments	(3,024)	(1,435)
Deposit for equity investment and business acquisition	(800)	(241)
Purchase of short-term investments	(52,674)	(58,865)
Proceeds from sale of investments in Tidetime Sun		295
Proceeds from sale of business, net	1,787	
Proceeds from sale of equity investments	286	347
Net cash used in investing activities	(93,159)	(96,810)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from issuance of ordinary shares	5,898	9,456
Net cash provided by financing activities	5,898	9,456
Effect of exchange rate change on cash and cash equivalents	2,896	

Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(40,463)	(42,901)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	153,768	158,148
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	\$ 113,305	\$ 115,247

Table of Contents

SINA CORPORATION
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (continued)
(Unaudited, in thousands)

	Nine months ended September 30,	
	2005	2004
Supplemental disclosure of investing activities:		
Cash paid for business acquisition*	\$ (26,141)	\$ (28,760)
Cash acquired		1,527
Cash paid for business acquisition, net	\$ (26,141)	\$ (27,233)
Supplemental disclosure of significant noncash activities:		
Ordinary shares issued for business acquisition *	\$ 11,235	\$ 9,884
Ordinary shares subject to subsequent issuance for business acquisition	\$ 1,098	\$ 2,400
Non-advertising services exchanged for equity interest in joint venture	\$	\$ 3,430

* Cash paid (\$16,853) and ordinary shares issued (\$11,235) for business acquisition during the nine months ended September 30, 2005 were related to the additional consideration paid to Crillion Corporation for its achievement of the 2004 performance target which were accrued as of December 31, 2004. Cash paid (\$38) was for direct acquisition cost.

* Cash paid (\$8,400) during the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and ordinary shares subject to

subsequent issuance
(\$1,098) for
business acquisition
were related to the
additional
consideration to
Davidhill Capital
Inc. for its
achievement of
simultaneous online
user targets.

- * Cash paid (\$850)
during the nine
months ended
September 30, 2005
for business
acquisition was
related to the
additional
consideration to
Bravado
Investments
Limited.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

SINA CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

1. Business

SINA Corporation (SINA or the Company), a Cayman Islands corporation, is a leading online media company and value-added information service provider in the People's Republic of China (the PRC or China) and the global Chinese communities. With a branded network of localized websites targeting Greater China and overseas Chinese, the Company provides services through five major business lines including SINA.com (online news and content), SINA Mobile (mobile value-added services or MVAS), SINA Online (community-based services and games), SINA.net (search and enterprise services) and SINA E-Commerce (online shopping and auctions). Together these business lines provide an array of services including region-focused online portals, MVAS, search and directory, interest-based and community-building channels, free and premium email, online games, virtual ISP, classified listings, fee-based services, e-commerce and enterprise e-solutions.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies***Principles of consolidation and basis of presentation***

The accompanying interim condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with the generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP), consistent in all material respects with those applied in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004. The interim financial information is unaudited but reflects all adjustments which are, in the opinion of management, necessary to provide fair condensed consolidated balance sheets, condensed consolidated statements of operations, condensed consolidated statements of shareholders' equity and comprehensive income and condensed consolidated statements of cash flows for the interim periods presented. Such adjustments are normal and recurring except as otherwise noted. The Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2004 is derived from the December 31, 2004 audited financial statements. You should read these interim condensed consolidated financial statements in conjunction with the audited financial statements, including the notes thereto, and the other information set forth in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004.

The condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company, its subsidiaries and variable interest entities (VIEs) for which the Company is the primary beneficiary. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated. Investments in entities in which the Company can exercise significant influence, but which are less than majority owned and not otherwise controlled by the Company, are accounted for under the equity method. The Company has adopted FASB Interpretation No. (FIN) 46R Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities (FIN 46R), an Interpretation of Accounting Research Bulletin No. 51. FIN 46R requires a VIE to be consolidated by a company if that company is subject to a majority of the risk of loss for the VIEs or is entitled to receive a majority of the VIE's residual returns. To comply with PRC laws and regulations, the Company provides substantially all its Internet content provision, MVAS and advertising services in China via its VIEs. These VIEs are wholly or partially owned by certain employees of the Company. The capital for the VIEs are funded by the Company and recorded as interest-free loans to these PRC employees. These loans were eliminated with the capital of the VIEs during consolidation. As of September 30, 2005, the total amount of interest-free loans to these PRC employees was \$9.5 million. The aggregate accumulated losses of all VIEs were approximately \$3.2 million and have been included in the condensed consolidated financial statements.

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates, and such differences may be material to the financial statements. Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

Allowances for doubtful accounts

The Company determines the allowance for doubtful accounts based on actual bad debt rate in the prior year and other factors. The Company also provides specific provisions for bad debts when facts and circumstances indicate that the receivable is unlikely to be collected. If the financial condition of the Company's customers were to deteriorate,

resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments, additional allowances may be required.

Table of Contents***Available-for-sale securities investments***

Investments classified as available-for-sale securities are reported at fair value with unrealized gains (losses), if any, recorded as accumulated other comprehensive income in shareholders' equity. Realized gains or losses are charged to the income during the period in which the gain or loss is realized. If the Company determines a decline in fair value is other-than-temporary, the cost basis of the individual security is written down to fair value as a new cost basis and the amount of the write-down is accounted for as a realized loss. The new cost basis will not be changed for subsequent recoveries in fair value. Determination of whether declines in value are other-than-temporary requires significant judgment. Subsequent increases and decreases in the fair value of available-for-sale securities will be included in comprehensive income through a credit or charge to shareholders' equity except for an other-than-temporary impairment, which will be charged to the income.

Investments classified as available-for-sale securities include marketable equity securities of Tidetime Sun (Group) Limited (Tidetime Sun), previously called Sun Media Group (see Note 4 - Investment in Tidetime Sun), and marketable debt securities included in the short-term investments. The Company invests in marketable debt securities that are readily available for operating or acquisition purposes and, accordingly, classifies them as short-term investments.

Goodwill and intangible assets, net

Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of the identifiable assets and liabilities acquired as a result of the Company's acquisitions of interests in its subsidiaries and VIEs. Under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets (SFAS 142), goodwill is no longer amortized, but tested for impairment upon first adoption and annually thereafter, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that it might be impaired. The Company assesses goodwill for impairment periodically in accordance with SFAS 142.

The Company applies the criteria specified in SFAS No. 141, Business Combinations, to determine whether an intangible asset should be recognized separately from goodwill. Intangible assets acquired through business acquisitions are recognized as assets separate from goodwill if they satisfy either the contractual-legal or separability criterion. Per SFAS 142, intangible assets with definite lives are amortized over their estimated useful life and reviewed for impairment in accordance with SFAS No. 144, Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-lived Assets. Intangible assets, such as purchased technology, trademark, customer list, user base and non-compete agreements, arising from the acquisitions of subsidiaries and variable interest entities, are recognized and measured at fair value upon acquisition. Intangible assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives from one to ten years. The Company reviews the amortization methods and estimated useful lives of intangible assets at least annually or when events or changes in circumstances indicate that it might be impaired. The recoverability of an intangible asset to be held and used is evaluated by comparing the carrying amount of the intangible asset to its future net undiscounted cash flows. If the intangible asset is considered to be impaired, the impairment loss is measured as the amount by which the carrying amount of the intangible asset exceeds the fair value of the intangible asset, calculated using a discounted future cash flow analysis. The Company uses estimates and judgments in its impairment tests, and if different estimates or judgments had been utilized, the timing or the amount of the impairment charges could be different.

Revenue recognition***Advertising***

Advertising revenues are derived principally from online advertising and sponsorship arrangements. Online advertising arrangements allow advertisers to place advertisements on particular areas of the Company's websites, in particular formats and over particular periods of time. Advertising revenues from online advertising arrangements are recognized ratably over the displayed period of the contract when the collectibility is reasonably assured. Sponsorship arrangements allow advertisers to sponsor a particular area on its websites in exchange for a fixed payment over the contract period. Advertising revenues from sponsorship are recognized ratably over the contract period. Advertising revenues derived from the design, coordination and integration of online advertising and sponsorship arrangements to be placed on the Company's websites are recognized ratably over the term of such programs. In accordance with Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) No. 00-21, Accounting for Revenue Arrangements with Multiple Deliverables, advertising arrangements involving multiple deliverables are broken down into single-element arrangements based on

their relative fair value for revenue recognition purposes, when possible. The Company recognizes revenue on the elements delivered and defers the recognition of revenue for the fair value of the undelivered elements until the remaining obligations have been satisfied.

Revenues from barter transactions are recognized during the period in which the advertisements are displayed on the Company's properties. Barter transactions are recorded at the lower of the fair value of the goods and services received or the fair value of the advertisement given, provided the fair value of the transaction is reliably measurable. Revenues from barter transactions were minimal for all periods presented.

Table of Contents*Non-advertising*

MVAS. MVAS revenues are derived principally from providing mobile phone users with short messaging service (SMS), multimedia messaging service (MMS), ring back tone (RBT), wireless application protocol (WAP) and interactive voice response system (IVR). These services include news and other content subscriptions, mobile dating service, picture and logo download, ring tones, ring back tones, mobile games, chat rooms and access to music files. Revenues from MVAS are charged on a monthly or per-usage basis. Such revenues are recognized in the period in which the service is performed, provided that no significant Company obligations remain, collection of the receivables is reasonably assured and the amounts can be accurately estimated.

The Company contracts with mobile operators China Mobile Communication Corporation (China Mobile) and its subsidiaries, China Unicom Co., Ltd. (China Unicom) and its subsidiaries, and telecom operators, which constitute a minimal percentage to the Company's MVAS operation, for billing and transmission services related to the MVAS transmitted to its users. In accordance with EITF No. 99-19, Reporting Revenues Gross as a Principal Versus Net as an Agent, revenues are recorded on a gross basis when the Company is considered the primary obligor to the MVAS users. Under the gross method, the amounts billed to MVAS users are recognized as revenues and the fees charged or retained by the third party mobile operators are recognized as cost of revenues. Revenues on MVAS where the Company is not considered the primary obligor to the user are recorded on a net basis. Under the net method, revenues are recorded net of fees charged or retained by the third party mobile operators.

Due to the time lag between when the services are rendered and when the mobile operator billing statements are received, MVAS revenues are estimated based on our internal records of billings and transmissions for the month, adjusting for prior periods' confirmation rates with mobile operators and prior periods' discrepancies between internally estimated revenues and actual revenues confirmed by mobile operators. The confirmation rate applied to the estimation of revenue is determined at the lower of the latest confirmation rate available and the average of six-months' historical rates available, provided that the Company has obtained confirmation rates for six months. If the Company has not yet received confirmation rates for six months, revenues would be deferred until billing statements are received from the mobile operators. Historically, there have been no significant true up adjustments to the revenue estimates.

Historically, due to the time lag of receiving billing statements from mobile operators and the lack of adequate information to make estimates, the Company has adopted a one-month lag reporting policy for MVAS revenues. Such policy has been applied on a consistent basis and does not apply to MVAS revenues from acquired entities Memestar Limited and Crillion Corporation. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, the Company recorded MVAS revenues in the amount of \$24.1 million and \$73.3 million, respectively. If the Company had not used the one-month lag reporting policy, its revenues from MVAS for these periods would have been \$23.4 million and \$71.7 million, respectively.

China Mobile, China Unicom and most of their subsidiaries have transitioned MVAS providers to a new billing platform for SMS and MMS. The new billing platforms resulted in more controls by the mobile operators in the operation, a higher failure rate for fee collection from the Company's users and made it more difficult for the Company to recruit new users. As a result, the Company's revenues from MVAS have been reduced significantly. The Company has been monitoring the extent of the impact of the new billing platforms to its business and its confirmation rates used. In addition, the Company has been evaluating the current MVAS revenue recognition policy. If there were no consistent trends with respect to confirmation rates or there were continuous significant true up adjustments to its estimates under the new billing platforms, its current policy of estimating MVAS revenues may not be appropriate and the Company may have to record the MVAS revenues when it receives the billing statements from third-party mobile operators. Due to the time lag of receiving the billing statements, its MVAS revenues may fluctuate with the collection of billing statements if the Company were to record the MVAS revenues when it received the billing statements.

The Company purchases certain contents from third-party content providers for its MVAS. In most of these arrangements, the fees payable to the third-party content providers are calculated based on certain percentages of the revenue earned by their contents after deducting the fees paid to the third-party mobile operators. The Company's MVAS revenues are inclusive of such fees since the Company acts as the principal in these arrangements by having

the ability to determine the fees charged to end users and being the primary obligor to the end users with respect to providing such services.

Fee-based services. Fee-based services allow the Company's users to subscribe to services on its websites including online games, virtual ISP and paid email services. Revenues from these services are recognized in the period in which the service is performed, and provided that no significant Company obligations remain, collection of the receivables is reasonably assured and the amounts can be accurately estimated.

Table of Contents

E-commerce. E-commerce revenues are derived principally from slotting fees charged to merchants for selective positioning and promotion of their goods or services within the Company's online mall, SinaMall, and from commissions calculated as a percentage of the online sales transaction value of the merchants. Slotting fee revenue is recognized ratably over the period the products are shown on the Company's website while the commission revenue is recognized on a net basis after both successful online verification of customers' credit cards and shipment of products. Product returns have not been significant and are assumed by vendors.

Enterprise services. Enterprise services mainly include paid search and directory listings, corporate emails, classified listings and enterprise e-solutions. Revenues are recognized in the period in which the service is performed, and provided that no significant Company obligations remain, collection of the receivables is reasonably assured and the amounts can be accurately estimated.

In accordance with GAAP, the recognition of these revenues is partly based on the Company's assessment of the probability of collection of the resulting accounts receivable balance. As a result, the timing or amount of revenue recognition may have been different if the Company's assessment of the probability of collection of accounts receivable had been different.

Stock-based compensation

The Company accounts for stock-based employee compensation arrangements in accordance with provisions of Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees (APB No. 25) as amended by FIN 44, Accounting for Certain Transactions Involving Stock Compensation an Interpretation of APB Opinion No. 25 and EITF No. 00-23, Issues Related to the Accounting for Stock Compensation under APB Opinion No. 25 and FASB Interpretation No. 44 and complies with the disclosure provisions of SFAS 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation (SFAS 123), as amended by SFAS No. 148, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation Transition and Disclosure (SFAS 148). Under APB No. 25, as amended, compensation cost is, in general, recognized based on the difference, if any, on the date of grant between the fair value of the Company's stock and the amount an employee must pay to acquire the stock. Total compensation cost as determined at the grant date of option is recorded in shareholders' equity as additional paid-in capital with an offsetting entry recorded to deferred stock compensation. Deferred stock compensation is amortized over the vesting period of 4 years on an accelerated basis using the model presented in paragraph 24 of FIN 28. Accordingly, the percentages of the deferred compensation amortized in the first, second, third and fourth years following the option grant date are approximately 52%, 27%, 15% and 6%, respectively. SFAS 148 amends SFAS 123 to provide alternative methods of transition for companies that voluntarily change to the fair value-based method of accounting for stock-based employee compensation. SFAS 148 also amends the disclosure provisions of SFAS 123 to require prominent disclosures in both annual and interim financial statements about the method of accounting for stock-based employee compensation and the effect of the method used on reported results.

Had compensation cost for the Company's stock-based compensation plans been determined based on the fair value at the grant dates for the awards under a method prescribed by SFAS 123, the Company's net income per share would have been adjusted to the pro forma amounts as follows:

	Three months ended		Nine months ended	
	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	(Unaudited, in thousands)			
Net income:				
As reported	\$ 9,093	\$ 14,503	\$ 29,356	\$ 48,563
Deduct: Employee stock purchase plan related compensation expenses determined under fair value based method		(56)	(73)	(122)
Deduct: Stock-based employee compensation expenses determined under	(2,938)	(2,142)	(7,969)	(7,471)

fair value based method

Pro forma	\$ 6,155	\$ 12,305	\$ 21,314	\$ 40,970
Basic net income per share:				
As reported	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.56	\$ 0.98
Pro forma	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.82
Diluted net income per share:				
As reported	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.85
Pro forma	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.72

Table of Contents

The Company calculated the fair value of each option grant on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes pricing method with the following assumptions:

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Risk-free interest rate	4.09%	1.92% - 3.32%	2.93% - 4.09%	1.19% - 3.32%
Expected life (in years)	2	1 - 4	1 - 4	1 - 4
Expected dividend yield				
Volatility	61%	90%	61% - 87%	90% - 91%

Advertising expenses

Advertising expenses consist primarily of costs of promotion for corporate image and product marketing and costs of direct advertising. The Company expenses all advertising costs as incurred. The nature of the Company's direct advertising activities is such that they are intended to acquire subscribers for subscription-based and usage-based SMS. The Company considered Statement of Position 93-7 Reporting on Advertising Costs (SOP 93-7) issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and concluded that the criteria specified for capitalizing the costs of direct response advertising for subscription-based SMS were not met.

Income taxes

Income taxes are accounted for using an asset and liability approach, which requires the recognition of income taxes payable or refundable for the current year and deferred tax liabilities and assets for future tax consequences of events that have been recognized in the Company's consolidated financial statements or tax returns. The measurement of current and deferred tax liabilities and assets is based on provisions of the enacted tax laws; the effects of future changes in tax laws or rates are not anticipated. The measurement of deferred tax assets is reduced, if necessary, by the amount of any tax benefits that, based on available evidence assessed using the criteria in SFAS No. 109,

Accounting for Income Taxes, will not more-likely-than-not be realized.

The Company records a valuation allowance for deferred tax assets, if any, based on estimates of its future taxable income as well as its tax planning strategies when it is more likely than not that a portion or all of its deferred tax assets will not be realized. If the Company is able to utilize more of its deferred tax assets than the net amount previously recorded when unanticipated events occur, an adjustment to deferred tax assets would be reflected in income when those events occur.

Recent accounting pronouncements

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the FASB) issued SFAS No. 123 (revised 2004), Share-Based Payment (SFAS 123R), which replaces SFAS 123 and supersedes APB No. 25. SFAS 123R requires share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options, to be recognized in the financial statements based on their fair values, beginning with the first interim or annual period after June 15, 2005. In April 2005, the Securities and Exchange Commission announced that the accounting provisions of SFAS 123R are effective at the beginning of a company's next fiscal year that begins after June 15, 2005. The Company is now required to adopt SFAS 123R in the first quarter of fiscal year 2006. The pro forma disclosures previously permitted under SFAS 123 no longer will be an alternative to financial statement recognition. See the Stock-based compensation section above for the pro forma net income and net income per share amounts for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005 and September 30, 2004, as if the Company had used a fair-value-based method, similar to the methods required under SFAS 123R, to measure compensation expense for employee stock incentive awards. Although the Company has not yet determined the transition method or whether the adoption of SFAS 123R will result in amounts that are similar to the current pro forma disclosures under SFAS 123, the Company is evaluating the requirements under SFAS 123R and expects the adoption to have a significant adverse impact on the Company's consolidated statements of operations and net income per share.

In May 2005, the FASB issued SFAS No. 154, Accounting Changes and Error Corrections (SFAS 154) which replaces APB Opinion No. 20 Accounting Changes and SFAS No. 3, Reporting Accounting Changes in Interim Financial Statements. An Amendment of APB Opinion No. 28. SFAS 154 provides guidance on the accounting for

and reporting of accounting changes and error corrections. It establishes retrospective application, or the latest practicable date, as the required method for reporting a change in accounting principle and the reporting of a correction of an error. SFAS 154 is effective for accounting changes and corrections of errors made in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2005, and is required to be adopted by the Company in the first quarter of fiscal year 2006. The Company is currently evaluating the effect that the adoption of SFAS 154 will have on its consolidated results of operations and financial condition but does not expect it to have a material impact.

Table of Contents**3. Short-Term Investments**

The investments in marketable debt securities are classified as available for sale securities. The Company invests in these securities with the intent to make such funds readily available for operating or acquisition purposes and, accordingly, classifies them as short-term investments. The aggregate fair value of marketable debt securities is summarized as follows:

	September 30, 2005 (unaudited)	December 31, 2004 (audited)
	(In thousands)	
Time deposits	\$ 84,067	\$ 1,329
Marketable debt securities due within one year	46,762	56,473
Marketable debt securities due after one year through five years	44,502	64,065
	\$ 175,331	\$ 121,867

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, the Company recorded an unrealized loss of \$31,000 and an unrealized gain of \$109,000, respectively, and recorded an unrealized gain of \$1.7 million and an unrealized loss of \$0.4 million, in the same periods of 2004, respectively, on its marketable debt securities as a component of comprehensive income.

4. Investment in Tidetime Sun

Investment in Tidetime Sun, previously called Sun Media Group, was accounted for as an investment in marketable equity securities under the provisions of SFAS No. 115, Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities, and was classified as available for sale and reported at fair value with unrealized gains (losses), if any, recorded as a component of comprehensive income (loss) included in shareholder's equity. The fair value of this investment as of September 30, 2005 was \$1.1 million as compared to its cost basis of \$2.6 million. The Company considered the decline in the fair value of this investment to be other-than-temporary and recorded an impairment loss of approximately \$1.5 million. At November 4, 2005, the fair value of this investment was approximately \$0.9 million. The Company will continue to monitor the investment, and if there is a decline in fair value that is deemed to be other-than-temporary, the Company may have to recognize additional impairment charges in future periods.

5. Equity Investments

Equity investments, comprised of investments primarily in joint ventures, were accounted for using the equity method of accounting. As of September 30, 2005, the carrying value of equity investments of \$5.1 million mainly comprise investments in the following: i) a joint venture of Shanghai NC-SINA Information Technology Co. Ltd. (Shanghai NC-SINA) in the PRC with NC Soft, a Korean online game company and ii) a joint venture of China Online Auction Limited (COAL) in the PRC with Yahoo! Inc. The following summarizes the Company's equity investments as of September 30, 2005:

	Shanghai NC-SINA	COAL	Others	Total
Balances at December 31, 2004 (audited)	\$ 1,384	\$ 1,932	\$ 1,225	\$ 4,541
Additional investment		1,749	1,275	3,024
Gain (loss) on equity investments	146	(2,187)	(188)	(2,229)
Amortization expenses of intangible assets			(191)	(191)
Balances at September 30, 2005	\$ 1,530	\$ 1,494	\$ 2,121	\$ 5,145

In August 2005, Yahoo! announced its investment in Alibaba.com, a Chinese company. As part of its investment, Yahoo! intends to transfer its shares in COAL (a.k.a. 1Pai.com) to Alibaba.com. The Company owns 33% of the joint venture in COAL. It is in negotiations with Yahoo! and Alibaba.com as to the settlement of its investment in the joint venture. As of November 4, 2005, no agreement has been reached.

Table of Contents**6. Sale of Bravado**

The Company completed the sale of Bravado Investments Limited (a.k.a. Fortune Trip), an online travel business, during the three months ended September 30, 2005. The sale price was approximately \$3.8 million less certain liabilities that the buyer agreed to assume. As a result of this transaction, the Company recognized a gain of \$1.5 million during the three months ended September 30, 2005 and is entitled to an additional gain of approximately \$0.6 million within the next 18 months, assuming certain conditions are satisfied.

7. Goodwill and Intangible Assets

The following table summarizes goodwill from the Company's acquisitions:

	September 30, 2005 (unaudited)	December 31, 2004 (audited)
	(In thousands)	
Davidhill Capital Inc. (Davidhill)	\$ 13,772	\$ 4,273
Crillion Corporation (Crillion)	37,984	37,984
Bravado Investments Limited (Bravado)*		824
Memestar Limited (Memestar)	18,091	18,091
Total goodwill	\$ 69,847	\$ 61,172

The following table summarizes the intangible assets acquired from Davidhill, Crillion, Bravado and Memestar:

	September 30, 2005 (unaudited)	December 31, 2004 (audited)
	(In thousands)	
<i>(i) Davidhill:</i>		
Non-Compete agreements	\$ 480	\$ 480
Technology	10,300	10,300
	10,780	10,780
Less: Accumulated amortization	(1,554)	(622)
Net	9,226	10,158
<i>(ii) Crillion:</i>		
Non-Compete agreements	1,891	1,891
Customer list	2,494	2,494
Content provision contracts	81	81
	4,466	4,466
Less: Accumulated amortization	(3,525)	(1,960)
Net	941	2,506

*(iii) Bravado:**

Non-Compete agreements		121
Hotel reservation contracts		774
		895
Less: Accumulated amortization		(341)
Net		554

(iv) Memestar

Non-Compete agreements	1,256	1,256
Customer lists	972	972
	2,228	2,228
Less: Accumulated amortization	(2,228)	(2,228)
Net		

<i>Total intangible assets, net</i>	\$ 10,167	\$ 13,218
-------------------------------------	-----------	-----------

* During the three months ended September 30, 2005, the Company completed the sale of Bravado and exited the online travel business (see Note 6).

Table of Contents

Amortization expense related to intangible assets was \$0.6 million and \$2.7 million in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively, and \$1.0 million and \$2.5 million in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, respectively. As of September 30, 2005, estimated amortization expenses in future periods are expected to be as follows:

Fiscal year	Amortization expenses (In thousands)
Remainder of 2005	\$ 476
2006	1,820
2007	1,176
2008	1,030
2009	1,030
2010	1,030
Thereafter	3,605
Total expected amortization expense	\$ 10,167

8. Related Party Transactions

Transactions with joint ventures. The Company sold advertising space to Shanghai NC-SINA to allow the joint venture to promote its online game on the Company's website. The contract terms are at rates and terms that are comparable with those entered into with independent third parties. Revenues derived from the advertising arrangements with Shanghai NC-SINA were approximately \$17,000 and \$0.5 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively. The Company also provides a payment platform for customers of Shanghai NC-SINA to purchase virtual point cards to play its online game. Payments from its customers are recorded as customer advances received on behalf of Shanghai NC-SINA. As of September 30, 2005, the balance for such customer advances was \$2.2 million.

As part of the joint venture arrangement with COAL, the Company agreed to divert a certain number of users to COAL's auction site in exchange for an equity interest in COAL. Such obligation was recorded as deferred revenue at the time the Company recorded the equity investment in COAL. Non-advertising revenues from this arrangement are recognized on a pro-rated basis, based on the number of users diverted to COAL's auction site. Non-advertising revenue from this arrangement were \$0.2 million and \$0.9 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively. As of September 30, 2005, deferred revenue from COAL was \$2.1 million, \$1.3 million of which related to long-term liabilities.

9. Income Taxes

The Company is registered in the Cayman Islands and has operations in four tax jurisdictions, including the PRC, the United States of America, Hong Kong and Taiwan. The operations in Taiwan represent a branch office of the subsidiary in the United States. For operations in the United States of America, Hong Kong and Taiwan, the Company has incurred net accumulated operating losses for income tax purposes. The Company believes that it is more likely than not that these net accumulated operating losses will not be utilized in the future and therefore the Company has not recorded income tax provisions or benefits for these locations as of September 30, 2005. The Company generated substantially all of its net income from its PRC operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, and has recorded income tax provisions for the periods as follows:

Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
2005	2004	2005	2004
(Unaudited, in thousands, except percentage)			

Edgar Filing: SINA CORP - Form 10-Q

Loss subject to non PRC operations	\$ (1,217)	\$ (4,062)	\$ (7,318)	\$ (6,480)
Income subject to the PRC operations	10,957	19,293	38,534	57,547
Income before taxes	\$ 9,740	\$ 15,231	\$ 31,216	\$ 51,067
Income tax expenses subject to the PRC operations	\$ 647	728	1,860	2,504
Effective tax rate for the PRC operations	6%	4%	5%	4%

15

Table of Contents

Pursuant to PRC Income Tax Laws, the Company's subsidiaries and VIEs are generally subject to Enterprise Income Taxes (EIT) at a statutory rate of 33%, which comprises 30% national income tax and 3% local income tax. Some of these subsidiaries and VIEs are qualified new technology enterprises and under PRC Income Tax Laws, they are subject to preferential tax rate of 15%. In addition, some of the Company's subsidiaries are Foreign Investment Enterprise and under PRC Income Tax Laws, they are entitled to either a three-year tax exemption followed by three years with a 50% reduction in the tax rate, commencing the first operating year, or a two-year tax exemption followed by three years with a 50% reduction in the tax rate, commencing the first profitable year. The VIEs are wholly owned by the Company's employees and controlled by the Company through various contractual agreements. To the extent that the VIEs have undistributed after-tax net income, the Company would have to pay a dividend tax of 20% on behalf of its employees when dividends are distributed from these local entities in the future.

The provision for income taxes for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004 differs from the amounts computed by applying the EIT primarily due to the tax holidays and preferential tax rate enjoyed by certain of the Company's entities in the PRC. The effective tax rate for the PRC operations for the three months ended September 30, 2005 was higher than the same period of the prior year primarily due to higher non-deductible marketing expenses in the current quarter.

10. Net Income Per Share

Basic net income per share is computed using the weighted average number of the ordinary shares outstanding during the period. Diluted net income per share is computed using the weighted average number of ordinary share and ordinary share equivalents outstanding during the period.

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted net income per share for the periods presented:

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	(Unaudited, in thousands, except per share amounts)			
Numerator:				
Net income	\$ 9,093	\$ 14,503	\$ 29,356	\$ 48,563
Amortization of convertible debt issuance cost	172	172	514	514
Net income used in computing diluted net income per share	\$ 9,265	\$ 14,675	\$ 29,870	\$ 49,077
Denominator:				
Weighted average ordinary shares used in computing basic net income per share	53,099	50,387	52,214	50,043
Weighted average ordinary share equivalents:				
Stock options	1,798	3,499	2,589	4,075
Convertible debt	3,877	3,877	3,877	3,877
	5,675	7,376	6,466	7,952
Shares used in computing diluted net income per share	58,774	57,763	58,680	57,995
Basic net income per share	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.56	\$ 0.98

Diluted net income per share	\$	0.16	\$	0.25	\$	0.51	\$	0.85
------------------------------	----	------	----	------	----	------	----	------

Table of Contents**11. Segment Information**

Based on the criteria established by SFAS No. 131, Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information, the Company currently operates in three principal business segments globally. The Company does not allocate any operating costs or assets to its advertising, MVAS and other segments as management does not use this information to measure the performance of these operating segments. Management does not believe that allocating these expenses or assets is necessary in evaluating these segments' performance.

The following is a summary of revenues and cost of revenues by segments:

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	(Unaudited, in thousands, except percentages)			
Revenues:				
Advertising	\$ 22,968	\$ 18,516	\$ 59,989	\$ 47,146
MVAS	24,134	31,290	73,267	88,207
Other	2,522	2,699	8,346	7,735
	\$ 49,624	\$ 52,505	\$ 141,602	\$ 143,088
Cost of revenues:				
Advertising	\$ 7,410	\$ 7,144	\$ 19,845	\$ 16,437
MVAS	8,279	9,389	24,323	26,463
Other	391	322	1,181	778
	\$ 16,080	\$ 16,855	\$ 45,349	\$ 43,678
Gross profit margins:				
Advertising	68%	61%	67%	65%
MVAS	66%	70%	67%	70%
Other	84%	88%	86%	90%
Overall	68%	68%	68%	69%

The following is a summary of the Company operations by geography:

	PRC	U.S.	Hong Kong	Taiwan	Total
	(Unaudited, in thousands)				
Three months ended and as of September 30, 2005:					
Revenue	\$ 48,445	\$ 508	\$ 546	\$ 125	\$ 49,624
Long-lived assets	21,756	121	179	146	22,202
Three months ended and as of September 30, 2004:					
Revenues	\$ 51,310	\$ 577	\$ 397	\$ 221	\$ 52,505
Long-lived assets	13,879	48	119	493	14,539
Nine months ended and as of September 30, 2005:					
Revenue	\$ 138,290	\$ 1,556	\$ 1,353	\$ 403	\$ 141,602

Edgar Filing: SINA CORP - Form 10-Q

Long-lived assets	21,756	121	179	146	22,202
Nine months ended and as of					
September 30, 2004:					
Revenues	\$ 139,274	\$ 1,707	\$ 1,333	\$ 774	\$ 143,088
Long-lived assets	13,879	48	119	493	14,539
		17			

Table of Contents**12. Concentration of Credit Risk and Major Customers**

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to significant concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents, marketable debt securities and accounts receivable. The Company limits its exposure to credit loss by depositing its cash and cash equivalents with financial institutions in the U.S., the PRC, Hong Kong and Taiwan which management believes are of high credit quality. The Company usually invests in marketable debt securities with A ratings or above.

Accounts receivable consist primarily of advertising agencies, direct advertising customers and third-party mobile operators. As of September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004, respectively, approximately 97% and 98% of the net accounts receivable were derived from the Company's operations in the PRC. Regarding its advertising operations, no individual advertising customer accounted for more than 10% of total net revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004. Also, no individual advertising customer accounted for more than 10% of accounts receivables as of September 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004. For its MVAS operations in the PRC, the Company mainly contracts with China Mobile and its subsidiaries and China Unicom and its subsidiaries for utilizing their transmission gateways for message delivery and billing systems to collect subscription or usage fees from its subscribers. MVAS fees charged to users via these operators accounted for 48% and 51% of the Company's net revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively, and 60% and 62% of the Company's net revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, respectively. SMS revenue accounted for 35% and 38% of the Company's net revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively, and 46% and 52% of the Company's net revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, respectively. Accounts receivable from the mobile operators represent MVAS fees collected on behalf of the Company after deducting their billing services and transmission charges. The Company maintains allowances for potential credit losses. Historically, the Company has not had any significant direct write-off of bad debts.

The following table summarizes operator(s) with 10% or more of the Company's total net revenues and accounts receivable:

Operator(s)	% of total net revenues			
	Three months ended		Nine months ended September	
	September 30,		30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
China Mobile and its subsidiaries	46%	52%	46%	54%

Operator(s)	% of total accounts receivable, net	
	As of	As of
	September 30, 2005	December 31, 2004
China Mobile and its subsidiaries	34%	47%

The Company operates in business segments which are characterized by rapid technological advances, changes in customer requirements and evolving regulatory requirements and industry standards. Any failure by the Company to anticipate or to respond adequately to technological changes in its industry segments, changes in customer requirements or changes in regulatory requirements or industry standards, could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business and operating results. The Company relies on a number of third-party suppliers for various other services, including web server hosting, banner advertising delivery software, Internet traffic measurement software and transmission and billing of MVAS. Any failure of these suppliers to provide services to the Company or any termination of these services with the Company could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business and operating results.

The majority of the Company's net income was derived from China. The operations in China are carried out by the subsidiaries and VIEs. The Company depends on dividend payments from its subsidiaries in China for its revenues after these subsidiaries receive payments from VIEs in China under various services and other arrangements. In addition, under Chinese law, its subsidiaries are only allowed to pay dividends to the Company out of their

accumulated profits, if any, as determined in accordance with Chinese accounting standards and regulations. Moreover, these Chinese subsidiaries are required to set aside at least 10% of their respective accumulated profits, if any, up to 50% of their registered capital to fund certain mandated reserve funds that are not payable or distributable as cash dividends. The appropriation to mandated reserve funds are assessed annually. As of December 31, 2004, the Company is subject to a maximum appropriation of \$4.8 million to these non-distributable reserve funds. The Company's subsidiaries and VIEs in China are subject to different tax rates. See Note 9 Income Taxes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents

The majority of the Company's revenues derived and expenses incurred were in Chinese renminbi. The functional currency for the subsidiaries and VIEs in China is in Chinese renminbi, whereas the Company's reporting currency is U.S. dollars. As of September 30, 2005, the Company's cash, cash equivalents and short-term investment balance denominated in Chinese renminbi was approximately \$172.9 million, which accounted for approximately 60% of its total cash, cash equivalents and short-term investment balance. As of September 30, 2005, the Company's accounts receivable balance denominated in Chinese renminbi was approximately \$31.9 million, which accounted for approximately 97% of its total accounts receivable balance. Also as of September 30, 2005, the Company's liabilities balance denominated in Chinese renminbi was approximately \$35.6 million, which accounted for approximately 25% of its total liabilities balance. Accordingly, exchange rate fluctuations in Chinese renminbi may impact comprehensive income and equity. For example, the value of Chinese renminbi depends to a large extent on Chinese government policies and China's domestic and international economic and political developments, as well as supply and demand in the local market. Since 1994, the official exchange rate for the conversion of Chinese renminbi to the U.S. dollars had generally been stable and Chinese renminbi had appreciated slightly against the U.S. dollar. However, on July 21, 2005, the Chinese government changed its policy of pegging the value of Chinese renminbi to the U.S. dollar. Under the new policy, Chinese renminbi may fluctuate within a narrow and managed band against a basket of certain foreign currencies. As a result of this policy change, Chinese renminbi appreciated approximately 2.1% against the U.S. dollar. It is possible that the Chinese government could adopt a more flexible currency policy, which could result in more significant fluctuations of Chinese renminbi against the U.S. dollar.

Moreover, the Chinese government imposes controls on the convertibility of Chinese renminbi into foreign currencies and, in certain cases, the remittance of currency out of the PRC. The Company may experience difficulties in completing the administrative procedures necessary to obtain and remit foreign currency. In accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-X Rule 210.4-08 (e) (3), General Notes to Financial Statements, the Company performed tests on the restricted net assets of consolidated subsidiaries and VIEs (the restricted net assets) and concluded that the restricted net assets did not exceed 25% of the consolidated net assets of the Company as of December 31, 2004, which is the most recently completed fiscal year.

13. Convertible Debt

As of September 30, 2005, the Company has \$100 million of zero coupon convertible subordinated notes (the Notes) due 2023. The Notes were issued at par and bear no interest. The Notes will be convertible into SINA ordinary shares upon satisfaction of certain conditions at an initial conversion price of \$25.79 per share, subject to adjustments for certain events. One of the conditions for conversion of the Notes to SINA ordinary shares is that the market price of SINA ordinary shares reaches a specified threshold for a defined period of time. The specified thresholds are as follows: i) during the period from issuance to July 15, 2022, if the sale price of SINA ordinary shares, for each of any five consecutive trading days in the immediately preceding fiscal quarter, exceeds 115% of the conversion price per ordinary share, and ii) during the period from July 15, 2022 to July 15, 2023, if the sale price of SINA ordinary shares on the previous trading day is more than 115% of the conversion price per ordinary share. For the three months ended September 30, 2005, the sale price of SINA ordinary shares did not exceed the threshold set forth in Item (i) above for the required period of time. Therefore, the Notes are not convertible into SINA ordinary shares during the three months ending December 31, 2005.

Upon a purchaser's election to convert the Notes in the future, the Company has the right to deliver cash in lieu of ordinary shares, or a combination of cash and ordinary shares. The Company may redeem for cash all or part of the Notes on or after July 15, 2012, at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed. The purchasers may require the Company to repurchase all or part of the Notes for cash on July 15 annually from 2007 through 2013, and on July 15, 2018, or upon a change of control, at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes.

Table of Contents**14. Commitments and Contingencies**

The following table sets forth the contractual commitments and obligations of the Company as of September 30, 2005:

		Payments due by period			
		Less than one year	One to three years	Three to five years	More than five years
Total		(Unaudited, in thousands)			
Contractual obligations:					
Long-term debt obligations	\$ 100,000	\$	\$ 100,000	\$	\$
Operating lease obligations	3,655	1,327	2,328		
Purchase obligations	33,011	29,511	3,366	47	87
Other long-term liabilities	1,286		1,286		
Total contractual obligations	\$ 137,952	\$ 30,838	\$ 106,980	\$ 47	\$ 87

Long-term debt obligations represent the zero-coupon convertible subordinated notes issued on July 7, 2003. Please see Note 13 Convertible debt to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information.

Operating lease obligations include the commitments under the lease agreements for the Company's office premises. The Company leases office facilities under non-cancelable operating leases with various expiration dates through 2007. Rental expenses were \$0.9 million and \$2.9 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively, and were \$0.9 million and \$2.1 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, respectively. During the three months ended September 30, 2005, the Company prepaid approximately \$2.4 million in rental payments for its premises in Beijing. Based on the current rental lease agreements, future minimum rental payments required as of September 30, 2005 are \$3.7 million, or \$0.3 million, \$1.5 million and \$1.9 million for the three months ending December 31, 2005 and each of the succeeding two years ending December 31, 2006 and 2007, respectively. A majority of the commitment is from the Company's office lease agreements in the PRC.

Purchase obligations mainly include the commitments for Internet connection fees associated with websites production, content fees associated with websites production and MVAS, advertising serving services and marketing activities.

In addition to the above contractual obligations, the Company is also obligated to pay contingent consideration on its acquisition of Crillion in addition to the initial consideration with respect to such acquisition. The contingent consideration of the Crillion acquisition is based on Crillion's financial performances in 2005. The contingent consideration would roughly be 1.5 to 2.0 times 2005 earnings, provided that Crillion's pretax net income for 2005 is at least \$13.3 million. The total consideration is subject to a cap of \$125.0 million and will be paid 60% in cash and 40% in SINA ordinary shares.

In February 2005, multiple purported securities class action complaints were filed against the Company and certain officers and directors of the Company in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, following the Company's announcement of anticipated financial results for the first quarter of 2005 ending on March 31, 2005. On July 1, 2005, Judge Naomi Buchwald consolidated the cases under the caption *In re SINA Corporation Securities Litigation* and appointed City of Sterling Heights General Employee's Retirement System, City of St. Clair Shores Police and Fire Retirement System, and Charter Township of Clinton Police and Fire Retirement System (collectively the MAPERS Funds Group) as lead plaintiff. The MAPERS Funds Group filed an amended consolidated complaint on September 9, 2005. The Company intends to take all appropriate action in response to these lawsuits. The Company cannot estimate any possible loss at this time. From time to time, the Company may also be subject to legal proceedings and claims in the ordinary course of business, including claims of alleged infringement of copyrights and other intellectual property rights in connection with the content published on our websites.

Table of Contents**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

This report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Exchange Act, including, without limitation, statements regarding our expectations, beliefs, intentions or future strategies that are signified by the words expect, anticipate, intend, believe, the negative of such terms or other comparable terminology. All forward-looking statements included in this document are based on information available to us on the date hereof, and we undertake no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. Actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. In evaluating our business, you should carefully consider the information set forth below under the caption Factors that May Impact Future Performance set forth herein. We caution you that our businesses and financial performance are subject to substantial risks and uncertainties, including the factors identified in Factors that May Impact Future Performance that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements.

Overview

We are a leading online media company and value-added information services provider in the People's Republic of China (the PRC or China) and the global Chinese communities. With a branded network of localized websites targeting China, Hong Kong and Taiwan (Greater China) and overseas Chinese, we provide services through five major business lines including SINA.com (online news and content), SINA Mobile (mobile value-added services or MVAS), SINA Online (community-based services and games), SINA.net (search and enterprise services) and SINA E-Commerce (online shopping and auctions). Together they provide an array of services including region-focused online portals, MVAS, search and directory, interest-based and community-building channels, free and premium email, online games, virtual ISP, classified listings, fee-based services, e-commerce and enterprise e-solutions. In turn, we generate revenues through advertising, MVAS, fee-based services, e-commerce and enterprise services. Advertising and MVAS are currently the major sources of our revenues, and we expect this trend to continue in the near future periods.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based upon our unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP). The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. On an on-going basis, we evaluate our estimates, including those related to customer programs and incentives, bad debts, investments, intangible assets, income taxes, financing operations, restructuring, employee benefits, contingencies and litigation. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. For further information on our critical accounting policies, see the discussion in the section titled Recent Accounting Pronouncements below and Note 2 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

We believe the following critical accounting policies affect the more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements.

Revenue recognition

Advertising. Advertising revenues are derived principally from online advertising and sponsorship arrangements. Online advertising arrangements allow advertisers to place advertisements on particular areas of our websites, in particular formats and over particular periods of time. Advertising revenues from online advertising arrangements are recognized ratably over the displayed period of the contract when the collectibility is reasonably assured. Sponsorship arrangements allow advertisers to sponsor a particular area on our websites in exchange for a fixed payment over the contract period. Advertising revenues from sponsorship are recognized ratably over the contract period. Advertising revenues derived from the design, coordination and integration of online advertising and sponsorship arrangements to be placed on our websites are recognized ratably over the term of such programs. In accordance with Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) 00-21, Accounting for Revenue Arrangements with Multiple Deliverables, advertising arrangements involving multiple deliverables are broken down into single-element arrangements based on their

relative fair value, if possible, for revenue recognition purposes. We recognize revenue on the elements delivered and defer the recognition of revenue for the fair value of the undelivered elements until the remaining obligations have been satisfied. Significant judgment may be required to determine how the consideration of an arrangement should be allocated among potential multiple elements. Changes in judgments on the assumptions and estimates could materially impact the timing or amount of revenue recognition.

Table of Contents

MVAS. We mainly contract with third-party mobile operators for billing and transmission services related to the MVAS transmitted to our users. In accordance with EITF 99-19, Reporting Revenue Gross as a Principal Versus Net as an Agent (EITF 99-19), revenues are recorded on a gross basis when we are considered the primary obligor to the MVAS users. Under the gross method, the amount billed to MVAS users is recognized as revenues and the fees charged or retained by the third party mobile operators are recognized as cost of revenues. Revenues on MVAS where we are not considered the primary obligor to the user are recorded on a net basis. Under the net method, revenues are recorded net of fees charged or retained by the third party mobile operators. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively, 89% and 90% of our MVAS revenues were recorded on a gross basis. The determination of whether the Company is the primary obligor for a particular type of service is subjective in nature and is based on an evaluation of the terms of the arrangement. If the terms of the arrangement with mobile operators were to change and cause us to no longer be the primary obligor to the users, we would have to record our MVAS revenues on a net basis. Consequently, this would cause a significant decline in our net revenues, but should not have a significant impact on our gross margin.

Due to the time lag between when the services are rendered and when the mobile operator billing statements are received, MVAS revenues are estimated based on our internal records of billings and transmissions for the month, adjusting for prior periods' confirmation rates with mobile operators and prior periods' discrepancies between internally estimated revenues and actual revenues confirmed by mobile operators. The confirmation rate applied to the estimation of revenue is determined at the lower of the latest confirmation rate available and the average of six months historical rates available, provided that we have obtained confirmation rates for six months. If we have not yet received confirmation rates for six months, revenues would be deferred until billing statements are received from the mobile operators. If subsequent billing statements from the mobile operators differ significantly from management's estimates, our revenues could be materially impacted.

Allowances for doubtful accounts

We determine the allowance for doubtful accounts based on actual bad debt rate in the prior year and other factors. We also provide specific provisions for bad debts when facts and circumstances indicate that the receivable is unlikely to be collected. If the financial condition of our customers were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments, additional allowances may be required.

Available-for-sale securities investments

Investments classified as available-for-sale securities are reported at fair value with unrealized gains (losses), if any, recorded as accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) in shareholders' equity. Realized gains or losses are charged to income during the period in which the gain or loss is realized. If we conclude that a decline in fair value is other-than-temporary, the cost basis of the individual security is written down to fair value as a new cost basis and the amount of the write-down is accounted for as a realized loss. The new cost basis will not be changed for subsequent recoveries in fair value. A determination of whether declines in value are other-than-temporary requires significant judgment.

Purchase price allocation

We account for our business combinations using the purchase method of accounting. This method requires that the acquisition cost be allocated to the assets and liabilities we acquired based on their relative fair values. We make estimates and judgments in determining the fair value of the acquired assets and liabilities based on independent appraisal reports for material purchases, as well as our experience with similar assets and liabilities in similar industries. If different judgments or assumptions were used, the amounts assigned to the individual acquired assets or liabilities could be materially different.

Goodwill and other intangible assets

Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of the identifiable assets and liabilities acquired as a result of our acquisitions of interests in its subsidiaries and variable interest entities. Under SFAS 142, goodwill is no longer amortized, but tested for impairment upon first adoption and annually thereafter, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that it might be impaired.

In accordance with SFAS 142, intangible assets with definite lives are amortized over their estimated useful life and reviewed for impairment in accordance with SFAS No. 144, Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of

Long-lived Assets (SFAS 144). Intangible assets, such as purchased technology, trademark, customer list, user base and non-compete agreements, arising from the acquisitions of subsidiaries and variable interest entities are recognized and measured at fair value upon acquisition. Intangible assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives from one to ten years. We review the amortization methods and the estimated useful

Table of Contents

lives of intangible assets at least annually or when events or changes in circumstances indicate that it might be impaired. The recoverability of an intangible asset to be held and used is evaluated by comparing the carrying amount of the intangible asset to its future net undiscounted cash flows. If the intangible asset is considered to be impaired, the impairment loss is measured as the amount by which the carrying amount of the intangible asset exceeds the fair value of the intangible asset calculated using a discounted future cash flow analysis. We use estimates and judgments in our impairment tests, and if different estimates or judgments had been utilized, the timing or the amount of the impairment charges could be different.

Advertising expenses

Advertising expenses consist primarily of costs of promotion for corporate image and product marketing and costs of direct advertising. We expense all advertising costs as incurred. The nature of our direct advertising activities is such that they are intended to acquire subscribers for subscription-based and usage-based SMS. We considered Statement of Position 93-7 Reporting on Advertising Costs (SOP 93-7) issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and concluded that the criteria specified for capitalizing the costs of direct response advertising for subscription-based SMS were not met.

Income taxes

Income taxes are accounted for using an asset and liability approach, which requires the recognition of income taxes payable or refundable for the current year and deferred tax liabilities and assets for future tax consequences of events that have been recognized in different periods in the Company's consolidated financial statements or tax returns. The measurement of current and deferred tax liabilities and assets is based on provisions of the enacted tax laws; the effects of future changes in tax laws or rates are not anticipated. The measurement of deferred tax assets is reduced, if necessary, by the amount of any tax benefits that, based on available evidence assessed using the criteria in SFAS No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes, will not more-likely-than-not be realized. Management uses assumptions, judgments and estimates to determine our current provision for income tax, taking into account current tax laws, our interpretation of current tax laws and possible outcomes of future audits conducted by tax authorities.

Foreign currency

Our reporting currency is the U.S. dollar and our operations in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan use their respective currencies as their functional currencies. The financial statements of these subsidiaries are translated into U.S. dollars using period-end rates of exchange for assets and liabilities and average rates of exchange in the period for revenues and expenses. Translation gains and losses are recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income or loss as a component of shareholders' equity. Net gains and losses resulting from foreign exchange transactions are included in interest and other income, net. During the quarter ended September 30, 2005, the foreign currency translation adjustments to our comprehensive income were \$4.2 million and the currency translation loss was approximately \$97,000, primarily as a result of the Chinese renminbi appreciating against the U.S. dollar. Historically, the Chinese renminbi was pegged to the U.S. dollar. On July 21, 2005, the Chinese government changed its policy to allow the renminbi to fluctuate within a narrow and managed band against a basket of certain foreign currencies.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the FASB) issued SFAS No. 123 (revised 2004), Share-Based Payment (SFAS 123R), which replaces SFAS No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation (SFAS 123) and supersedes APB Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees. SFAS 123R requires share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options, to be recognized in the financial statements based on their fair values, beginning with the first interim or annual period after June 15, 2005. In April 2005, the Securities and Exchange Commission announced that the accounting provisions of SFAS 123R are effective at the beginning of a company's next fiscal year that begins after June 15, 2005. We are now required to adopt SFAS 123R in the first quarter of fiscal year 2006. The pro forma disclosures previously permitted under SFAS 123 no longer will be an alternative to financial statement recognition. See the Stock-based compensation section under Note 2 to our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for the pro forma net income and net income per share amounts for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005 and September 30, 2004, respectively, as if we had used a fair-value-based method similar to the methods required under SFAS 123R, to measure compensation expense for employee stock incentive awards. Although we have not yet determined the transition method or whether

the adoption of SFAS 123R will result in amounts that are similar to the current pro forma disclosures under SFAS 123, we are evaluating the requirements under SFAS 123R and expect the adoption to have a significant adverse impact on our consolidated statements of operations and net income per share.

In May 2005, the FASB issued SFAS No. 154, Accounting Changes and Error Corrections (SFAS 154) which replaces APB Opinion No. 20 Accounting Changes and SFAS No. 3, Reporting Accounting Changes in Interim Financial Statements An Amendment of APB Opinion No. 28. SFAS 154 provides guidance on the accounting for and reporting of accounting changes and error corrections. It establishes retrospective application, or the latest practicable date, as the required method for reporting a change in accounting principle and the reporting of a correction of an error. SFAS 154 is effective for accounting changes and corrections of errors made in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2005 and is required to be adopted by us in the first quarter of fiscal year 2006. We are currently evaluating the effect that the adoption of SFAS 154 will have on our consolidated results of operations and financial condition but do not expect it to have a material impact.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations*****Three and nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004******Net revenues***

	Three months ended September 30,				
	2005		2004		
	(Unaudited, in thousands, except percentages)				
	% of total net		% of total net		% of
	revenues		revenues		Change
Net Revenues					
Advertising	\$ 22,968	46%	\$ 18,516	35%	24%
Non-advertising					
Mobile value-added services	24,134	49%	31,290	60%	-23%
Other	2,522	5%	2,699	5%	-7%
Subtotal	26,656	54%	33,989	65%	-22%
Total net revenues	\$ 49,624	100%	\$ 52,505	100%	-5%

Nine months ended September 30,					
2005			2004		
(Unaudited, in thousands, except percentages)					
	% of total net			% of total net	
	revenues			revenues	
					% of Change
Net Revenues					
Advertising	\$ 59,989	42%	\$ 47,146	33%	27%
Non-advertising					
Mobile value-added services	73,267	52%	88,207	62%	-17%
Other	8,346	6%	7,735	5%	8%
Subtotal	81,613	58%	95,942	67%	-15%
Total net revenues	\$ 141,602	100%	\$ 143,088	100%	-1%

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, total net revenues decreased by \$2.9 million, or 5%, and \$1.5 million, or 1%, respectively, compared to the same periods of 2004. Advertising revenues in absolute amount and as a percentage of total net revenues grew while MVAS revenues declined.

Advertising. Advertising revenues grew in the third quarter year over year and nine-months year over year primarily due to increase in the number of advertisers and higher average spending by advertisers. Total number of advertiser was 571 in the third quarter, compared to 515 in the prior quarter and 547 in the third quarter of prior year. Average spending per advertiser was \$40,000 in the third quarter, compared to \$39,600 in the second quarter and \$33,900 in the third quarter of prior year.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, China accounted for 96% and 95% of our total advertising revenues, respectively, compared to 95% and 94%, respectively, in the same periods of 2004. Increase in advertising revenues in the third quarter of 2005 year over year was noted primarily in the real estate, education, fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) and automobile industries, while sequential growth came primarily from IT and real estate industries. Average spending per advertising customer in the PRC grew from \$46,000 and \$67,000 in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, respectively, to \$54,000 and \$84,000 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively. Our top ten customers in aggregate generated 15% and 13% of our advertising revenues in the PRC during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively, compared to 21% and 20% in the same periods of 2004, respectively.

MVAS. MVAS revenues consist of revenues from short messaging service (SMS), ring back tone (RBT) and 2.5G products such as multimedia messaging service (MMS), wireless application protocol (WAP), as well as interactive voice response

Table of Contents

system (IVR). Declines in MVAS revenues for the third quarter year over year and for nine-months year over year were primarily attributed to the decline in SMS revenues.

Three months ended September 30,					
2005			2004		
(Unaudited, in thousands, except percentages)					
		% of		% of	
		MVAS		MVAS	
		revenues		revenues	% of
					Change
SMS	\$ 17,445	72%	\$ 24,320	78%	-28%
2.5G products and others	3,510	15%	4,291	14%	-18%
RBT	1,295	5%	921	3%	41%
IVR	1,884	8%	1,758	5%	7%
Total MVAS revenues	\$ 24,134	100%	\$ 31,290	100%	-23%

Nine months ended September 30,					
2005			2004		
(Unaudited, in thousands, except percentages)					
		% of		% of	
		MVAS		MVAS	
		revenues		revenues	% of
					Change
SMS	\$ 53,340	73%	\$ 74,447	84%	-28%
2.5G products and others	10,921	15%	8,276	10%	32%
RBT	3,634	5%	1,046	1%	247%
IVR	5,372	7%	4,438	5%	21%
Total MVAS revenues	\$ 73,267	100%	\$ 88,207	100%	-17%

SMS is the largest component of our MVAS revenues. Our SMS products are offered on a monthly subscription basis and usage basis. Usage-based SMS revenue accounted for approximately 6% and 17% of our SMS revenue in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively. These compared to approximately 22% and 23%, respectively, of our SMS revenue in both the same periods of 2004. Sequential decrease in usage-based SMS revenues from the prior quarter was primarily caused by the ban on the advertising of fortune-telling related SMS via direct radio and television. In late January 2005, the Chinese State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT), which regulates radio and television stations in China, issued a notice prohibiting commercials for MVAS relating to fortune-telling from airing on radio and television stations, effective in February 2005. Such prohibition has negatively affected our revenues. This notice reflects the difficulty of determining or predicting the manner in which content might be restricted or prohibited under evolving regulations that are in many cases vague and subjective. SMS revenue generated via direct radio and television advertising fell sequentially by approximately \$5.7 million in the first quarter of 2005 and further fell by approximately \$4.3 million in the second quarter of 2005. In late June 2005, we started a new wave of television campaigns for our newly developed SMS products, which are offered on a monthly subscription basis. We are depending on the continuing increase of these new products promoted primarily through television commercials to grow our SMS revenues in the near future. However, there is no guarantee that such new products will receive market acceptance or that such products will not be prohibited by future rules and regulations.

The year-over-year decline in SMS revenue was also caused by other changes in the regulatory environment of the PRC and the policies of the mobile operators, including the transition onto new billing platforms by China Mobile Communication Corporation (China Mobile), and increased market competition. During 2004, mobile operators started transitioning SMS providers to a new billing platform. As of March 2005, almost all significant provincial subsidiaries of China Mobile have been moved onto the new billing platform for SMS. These new billing platforms have resulted in added operational controls and procedures in areas such as customer subscription and customer billing. As a result, recruitment of new users is more difficult, and our fee collection rates have declined.

Third quarter 2005 revenues from 2.5G products and others, including MMS, WAP and Kjava were approximately \$3.5 million, a decrease of 18% from the prior year, primarily due to the decline in MMS. Starting in January 2005, China Mobile stopped its MMS Album service. MMS Album allows users to receive their subscribed MMS messages from China Mobile's website when the subscribed MMS messages could not be successfully delivered to their mobile phones if their mobile phones do not support MMS. With the termination of such service, we are no longer able to collect fees from users when the MMS messages could not be delivered to the users' mobile phones. In addition, China Mobile began migrating MMS onto new billing platforms in the first quarter of 2005.

Table of Contents

As is the case with SMS, MMS's migration onto new billing platforms has resulted in added operational controls and procedures and, correspondingly, increased difficulties for new user recruitment and increased failure rate for fee collection from our users. Our MMS revenue in the third quarter of 2005 was \$1.3 million, a decline of 37% from the prior quarter, and a decline of 57% from the third quarter of the prior year. As of September 30, 2005, all significant provincial subsidiaries of China Mobile, with whom we have arrangements to offer MMS services, have migrated to the new billing platforms, but we were not able to estimate the full impact of this migration.

Revenues from other 2.5G products, including WAP and Kjava, were \$2.2 million in the third quarter of 2005, an increase quarter over quarter and 66% increase year over year. For the first nine months of 2005, revenues from other 2.5G products in aggregate grew to \$5.4 million from \$3.4 million in the same period of the prior year. China Mobile has begun implementing a policy to disallow billing to WAP end users who have been inactive for four months or more. This policy change could negatively impact our WAP revenues.

Revenue from RBT was \$1.3 million in the third quarter of 2005, a decline of 4% from the prior quarter and an increase of 41% from the same period in prior year.

Revenue from IVR was \$1.9 million in the third quarter of 2005, a decrease of 4% from the prior quarter and an increase of 7% from the prior year. IVR revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 increased by \$0.9 million to \$5.4 million from the same period last year. Our IVR service was temporarily suspended by China Mobile during the third quarter of 2004 due to the violation of certain operating procedures and was resumed in October 2004. The mobile operators could again decide to enforce operating standards that are often vague and subjective, resulting in a negative impact to our IVR revenue.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, 89% and 90% of our MVAS revenues, respectively, were recorded on a gross basis. In accordance with EITF 99-19, revenues are recorded on a gross basis when we are considered the primary obligor to the MVAS users. Under the gross method, the amount billed to MVAS users are recognized as revenues and the fees charged or retained by the third party mobile operators are recognized as cost of revenues. Revenues on MVAS where we are not considered the primary obligor to the user are recorded on a net basis. Under the net method, revenues are recorded net of fees charged or retained by the third party mobile operators. If we were to enter into new arrangements with mobile operators, or if mobile operators were to request that we change the existing arrangements that would cause us to no longer be the primary obligor to the users, we would have to record our MVAS revenues on a net basis. Consequently, this would cause a significant decline in our MVAS revenues, but should not have significant impact on our gross margin.

Other non-advertising revenues. Other non-advertising revenues include enterprise services such as paid search and directory listings, fee-based services such as virtual ISP and paid email services, and e-commerce. Revenues from paid search and directory listings in aggregate were \$1.6 million and \$4.5 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively, compared to \$1.3 million and \$4.0 million for same periods last year, respectively. These revenues accounted for approximately 50% to 60% of our other non-advertising revenues in the periods presented.

Cost of revenues

	Three months ended September 30,		
	2005	2004	
	(Unaudited, in thousands, except		
	percentages)		
			% of
			change
Cost of revenues:			
Advertising	\$ 7,410	\$ 7,144	4%
Non-advertising			
Mobile value-added services	8,279	9,389	-12%

Edgar Filing: SINA CORP - Form 10-Q

Other	391	322	21%
Subtotal	8,670	9,711	-11%
Total cost of revenues	\$ 16,080	\$ 16,855	-5%

**Nine months ended September 30,
2005 2004
(Unaudited, in thousands, except
percentages)**

			% of change
Cost of revenues:			
Advertising	\$ 19,845	\$ 16,437	21%
Non-advertising			
Mobile value-added services	24,323	26,463	-8%
Other	1,181	778	52%
Subtotal	25,504	27,241	-6%
Total cost of revenues	\$ 45,349	\$ 43,678	4%

Table of Contents

Total cost of revenues in the third quarter of 2005 decreased by 5% from the prior year primarily due to the decrease in cost of revenues from MVAS, which was partially offset by the increase in cost of revenues from advertising. Total cost of revenues for the first nine months ended September 30, 2005 increased year over year due to the increase in cost of revenues from advertising, which is partially offset by a decrease in the cost of revenues from MVAS.

Advertising. Cost of advertising revenues consists mainly of expenses associated with the production of our websites, which include fees paid to third parties for Internet connection, content and services, personnel related costs and related equipment depreciation expenses. Cost of advertising revenues also includes the business taxes on advertising sales in the PRC. Business taxes levied on advertising sales are approximately 8.5% of the advertising revenues. The content fee for the third quarter of 2004 included a \$1.1 million payment to an exclusive Olympics content partner and \$0.1 million for some other one-time content purchases relating to Olympics coverage. Excluding the Olympics event, cost of revenues from advertising increased 25% and 30%, respectively, compared to the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004. The increase was primarily due to the increase in website production costs, including an increase in web production personnel, content fees, Internet connection costs and business taxes. These increases were driven by the need to provide additional resources to support our web traffic and advertising revenue growth.

Non-advertising. Cost of non-advertising revenues consists mainly of fees paid to: 1) third party mobile operators for their services relating to the collection of our MVAS revenues and for using their transmission gateways, 2) fees or royalties paid to third-party content providers for services and content associated with our MVAS and 3) costs for providing our enterprise services. Cost of non-advertising revenues also includes business taxes levied on non-advertising sales in the PRC. Business taxes levied on MVAS are at 3% of mobile related revenues and at 5% for other non-advertising revenues. The year over year decrease of the cost of non-advertising revenues was mainly due to MVAS-related expenses, including the decrease in fees paid to mobile operators and third-party mobile content providers. Fees retained by or paid to mobile operators were \$6.0 million (25% of MVAS revenues) and \$6.8 million (22% of MVAS revenues) in the third quarter of 2005 and 2004, respectively, and \$18.1 million (25% of MVAS revenues) and \$19.4 million (22% of MVAS revenues) in the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively. The increases in mobile operator fees as a percentage of MVAS revenues for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2005 were primarily due to higher transmission costs related to monthly subscription SMS. Fees paid to third-party content providers were \$1.5 million (6% of MVAS revenues) and \$1.8 million (6% of MVAS revenues) for the third quarter of 2005 and 2004, respectively, and \$4.3 million (6% of MVAS revenues) and \$4.9 million (6% of MVAS revenues) for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

During the first quarter of 2005, our cooperation arrangements with certain provincial subsidiaries of China Unicom Co. Ltd. (China Unicom) were renewed. Under the renewed arrangements, effective April 1, 2005, the service fee they charge has been revised to a flat rate of 20% of the fees we charged to our users. Historically, service fees from China Unicom were set based on the volume of business with the mobile operator and mainly fluctuated between 10 - 40%, depending on the period and arrangement, but typically around 12%. This change from China Unicom did not have a material impact on our MVAS revenue and gross margin in the third quarter of 2005. In July 2005, China Mobile introduced a three-tier scheme to revenue sharing on new arrangements, the effective date of which is currently unknown. Under the new scheme, China Mobile will continue to charge 15% for only using its billing services, 30% for using its billing and customer support services and 50% for using its billing, customer support and marketing services. Since certain details from the new three-tier scheme were not yet clear, we were unable to determine if such changes will have significant negative impact to our operations and if the impact would be on revenues, cost of revenues or operating expenses. Such determination would be contingent on factors such as which MVAS will be impacted by the new scheme, whether we can still be considered the primary obligor if customer services and/or marketing activities are performed by China Mobile and whether the additional costs for services provided by China Mobile can be considered our operating expenses. However, it is clear that if we choose to or are required to use China Mobile's customer service or marketing service under the new scheme, our operating margin for MVAS will be negatively impacted. We are unable to quantify such impact at this point. In the future, China Mobile and China Unicom may choose to further increase the fees charged for providing their services, which may have a

material adverse impact to our results of operation.

Table of Contents***Gross profit margins***

	Three months ended September 30,		
	2005	2004	
	(Unaudited, percentages)		change
Gross profit margins:			
Advertising	68%	61%	7%
Non-advertising			
Mobile value-added services	66%	70%	-4%
Other	84%	88%	-4%
Subtotal	67%	71%	-4%
Overall	68%	68%	

	Nine months ended September 30,		
	2005	2004	
	(Unaudited, percentages)		change
Gross profit margins:			
Advertising	67%	65%	2%
Non-advertising			
Mobile value-added services	67%	70%	-3%
Other	86%	90%	-4%
Subtotal	69%	72%	-3%
Overall	68%	69%	-1%

Overall gross profit margin for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005 remained flat and declined 1%, respectively, from the same periods of 2004.

Advertising. The content fee for the third quarter of 2004 included a \$1.1 million payment to an exclusive Olympics content partner and \$0.1 million for some other one-time content purchases relating to Olympics coverage. Excluding these one-time content purchases, gross profit margin for advertising revenues would have been 67% and 68%, respectively, for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, compared to 68% and 67% for the same periods of 2005, respectively. We may have to continue increasing our investments in these areas to maintain or increase our competitiveness.

Non-advertising. The year over year decline in non-advertising gross profit margin was primarily due to the decrease in MVAS revenues and an increase in fees to mobile operators.

Operating expenses

	Three months ended September 30,		
	2005	2004	
	(Unaudited, in thousands, except percentages)		
	% of total	% of total	
	net	net	
	revenues	revenues	% of
			Change
Sales and marketing expenses	\$ 15,735	\$ 10,646	48%

Product development expenses	\$ 3,816	8%	\$ 3,034	6%	26%
General and administrative expenses	\$ 4,210	8%	\$ 4,065	8%	4%

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Sales and marketing expenses. Sales and marketing expenses consist primarily of advertising and promotional expenditures, compensation expenses, sales commissions and travel expenses. The year over year increases for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005 were primarily due to higher promotional expenditures from the MVAS business and higher sales commissions from the advertising business. Marketing expenses for MVAS products were \$8.2 million and \$15.8 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively, compared to \$3.5 million and \$6.9 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, respectively. During the quarter ended September 30, 2005, we incurred significantly higher advertising expenses than prior periods on television and radio to acquire monthly subscribers for our subscription-based SMS products. Total direct advertising expenses relating to subscription-based SMS products amounted to \$6.7 million and accounted for 43% of the sales and marketing expenses for the quarter. During the quarter ended September 30, 2004, approximately \$1.0 million of marketing expenses related to the Olympics.

As a result of factors such as the ban on promoting certain SMS products via direct advertising on radio and television, uncertainty of marketing new SMS products via direct advertising on radio and television and the potential introduction of new MVAS business models with mobile operators (as discussed above) as well as other factors discussed in Factors that May Impact Future Performance, historical sales and marketing expense trends may not be indicative of future results.

Product development expenses. Product development expenses consist primarily of personnel related expenses incurred for enhancement to and maintenance of our websites as well as costs associated with new product development such as email, search, instant messaging, casual games and new MVAS products. The year over year increases for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005 were primarily due to an increase in headcount and investments in new products, especially in email, casual games, instant messaging and search engine. We expect that our product development expenses will continue to increase in absolute dollar amounts in the near future.

General and administrative expenses. General and administrative expenses consist primarily of compensation for personnel, fees related to professional services and provision for doubtful accounts. Our general and administrative expenses also include expenses relating to the transfer of the economic benefits generated from our variable interest entities (VIEs) in the PRC to our subsidiaries. Expenses paid for transferring economic benefits generated from our VIEs in China to our subsidiaries were approximately \$1.3 million and \$3.6 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, respectively, and \$1.2 million and \$3.8 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, respectively. The year over year increases for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2005, were mainly due to an increase in compensation for personnel, provisions for doubtful accounts and fees for professional services. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, we incurred approximately \$0.2 million and \$1.4 million of professional fees, respectively, in relation to our adoption of a shareholder rights plan, announced on February 22, 2005, and related merger and acquisition activities. In addition, we also incurred approximately \$0.2 million related to the consolidation of our facilities in Beijing, primarily related to a one-time charge for old lease commitments in the first quarter of 2005. We expect our general and administrative expenses will continue to increase in absolute dollar amount in the near future, but we do not expect these expenses as a percentage of total net revenues to vary significantly in the near future.

Amortization of intangible assets

The following table summarizes the amortization expenses of intangible assets for the periods presented:

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	(Unaudited, in thousands)			
Amortization expenses:				
Davidhill	\$ 311	\$ 311	\$ 933	\$ 311
Crillion	291	637	1,565	1,322
Bravado		93	186	248
Memestar				570

Total amortization expenses	\$	602	\$	1,041	\$	2,684	\$	2,451
-----------------------------	----	-----	----	-------	----	-------	----	-------

29

Table of Contents

Compared to the prior year, amortization expenses decreased in the third quarter of 2005 primarily due to the completed amortization of the customer list from the acquisition of Crillion, while the increase in the first nine months of 2005 was primarily due to the additions of intangible assets from the acquisition of Davidhill in the third quarter of 2004, offset by the completed amortization of intangible assets from the Memestar acquisition. As of September 30, 2005, the net carrying amount of our intangible assets mainly includes technology, content provision contracts and non-competition arrangements. These intangible assets are amortized over their respective useful lives. Based on the current amount of intangible assets subject to amortization, the estimated amortization expense for the three months ending December 31, 2005 is \$0.5 million and each of the succeeding four years ending December 31, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 is \$1.8 million, \$1.2 million, \$1.0 million and \$1.0 million, respectively.

Interest and other income, net

Interest and other income, net grew to \$1.7 million in the third quarter of 2005 from \$1.3 million in the same quarter last year and grew to \$4.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 from \$3.6 million in the same period of last year. The increase was primarily due to a higher balance of cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments and overall higher interest rates in the current periods. See Item 3, Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk, for a description of our investment policy.

Amortization of convertible debt issuance cost

As a result of our sale of zero-coupon convertible subordinated notes in July 2003, we recorded convertible debt issuance cost of approximately \$2.7 million, which is being amortized straight-line over four years.

Loss on equity investments

Equity investments comprise investments in joint ventures which were accounted for using the equity method of accounting. As of September 30, 2005, the carrying value of equity investments of \$5.1 million mainly comprise investments in: 1) a joint venture of Shanghai NC-SINA Information Technology Co. Ltd. (Shanghai NC-SINA) in the PRC with NC Soft, a Korean online game company, of \$1.5 million; and 2) a joint venture of China Online Auction Limited (COAL) in the PRC with Yahoo! Inc. of \$1.5 million. The following summarizes the gain (loss) on our equity investments for the periods presented:

	Three months Ended September 30,		Nine months Ended September 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	(Unaudited, in thousands)			
Shanghai NC-SINA	\$ (111)	\$ (407)	146	(860)
COAL	(689)	(675)	(2,187)	(1,284)
Others	(196)		(379)	(27)
Total	\$ (996)	\$ (1,082)	(2,420)	(2,171)

In August 2005, Yahoo! announced its investment in Alibaba.com, a Chinese company. As part of its investment, Yahoo! intends to transfer its shares in COAL (a.k.a. IPai.com) to Alibaba.com. We own 33% of the joint venture in COAL. We are in negotiations with Yahoo! and Alibaba.com as to the settlement of our investment in the joint venture. As of November 4, 2005, no agreement has been reached.

Table of Contents***Gain on sale of Bravado***

We completed the sale of Bravado Investment Limited (a.k.a. Fortune Trip), an online travel business, during the three months ended September 30, 2005. The sale price was approximately \$3.8 million less certain liabilities that the buyer agreed to assume. As a result of this transaction, we recognized a gain of \$1.5 million during the three months ended September 30, 2005 and are entitled to an additional gain of approximately \$0.6 million within the next 18 months, assuming certain conditions are satisfied.

Provision for income taxes

Income tax provision relating to our China operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005 was \$0.7 million and \$1.9 million, respectively. These compared to income tax provision of \$0.7 million and \$2.5 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, respectively. The decreases in income tax provision for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005, compared to the same periods in the prior year, were primarily due to the decreases in profits from our China operations. Effective tax rates for the PRC operations were approximately 4% to 6% for the periods presented. We expect our overall effective income tax rates to be approximately 5% to 10% for fiscal years 2005 and 2006, respectively. Such expected effective rates are subject to change at any time if Chinese tax authorities challenge us on our tax arrangements between our subsidiaries and VIEs. We are in the process of applying for new preferential tax treatments for certain subsidiaries and VIEs in the PRC. If these applications are approved, our projected effective tax rates will be further reduced. There is no assurance that such tax treatments will be approved. Over the longer term, if the Chinese government phases out preferential tax treatment for foreign investment enterprises or for new technology enterprises, our effective tax rates can be increased to as high as 33%.

Due to our operating and tax structures in the PRC, we have entered into technical and other service agreements between our subsidiaries and our VIEs in the PRC, pursuant to which our subsidiaries provide technical and other services to our VIEs in exchange for substantially all net income of these VIEs. We incur a 5% business tax when our subsidiaries receive the fees from the VIEs, which we include in our operating expenses as cost of transferring economic benefit generated from these VIEs. We believe that the terms of such service agreements are in compliance with the laws in the PRC. Some of these agreements were reviewed by the tax authorities in the PRC in the past and no comments were raised. However, due to the uncertainties surrounding the interpretation of the tax transfer pricing rules relating to related party transactions in the PRC, it is possible that tax authorities in the PRC might challenge the transfer prices that we used for the related party transactions among our entities in the PRC in the future.

See also Note 9 Income Taxes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion on income taxes.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

	As of September 30,	
	2005	2004
	(Unaudited, in thousands)	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 113,305	\$ 115,247
Short-term investments in marketable debt securities	175,331	128,316
Total cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments	\$ 288,636	\$ 243,563

We funded our recent operations and capital expenditures mainly from the net income from our operations. As of September 30, 2005, we had \$288.6 million in cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments to meet the future requirements of our operating activities, capital expenditures and other obligations (see discussion below under the caption Contractual Obligations). We believe that our existing cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments will be sufficient to fund our operating activities, capital expenditures and other obligations for at least the next twelve months. However, we may sell additional equities or obtain credit facilities to enhance our liquidity position or to increase our cash reserve for future acquisitions. The sale of additional equity would result in further dilution to our shareholders. The incurrence of indebtedness would result in increased fixed obligations and could result in operating covenants that would restrict our operations. We cannot assure you that financing will be available in amounts or on

terms acceptable to us, if at all.

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth the movements of our cash and cash equivalents for the periods presented:

	Nine months ended September 30,	
	2005	2004
	(Unaudited, in thousands)	
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 43,902	\$ 44,453
Net cash used in investing activities	(93,159)	(96,810)
Net cash provided by financing activities	5,898	9,456
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	2,896	
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(40,463)	(42,901)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	153,768	158,148
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 113,305	\$ 115,247

Operating activities

Net cash provided by operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 was \$43.9 million. Net cash provided by operating activities was primarily attributable to our net income of \$29.4 million, adjusted by non-cash related expenses, gain and loss of \$14.2 million and a net increase in working capital items of \$0.3 million. The increase in working capital was mainly due to a decrease in accounts receivable of \$7.1 million, which mainly resulted from improved collection and lower revenues, offset by a decrease in accrued liabilities of \$6.1 million which was primarily due to the decrease in accrual for sales rebates, payroll withholding tax and customer advances and a decrease in income tax payable of \$1.1 million.

Net cash provided by operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 was \$44.5 million. Net cash provided by operating activities was primarily attributable to our net income of \$48.6 million, adjusted by non-cash related expenses of \$11.0 million and a net decrease in working capital items of \$15.1 million. Of the working capital changes, the increase in accrued liabilities of \$7.1 million (net of acquisition) was primarily due to the increase in accrual for services fees or royalties paid to third party content providers for services and content associated with our mobile-value added services, accrual for payroll withholding taxes and payroll related expenses, deferred revenue, business taxes payable and sales rebates. The increase in accounts receivable of \$21.4 million (net of acquisition) mainly resulted from an increase in our net revenues. To a lesser extent, the increase in accounts receivable was due to slower collection of receivables related to mobile value-added services as certain provincial mobile operators delayed payments to all wireless service providers pending upon account reconciliations during the three months ended September 30, 2004.

The year over year decrease in net cash provided by operating activities from the nine months ended September 30, 2005, to the nine months ended September 30, 2004, was primarily attributable to lower net income, offset by an increase in working capital.

Investing activities

Net cash used in investing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 was \$93.2 million. This was primarily related to the purchase of short-term investments in an amount of \$52.7 million, additional consideration totaling \$26.1 million related to the Bravado, Crillion and Davidhill acquisitions, investment in capital spending of \$12.6 million and equity investments of \$3.0 million, offset by the net proceeds from the sale of our online travel business of \$1.8 million.

Net cash used in investing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 was \$96.8 million. This was primarily due to the purchase of short-term investments of \$58.9 million, business acquisitions (net of cash acquired) of \$27.2 million, investment in capital spending of \$9.7 million and equity investments of \$1.4 million. Cash used in business acquisitions (net of cash acquired) includes the last two installments of our acquisition of Memestar of \$2.6 million, acquisition of Bravado of \$0.9 million, acquisition of Crillion of \$8.5 million, acquisition of Davidhill of

\$15.0 million and direct costs associated with the acquisitions of \$0.2 million.

Financing activities

Net cash provided by financing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004 were \$5.9 million and \$9.5 million, respectively, both representing the proceeds from the exercise of stock options and the issuance of ordinary shares pursuant to the 1999 Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

Table of Contents***Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents***

Our cash and cash equivalents increased by \$2.9 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2005, primarily as a result of the Chinese renminbi appreciating against the U.S. dollar during the period. See further discussion on the impact of foreign exchange rate changes under *Currency fluctuations and restrictions on currency exchange* may adversely affect our business, including limiting our ability to convert Chinese renminbi into foreign currencies and, if renminbi were to decline in value, reducing our revenue in U.S. dollar terms in the *Factors that May Impact Future Performance* section.

Contractual Obligations

As of September 30, 2005, our contractual obligations consisted of long-term debt obligations, operating lease obligations, purchase obligations and other contractual obligations. Long-term debt obligations represent the zero-coupon convertible subordinated notes issued on July 7, 2003. See Note 13 *Convertible debt* to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information.

Operating lease obligations relate to our facilities in the PRC, as well as in the U.S., Taiwan and Hong Kong. During the third quarter of 2005, we prepaid approximately \$2.4 million in rental payments for our premises in Beijing. As of September 30, 2005, our operating lease obligations were \$3.7 million. Purchase obligations mainly include the commitments for Internet connection fees associated with website production, content fees associated with website production and MVAS, advertising serving services and marketing activities. As of September 30, 2005, purchase and other obligations totaled \$33.0 million. In addition, we are obligated to pay contingent consideration on our acquisition of Crillion besides the initial consideration with respect to such acquisition. The contingent consideration for the Crillion acquisition is based on Crillion's financial performance in 2005. If Crillion's pre-tax net income for 2005 exceeds \$13.3 million, the contingent consideration would be between roughly 1.5 to 2.0 times 2005 earnings. The total consideration is subject to a cap of \$125.0 million and would be paid 60% in cash and 40% in SINA ordinary shares. For additional information on operating lease obligations, purchase obligations and other contractual obligations, see Note 14 *Commitments and contingencies* to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Off-Balance Sheet Commitments and Arrangements

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

Factors that May Impact Future Performance

Because our operating history is limited and the revenue and income potential of our business and markets are unproven, we cannot predict whether we will meet internal or external expectations of future performance.

We believe that our future success depends on our ability to significantly increase revenue from our operations, of which we have a limited history. Accordingly, our prospects must be considered in light of the risks, expenses and difficulties frequently encountered by companies in an early stage of development. These risks include our ability to:

- offer new and innovative products;
- attract buyers for our MVAS;
- attract advertisers;
- attract a larger audience to our network;
- derive revenue from our users from fee-based Internet services;

respond effectively to competitive pressures and address the effects of strategic relationships or corporate combinations among our competitors;

maintain our current, and develop new, strategic relationships;

increase awareness of our brand and continue to build user loyalty;

attract and retain qualified management and employees;

upgrade our technology to support increased traffic and expanded services; and

expand the content and services on our network.

Table of Contents

Until recently, we had incurred accumulated deficits since inception and we may incur future losses.

We recorded a net income of approximately \$9.1 million for the third quarter of 2005. As of September 30, 2005, we had retained earnings of approximately \$12.3 million. We cannot be certain we will sustain profitability. If we do not sustain profitability, the market price of our ordinary shares may decline.

We are relying on advertising sales as a significant part of our future revenue, but the Internet has not been proven as a source of significant advertising revenue in Greater China.

Our advertising revenue growth is dependent on increased revenue from the sale of advertising space on our network. Online advertising in Greater China is an unproven business and many of our current and potential advertisers have limited experience with the Internet as an advertising medium, have not traditionally devoted a significant portion of their advertising expenditures or other available funds to web-based advertising, and may not find the Internet to be effective for promoting their products and services relative to traditional print and broadcast media. Our ability to generate and maintain significant advertising revenue will depend on a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control, including but not limited to:

the development of a large base of users possessing demographic characteristics attractive to advertisers;

increased competition and potential downward pressure on online advertising prices;

the development of independent and reliable means of verifying levels of online advertising and traffic; and

the effectiveness of our advertising delivery, tracking and reporting systems.

If the Internet does not become more widely accepted as a medium for advertising, our ability to generate increased revenue could be negatively affected.

Our growth in advertising revenues, to a certain extent, will also depend on our ability to increase the advertising space on our network. If we fail to increase our advertising space at a sufficient rate, our growth in advertising revenues could be hampered. Further, the expansion of Internet advertising blocking software may result in a decrease of our advertising revenues as the advertisers may choose not to advertise on the Internet if Internet advertising blocking software is widely used.

We are relying on MVAS for a significant portion of our future revenue, and we rely on China Mobile and China Unicom for service delivery and fee collection.

The majority of our recent revenue growth was from the development of our MVAS. If users do not adopt our MVAS at a sufficient rate, or if our SMS revenues fail to grow, our revenue growth could be negatively affected.

Our MVAS offerings depend mainly on the cooperation arrangements with China Mobile Communication Corporation and its subsidiaries and to a lesser extent China Unicom Co., Ltd. and its subsidiaries. We rely on China Mobile and China Unicom in the following ways: utilizing their network and gateway to provide MVAS to subscribers; utilizing their billing systems to charge the fees to our subscribers through the subscribers' mobile phone bill; utilizing their collection services to collect payments from subscribers; and relying on their infrastructure development to further develop our new products and services. As of September 30, 2005, we offered our MVAS pursuant to relationships with 31 provincial and local subsidiaries of China Mobile and 22 provincial subsidiaries of China Unicom. If either China Mobile or China Unicom chooses not to continue the cooperation arrangements with us, our MVAS revenues and operating profitability could be materially and negatively affected.

Under the fee arrangements with China Mobile and its subsidiaries, we on average received approximately 76% of the amount we charged to our users from the China Mobile platform after China Mobile deducted the service fees for collection and fees for transmission during the nine month period ended September 30, 2005. Under the agreements with China Unicom and its subsidiaries, we on average received approximately 70% of the amount we charged to our users from the China Unicom platform after China Unicom deducted the service fees for collection and fees for transmission during the nine month period ended September 30, 2005. In the future, China Mobile and China Unicom may choose to further increase the fees charged for providing their services. Such increases are difficult to anticipate or predict and may have a material adverse impact to our operating profitability.

Table of Contents

China Mobile and China Unicom could change their operating policy at any time including for example by requiring us to use such provider's customer services or marketing services. Any such change could result in negative impact on some of our MVAS, which in turn could result in a material reduction of our revenues derived from MVAS. In the past, China Mobile and China Unicom have made sudden and unexpected changes in their systems and processes, which harmed our business. They are likely to continue to make such changes in the future. We cannot assure you that they will not take actions in the future that are unpredictable and that may adversely impact our business results.

For the third quarter of 2005, approximately 94% and 89% of our SMS and MMS revenues, respectively, are derived from services charged on a monthly subscription basis. If China Mobile or China Unicom restricts or disallows some or all MVAS to be charged on a monthly subscription basis, our revenues from MVAS could be severely impacted. We currently charge our users who have registered to be billed on a monthly basis even if they do not use the service in a particular month. If China Mobile or China Unicom does not allow us to charge monthly fees for users who do not use our service in a particular month, our MVAS revenues could be negatively impacted.

A portion of our MVAS revenues is currently estimated based on our internal records of billings and transmissions for the month, adjusted for prior period confirmation rates from mobile operators and prior period discrepancies between internal estimates and confirmed amounts from mobile operators. Historically, there have been no significant true up adjustments to our estimates. If there were no consistent confirmation rates trend or there were continuous significant true up adjustments to our estimates under the new billing platforms, we will need to rely on the billing statements from the mobile operators to record revenues. Due to the time lag of receiving the billing statements, our MVAS revenues may fluctuate with the collection of billing statements if we were to record the MVAS revenues when we receive the billing statements. For the third quarter of 2005, 13% of our MVAS revenues were estimated at period end.

In the past, China Mobile and China Unicom have imposed penalties on MVAS providers for violating certain operating policies relating to MVAS. In some cases, they stopped making payments to certain service providers for severe violations. To date, the penalties we have received have been insignificant in dollar amounts and have been accrued for, but it is difficult to determine the precise conduct that might be interpreted as violating such operating policies. In the future, if China Mobile or China Unicom imposes more severe penalties on us for policy violations, our revenues from MVAS may be negatively impacted for the period when such penalties are imposed.

We are subject to potential liability and penalty for delivering inappropriate content through our MVAS. One of the violations cited in the notice for temporary termination of our IVR service at the end of July 2004 was that we had provided inappropriate content to our mobile subscribers through our IVR service. The definition and interpretation of inappropriate content in many cases are vague and subjective. We are not sure whether mobile operators including China Mobile and China Unicom or the Chinese government will find our other mobile content inappropriate and therefore prevent us from operating the MVAS relating to such content in the future. If they prevent us from offering such services, our revenue from MVAS will suffer significantly.

If China Mobile's or China Unicom's systems encounter technical problems, or if they refuse to cooperate with us, our MVAS offerings may cease or be severely disrupted, which could have a significant and adverse impact on our operating results.

In addition to mobile operators, the Chinese Ministry of Information Industry, the governing body of China's mobile industry, from time to time issues policies that regulate the business practices relating to MVAS. We cannot predict the timing or substance of such regulations. Such regulations may have a negative impact on our business.

Because the definition and interpretation of prohibited content are in many cases vague and subjective, it is not always possible to determine or predict what and how content might be prohibited under existing restrictions or restrictions that might be imposed in the future. For example, in January 2005, the SARFT, which regulates radio and television stations in China, issued a notice prohibiting commercials for MVAS related to "fortune-telling" from airing on radio and television stations, effective in February 2005. This notice could also lead to further actions by other Chinese government authorities to prohibit the sale of such fortune-telling related SMS, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or cash flows. SARFT or other Chinese government authorities may prohibit the marketing of other MVAS via a channel we depend on to generate revenues, which could

also have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Table of Contents

We are relying on new MVAS such as MMS, IVR, RBT and WAP to be a significant part of future revenue growth for MVAS, but we are not certain that these services will continue to increase our total MVAS revenues.

Our MVAS offerings also include MMS, IVR, RBT and WAP. We are relying on the growth of these services as a significant part of our revenue growth in MVAS for future periods. However, the current market size is relatively small and adoption rates are still relatively low for these services compared to SMS services. If revenues from these services do not continue to grow significantly, our financial position, results of operations and cash flows could be materially adversely affected, the price of our ordinary shares could decline and you could lose part or all of your investment.

Our investment in online games, online auctions, search and instant messaging may not be successful.

Online games, online auctions, search and instant messaging are currently some of the fastest growing online services in the PRC. We have invested and intend to expand in these areas. For example, we have formed a joint venture in the PRC with NCSoft to pursue online games, we have formed a joint venture with Yahoo! Inc. to provide online auctions in the PRC, we have developed our own search engine, and we have acquired Davidhill and its instant messaging platform. Some of our competitors have entered these markets ahead of us and have achieved significant market positions. Our main competitors in online games, online auctions, search and instant messaging include Shanda, eBay/Eachnet, Taobao, Baidu and Tencent's QQ. Our competitors in these areas tend to be more specialized in these specific markets, which may give them a competitive advantage over us. We cannot assure you that we will succeed in these markets despite our investments of time and funds to address these markets. If we fail to achieve a significant position in these markets, we will fail to realize our intended returns in these investments. Moreover, our competitors who succeed may enjoy increased revenues and profits from an increase in market share in any of these specific markets, and our results and share price could suffer as a result.

If we fail to successfully develop and introduce new products and services, our competitive position and ability to generate revenues could be harmed.

We are developing new products and services. The planned timing or introduction of new products and services is subject to risks and uncertainties. Actual timing may differ materially from original plans. Unexpected technical, operational, distribution or other problems could delay or prevent the introduction of one or more of our new products or services. Moreover, we cannot be sure that any of our new products and services will achieve widespread market acceptance or generate incremental revenue. If our efforts to develop, market and sell new products and services to the market are not successful, our financial position, results of operations and cash flows could be materially adversely affected, the price of our ordinary shares could decline and you could lose part or all of your investment.

The markets for MVAS and Internet services are highly competitive, and we may be unable to compete successfully against new entrants and established industry competitors, some of which have greater financial resources than we do or currently enjoy a superior market position than we do.

The competition among MVAS providers is highly intense. A large number of independent MVAS providers compete against us. We may be unable to continue to grow our revenues from these services in this competitive environment. In addition, the major mobile operators in China, China Mobile and China Unicom, may potentially enter the business of content development. Any of our present or future competitors may offer MVAS which provide significant technology, performance, price, creativity or other advantages, over those offered by us, and therefore achieve greater market acceptance than ours.

The Chinese market for Internet content and services is competitive and rapidly changing. Barriers to entry are minimal, and current and new competitors can launch new websites at a relatively low cost. Many companies offer Chinese language content and services, including informational and community features, fee-based services and email and electronic commerce services in the Greater China market that may be competitive with our offerings. In addition, providers of Chinese language Internet tools and services may be acquired by, receive investments from or enter into other commercial relationships with large, well-established and well-financed Internet, media or other companies. We also face competition from providers of software and other Internet products and services that incorporate search and retrieval features into their offerings. In addition, entities that sponsor or maintain high-traffic websites or provide an initial point of entry for Internet users, such as ISPs, including large, well-capitalized entities such as Microsoft (MSN), Yahoo! Inc., eBay Inc., Google Inc. (Google) and America Online Inc, currently offer and could further

develop or acquire content and services that compete with those that we offer. Companies such as these may have greater financial resources and assets, better brand recognition, more developed sales and other internal organizations, more customers and more extensive operating histories. As a result, such companies may be able to quickly provide competitive services and obtain a significant number of customers. We expect that as Internet usage in Greater China increases and the Greater China market becomes more attractive to advertisers and for conducting electronic commerce, large global competitors may increasingly focus their resources on the Greater China market. We also compete for advertisers with traditional media companies, such as newspapers, television networks and radio stations that have a longer history of use and greater acceptance among advertisers.

Table of Contents

In the areas of online games, online auctions, search and instant messaging, our other areas of focus for future business growth, there is intense competition from domestic and international companies. These include domestic companies each focusing on one sector and large, international companies that intend to extend their businesses in the China market. The online gaming industry, for example, is dominated by domestic online game operators such as Shanda, Netease and The9. In online auctions, our leading competitors are Eachnet, which is wholly-owned by eBay, and Taobao. The main competitors for search are Baidu and Google, and the competitors for our instant messaging service are Tencent's QQ and Microsoft's MSN Messenger. Many of our competitors have a longer history of providing these online services and currently offer a greater breadth of products which may be more popular than our online offerings. Many of these companies are focused solely on one area of our business and are able to devote all of their resources to that business area and to more quickly adapt to changing technology or market conditions. These companies may therefore have a competitive advantage over us with respect to these business areas. A number of our current and potential future competitors have greater financial and other resources than we have, and may be able to more quickly react to changing consumer requirements and demands, deliver competitive services at lower prices and more effectively respond to new Internet technologies or technical standards.

Increased competition could result in reduced page views, loss of market share and revenues, and lower profit margins from reduced pricing for Internet-based services.

Our strategy of acquiring complementary assets, technologies and businesses and entering into joint ventures may fail and may result in equity or earnings dilution.

As part of our business strategy, we have acquired and intend to continue to identify and acquire assets, technologies and businesses that are complementary to our existing business. In January 2003 we acquired Memestar, an MVAS company, in January 2004 we entered into a joint venture agreement with Yahoo! Inc. to start an online auction business in China, in March 2004 we acquired Crillion, an MVAS company, and in October 2004, we acquired Davidhill, an instant messaging technology platform. We have significant potential ongoing financial obligations with respect to certain of these transactions. Acquired businesses or assets may not yield the results we expected. In addition, acquisitions could result in the use of substantial amounts of cash, potentially dilutive issuances of equity securities, significant amortization expenses related to goodwill and other intangible assets and exposure to potential unknown liabilities of acquired business. Moreover, the costs of identifying and consummating acquisitions, and integrating the acquired business into ours, may be significant. In addition, we may have to obtain approval from the relevant PRC governmental authorities for the acquisitions and have to comply with any applicable PRC rules and regulations, which may be costly. In the event our acquisitions are not successful, our financial conditions and results of operation may be materially adversely affected.

You should not place undue reliance on our financial guidance, nor should you rely on our quarterly operating results as an indication of our future performance because our results of operations are subject to significant fluctuations.

We may experience significant fluctuations in our quarterly operating results due to a variety of factors, many of which are outside of our control. Significant fluctuations in our quarterly operating results could be caused by any of the factors identified in this section, including but not limited to our ability to retain existing users, attract new users at a steady rate and maintain user satisfaction; the announcement or introduction of new or enhanced services, content and products by us or our competitors; significant news events that increase traffic to our websites; technical difficulties, system downtime or Internet failures; demand for advertising space from advertisers; seasonality of the advertising market; the amount and timing of operating costs and capital expenditures relating to expansion of our business, operations and infrastructure; governmental regulation; seasonal trends in Internet use; a shortfall in our revenues relative to our forecasts and a decline in our operating results due to our inability to adjust our spending quickly; and general economic conditions and economic conditions specific to the Internet, electronic commerce and the Greater China market. As a result of these and other factors, you should not place undue reliance on our financial guidance, nor should you rely on quarter-to-quarter comparisons of our operating results as indicators of likely future performance. Our quarterly revenue and earnings per share guidance is our best estimate at the time we provide guidance. Our operating results may be below our expectations or the expectations of public market analysts and investors in one or more future quarters. If that occurs, the price of our ordinary shares could decline and you could

lose part or all of your investment.

We may be adversely affected by complexity, uncertainties and changes in PRC regulation of Internet business and companies, including limitations on our ability to own key assets such as our website.

The Chinese government heavily regulates its Internet sector including the legality of foreign investment in the Chinese Internet sector, the existence and enforcement of content restrictions on the Internet and the licensing and permit requirements for companies in the Internet industry. Because these laws, regulations and legal requirements with regard to the Internet are relatively new and

Table of Contents

evolving, their interpretation and enforcement involve significant uncertainty. In addition, the Chinese legal system is a civil law system in which decided legal cases may be cited for reference but have little precedent value. As a result, in many cases it is difficult to determine what actions or omissions may result in liability. Issues, risks and uncertainties relating to China government regulation of the Chinese Internet sector include the following:

We only have contractual control over our website in China; we do not own it due to the restriction of foreign investment in businesses providing value-added telecommunication services, including computer information services, MVAS or electronic mail box services.

In addition, uncertainties relating to the regulation of the Internet business in China, including evolving licensing practices, give rise to the risk that permits, licenses or operations at some of our companies may be subject to challenge, which may be disruptive to our business, or subject us to sanctions, requirements to increase capital or other conditions or enforcement, or compromise enforceability of related contractual arrangements, or have other harmful effects on us.

On December 11, 2001, the day China formally joined the World Trade Organization, the PRC State Council promulgated the Regulations for the Administration of Foreign-Invested Telecommunications Enterprises, or the FI Telecom Regulations, which became effective on January 1, 2002. The FI Telecom Regulations stipulate that the foreign party to a foreign-invested telecommunications enterprise can hold an equity share in such foreign-invested telecommunications enterprise that provides basic telecom services or value-added telecom services, ultimately not to exceed 49% or 50%, respectively. The Administrative Measures for Telecommunications Business Operating License were promulgated by the Chinese Ministry of Information Industry (MII) on January 4, 2002 to supplement the FI Telecom Regulations. However, there are still uncertainties regarding the interpretation and application of the FI Telecom Regulations.

The numerous and often vague restrictions on acceptable content in China subject us to potential civil and criminal liability, temporary blockage of our website or complete cessation of our website. For example, the State Secrecy Bureau, which is directly responsible for the protection of state secrets of all Chinese government and Chinese Communist Party organizations, is authorized to block any website it deems to be leaking state secrets or failing to meet the relevant regulations relating to the protection of state secrets in the distribution of online information.

Certain Chinese governmental authorities have stated publicly that they are in the process of preparing new laws and regulations that will govern Internet activities. The areas of regulation currently include online advertising, online news reporting, online publishing, and the provision of industry-specific (e.g., drug-related) information over the Internet. Other aspects of our online operations may be subject to regulation in the future. Our operations may not be consistent with these new regulations when put into effect and, as a result, we could be subject to severe penalties as discussed above.

The interpretation and application of existing Chinese laws, regulations and policies, the stated positions of the MII and possible new laws, regulations or policies have created substantial uncertainties regarding the legality of existing and future foreign investments in, and the businesses and activities of, Internet businesses in China, including our business.

In order to comply with PRC regulatory requirements, we operate our main businesses through companies with which we have contractual relationships but in which we do not have controlling ownership. If the PRC government determines that our agreements with these companies are not in compliance with applicable regulations, our business in the PRC could be adversely affected.

The Chinese government restricts foreign investment in Internet-related, MVAS and advertising businesses, including Internet access, distribution of content over the Internet and MVAS, and advertising via the Internet. Accordingly, we operate our Internet-related and MVAS businesses in China through several variable interest entities, or VIEs, that are owned principally or completely by certain of our PRC employees or PRC employees of our

subsidiaries. We control these companies and operate these businesses through contractual arrangements with the respective companies and their individual owners but we have no equity control over these companies. Such restrictions and arrangements are prevalent in other PRC companies we acquired.

Although we believe we are in compliance with current PRC regulations, we cannot be sure that the PRC government would view these operating arrangements to be in compliance with PRC licensing, registration or other regulatory requirements, with existing policies or with requirements or policies that may be adopted in the future. If we are determined not to be in compliance, the PRC government could revoke our business and operating licenses, require us to discontinue or restrict our operations, restrict our right to collect revenues, block our website, require us to restructure our operations, impose additional conditions or requirements with which

Table of Contents

we may not be able to comply, impose restrictions on our business operations or on our customers, or take other regulatory or enforcement actions against us that could be harmful to our business. We may also encounter difficulties in obtaining performance under or enforcement of related contracts.

We rely on contractual arrangements with our VIEs for our China operations, which may not be as effective in providing control over these entities as direct ownership.

Because PRC regulations restrict our ability to provide Internet content, MVAS and advertising services directly in China, we are dependent on our VIEs in which we have little or no equity ownership interest and must rely on contractual arrangements to control and operate these businesses. These contractual arrangements may not be as effective in providing control over these entities as direct ownership. For example, the VIEs could fail to take actions required for our business or fail to maintain our China websites despite their contractual obligation to do so. These companies are able to transact business with parties not affiliated with us. If these companies fail to perform under their agreements with us, we may have to rely on legal remedies under Chinese law, which we cannot be sure would be effective. In addition, we cannot be certain that the individual equity owners of the VIEs would always act in the best interests of SINA, especially if they leave SINA.

Substantially all profits generated from our VIEs are paid to the subsidiaries of ours in China through related party transactions under contractual agreements. We believe that the terms under these contractual agreements are in compliance with the laws in China. The tax authorities in China have examined some of these contractual agreements in the past and have not raised any comment. However, due to the uncertainties surrounding the interpretation of the transfer pricing rules relating to related party transactions in China, it is possible that tax authorities in China may challenge the transfer prices that we have used for related party transactions among our entities in China in the future. In the event the tax authorities challenge our VIE structure, we may be forced to restructure our business operation, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Restrictions on paying dividends or making other payments to us bind our subsidiaries and VIEs in China.

We are a holding company and do not have any assets or conduct any business operations in China other than our investments in our subsidiaries in China, including SINA.com Technology (China) Co., Ltd., Star-Village.com (Beijing) Internet Technology Ltd., Beijing New Media Information Technology Co. Ltd., Beijing SINA Internet Technology Service Co. Ltd., Beijing SINA Information Technology Co. Ltd. and others; and our VIEs. As a result, we depend on dividend payments from our subsidiaries in China for our revenues after they receive payments from our VIEs in China under various services and other arrangements. We cannot make any assurance that our subsidiaries in China can continue to receive the payments as arranged under our contracts with those VIEs. To the extent that these VIEs have undistributed after tax net income, we have to pay tax on behalf of the employees when we try to distribute the dividend from these local entities in the future. The dividend tax rate is 20%. In addition, under Chinese law, our subsidiaries are only allowed to pay dividends to us out of their accumulated profits, if any, as determined in accordance with Chinese accounting standards and regulations. Moreover, our Chinese subsidiaries are required to set aside at least 10% of their respective accumulated profits, if any, up to 50% of their registered capital to fund certain mandated reserve funds that are not payable or distributable as cash dividends.

The Chinese government also imposes controls on the convertibility of renminbi into foreign currencies and, in certain cases, the remittance of currency out of China. We may experience difficulties in completing the administrative procedures necessary to obtain and remit foreign currency. See *Currency fluctuations and restrictions on currency exchange may adversely affect our business, including limiting our ability to convert Chinese renminbi into foreign currencies and, if renminbi were to decline in value, reducing our revenues in U.S. dollar terms.* If we or any of our subsidiaries are unable to receive all of the revenues from our operations through these contractual or dividend arrangements, we may be unable to effectively finance our operations or pay dividends on our ordinary shares.

Even if we are in compliance with Chinese governmental regulations relating to licensing and foreign investment prohibitions, the Chinese government may prevent us from advertising or distributing content that it believes is inappropriate and we may be liable for such content or we may have to stop profiting from such content.

China has enacted regulations governing Internet access and the distribution of news and other information. In the past, the Chinese government has stopped the distribution of information over the Internet or through MVAS that it

believes to violate Chinese law, including content that it believes is obscene, incites violence, endangers national security, is contrary to the national interest or is defamatory. In addition, we may not publish certain news items, such as news relating to national security, without permission from the Chinese government. Furthermore, the Ministry of Public Security has the authority to cause any local Internet service provider to block any website maintained outside China at its sole discretion. Even if we comply with Chinese governmental regulations relating

Table of Contents

to licensing and foreign investment prohibitions, if the Chinese government were to take any action to limit or prohibit the distribution of information through our network or via our MVAS, or to limit or regulate any current or future content or services available to users on our network, our business could be significantly harmed.

Because the definition and interpretation of prohibited content is in many cases vague and subjective, it is not always possible to determine or predict what and how content might be prohibited under existing restrictions or restrictions that might be imposed in the future. At the end of July 2004, our IVR service was temporarily terminated by China Mobile for violating certain operating procedures. One of the violations cited in the notice for temporary termination was that we had provided inappropriate content to our mobile subscribers through our IVR service. We are not sure whether mobile operators including China Mobile and China Unicom or the Chinese government will find our other mobile content inappropriate and therefore prevent us from operating the MVAS relating to such content in the future. If they prevent us from offering such services, our profit from MVAS will suffer.

In January 2005, the Chinese State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT), which regulates radio and television stations in China, issued a notice prohibiting commercials for MVAS related to fortune-telling from airing on radio and television stations effective in February 2005. This notice could also lead to further actions by other Chinese government authorities to prohibit the sale of such fortune-telling related SMS which could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or cash flows. SARFT or other Chinese government authorities may prohibit the marketing of other MVAS via a channel we depend on to generate revenues, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

We are also subject to potential liability for content on our websites that is deemed inappropriate and for any unlawful actions of our subscribers and other users of our systems. Furthermore, we are required to delete content that clearly violates the laws of China and report content that we suspect may violate Chinese law. It is difficult to determine the type of content that may result in liability for us, and if we are wrong, we may be prevented from operating our websites.

We have contracted with third parties to provide content and services for our portal network and we may lose users and revenue if these arrangements are terminated.

We have arrangements with a number of third parties to provide content and services to our websites. In the area of content, we have relied and will continue to rely almost exclusively on third parties for content that we publish under the SINA brand. Although no single third party content provider is critical to our operations, if these parties fail to develop and maintain high-quality and successful media properties, or if a large number of our existing relationships are terminated, we could lose users and advertisers and our brand could be harmed. We have recently experienced fee increases from some of our content providers. If this trend continues, our gross profit from online advertising may be adversely affected. In addition, the Chinese government has the ability to restrict or prevent state-owned media from cooperating with us in providing certain content to us, which will result in a significant decrease of the amount of content we can publish on our website. We may lose users if the Chinese government chooses to restrict or prevent state-owned media from cooperating with us, in which case our revenues will be impacted negatively.

In the area of web-based services, we have contracted with third party content providers for integrated web search technology to complement our directory and navigational guide, and with various third-party providers for our principal Internet connections. If we experience significant interruptions or delays in service, or if these agreements terminate or expire, we may incur additional costs to develop or secure replacement services and our relationship with our users could be harmed.

A substantial part of our non-advertising revenues is generated through MVAS where we depend on mobile network operators for services delivery and payment collection. If we were unable to continue these arrangements, our MVAS could be severely disrupted or discontinued. Furthermore, we are highly dependent on these mobile service providers for our profitability in that they can choose to increase their service fees at will.

We depend on a third party's proprietary and licensed advertising serving technology to deliver advertisements to our network. If the third party fails to continue to support its technology or if its services fail to meet the advertising needs of our customers and we cannot find an alternative solution on a timely basis, our advertising revenues could decline.

Our stock price has been historically volatile and may continue to be volatile, which may make it more difficult for you to resell shares when you want at prices you find attractive.

The trading price of our ordinary shares has been and may continue to be subject to considerable daily fluctuations. During the third quarter of 2005, the closing sale prices of our ordinary shares on the Nasdaq ranged from \$24.82 to \$29.78 per share and the closing sale price on November 4, 2005 was \$24.02 per share. Our stock price may fluctuate in response to a number of events and factors, such as quarterly variations in operating results, announcements of technological innovations or new products and media properties by us or our competitors, changes in financial estimates and

Table of Contents

recommendations by securities analysts, the operating and stock price performance of other companies that investors may deem comparable, new governmental restrictions or regulations and news reports relating to trends in our markets. In addition, the stock market in general, and the market prices for China-related and Internet-related companies in particular, have experienced extreme volatility that often has been unrelated to the operating performance of such companies. These broad market and industry fluctuations may adversely affect the price of our stock, regardless of our operating performance.

Anti-takeover provisions in our charter documents and SINA's shareholder rights plan may discourage our acquisition by a third party, which could limit our shareholders' opportunity to sell their shares at a premium.

Our Amended and Restated Memorandum and Articles of Association include provisions that could limit the ability of others to acquire control of us, modify our structure or cause us to engage in change in control transactions. These provisions could have the effect of depriving shareholders of an opportunity to sell their shares at a premium over prevailing market prices by discouraging third parties from seeking to obtain control of us in a tender offer or from otherwise engaging in a merger or similar transaction with us.

For example, our Board of Directors has the authority, without further action by our shareholders, to issue up to 3,750,000 preference shares in one or more series and to fix the powers and rights of these shares, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption and liquidation preferences, any or all of which may be greater than the rights associated with our ordinary shares. Preference shares could thus be issued quickly with terms calculated to delay or prevent a change in control or make removal of management more difficult. In addition, if the Board of Directors issues preference shares, the market price of our ordinary shares may fall and the voting and other rights of the holders of our ordinary shares may be adversely affected. Similarly, the Board of Directors may approve the issuance of debentures convertible into voting shares, which may limit the ability of others to acquire control of us.

In addition, we have adopted a shareholder rights plan pursuant to which our existing shareholders would have the right to purchase ordinary shares from the Company at half the market price then prevailing in the event a person or group acquires more than 10% of our outstanding ordinary shares, or an additional 0.5% in the case of certain shareholders holding more than 10% at the time of the plan adoption, including Shanda Interactive Entertainment Limited (Shanda) and its affiliates, on terms our Board of Directors does not approve. As a result, such rights could cause substantial dilution to the holdings of the person or group which acquires more than 10%, or an additional 0.5%, as the case may be. Accordingly, the shareholder rights plan may inhibit a change in control or acquisition and could adversely affect a shareholder's ability to realize a premium over the then prevailing market price for the ordinary shares in connection with such a transaction.

We have a single shareholder who can substantially influence the outcome of all matters voted upon by our shareholders and whose interests may not be aligned with yours.

In February 2005, Shanda and several of its affiliates reported that they beneficially acquired approximately 19.5% of our outstanding ordinary shares. As a result, Shanda is able to substantially influence all matters requiring the approval of our shareholders, including the election of directors and the approval of significant corporate transactions such as acquisitions. This concentration of ownership could delay, defer or prevent a change in control or otherwise impede a merger or other business combination that the Board of Directors or other shareholders may view favorably. Additionally, in the event Shanda obtains Board representation, it may have influence over certain of the Company's business activities otherwise not subject to a shareholder vote.

If tax benefits currently available to us in China were no longer available, our effective income tax rates for our China operations could increase to 33%.

We are incorporated in Cayman Islands where no income taxes are imposed. We have operations in four tax jurisdictions including China, the U.S., Hong Kong and Taiwan. For the U.S., Hong Kong and Taiwan, we have incurred net accumulated operating losses for income tax purposes. We believe that it is more likely than not that these net accumulated operating losses will not be utilized in the future and hence we have not recorded income tax provisions or benefits for these locations. We do not expect that we will record any income tax provisions for our operations in the U.S., Hong Kong and Taiwan in the foreseeable future.

We generated substantially all our net income from our China operations. Our China operations are conducted through various subsidiaries and VIEs. Pursuant to the PRC Income Tax Laws, our subsidiaries and VIEs are

generally subject to Enterprise Income Taxes (EIT) at a statutory rate of 33%, consisting of a 30% national income tax and a 3% local income tax. However, some of our subsidiaries and VIEs are qualified new technology enterprises, and under PRC Income Tax Laws, they are subject to a preferential tax rate of 15%. In addition, some of our subsidiaries are Foreign Investment Enterprises, and under PRC Income Tax Laws, they are entitled to either a three-year tax exemption followed by three years with a 50% reduction in the tax rate, commencing the first operating year, or a two-year tax exemption followed by three years with a 50% reduction in the tax rate, commencing the first

Table of Contents

profitable year. To the extent that our VIEs have undistributed after tax net income, we have to pay dividend tax on behalf of the employees when we try to distribute the dividend from these local entities in the future. The dividend tax rate is 20%. We expect that based on our current operating structure and preferential tax treatments available to us in China, our effective income tax rates will be approximately 5% to 10% for fiscal years 2005 and 2006. Such expected effective rates are subject to change at any time if Chinese tax authorities challenge us on our current tax arrangements between our subsidiaries and VIEs. We are in the process of applying for new preferential tax treatments for certain of our subsidiaries and VIEs in China and our projected effective tax rates will be reduced further if these applications are approved. There is no assurance that such tax treatments will be approved. Over the longer term, if the Chinese government phases out preferential tax treatment for foreign investment enterprises or for new technology enterprises, our effective tax rates for the PRC operation can be increased to as high as 33%.

Due to our operating and tax structures in the PRC, we have entered into technical and other service agreements between our subsidiaries and our VIEs in the PRC, pursuant to which our subsidiaries provide technical and other services to our VIEs in exchange for substantially all net income of these VIEs. We incur a 5% business tax when our subsidiaries receive the fees from the VIEs, which we include in our operating expenses as cost of transferring economic benefit generated from these VIEs. We believe that the terms of such service agreements are in compliance with the laws in the PRC. Some of these agreements were reviewed by the tax authorities in the PRC in the past and no comments were raised. However, due to the uncertainties surrounding the interpretation of the tax transfer pricing rules relating to related party transactions in the PRC, it is possible that tax authorities in the PRC might challenge the transfer prices that we used for the related party transactions among our entities in the PRC in the future.

Underdeveloped telecommunications infrastructure has limited, and may continue to limit, the growth of the Internet market in China which, in turn, could limit our ability to grow our business.

The telecommunications infrastructure in China is not well developed. Although private sector ISPs exist in China, almost all access to the Internet is accomplished through ChinaNet, China's primary commercial network, which is owned and operated by China Telecom and China Netcom under the administrative control and regulatory supervision of MII. The underdeveloped Internet infrastructure in China has limited the growth of Internet usage in China. If the necessary Internet infrastructure is not developed, or is not developed on a timely basis, future growth of the Internet in China could be limited and our business could be harmed.

We must rely on the Chinese government to develop China's Internet infrastructure and, if it does not develop this infrastructure, our ability to grow our business could be hindered.

The Chinese government's interconnecting, national networks connect to the Internet through government-owned international gateways, which are the only channels through which a domestic Chinese user can connect to the international Internet network. We rely on this backbone and China Telecom and China Netcom to provide data communications capacity primarily through local telecommunications lines. Although the Chinese government has announced plans to aggressively develop the national information infrastructure, we cannot assure you that this infrastructure will be developed. In addition, we have no guarantee that we will have access to alternative networks and services in the event of any disruption or failure. If the necessary infrastructure standards or protocols or complementary products, services or facilities are not developed by the Chinese government, the growth of our business could be hindered.

We may have to register our encryption software with Chinese regulatory authorities, and if they request that we change our encryption software, our business operations could be disrupted as we develop or license replacement software.

Pursuant to the *Regulations for the Administration of Commercial Encryption* promulgated at the end of 1999, foreign and domestic Chinese companies operating in China are required to register and disclose to Chinese regulatory authorities the commercial encryption products they use. Because these regulations have just recently been adopted and because they do not specify what constitutes encryption products, we are unsure as to whether or how they apply to us and the encryption software we utilize. We may be required to register, or apply for permits with the relevant Chinese regulatory authorities for, our current or future encryption software. If Chinese regulatory authorities request that we change our encryption software, we may have to develop or license replacement software, which could disrupt our business operations.

Wireless technology changes rapidly, and we may not be successful in working with new technology standards.

Wireless technology undergoes rapid changes. Our current MVAS business consists principally of text messaging. As the technology evolves to accommodate multi-media messaging services, wireless e-commerce and music download, and other applications, we would need to adapt to and support these services in order to be successful. If we fail to anticipate and adapt to these and other technological changes, our market share and our profitability could suffer.

Table of Contents***Our business and growth could suffer if we are unable to hire and retain key personnel that are in high demand.***

We depend upon the continued contributions of our senior management and other key personnel, many of whom are difficult to replace. The loss of the services of any of our executive officers or other key employees could harm our business. We have experienced recent changes to our executive management team. Our future success will also depend on our ability to attract and retain highly skilled technical, managerial, editorial, marketing, sales and customer service personnel, especially qualified personnel for our international operations in Greater China. Qualified individuals are in high demand, and we may not be able to successfully attract, assimilate or retain the personnel we need to succeed.

We may not be able to manage our expanding operations effectively, which could harm our business.

We have expanded rapidly by acquiring two new MVAS providers, one instant messaging company and entering into two joint ventures. These new businesses and joint ventures provide various services such as MVAS, instant messaging, online games and online auctions. We anticipate continuous expansion in our business, both through further acquisitions and internal growth, as we address growth in our customer base and market opportunities. In addition, the geographic dispersion of our operations as a result of acquisitions and overall internal growth requires significant management resources that our locally-based competitors do not need to devote to their operations. In order to manage the expected growth of our operations and personnel, we will be required to improve and implement operational and financial systems, procedures and controls, and expand, train and manage our growing employee base. Further, our management will be required to maintain and expand our relationships with various other websites, Internet and other online service providers and other third parties necessary to our business. We cannot assure you that our current and planned personnel, systems, procedures and controls will be adequate to support our future operations. If we are not successful in establishing, maintaining and managing our personnel, systems, procedures and controls, our business will be materially, adversely affected.

Privacy concerns may prevent us from selling demographically targeted advertising in the future and make us less attractive to advertisers.

We collect personal data from our user base in order to better understand our users and their needs and to help our advertisers target specific demographic groups. If privacy concerns or regulatory restrictions prevent us from selling demographically targeted advertising, we may become less attractive to advertisers. For example, as part of our future advertisement delivery system, we may integrate user information such as advertisement response rate, name, address, age or email address, with third-party databases to generate comprehensive demographic profiles for individual users. In Hong Kong, however, we would be in violation of the *Hong Kong Personal Data Ordinance* unless individual users expressly consented to this integration of their personal information. The ordinance provides that an Internet company may not collect information on its users, analyze the information for a profile of the user's interests and sell or transmit the profiles to third parties for direct marketing purposes without the user's consent. If we are unable to construct demographic profiles for Internet users because they refuse to give consent, we will be less attractive to advertisers and our business could suffer.

We may not be able to adequately protect our intellectual property, which could cause us to be less competitive.

We rely on a combination of copyright, trademark and trade secret laws and restrictions on disclosure to protect our intellectual property rights. Despite our efforts to protect our proprietary rights, unauthorized parties may attempt to copy or otherwise obtain and use our technology. Monitoring unauthorized use of our products is difficult and costly, and we cannot be certain that the steps we have taken will prevent misappropriations of our technology, particularly in foreign countries where the laws may not protect our proprietary rights as fully as in the United States. From time to time, we may have to resort to litigation to enforce our intellectual property rights, which could result in substantial costs and diversion of our resources.

We may be exposed to infringement claims by third parties, which, if successful, could cause us to pay significant damage awards.

Third parties may initiate litigation against us alleging infringement of their proprietary rights. In the event of a successful claim of infringement and our failure or inability to develop non-infringing technology or license the infringed or similar technology on a timely basis, our business could be harmed. In addition, even if we are able to

license the infringed or similar technology, license fees could be substantial and may adversely affect our results of operations.

Table of Contents***Concerns about the security of electronic commerce transactions and confidentiality of information on the Internet may reduce use of our network and impede our growth.***

A significant barrier to electronic commerce and communications over the Internet in general has been a public concern over security and privacy, especially the transmission of confidential information. If these concerns are not adequately addressed, they may inhibit the growth of the Internet and other online services generally, especially as a means of conducting commercial transactions. If a well-publicized Internet breach of security were to occur, general Internet usage could decline, which could reduce traffic to our destination sites and impede our growth.

We may be classified as a passive foreign investment company, which could result in adverse U.S. tax consequences to U.S. investors.

Based upon the nature of our income and assets, we may be classified as a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, by the United States Internal Revenue Service for U.S. federal income tax purposes. This characterization could result in adverse U.S. tax consequences to you. For example, if we are a PFIC, our U.S. investors will become subject to increased tax liabilities under U.S. tax laws and regulations and will become subject to more burdensome reporting requirements. The determination of whether or not we are a PFIC is made on an annual basis, and those determinations depend on the composition of our income and assets, including goodwill, from time to time. Although in the past we have operated our business and in the future we intend to operate our business so as to minimize the risk of PFIC treatment, you should be aware that certain factors that could affect our classification as PFIC are out of our control. For example, the calculation of assets for purposes of the PFIC rules depends in large part upon the amount of our goodwill, which in turn is based, in part, on the then market value of our shares, which is subject to change. Similarly, the composition of our income and assets is affected by the extent to which we spend the cash we have raised on acquisitions and capital expenditures. In addition, the relevant authorities in this area are not clear and so we operate with less than clear guidance in our effort to minimize the risk of PFIC treatment. Therefore, we cannot be sure whether we are not and will not be a PFIC for the current or any future taxable year. In the event we are determined to be a PFIC, our stock may become less attractive to U.S. investors, thus negatively impacting the price of our stock.

Future outbreaks of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Avian flu or other widespread public health problems could adversely affect our business.

Future outbreaks of SARS, Avian flu or other widespread public health problems in China and surrounding areas, where most of our employees work, could negatively impact our business in ways that are hard to predict. Prior experience with the SARS virus suggests that a future outbreak of SARS, Avian flu or other widespread public health problems may lead public health authorities to enforce quarantines, which could result in closures of some of our offices and other disruptions of our operations. A future outbreak of SARS, Avian flu or other widespread public health problems could result in reduction of our advertising and fee-based revenues.

Our operations could be disrupted by unexpected network interruptions caused by system failures, natural disasters or unauthorized tamperings with our systems.

The continual accessibility of our websites and the performance and reliability of our network infrastructure are critical to our reputation and our ability to attract and retain users, advertisers and merchants. Any system failure or performance inadequacy that causes interruptions in the availability of our services or increases the response time of our services could reduce our appeal to advertisers and consumers. Factors that could significantly disrupt our operations include: system failures and outages caused by fire, floods, earthquakes, power loss, telecommunications failures and similar events; software errors; computer viruses, break-ins and similar disruptions from unauthorized tampering with our computer systems; and security breaches related to the storage and transmission of proprietary information, such as credit card numbers or other personal information.

We have limited backup systems and redundancy. Recently, we experienced an unauthorized tampering of the mail server of our China website which briefly disrupted our operations. Future disruptions or any of the foregoing factors could damage our reputation, require us to expend significant capital and other resources and expose us to a risk of loss or litigation and possible liability. We do not carry sufficient business interruption insurance to compensate for losses that may occur as a result of any of these events. Accordingly, our revenues and results of operations may be adversely affected if any of the above disruptions should occur.

The law of the Internet remains largely unsettled, which subjects our business to legal uncertainties that could harm our business.

Due to the increasing popularity and use of the Internet and other online services, it is possible that a number of laws and regulations may be adopted with respect to the Internet or other online services covering issues such as user privacy, pricing, content, copyrights, distribution, antitrust and characteristics and quality of products and services. Furthermore, the growth and development of the market for electronic commerce may prompt calls for more stringent consumer protection laws that may impose additional burdens on companies conducting business online. The adoption of any additional laws or regulations may decrease the growth of the Internet

Table of Contents

or other online services, which could, in turn, decrease the demand for our products and services and increase our cost of doing business.

Moreover, the applicability to the Internet and other online services of existing laws in various jurisdictions governing issues such as property ownership, sales and other taxes, libel and personal privacy is uncertain and may take years to resolve. For example, new tax regulations may subject us or our customers to additional sales and income taxes. Any new legislation or regulation, the application of laws and regulations from jurisdictions whose laws do not currently apply to our business, or the application of existing laws and regulations to the Internet and other online services could significantly disrupt our operations.

We may be subject to claims based on the content we provide over our network and the products and services sold on our network, which, if successful, could cause us to pay significant damage awards.

As a publisher and distributor of content and a provider of services over the Internet, we face potential liability for defamation, negligence, copyright, patent or trademark infringement and other claims based on the nature and content of the materials that we publish or distribute; the selection of listings that are accessible through our branded products and media properties, or through content and materials that may be posted by users in our classifieds, message board and chat room services; losses incurred in reliance on any erroneous information published by us, such as stock quotes, analyst estimates or other trading information; unsolicited email, lost or misdirected messages, illegal or fraudulent use of email or interruptions or delays in email service; and product liability, warranty and similar claims to be asserted against us by end users who purchase goods and services through our SinaMall and any future electronic commerce services we may offer.

We may incur significant costs in investigating and defending any potential claims, even if they do not result in liability. Although we carry general liability insurance, our insurance may not cover potential claims of this type and may not be adequate to indemnify us against all potential liabilities.

We issued \$100 million of zero coupon convertible subordinated notes due 2023, or possibly earlier upon a change of control, which we may not be able to repay in cash and could result in dilution of our basic earnings per share.

In July 2003, we issued \$100 million of zero coupon convertible subordinated notes due July 15, 2023, first putable to us on July 15, 2007. Each \$1,000 principal amount of the notes is convertible into 38.7741 shares of our ordinary shares prior to July 15, 2023 if the sale price of our ordinary shares issuable upon conversion of the notes reaches a specified threshold or specified corporate transactions have occurred. One of the conditions for conversion of the notes to SINA ordinary shares is that the market price of SINA ordinary shares reaches a specified threshold for a defined period of time. The specified thresholds are (i) during the period from issuance to July 15, 2022, if the sale price of SINA ordinary shares, for each of any five consecutive trading days in the immediately preceding fiscal quarter, exceeds 115% of the conversion price per ordinary share, and (ii) during the period from July 15, 2022 to July 15, 2023, if the sale price of SINA ordinary shares on the previous trading day is more than 115% of the conversion price per ordinary share. On July 15 annually from 2007 to 2013, and on July 15, 2018, or upon a change of control, holders of the notes may require us to repurchase all or a portion of the notes for cash. For the three months ended September 30, 2005, the sale price of SINA ordinary shares did not exceed the threshold set forth in Item (i) above for the required period of time. Therefore, the notes are not convertible into SINA ordinary shares during the three months ending December 31, 2005. Upon a conversion, we may choose to pay the purchase price of the notes in cash, ordinary shares, or a combination of cash and ordinary shares. We may not have enough cash on hand or have the ability to access cash to pay the notes if holders ask for repayment on the various put dates, or upon a change of control, or at maturity. In addition, the purchase of our notes with our ordinary shares or the conversion of the notes into our ordinary shares could result in dilution of our basic earnings per share.

Currency fluctuations and restrictions on currency exchange may adversely affect our business, including limiting our ability to convert Chinese renminbi into foreign currencies and, if Chinese renminbi were to decline in value, reducing our revenues in U.S. dollar terms.

Our reporting currency is the U.S. dollar and our operations in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan use their respective local currencies as their functional currencies. The majority of our revenues derived and expenses incurred are in Chinese renminbi with a relatively small amount in New Taiwan dollars, Hong Kong dollars and U.S. dollars. We are

subject to the effects of exchange rate fluctuations with respect to any of these currencies. For example, the value of the renminbi depends to a large extent on Chinese government policies and China's domestic and international economic and political developments, as well as supply and demand in the local market. Since 1994, the official exchange rate for the conversion of renminbi to U.S. dollars had generally been stable and the renminbi had appreciated slightly against the U.S. dollar. However, on July 21, 2005, the Chinese government changed its policy of pegging the value of Chinese renminbi to the U.S. dollar. Under the new policy, Chinese renminbi may fluctuate within a narrow and

Table of Contents

managed band against a basket of certain foreign currencies. As a result of this policy change, Chinese renminbi appreciated approximately 2.1% against the U.S. dollar. It is possible that the Chinese government could adopt a more flexible currency policy, which could result in more significant fluctuation of Chinese renminbi against the U.S. dollar. We can offer no assurance that Chinese renminbi will be stable against the U.S. dollar or any other foreign currency.

The income statements of our international operations are translated into U.S. dollars at the average exchange rates in each applicable period. To the extent the U.S. dollar strengthens against foreign currencies, the translation of these foreign currencies denominated transactions results in reduced revenues, operating expenses and net income for our international operations. Similarly, to the extent the U.S. dollar weakens against foreign currencies, the translation of these foreign currency denominated transactions results in increased revenues, operating expenses and net income for our international operations. We are also exposed to foreign exchange rate fluctuations as we convert the financial statements of our foreign subsidiaries into U.S. dollars in consolidation. If there is a change in foreign currency exchange rates, the conversion of the foreign subsidiaries' financial statements into U.S. dollars will lead to a translation gain or loss which is recorded as a component of other comprehensive income. In addition, we have certain assets and liabilities that are denominated in currencies other than the relevant entity's functional currency. Changes in the functional currency value of these assets and liabilities create fluctuations that will lead to a transaction gain or loss. We have not entered into agreements or purchased instruments to hedge our exchange rate risks, although we may do so in the future. The availability and effectiveness of any hedging transactions may be limited and we may not be able to successfully hedge our exchange rate risks.

Although Chinese governmental policies were introduced in 1996 to allow the convertibility of Chinese renminbi into foreign currency for current account items, conversion of Chinese renminbi into foreign exchange for capital items, such as foreign direct investment, loans or securities, requires the approval of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, or SAFE, which is under the authority of the People's Bank of China. These approvals, however, do not guarantee the availability of foreign currency. We cannot be sure that we will be able to obtain all required conversion approvals for our operations or that Chinese regulatory authorities will not impose greater restrictions on the convertibility of Chinese renminbi in the future. Because a significant amount of our future revenues may be in the form of Chinese renminbi, our inability to obtain the requisite approvals or any future restrictions on currency exchanges could limit our ability to utilize revenue generated in Chinese renminbi to fund our business activities outside China, or to repay foreign currency obligations, including our debt obligations, which would have a material adverse effect on our financial conditions and results of operation.

The Chinese legal system has inherent uncertainties that could limit the legal protections available to you.

Our contractual arrangements with our variable interest entities in China are governed by the laws of the People's Republic of China. China's legal system is based upon written statutes. Prior court decisions may be cited for reference but are not binding on subsequent cases and have limited value as precedents. Since 1979, the Chinese legislative bodies have promulgated laws and regulations dealing with economic matters such as foreign investment, corporate organization and governance, commerce, taxation and trade. However, because these laws and regulations are relatively new, and because of the limited volume of published decisions and their non-binding nature, the interpretation and enforcement of these laws and regulations involve uncertainties, and therefore you may not have legal protections for certain matters in China.

You may experience difficulties in effecting service of legal process, enforcing foreign judgments or bringing original actions in China based on United States or other foreign laws against us.

We conduct our operations in China and a significant portion of our assets is located in China. In addition, some of our directors and executive officers reside within China, and substantially all of the assets of these persons are located within China. As a result, it may not be possible to effect service of process within the United States or elsewhere outside China upon those directors or executive officers, including with respect to matters arising under U.S. federal securities laws or applicable state securities laws. Moreover, our Chinese counsel has advised us that China does not have treaties with the U.S. and many other countries that provide for the reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgment of courts. As a result, recognition and enforcement in China of judgments of a court of the U.S. or any other jurisdiction in relation to any matter may be difficult or impossible.

Table of Contents***Political and economic conditions in Greater China and the rest of Asia are unpredictable and may disrupt our operations if these conditions become unfavorable to our business.***

We expect to derive a substantial percentage of our revenues from the Greater China market. Changes in political or economic conditions in the region are difficult to predict and could adversely affect our operations or cause the Greater China market to become less attractive to advertisers, which could reduce our revenues. We maintain a strong local identity and presence in each of the regions in the Greater China market and we cannot be sure that we will be able to effectively maintain this local identity if political conditions were to change. Furthermore, many countries in Asia have experienced significant economic downturns since the middle of 1997, resulting in slower GDP growth for the entire region as a result of higher interest rates and currency fluctuations. If declining economic growth rates persist in these countries, expenditures for Internet access, infrastructure improvements and advertising could decrease, which could negatively affect our business and our profitability over time.

Economic reforms in the region could also affect our business in ways that are difficult to predict. For example, since the late 1970s, the Chinese government has been reforming the Chinese economic system to emphasize enterprise autonomy and the utilization of market mechanisms. Although we believe that these reform measures have had a positive effect on the economic development in China, we cannot be sure that they will be effective or that they will benefit our business.

While we believe that we currently have adequate internal control procedures in place, we are still exposed to potential risks from recent legislation requiring companies to evaluate controls under Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

While we believe that we currently have adequate internal control procedures in place, we are still exposed to potential risks from recent legislation requiring companies to evaluate controls under Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, we have evaluated our internal controls systems in order to allow management to report on, and our registered independent public accounting firm to attest to, our internal controls, as required by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. We have performed the system and process evaluation and testing required in an effort to comply with the management certification and auditor attestation requirements of Section 404. As a result, we have incurred additional expenses and a diversion of management's time. If we are not able to continue to meet the requirements of Section 404 in a timely manner or with adequate compliance, we might be subject to sanctions or investigation by regulatory authorities, such as the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or the Nasdaq National Market. Any such action could adversely affect our financial results and the market price of our ordinary shares.

We may be required to record a significant charge to earnings if we must reassess our goodwill or amortizable intangible assets arising from acquisitions.

We are required under GAAP to review our amortizable intangible assets for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. Goodwill is required to be tested for impairment at least annually. Factors that may be considered a change in circumstances indicating that the carrying value of our amortizable intangible assets may not be recoverable include a decline in stock price and market capitalization and slower growth rates in our industry. We may be required to record a significant charge to earnings in our financial statements during the period in which any impairment of our goodwill or amortizable intangible assets is determined. As of September 30, 2005, our goodwill and amortizable intangible assets arising from acquisitions were \$80.0 million.

Changes to existing accounting pronouncements, including SFAS 123R, or taxation rules or practices may adversely affect our reported results of operations or how we conduct our business.

A change in accounting pronouncements or taxation rules or practices can have a significant effect on our reported results and may even affect our reporting of transactions completed before the change is effective. Pursuant to the SEC's new rule, we need to implement the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No.123R (SFAS 123R) Share Based Payment starting in the first quarter of 2006. SFAS 123R requires us to measure compensation costs for all share-based compensation (including stock options and our employee stock purchase plan, as currently constructed) at fair value and take a compensation charge equal to that value. The various methods for determining the fair value of stock options are based upon, among other things, the volatility of the underlying stock. The price of our ordinary

shares has historically been volatile. Therefore, the adoption of the accounting standard requiring companies to expense stock options could negatively affect our profitability and the trading price of our ordinary shares. Such adoption could also limit our ability to continue to use stock options as an incentive and retention tool, which could, in turn, hurt our ability to recruit employees and retain existing employees. Other new accounting pronouncements or taxation rules and varying interpretations of accounting pronouncements or taxation practice have occurred and may occur in the future. This change to existing rules, future changes, if any, or the questioning of current practices may adversely affect our reported financial results or the way we conduct our business.

Table of Contents**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk****Interest Rate and Security Market Risk**

Our investment policy limits our investments of excess cash to government or quasi-government securities and in high-quality corporate securities and limits the amount of credit exposure to any one issuer. We protect and preserve our invested funds by limiting default, market and reinvestment risk. Due to the fact that a majority of our investments are in short-term instruments, we have concluded that there is no material market risk exposure in this area. As of September 30, 2005 we had unrealized losses of \$1.8 million related to our short-term investments included in accumulated other comprehensive loss in shareholders' equity.

Our zero coupon convertible subordinated notes due 2023, which were issued in July 2003 in the amount of \$100 million, bear no interest and are denominated in U.S. dollars and therefore there is no interest or foreign currency exchange risk associated with the outstanding notes.

Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk

The majority of our revenues derived and expenses and liabilities incurred are in Chinese renminbi with a relatively small amount in New Taiwan dollars, Hong Kong dollars and U.S. dollars. Thus, our revenues and operating results may be impacted by exchange rate fluctuations in the currencies of China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. See "Currency fluctuations and restrictions on currency exchange may adversely affect our business, including limiting our ability to convert Chinese renminbi into foreign currencies and, if renminbi were to decline in value, reducing our revenue in U.S. dollar terms" in the "Factors that May Impact Future Performance" section. We have not tried to reduce our exposure to exchange rate fluctuations by using hedging transactions. However, we may choose to do so in the future. The availability and effectiveness of any hedging transactions may be limited and we may not be able to successfully hedge our exchange rate risks. Accordingly, we may experience economic losses and negative impacts on earnings and equity as a result of foreign exchange rate fluctuations. During the quarter ended September 30, 2005, the foreign currency translation adjustments to our comprehensive income were \$4.2 million and the currency transaction loss was approximately \$97,000, primarily as a result of the Chinese renminbi appreciating approximately 2.1% against the U.S. dollar. Below is a sensitivity analysis on the impact of a change in the value of the Chinese renminbi against the U.S. dollar assuming: 1) projected net income of the operations in China equal to that of third quarter 2005, 2) projected net assets of the operations in China equal to the balances in Chinese renminbi and U.S. dollar as of September 30, 2005 and 3) currency fluctuation occurs proportional over the period:

Change in the value of Chinese renminbi against the U.S. dollar	Translation adjustments to comprehensive income (in millions)	Transaction gain (loss) (in millions)
Appreciate 2%	\$ 4	\$ (0.1)
Appreciate 5%	\$ 10	\$ (0.1)
Depreciate 2%	\$ (4)	\$ 0.1
Depreciate 5%	\$ (10)	\$ 0.1

Investment Risk

For a discussion on the investment risk of Tidetime Sun, please refer to the disclosure in Note 4 "Investment in Tidetime Sun" to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on such evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures as of the

end of the period covered by this report were designed and functioning effectively to provide reasonable assurance that the information required to be disclosed by us in reports filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. We believe that a controls system, no matter how well designed and operated, cannot provide absolute assurance that the objectives of the controls system are met, and no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within a company have been detected.

As required by Rule 13a-15(d) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated our internal control over financial reporting to determine whether any changes occurred during the most recent fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting. Based on this evaluation, no such change in our internal control over financial reporting occurred during the most recent fiscal quarter.

Table of Contents

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings.

In February 2005, multiple purported securities class action complaints were filed against the Company and certain officers and directors of the Company in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, following the Company's announcement of anticipated financial results for the first quarter of 2005 ending on March 31, 2005.

On July 1, 2005, Judge Naomi Buchwald consolidated the cases under the caption *In re SINA Corporation Securities Litigation* and appointed City of Sterling Heights General Employee's Retirement System, City of St. Clair Shores Police and Fire Retirement System, and Charter Township of Clinton Police and Fire Retirement System (collectively the MAPERS Funds Group) as lead plaintiff. The MAPERS Funds Group filed an amended consolidated complaint on September 9, 2005. The Company intends to take all appropriate action in response to these lawsuits. The Company cannot estimate any possible loss at this time.

From time to time, the Company may also be subject to legal proceedings and claims in the ordinary course of business, including claims of alleged infringement of copyrights and other intellectual property rights in connection with the content published on our websites.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.

None.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.

None.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

On September 27, 2005, the Company held its Annual General Meeting of Shareholders. At the meeting, the shareholders elected as directors Pehong Chen (with 46,722,094 shares voting for and 453,573 shares withheld), Lip-Bu Tan (with 37,967,283 shares voting for and 9,208,384 shares withheld) and Yichen Zhang (with 46,719,129 shares voting for and 456,538 shares withheld).

The term of office of each of the following directors continued after the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders: Yongji Duan, Yan Wang, Xiaotao Chen, Daniel Chiang, Ter Fung Tsao and Song-Yi Zhang.

The shareholders ratified the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers Zhong Tian CPAs Limited Company as the independent auditors for the current fiscal year (with 47,139,101 shares voting for, 24,963 shares against and 11,603 shares abstaining).

The shareholders voted against the amendment of the Company's 1999 Stock Plan (the 1999 Plan), which would have had the effect of increasing the aggregate number of ordinary shares reserved for issuance under the 1999 Plan in each of fiscal years 2006, 2007 and 2008 by a number equal to the lesser of (i) 1,000,000 ordinary shares, (ii) 3% of our outstanding ordinary shares on the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal year, or (iii) a lesser number of ordinary shares as determined by the Board of Directors (with 4,041,284 shares voting for, 14,827,261 shares against, 9,232,526 shares abstaining and 19,074,596 broker non-votes).

The shareholders ratified the amendment of the Company's 1999 Directors' Stock Option Plan (the 1999 Directors' Plan), which had the effect of increasing the aggregate number of ordinary shares issuable under the 1999 Directors' Plan from 750,000 ordinary shares to 1,125,000 ordinary shares (with 17,184,131 shares voting for, 10,523,044 shares against, 393,896 shares abstaining and 19,074,596 broker non-votes).

Item 5. Other Information

None.

Table of Contents

Item 6. Exhibits

(a) Exhibits.

- 3.1 Amended and Restated Articles of Association of SINA Corporation (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on March 16, 2005 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 3.2 Amended and Restated Memorandum of Association of SINA.com (filed as Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on March 16, 2005 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 4.1 Amended and Restated Investors' Rights Agreement dated October 19, 1999 among SINA.com and certain holders of SINA.com's securities (Filed as Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form F-1, Registration No. 333-11718, filed on March 27, 2000, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference).
- 4.2 Form of Subordinated Note due July 15, 2023 (Filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the three month period ended June 30, 2003, and incorporated herein by reference).
- 4.3 Indenture, dated as of July 7, 2003, by and between the Company and the Bank of New York (Filed as Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the three month period ended June 30, 2003, and incorporated herein by reference).
- 4.4 Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of July 7, 2003, by and between the Company and Credit Suisse First Boston LLC (Filed as Exhibit 4.3 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the three month period ended June 30, 2003, and incorporated herein by reference).
- 4.5 Rights Agreement dated as of February 22, 2005 between SINA Corporation and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as Rights Agent (Filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed on February 24, 2005, and incorporated herein by reference).
- 31.1* Certificate of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2* Certificate of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1* Certificate of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. section 1350.
- 32.2* Certificate of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. section 1350.

* Filed herewith.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

SINA CORPORATION

Dated: November 9, 2005

By: /s/ Charles Chao
Charles Chao
President and Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Accounting
Officer)

51

Table of Contents

SINA CORPORATION
Exhibit Index

Exhibit Number	Description
3.1	Amended and Restated Articles of Association of SINA Corporation (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on March 16, 2005 and incorporated by reference herein).
3.2	Amended and Restated Memorandum of Association of SINA.com (filed as Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on March 16, 2005 and incorporated by reference herein).
4.1	Amended and Restated Investors' Rights Agreement dated October 19, 1999 among SINA.com and certain holders of SINA.com's securities (Filed as Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form F-1, Registration No. 333-11718, filed on March 27, 2000, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference).
4.2	Form of Subordinated Note due July 15, 2023 (Filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the three month period ended June 30, 2003, and incorporated herein by reference).
4.3	Indenture, dated as of July 7, 2003, by and between the Company and the Bank of New York (Filed as Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the three month period ended June 30, 2003, and incorporated herein by reference).
4.4	Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of July 7, 2003, by and between the Company and Credit Suisse First Boston LLC (Filed as Exhibit 4.3 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the three month period ended June 30, 2003, and incorporated herein by reference).
4.5	Rights Agreement dated as of February 22, 2005 between SINA Corporation and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as Rights Agent (Filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed on February 24, 2005, and incorporated herein by reference).
31.1*	Certificate of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2*	Certificate of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1*	Certificate of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. section 1350.
32.2*	Certificate of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. section 1350.

* Filed herewith.