

SPARK NETWORKS PLC

Form POS AM

April 07, 2006

Table of Contents

As Filed With The United States Securities and Exchange Commission on April 7, 2006

Registration No. 333-123228

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to
Form S-1
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
Under
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

Spark Networks plc
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

England and Wales
*(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)*

7389
*(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)*

98-0200628
*(IRS Employer
Identification Number)*

**8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 800
Beverly Hills, CA 90211
(323) 836-3000**

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

**David E. Siminoff
President and Chief Executive Officer
Spark Networks plc
8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 800
Beverly Hills, California 90211
Telephone: (323) 836-3000
Fax: (323) 836-3333**

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

**Thomas J. Poletti, Esq.
Katherine J. Blair, Esq.
Anh Q. Tran, Esq.
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP
10100 Santa Monica Boulevard, 7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90067
Telephone: (310) 552-5000
Fax: (310) 552-5001**

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after this Registration Statement is declared effective.

Edgar Filing: SPARK NETWORKS PLC - Form POS AM

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, please check following box:

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering:

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering:

If this form is a post effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act of 1933, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earliest effective registration statement for the same offering:

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434 under the Securities Act of 1933, check the following box:

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Maximum Offering Price Per Share(2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Ordinary Shares, par value £0.01 per share(3)	30,238,996	\$7.12	\$215,301,652	\$25,341
Ordinary Shares, par value £0.01 per share(3)(4)	3,025,000	\$7.12	\$21,538,000	\$2,535
Total Registration Fee				\$27,876(5)

(1) In accordance with Rule 416(a), the Registrant is also registering hereunder an indeterminate number of additional shares of common stock that shall be issuable pursuant to Rule 416 to prevent dilution resulting from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

(2) Estimated pursuant to Rule 457(c) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, solely for the purpose of computing the amount of the registration fee based on the average of the high and low sales prices of the ordinary shares traded in the form of Global Depositary Receipts, or GDRs, as reported by the Frankfurt Stock Exchange in Germany on September 15, 2005. For purposes of this calculation the sales price of the GDRs is converted into U.S. dollars at an exchange rate of 0.81413 per \$1.00, which is based on the average bid and ask currency exchange price as reported by OANDA on September 15, 2005.

(3) Consists of ordinary shares that are to be offered and sold in the form of American Depositary Shares, or ADSs, by the selling shareholders identified in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. The ADSs, each representing one ordinary share, evidenced by American Depositary Receipts, or ADRs, upon deposit of the ordinary shares registered hereby, are being registered under a separate registration statement on Form F-6.

(4) Represents shares of the Registrant's ordinary shares being registered for resale that have been or may be acquired upon the exercise of warrants or options issued to the selling shareholders named in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement.

(5) Previously paid. Pursuant to Rule 457(p), the registration fee was partially offset by a previously paid filing fee of \$12,670 paid in connection with the filing on August 4, 2004 by MatchNet, Inc. of a registration statement on Form S-1 (file number 333-117940). In addition, \$15,210 was also previously paid.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this

Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Table of Contents

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. The selling shareholders may not sell these securities until the Securities and Exchange Commission declares our registration statement effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to completion dated April 7, 2006

**33,263,996 American Depositary Shares
SPARK NETWORKS PLC
Representing 33,263,996 Ordinary Shares**

The selling shareholders identified in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement are offering 33,263,996 ordinary shares in the form of American Depositary Shares, or ADSs. Each ADS represents the right to receive one ordinary share. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of our shares by the selling shareholders, except for funds received from the exercise of warrants and options held by selling shareholders, if and when exercised.

No established public market for our ordinary shares or ADSs currently exists in the United States of America.

Our ordinary shares in the form of Global Depositary Shares, or GDSs, currently trade on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange under the symbol MHJG. The last reported sales price of the GDSs on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange on April 5, 2006 was 5.12 per GDS, or \$6.24 per GDS.

Our ordinary shares in the form of ADSs currently trade on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol LOV. The last reported sales price of the ADSs on the American Stock Exchange on April 5, 2006 was \$7.10 per ADS.

The current offering price as of the date of this prospectus is between approximately \$4.68 and \$6.24, which is approximately 75% and 100% of the last reported sales price of the GDSs on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange as of April 5, 2006. Selling shareholders will sell the ADSs at this price until our ADSs are listed on the American Stock Exchange and there is an established market for these shares, the selling shareholders may sell the ADSs from time to time at market price prevailing on the American Stock Exchange at the time of offer and sale, or at prices related to such prevailing market prices or in negotiated transactions or a combination of such methods of sale directly or through brokers.

This investment involves risk. See Risk Factors beginning on page 7.

Neither the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of anyone's investment in these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OTHER MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: The shares and ADSs referred to in this document may only be sold or offered to, and this prospectus and any other invitation or inducement to buy or participate in the offer or sale of shares or ADSs may only be communicated to persons outside the United Kingdom and other member states of the European Union (Relevant Persons). The shares and ADSs to which this prospectus relates are available only to Relevant Persons and this prospectus must not be acted on or relied on by persons that are not Relevant Persons. Any investment or investment activity to which this prospectus relates is available only to Relevant Persons and may be engaged in only with Relevant Persons. Any person communicating any information relating to this prospectus or the shares and ADSs in the UK or another member state of the European Union

should comply with all applicable provisions of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 in the UK (FSMA) and/or other applicable legislation of the relevant member state of the European Union (including the applicable provisions of the Prospectus Directive (2003/71/EC)) and any regulations made thereunder in so doing. Persons in the UK or another member state of the European Union who are in any doubt as to the action they should take are recommended to seek their own personal financial advice from their stockbroker, bank manager, accountant or other financial adviser who is authorized under the FSMA or the relevant competent authority or national regulator of that member state.

The date of this prospectus is , 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Prospectus Summary</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	7
<u>Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	32
<u>Use Of Proceeds</u>	34
<u>Rescission Offer</u>	34
<u>Price Range Of Global Depositary Share</u>	37
<u>Dividend Policy</u>	37
<u>Capitalization</u>	38
<u>Dilution</u>	39
<u>Selected Consolidated Financial Data</u>	40
<u>Pro Forma Combined Financial Data</u>	42
<u>Management's Discussion And Analysis Of Financial Condition And Results Of Operations</u>	44
<u>Business</u>	68
<u>Management</u>	78
<u>Certain Relationships And Related Transactions</u>	88
<u>Principal And Selling Shareholders</u>	91
<u>Description Of Share Capital</u>	98
<u>Shares Eligible For Future Sale</u>	113
<u>Plan Of Distribution</u>	115
<u>Taxation</u>	117
<u>Legal Matters</u>	124
<u>Experts</u>	124
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	125
<u>Index To Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	F-1
<u>Information Not Required In This Prospectus</u>	II-1
<u>Exhibit 10.13(a)</u>	
<u>Exhibit 23.1</u>	
<u>Exhibit 23.2</u>	

You should rely only on information contained in this prospectus. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. This prospectus is not an offer to sell, nor is it seeking an offer to buy, these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted. The information in this prospectus is complete and accurate as of the date on the front cover, but the information may have changed since that date.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights information continued elsewhere in this prospectus and does not contain all the information you should consider in your investment decision. You should read this summary, which includes material information, with the more detailed information set out in this prospectus and the financial statements and related notes. You should carefully consider, among other things, the matters discussed in Risk Factors. We were incorporated in September 1998 under the laws of England and Wales as a public limited company. Throughout this prospectus, we refer to Spark Networks plc (known as MatchNet plc until January 10, 2005) and our subsidiaries as we, us, our, our company, Spark Networks and MatchNet unless otherwise indicated. Spark Networks, MatchNet, JDate, AmericanSingles and MingleMatch are some of our trademarks. Trade names, trademarks and service marks of other companies appearing in this prospectus are the property of the respective holders.

Our Business

We are a leading provider of online personals services in the United States and internationally. Our Web sites enable adults to meet online and participate in a community, become friends, date, form a long-term relationship or marry. We provide this opportunity through the many features on our Web sites, such as detailed profiles, onsite email centers, real-time chat rooms and instant messaging services. In 2005, Spark Networks averaged approximately 3.3 million monthly unique visitors to our Web sites in the United States, according to comScore Media Metrix, which ranked us as the third largest provider of online personals services in the United States. comScore Media Metrix defines total unique visitors as the estimated number of different individuals that visited any content of a Web site, a category, a channel, or an application during the reporting period. The number of total unique visitors to our Web sites as measured by comScore Media Metrix does not correspond to the number of members we have in any given period. Currently, our key Web sites are JDate.com and AmericanSingles.com. We operate several international Web sites and maintain operations in both the United States and Israel. Information regarding the geographical source of our revenues can be found in Note 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements included in this prospectus. Membership on our sites is free and allows a registered user to post a personal profile and to access our searchable database of member profiles. The ability to initiate most communication with other members requires the payment of a monthly subscription fee, which represents our primary source of revenue. We also offer discounted subscription rates for members who subscribe for longer periods, ranging from three to twelve months. Following their initial terms, subscriptions on our Web sites renew automatically for subsequent one-month periods until paying subscribers terminate them.

We believe that online personals fulfill significant needs for single adults who are looking to meet a companion or date. Traditional methods such as printed personals advertisements, offline dating services and public gathering places often do not meet the needs of time-constrained single people. Printed personals advertisements offer individuals limited personal information and interaction before meeting. Offline dating services are time-consuming, expensive and offer a smaller number of potential partners. Public gathering places such as restaurants, bars and social venues provide a limited ability to learn about others prior to an in-person meeting. In contrast, online personals services facilitate interaction between singles by allowing them to screen and communicate with a large number of potential companions. With features such as detailed personal profiles, email and instant messaging, this medium allows users to communicate with other singles at their convenience and affords them the ability to meet multiple people in a safe and secure online setting.

Table of Contents

For the year ended December 31, 2005, we had approximately 220,000 average paying subscribers, representing a decrease of 2.7% from 2004. Our JDate and AmericanSingles segments had approximately 70,500 and 105,300 average paying subscribers for the year ended December 31, 2005, an increase of 1% and a decrease of 20.5%, respectively, compared to 2004.

We intend to grow our business in the following ways:

Increasing our base of members in the United States and internationally through consistent and targeted marketing efforts. We define a member as an individual who has posted a personal profile during the immediately preceding 12 months or an individual who has previously posted a personal profile and has subsequently logged on to one of our Web sites at least once in the preceding 12 months. Members may or may not be paying subscribers which we define as individuals who have paid a monthly fee for access to communication and Web site features beyond those provided to our members. Accordingly, the number of members we have at any given time may not directly affect our revenue.

Increasing the number of our members who become paying subscribers by offering improved technology and communications features and by utilizing our strong customer service focus.

Extending into new vertical affinity markets that we believe will be receptive to paid online personals and are large enough to enable us to attain enough paying subscribers sufficient to support an online community. We view vertical affinity markets as identifiable groups of people who share common interests, backgrounds and traits and the desire to meet companions or dates with similar interests, backgrounds or traits.

Office Location

Our principal executive offices are located at 8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 800, Beverly Hills, California 90211. Our telephone number at that location is (323) 836-3000. Our registered office is located at 24/26 Arcadia Avenue, London, N3 2JU, England. Our corporate Web site address is www.spark.net. This is a textual reference only. We do not incorporate the information on our Web site into this prospectus, and you should not consider any information on, or that can be accessed through, our Web site as part of this prospectus.

Our Securities

Our ordinary shares currently trade on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange in the form of Global Depositary Shares, or GDSs, and on the American Stock Exchange in the form of American Depositary Shares, or ADSs, each of which represents the right to receive one ordinary share. The selling shareholders identified in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement are offering 33,263,996 ordinary shares in the form of ADSs, each of which represents the right to receive one ordinary share. ADSs may be issued to persons located in the United States and the selling shareholders may sell their ordinary shares in the form of ADSs after this registration statement or any post-effective amendment to this registration statement, if applicable, is declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission, except during any time with respect to which we inform those shareholders that this registration statement may not be relied upon. Selling shareholders that hold their ordinary shares in the form of GDSs may offer and sell their shares in the United States by surrendering those GDSs to our depositary bank, The Bank of New York, and requesting the depositary bank to deliver ADSs to the order of the purchaser. Once GDSs have been surrendered for ordinary shares, the shares may not be re-deposited for GDSs because the GDS facility has been closed to any deposits of shares for GDSs,

Table of Contents

and if and when all GDSs have been surrendered, we intend to terminate our GDS deposit agreement such that our ordinary shares will only be publicly traded in the form of ADSs.

We are registering the ordinary shares in the form of ADSs, and not directly as ordinary shares. An acquisition or transfer of an ordinary share in the United States will generally trigger a charge to United Kingdom stamp duty, and such stamp duty is generally not triggered when the sale or transfer of the beneficial interest in the ordinary shares is effected by a transfer of ADSs. See Taxation on page 117 for additional information regarding taxation of our ordinary shares and ADSs.

The Offering

ADSs offered by selling
shareholders 33,263,996 ADSs⁽¹⁾

Total ordinary shares outstanding
after the offering, including
ordinary shares underlying ADSs
and GDSs 30,247,996 Ordinary Shares⁽²⁾

Use of Proceeds We will not receive any of the net proceeds from the sale of shares by the selling
shareholders. See Use of Proceeds.

American Stock Exchange symbol LOV

⁽¹⁾Consists of 30,238,996 ordinary shares, 2,595,000 ordinary shares underlying options and 430,000 ordinary shares underlying warrants. The ordinary shares are to be offered and sold in the form of American Depositary Shares, or ADSs. The ADSs, each representing one ordinary share, evidenced by American Depositary Receipts, or ADRs, upon deposit of the ordinary shares registered hereby, have been registered under a separate registration statement on Form F-6.

⁽²⁾The total number of ordinary shares to be outstanding immediately after this offering is based on 30,247,996 ordinary shares outstanding as of February 1, 2006. This information excludes:

- 4,655,201 ordinary shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding options as of February 1, 2006, with exercise prices ranging from \$0.89 to \$9.56 per share and a weighted average exercise price of \$5.70 per share;
- 430,000 ordinary shares issuable upon the exercise of warrants outstanding as of February 1, 2006, with an exercise price an exercise price of \$2.52 per share; and
- 14,424,049 ordinary shares available for issuance under our share option schemes.

Table of Contents**Summary Consolidated Financial Data**

The following summary consolidated financial data should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the consolidated financial statements, related notes, and other financial information included herein.

	Years ended December 31, ⁽¹⁾				
	2005	2004 ⁽⁶⁾	2003 ⁽⁶⁾	2002	2001
	(in thousands, except per share amounts)				
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:					
Net revenues	\$ 65,511	\$ 65,052	\$ 36,941	\$ 16,352	\$ 10,434
Direct marketing expenses	24,411	31,240	18,395	5,396	2,044
Contribution margin	41,100	33,812	18,546	10,956	8,390
Operating expenses: [*]					
Indirect marketing	1,208	2,607	986	403	540
Customer service	2,827	3,379	2,536	1,207	641
Technical operations	7,546	7,184	4,481	1,587	1,772
Product development	4,118	2,013	959	603	359
General and administrative	25,074	29,253 ⁽²⁾	18,537 ⁽²⁾	7,996	5,496
Amortization of intangible assets other than goodwill	1,085	860	555	524	2,137
Impairment of long-lived assets	105	208	1,532		3,997
Total operating expenses	41,963	45,504	29,586	12,320	14,942
Operating (loss)	(863)	(11,692)	(11,040)	(1,364)	(6,552)
Interest (income) and other expenses, net	711	(66)	(188)	(840)	1,627
(Loss) before income taxes	(1,574)	(11,626)	(10,852)	(524)	(8,179)
Provision for income taxes	(136)	1			
Net (loss)	(1,438)	(11,627)	(10,852)	(524)	(8,179)
Net (loss) per share – basic and diluted ⁽⁴⁾	(0.06)	(0.51)	(0.57)	(0.03)	(0.47)
Weighted average shares outstanding–basic and diluted ⁽³⁾	26,105	22,667	18,970	18,460	17,460
Other Financial Data:					
Depreciation	3,624	3,065	1,441	874	544
Additional Information:					
Average paying subscribers ⁽⁴⁾	220,000	226,100	125,800	58,700	
	2005	2004⁽⁶⁾	2003⁽⁶⁾	2002	2001

^{*} Operating expenses include share-based compensation as follows:

Edgar Filing: SPARK NETWORKS PLC - Form POS AM

Indirect marketing	24	156	79
Customer service	44		
Technical operations	338	22	140
Product development	248		
General and administrative	2,063	1,526	1,652

Table of Contents

	December 31,				
	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:					
Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities	17,292	7,423	5,815	7,755	7,569
Total assets	48,620	27,359	16,969	17,461	16,352
Deferred revenue	4,991	3,933	3,232	1,535	993
Capital lease obligations and notes payable	10,830	1,873	487		
Total liabilities	23,437	16,872	11,659	3,998	3,238
Shares subject to rescission ⁽⁵⁾	6,089	3,819			
Accumulated deficit	(45,073)	(43,635)	(32,008)	(21,156)	(20,632)
Total shareholders' equity	19,094	6,668	5,310	13,463	13,114

⁽¹⁾Refer to Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations for a discussion of certain asset and business acquisitions.

⁽²⁾In 2004, general and administrative expenses included an expense of approximately \$2.4 million related to an employee severance, \$2.1 million related to the United States initial public offering of MatchNet, Inc. that was planned for mid-2004, but which was withdrawn shortly after the related registration statement was filed in the third quarter of 2004, as well as one legal settlement resulting in the recognition of \$900,000 in expenses in the third quarter and two legal settlements resulting in the recognition of \$2.1 million in expenses in the fourth quarter of 2004. In 2003, general and administrative expenses included a charge of \$1.7 million primarily related to a settlement with Comdisco.

⁽³⁾For information regarding the computation of per share amounts, refer to note 1 of our consolidated financial statements.

⁽⁴⁾Average paying subscribers for each month are calculated as the sum of the paying subscribers at the beginning and the end of the month, divided by two. Average paying subscribers for periods longer than one month are calculated as the sum of the average paying subscribers for each month, divided by the number of months in such period. Additionally, refer to Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations for a discussion of business metrics we use to evaluate our business. We did not track data for the year ended December 31, 2001 sufficient to accurately set forth the number of average paying subscribers for the respective periods.

⁽⁵⁾Under our 2000 Executive Share Option Scheme (2000 Option Scheme), we granted options to purchase ordinary shares to certain of our employees, directors and consultants. The issuances of securities upon exercise of options granted under our 2000 Option Scheme may not have been exempt from registration and qualification under federal and California state securities laws, and as a result, we may have potential liability to those employees, directors and consultants to whom we issued securities upon the exercise of these options. In order to address that issue, we may elect to make a rescission offer to those persons who exercised all, or a portion, of those options and continue to hold the shares issued upon exercise, to give them the opportunity to rescind the issuance of those shares. However, it is the Securities and Exchange Commission's position that a rescission offer will not bar or extinguish any liability under the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to these options and shares, nor will a rescission offer extinguish a holder's right to rescind the issuance of securities that were not registered or exempt from the registration requirements under the Securities Act of 1933. As of December 31, 2005, assuming every eligible person that continues to hold the securities issued upon exercise of options granted under the 2000 Option Scheme were to accept a rescission offer, we estimate the total cost to us to complete the rescission would be approximately

\$6.1 million including statutory interest at 7% per annum, accrued since the date of exercise of the options. The rescission acquisition price is calculated as equal to the original exercise price paid by the optionee to our company upon exercise of their option.

⁽⁶⁾For the purposes of this and all future filings, prior period classification of share-based compensation was reclassified to conform to current period classification.

Table of Contents

Presentation of Financial Information

We report our financial statements in U.S. dollars and prepare our financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States. In this prospectus, except where otherwise indicated, references to \$ or U.S. dollars are to the lawful currency of the United States, references to or euro are to the single currency of the European Union, and references to £ or pound sterling are to the currency of the United Kingdom. Unless otherwise noted, the exercise prices of options and warrants as outstanding on December 31, 2005 noted in this prospectus are presented on an as converted basis into U.S. dollars at an exchange rate of 0.84427 per \$1.00, which is based on the average bid and ask exchange price as reported by OANDA for the day December 31, 2005. The exercise prices of options and warrants as outstanding on February 1, 2006 utilize the exchange rate as of such date, which was 0.82565 per \$1.00.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the risks described below together with all of the other information included in this prospectus before making an investment decision. The risks described below are the material risks that we are currently aware of that are facing our company. In addition, other sections of this prospectus may include additional factors that could adversely impact our business and operating results. If any of the following risks actually occurs, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In that case, the trading price of our ordinary shares, in the form of ADSs, would decline and you may lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Related To Our Business

We have significant operating losses and we may incur additional losses in the future.

We have historically generated significant operating losses. As of December 31, 2005, we had an accumulated deficit of approximately \$45.1 million. We had net loss of approximately \$1.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2005 and a net loss of \$11.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. We expect that our operating expenses will continue to increase during the next several years as a result of the promotion of our services, the hiring of additional key personnel, the expansion of our operations, including the launch of new Web sites, and entering into acquisitions, strategic alliances and joint ventures. If our revenues do not grow at a substantially faster rate than these expected increases in our expenses or if our operating expenses are higher than we anticipate, we may not be profitable and we may incur additional losses, which could be significant.

Our limited operating history and relatively new business model in an emerging and rapidly evolving market makes it difficult to evaluate our future prospects.

We derive nearly all of our net revenues from online subscription fees for our services, which is an early-stage business model for us that has undergone, and continues to experience, rapid and dramatic changes. As a result, we have very little operating history for you to evaluate in assessing our future prospects. You must consider our business and prospects in light of the risks and difficulties we will encounter as an early-stage company in a new and rapidly evolving market. Our performance will depend on the continued acceptance and evolution of online personal services and other factors addressed herein. We may not be able to effectively assess or address the evolving risks and difficulties present in the market, which could threaten our capacity to continue operations successfully in the future.

If our efforts to attract a large number of members, convert members into paying subscribers and retain our paying subscribers are not successful, our revenues and operating results would suffer.

Our future growth depends on our ability to attract a large number of members, convert members into paying subscribers and retain our paying subscribers. This in turn depends on our ability to deliver a high-quality online personals experience to these members and paying subscribers. As a result, we must continue to invest significant resources in order to enhance our existing products and services and introduce new high-quality products and services that people will use. If we are unable to predict user preferences or industry changes, or if we are unable to modify our products and services on a timely basis, we may lose existing members and paying subscribers and may fail to attract new members and paying subscribers. Our revenue and expenses would also be adversely affected if our innovations are not responsive to the needs of our members and paying subscribers or are not brought to market in an effective or timely manner.

Table of Contents

Our subscriber acquisition costs vary depending upon prevailing market conditions and may increase significantly in the future.

Costs for us to acquire paying subscribers are dependent, in part, upon our ability to purchase advertising at a reasonable cost. Our advertising costs vary over time, depending upon a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control. Historically, we have used online advertising as the primary means of marketing our services.

In general, the costs of online advertising have recently increased substantially and we expect those costs to continue to increase as long as the demand for online advertising remains robust. If we are not able to reduce our other operating costs, increase our paying subscriber base or increase revenue per paying subscriber to offset these anticipated increases, our profitability will be adversely affected.

Competition presents an ongoing threat to the performance of our business.

We expect competition in the online personals business to continue to increase because there are no substantial barriers to entry. For example, an article in the USA Today stated that there are signs of fierce competition among online personals sites, and that an Internet tracking firm found that the number of online personals sites it monitors had reached 836 in February 2005, up from 611 in January 2004. We believe that our ability to compete depends upon many factors both within and beyond our control, including the following:

the size and diversity of our member and paying subscriber bases;

the timing and market acceptance of our products and services, including the developments and enhancements to those products and services relative to those offered by our competitors;

customer service and support efforts;

selling and marketing efforts; and

our brand strength in the marketplace relative to our competitors.

We compete with traditional personals services, as well as newspapers, magazines and other traditional media companies that provide personals services. We compete with a number of large and small companies, including Internet portals and specialty-focused media companies that provide online and offline products and services to the markets we serve. Our principal online personals services competitors include Yahoo! Personals, Match.com, a wholly-owned subsidiary of InterActiveCorp, and eHarmony, all of which operate primarily in North America. In addition, we face competition from social networking Web sites such as MySpace and Friendster. Many of our current and potential competitors have longer operating histories, significantly greater financial, technical, marketing and other resources and larger customer bases than we do. These factors may allow our competitors to respond more quickly than we can to new or emerging technologies and changes in customer requirements. These competitors may engage in more extensive research and development efforts, undertake more far-reaching marketing campaigns and adopt more aggressive pricing policies which may allow them to build larger member and paying subscriber bases than we have. Our competitors may develop products or services that are equal or superior to our products and services or that achieve greater market acceptance than our products and services. These activities could attract members and paying subscribers away from our Web sites and reduce our market share.

In addition, current and potential competitors are making, and are expected to continue to make, strategic acquisitions or establishing cooperative and, in some cases, exclusive relationships with significant companies or competitors to expand their businesses or to offer more comprehensive products and services. To the extent these competitors or potential competitors establish exclusive relationships with major portals, search engines and Internet service providers, or ISPs, our ability to reach potential members through online advertising may be restricted. Any of these competitors could

Table of Contents

cause us difficulty in attracting and retaining members and converting members into paying subscribers and could jeopardize our existing affiliate program and relationships with portals, search engines, ISPs and other Web properties.

Our efforts to capitalize upon opportunities to expand into new vertical affinity markets may fail and could result in a loss of capital and other valuable resources.

One of our strategies is to expand into new vertical affinity markets to increase our revenue base. We view vertical affinity markets as identifiable groups of people who share common interests and the desire to meet companions or dates with similar interests, backgrounds or traits. Our planned expansion into such vertical affinity markets will occupy our management's time and attention and will require us to invest significant capital resources. The results of our expansion efforts into new vertical affinity markets are unpredictable, and there is no guarantee that our efforts will have a positive effect on our revenue base. We face many risks associated with our planned expansion into new vertical affinity markets, including but not limited to the following:

competition from pre-existing competitors with significantly stronger brand recognition in the markets we enter;

our improper evaluations of the potential of such markets;

diversion of capital and other valuable resources away from our core business and other opportunities that are potentially more profitable; and

weakening our current brands by over expansion into too many new markets.

If we fail to keep pace with rapid technological change, our competitive position will suffer.

We operate in a market characterized by rapidly changing technologies, evolving industry standards, frequent new product and service announcements, enhancements and changing customer demands. Accordingly, our performance will depend on our ability to adapt to rapidly changing technologies and industry standards, and our ability to continually improve the speed, performance, features, ease of use and reliability of our services in response to both evolving demands of the marketplace and competitive service and product offerings. There have been occasions when we have not been as responsive as many of our competitors in adapting our services to changing industry standards and the needs of our members and paying subscribers. Our industry has been subject to constant innovation and competition. Historically, new features may be introduced by one competitor, and if they are perceived as attractive to users, they are often copied later by others. Over the last few years, such new feature introductions in the industry have included instant messaging, message boards, ecards, personality profiles, and mobile content delivery. We are currently unable to deliver mobile features until completion of our new system architecture. Introducing new technologies into our systems involves numerous technical challenges, substantial amounts of capital and personnel resources and often takes many months to complete. We intend to continue to devote efforts and funds toward the development of additional technologies and services. For example, in 2004 and 2005 we introduced a number of new Web sites and features, and we anticipate the introduction of additional Web sites and features in 2006 and 2007. We may not be able to effectively integrate new technologies into our Web sites on a timely basis or at all, which may degrade the responsiveness and speed of our Web sites. Such technologies, even if integrated, may not function as expected.

Our business depends on establishing and maintaining strong brands and if we are not able to maintain and enhance our brands, we may be unable to expand or maintain our member and paying subscriber bases.

We believe that establishing and maintaining our brands is critical to our efforts to attract and expand our member and paying subscriber bases. We believe that the importance of brand recognition will

Table of Contents

continue to increase, given the growing number of Internet sites and the low barriers to entry for companies offering online personals services. For example, an article in the USA Today stated that there are signs of fierce competition among online personals sites, and that an Internet tracking firm found that the number of online personals sites it monitors had reached 836 in February 2005, up from 611 in January 2004. To attract and retain members and paying subscribers, and to promote and maintain our brands in response to competitive pressures, we intend to substantially increase our financial commitment to creating and maintaining distinct brand loyalty among these groups. If visitors, members and paying subscribers to our Web sites and our affiliate and distribution associates do not perceive our existing services to be of high quality, or if we introduce new services or enter into new business ventures that are not favorably received by such parties, the value of our brands could be diluted, thereby decreasing the attractiveness of our Web sites to such parties. In addition, we changed our corporate name in January 2005 from MatchNet plc to Spark Networks plc, however, we did not change the names of our Web sites or brand names. Our adoption of a new corporate name may prevent us from taking advantage of goodwill that potential and existing customers may have associated with our old corporate name. As a result, our results of operations may be adversely affected by decreased brand recognition.

We may have potential liability under California state and federal securities laws with respect to the grant of share options to certain of our employees, directors and consultants and the exercise of these options.

Under our 2000 Executive Share Option Scheme (2000 Option Scheme), we granted options to purchase ordinary shares to certain of our employees, directors and consultants. California state securities laws generally require qualification for the offer and sale of securities subject to California law. Under California law, the grant of an option constitutes a sale of the underlying shares at the time of the option grant and not at the exercise of the option. Our option grants were not qualified and may not have been exempt from qualification under California state securities laws. As a result, we may have potential liability to those employees, directors and consultants to whom we granted options under the 2000 Option Scheme. In order to address that issue, we may elect to make a rescission offer to the holders of outstanding options under the 2000 Option Scheme to give them the opportunity to rescind the grant of their options.

As of December 31, 2005, assuming every eligible optionee were to accept a rescission offer, we estimate the total cost to us to complete the rescission would be approximately \$1.9 million including statutory interest at 7% per annum. These amounts reflect the costs of offering to rescind the issuance of the outstanding options by paying an amount equal to 20% of the aggregate exercise price for the entire option.

In addition, issuances of securities upon exercise of options granted under our 2000 Option Scheme may not have been exempt from registration and qualification under California state securities laws as a result of the option grants themselves and also may not have been exempt from registration under federal securities laws. Federal securities laws prohibit the offer or sale of securities unless the sales are registered or exempt from registration. The issuances of ordinary shares upon the exercise of our options were not registered and may not have been exempt from registration under California state and federal securities laws. As a result, we may have potential liability to those employees, directors and consultants to whom we issued securities upon the exercise of these options. In order to address that issue, we may elect to make a rescission offer to those persons who exercised all, or a portion, of those options and continue to hold the shares issued upon exercise, to give them the opportunity to rescind the issuance of those shares (Option Shares).

As of December 31, 2005, assuming every eligible person that continues to hold the securities issued upon exercise of options granted under the 2000 Option Scheme were to accept a rescission offer, we estimate the total cost to us to complete the rescission would be approximately \$6.1 million including

Table of Contents

statutory interest at 7% per annum, accrued since the date of exercise of the options. These amounts are calculated by reference to the acquisition price of the Option Shares.

A holder could argue that this process does not represent an adequate remedy for issuance of an option and securities issued upon exercise of an option in violation of California state or federal securities laws and, if a court were to impose a greater remedy, our financial exposure could be greater. In addition, it is the Securities and Exchange Commission's position that a rescission offer will not bar or extinguish any liability under the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to these options and shares, nor will a rescission offer extinguish a holder's right to rescind the issuance of securities that were not registered or exempt from the registration requirements under the Securities Act of 1933. If any or all of the holders reject or fail to respond to our rescission offer, the holders will keep their options and securities and we may continue to be liable under federal and California state securities laws for up to an amount equal to the value of the options and securities granted or issued plus any statutory interest we may be required to pay. Further, claims or actions based on fraud may not be waived or barred pursuant to a rescission offer and there can be no assurance that we will be able to enforce any waivers that we may receive in connection with the rescission offer in order to bar such claims or other causes of action until the applicable statute of limitations has run. In addition, despite a rescission offer, whether accepted or not, if it is determined that we offered securities without properly registering them under federal or state law, or securing an exemption from registration, regulators could impose monetary fines or other sanctions as provided under these laws.

For the purposes of English company law, a rescission offer in respect of our Option Shares would take the form of a purchase by our company of the relevant Option Shares. The Companies Act 1985 (the Companies Act) provides that we may only purchase our own shares using our distributable profits (as defined by the Companies Act), also known as distributable reserves (the Distributable Reserves), or the proceeds from the issuance of new shares for that purpose. When we issue shares at a value which represents a premium over their nominal value, we are required by the Companies Act to transfer the premium (subject to certain limited exceptions) to a share premium account. Under the Companies Act, our ability to utilize our share premium account is very limited and does not include the payment of dividends. However, in accordance with a procedure set out in the Companies Act, we have obtained approval from our shareholders and from the High Court of Justice in England and Wales (the Court) to reduce our share premium account by US\$44,000,000 with effect from December 8, 2005 (the Effective Date) in order to reduce or eliminate the deficit on our profit and loss account, which had arisen as a result of previous accumulated losses. This will enable profits, if any, arising after December 31, 2005 to give rise to Distributable Reserves, which we could use to purchase our own shares pursuant to a rescission offer. In connection with the approval from the Court, we have given an undertaking to the Court for the protection of our creditors, which requires us to transfer to a non-distributable reserve (the Special Reserve) the amount (if any) by which the deficit on our profit and loss account at December 31, 2005 falls short of the amount of the reduction (being US\$44,000,000), and any profits made by us or any of our subsidiaries prior to December 31, 2005, until our non-consenting creditors at the Effective Date (the Non-Consenting Creditors) have been paid off. In other words, if there is a surplus on our profit and loss account after application of the \$44.0 million from the share premium reduction and any additional profits made by us prior to December 31, 2005 (the Special Reserve Surplus), then we would not be permitted to use the Special Reserve Surplus to purchase our own shares until all Non-Consenting Creditors are paid. However, we do not currently expect that any sums will be required to be transferred to the Special Reserve since we do not anticipate that there will be a surplus on our profit and loss account after application of the share premium reduction and any profits made before December 31, 2005, although this will need to be confirmed when we prepare our audited UK GAAP profit and loss account and balance sheet for the year ended December 31, 2005.

Although we believe we have substantially reduced our accumulated profit and loss account deficit pursuant to the Companies Act, we are not permitted to purchase any of our own shares until we have

Table of Contents

sufficient Distributable Reserves in order to fund such purchases of our own shares or sufficient proceeds of a new issuance of shares made for the purposes of such purchases of our own shares. As of December 31, 2005, if every eligible person holding Option Shares were to accept the rescission offer, we estimate that the amount we would need in Distributable Reserves is approximately \$6.1 million. After application of the share premium reduction to the accumulated profit and loss account deficit, we anticipate that the deficit will be substantially reduced; however, we will not have any Distributable Reserves, which we will accumulate to the extent that we make any distributable profits in the future. We do not intend to make a rescission offer until we have the Distributable Reserves required to make a rescission offer of the Option Shares.

The undertaking to the Court also prevents us from making any distribution to shareholders, or redeeming or purchasing our own shares, until we have obtained approval at a shareholders' general meeting of our audited UK GAAP balance sheet for the year ended December 31, 2005. It is likely that our UK GAAP balance sheet for the year ended December 31, 2005 will be ready for approval by shareholders on or about May 31, 2006. The share premium reduction will only be reflected on our UK GAAP balance sheet for the purposes of UK law. It will not be reflected on our US GAAP balance sheet.

Any purchase of the Option Shares pursuant to a rescission offer would not only need to be made out of Distributable Reserves, but would also require shareholder approval given in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act. Such approval must be given by resolution passed with a majority of at least 75% of the votes cast on the resolution (excluding votes carried by the Option Shares proposed to be purchased), having made a copy of the contract for the purchase of the Option Shares available for inspection both at our registered office for at least 15 days prior to the date of the meeting to approve the purchase and at the meeting itself. Once a purchase has been completed, we would be subject to further disclosure obligations in relation to information about the purchase.

We do not intend to seek shareholder approval for a purchase of Option Shares until we have made a rescission offer which has been accepted by any one or more shareholders and it has become necessary to seek such approval.

In summary, in order to effectuate a rescission offer and repurchase any of our own shares upon any acceptances of the rescission offer, we must satisfy the following conditions: (1) obtain shareholder approval of our audited UK GAAP balance sheet for the year ended December 31, 2005; (2) obtain additional shareholder approval, as further discussed above, of any acceptances of the rescission offer to repurchase shares; and (3) have sufficient Distributable Reserves to repurchase shares subject to the rescission offer.

If we do not obtain the requisite shareholder approval of acceptances to a rescission offer or if we continue to accumulate a deficit on our profit and loss account and we do not issue new shares for additional funds for a rescission offer, then we will not be able to effectuate a rescission offer.

We have terminated and no longer grant options under our 2000 Option Scheme, but options previously granted under the 2000 Option Scheme remain in full force and effect. We filed a registration statement on Form S-8 covering the issuance of future shares upon exercise of presently unexercised options under the 2000 Option Scheme. However, none of the shares (including shares underlying unexercised options) registered on the Form S-8 will be eligible for resale if they are tendered as part of the rescission offer.

If we are unable to attract, retain and motivate key personnel or hire qualified personnel, or such personnel do not work well together, our growth prospects and profitability will be harmed.

Our performance is largely dependent on the talents and efforts of highly skilled individuals. We have recently recruited many of our directors, executive officers and other key management talent, some of which have limited or no experience in the online personals industry. For example, David E. Siminoff,

Table of Contents

our President and Chief Executive Officer, joined us in August 2004 and each of our Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel, and Chief Technology Officer joined us in October 2004. Because members of our executive management have only worked together as a team for a limited time, there are inherent risks in the management of our company with respect to decision-making, business direction, product development and strategic relationships. In the event that the members of our executive management team are unable to work well together or agree on operating principles, business direction or business transactions or are unable to provide cohesive leadership, our business could be harmed and one or more of those individuals may discontinue their service to our company, and we would be forced to find a suitable replacement. The loss of any of our management or key personnel could seriously harm our business. Furthermore, we have recently experienced significant turnover on our board of directors. We currently have seven members serving on our board of directors. Since October 2004, we have had two directors resign from our board of directors and five directors join our board of directors. Alon Carmel, one of our company's co-founders and co-chairmen, resigned from his position in February 2005 to pursue other entrepreneurial and philanthropic interests.

In August 2004, we initiated a cost reduction program and terminated the employment of 40 full-time and temporary employees, and, as a result, our future recruiting efforts may become more difficult. We may also encounter difficulties in recruiting personnel as we become a more mature company in a competitive industry. Competition in our industry for personnel is intense, and we are aware that our competitors have directly targeted our employees. We do not have non-competition agreements with most employees and, even in cases where we do, these agreements are of limited enforceability in California. We also do not maintain any key-person life insurance policies on our executives. The incentives to attract, retain and motivate employees provided by our option grants or by future arrangements, such as cash bonuses, may not be as effective as they have been in the past. If we do not succeed in attracting necessary personnel or retaining and motivating existing personnel, we may be unable to grow effectively.

Our inability to effectively manage our growth could have a materially adverse effect on our profitability.

We have experienced rapid growth since inception. The growth and expansion of our business and service offerings places a continuous significant strain on our management, operational and financial resources. We are required to manage multiple relations with various strategic associates, technology licensors, members, paying subscribers and other third parties. In the event of further growth of our operations or in the number of our third-party relationships, our computer systems or procedures may not be adequate to support our operations and our management may not be able to manage such growth effectively. To effectively manage our growth, we must continue to implement and improve our operational, financial and management information systems and to expand, train and manage our employee base. If we fail to do so, our management, operational and financial resources could be overstrained and adversely impacted.

We expect our growth rates to decline and our operating margins could deteriorate.

We believe our revenue growth rate will decline as our net revenues increase to higher levels and as the growth of the online personals industry begins to slow. We have seen a decline in our growth rates during the latter stages of 2004 and through 2005. A February 2005 report by Jupiter Research forecasts the online personals industry would experience single digit growth in 2005 as compared to 77% growth in 2003. It is possible that our operating margins will deteriorate if revenue growth does not exceed planned increases in expenditures for all aspects of our business in an increasingly competitive environment, including sales and marketing, general and administrative and technical operations expenses.

Table of Contents

Our business depends on our server and network hardware and software and our ability to obtain network capacity; our current safeguard systems may be inadequate to prevent an interruption in the availability of our services.

The performance of our server and networking hardware and software infrastructure is critical to our business and reputation, to our ability to attract visitors and members to our Web sites, to convert them into paying subscribers and to retain paying subscribers. An unexpected and/or substantial increase in the use of our Web sites could strain the capacity of our systems, which could lead to a slower response time or system failures. Although we have not yet experienced many significant delays, any future slowdowns or system failures could adversely affect the speed and responsiveness of our Web sites and would diminish the experience for our visitors, members and paying subscribers. We face risks related to our ability to scale up to our expected customer levels while maintaining superior performance. If the usage of our Web sites substantially increases, we may need to purchase additional servers and networking equipment and services to maintain adequate data transmission speeds, the availability of which may be limited or the cost of which may be significant. Any system failure that causes an interruption in service or a decrease in the responsiveness of our Web sites could reduce traffic on our Web sites and, if sustained or repeated, could impair our reputation and the attractiveness of our brands as well as reduce revenue and negatively impact our operating results.

Furthermore, we rely on many different hardware systems and software applications, some of which have been developed internally. If these hardware systems or software applications fail, it would adversely affect our ability to provide our services. If we are unable to protect our data from loss or electronic or magnetic corruption, or if we receive a significant unexpected increase in usage and are not able to rapidly expand our transaction-processing systems and network infrastructure without any systems interruptions, it could seriously harm our business and reputation. We have experienced occasional systems interruptions in the past as a result of unexpected increases in usage, and we cannot assure you that we will not incur similar or more serious interruptions in the future. From time to time, our company and our Web sites have been subject to delays and interruptions due to software viruses, or variants thereof, such as internet worms. To date, we have not experienced delays or systems interruptions that have had a material impact on our business.

In addition, we do not currently have adequate disaster recovery systems in place, which means in the event of any catastrophic failure involving our Web sites, we may be unable to serve our Web traffic for a significant period of time. Our servers primarily operate from only a single site in Southern California and the absence of a backup site could exacerbate this disruption. Any system failure, including network, software or hardware failure, that causes an interruption in the delivery of our Web sites and services or a decrease in responsiveness of our services would result in reduced visitor traffic, reduced revenue and would adversely affect our reputation and brands.

The failure to establish and maintain affiliate agreements and relationships could limit the growth of our business.

We have entered into, and expect to continue to enter into, arrangements with affiliates to increase our member and paying subscribers bases, bring traffic to our Web sites and enhance our brands. Pursuant to our arrangements, an affiliate generally advertises or promotes our Web site on its Web site, and earns a fee whenever visitors to its Web site click through the advertisement to one of our Web sites and registers or subscribes on our Web site. Affiliate arrangements constitute over half of our marketing program. These affiliate arrangements are easily cancelable, often with one day notice. We do not typically have any exclusivity arrangements with our affiliates, and some of our affiliates may also be affiliates for our competitors. None of these affiliates, individually, represents a material portion of our revenue. If any of our current affiliate agreements is terminated, we may not be able to replace the terminated agreement with an equally beneficial arrangement. We cannot assure you that we will be able to renew any of our current agreements when they terminate or, if we are able to do so, that such renewals will be available on acceptable terms. We also do not know whether we will be

Table of Contents

able to enter into additional agreements or that any relationships, if entered into, will be on terms favorable to us.

We rely on a number of third-party providers and their failure or unwillingness to continue to perform could harm us.

We rely on third parties to provide important services and technologies to us, including a third party that manages and monitors our offsite data center located in Southern California, ISPs, search engine marketing providers and credit card processors. In addition, we license technologies from third parties to facilitate our ability to provide our services. Any failure on our part to comply with the terms of these licenses could result in the loss of our rights to continue using the licensed technology, and we could experience difficulties obtaining licenses for alternative technologies. Furthermore, any failure of these third parties to provide these and other services, or errors, failures, interruptions or delays associated with licensed technologies, could significantly harm our business. Any financial or other difficulties our providers face may have negative effects on our business, the nature and extent of which we cannot predict. Except to the extent of the terms of our contracts with such third party providers, we exercise little or no control over them, which increases our vulnerability to problems with the services and technologies they provide and license to us. In addition, if any fees charged by third-party providers were to substantially increase, such as if ISPs began charging us for email sent by our paying subscribers to other members or paying subscribers, we could incur significant additional losses.

If we fail to develop or maintain an effective system of internal controls over financial reporting, we may not be able to accurately report our financial results or prevent fraud. As a result, current and potential shareholders could lose confidence in our financial reporting, which would harm the value of our shares.

Effective internal controls over financial reporting are necessary for us to provide reliable financial reports, effectively prevent fraud and operate as a public company. If we cannot provide reliable financial reports or prevent fraud, our reputation and operating results would be harmed. We have, in the past, discovered and may, in the future, discover areas of our internal controls over financial reporting that need improvement. For example, during our audit of 2003 results, our external auditors brought to our attention a need to restate 2001 and 2002 results and also noted, in a letter to management, certain conditions involving internal controls and operations, none of which were a material weakness. Furthermore, in 1994, a civil action was filed in Israeli district court (the Action) involving Videomatrix Industries, LTD (Videomatrix), a company unrelated to Spark Networks except of which our former Co-chairman and current Chairman were officers. In that Action, our former Co-chairman was a respondent, the Israeli equivalent of a defendant, and our current Chairman was a formal respondent, but not a defendant. The Action was initiated by a venture capital lender to, and investor in, Videomatrix. The Israeli court appointed an investigator to make factual findings. The investigator noted that there were inaccurate records and/or entries in corporate books, incomplete disclosures and/or inaccurate representations in a prospectus, questionable documents, and undisclosed related party transactions, involving Videomatrix. Thereafter, the court issued an order providing for a four month moratorium on litigation to permit Videomatrix, its audit committee, and its auditors to conduct an examination and form conclusions. Our Chairman and former Co-chairman purchased the entire ownership interest of the venture capital lender in Videomatrix during the moratorium provided for in the court order and no further action was taken by the venture capital lender in connection with this matter.

As a U.S. public company, we are subject to the reporting requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. We will be required to annually assess and report on our internal controls over financial reporting. If we are unable to adequately establish or improve our internal controls over financial reporting, we may report that our internal controls are ineffective and our external auditors will not

Table of Contents

be able to issue an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of our internal controls. Ineffective internal controls over financial reporting could also cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information, which would likely have a negative effect on the trading price of our securities or could affect our ability to access the capital markets and which could result in regulatory proceedings against us by, among others, the U.S. Securities Exchange Commission.

We face risks related to our recent accounting restatements, which could result in costly litigation or regulatory proceedings against us.

Our ordinary shares in the form of GDSs trade on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange in Germany. Pursuant to the laws governing this exchange, we have been publicly reporting our quarterly and annual operating results. On April 28, 2004, we publicly announced that we had discovered accounting inaccuracies in previously reported financial statements. As a result, following consultation with our new auditors, we restated our financial statements for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 and for each of the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2002 to correct inappropriate accounting entries. The restatements primarily related to the timing of recognition of deferred revenue and the capitalization of bounty costs, which are the amounts paid to online marketers to acquire members. The restatements are in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles and pertain primarily to timing matters and had no impact on cash flow from operations or our ongoing operations. The impact on net loss for 2001 and 2002 was an increase of \$1.5 million and \$1.0 million, respectively.

The restatement of the financial statements may lead to litigation claims and/or regulatory proceedings against us. The defense of any such claims or proceedings may cause the diversion of management's attention and resources, and we may be required to pay damages if any such claims or proceedings are not resolved in our favor. Any litigation or regulatory proceeding, even if resolved in our favor, could cause us to incur significant legal and other expenses. Moreover, we may be the subject of negative publicity focusing on the financial statement inaccuracies and resulting restatement. The occurrence of any of the foregoing could divert our resources, harm our reputation and cause the price of our securities to decline.

Acquisitions could result in operating difficulties, dilution and other harmful consequences.

In May 2005, we acquired MingleMatch, Inc., and we plan, during the next few years, to further extend and develop our presence, both within the United States and internationally, partially through acquisitions of entities offering online personals services and related businesses. We have limited experience acquiring companies and the companies we have acquired have been small. We have evaluated, and continue to evaluate, a wide array of potential strategic transactions. From time to time, we may engage in discussions regarding potential acquisitions, some of which may divert significant resources away from our daily operations. In addition, the process of integrating an acquired company, business or technology is risky and may create unforeseen operating difficulties and expenditures. For example, we have been engaged in significant litigation in the past, but which has since settled, with respect to our acquisition of SocialNet, Inc. in 2001. Some areas where we may face risks include:

the need to implement or remediate controls, procedures and policies of acquired companies that lacked appropriate controls, procedures and policies prior to the acquisition;

diversion of management time and focus from operating our business to acquisition integration challenges;

cultural challenges associated with integrating employees from an acquired company into our organization;

Table of Contents

retaining employees from the businesses we acquire; and

the need to integrate each company's accounting, management information, human resource and other administrative systems to permit effective management.

The anticipated benefit of many of our acquisitions may not materialize. Future acquisitions could result in potentially dilutive issuances of our equity securities, the incurrence of debt, contingent liabilities or amortization expenses, or write-offs, any of which could harm our financial condition. Future acquisitions may require us to obtain additional equity or debt financing, which may not be available on favorable terms or at all.

We may not be effective in protecting our Internet domain names or proprietary rights upon which our business relies or in avoiding claims that we infringe upon the proprietary rights of others.

We regard substantial elements of our Web sites and the underlying technology as proprietary, and attempt to protect them by relying on trademark, service mark, copyright, patent and trade secret laws, and restrictions on disclosure and transferring title and other methods. We also generally enter into confidentiality agreements with our employees and consultants, and generally seek to control access to and distribution of our technology, documentation and other proprietary information. Despite these precautions, it may be possible for a third party to copy or otherwise obtain and use our proprietary information without authorization or to develop similar or superior technology independently. Effective trademark, service mark, copyright, patent and trade secret protection may not be available in every country in which our services are distributed or made available through the Internet, and policing unauthorized use of our proprietary information is difficult. Any such misappropriation or development of similar or superior technology by third parties could adversely impact our profitability and our future financial results.

We believe that our Web sites, services, trademarks, patent and other proprietary technologies do not infringe upon the rights of third parties. However, there can be no assurance that our business activities do not and will not infringe upon the proprietary rights of others, or that other parties will not assert infringement claims against us. We are aware that other parties utilize the Spark name, or other marks that incorporate it, and those parties may have rights to such marks that are superior to ours. From time to time, we have been, and expect to continue to be, subject to claims in the ordinary course of business including claims of alleged infringement of the trademarks, service marks and other intellectual property rights of third parties by us. Although such claims have not resulted in any significant litigation or had a material adverse effect on our business to date, any such claims and resultant litigation might subject us to temporary injunctive restrictions on the use of our products, services or brand names and could result in significant liability for damages for intellectual property infringement, require us to enter into royalty agreements, or restrict us from using infringing software, services, trademarks, patents or technologies in the future. Even if not meritorious, such litigation could be time-consuming and expensive and could result in the diversion of management's time and attention away from our day-to-day business.

We currently hold various Web domain names relating to our brands and in the future may acquire new Web domain names. The regulation of domain names in the United States and in foreign countries is subject to change. Governing bodies may establish additional top level domains, appoint additional domain name registrars or modify the requirements for holding domain names. As a result, we may be unable to acquire or maintain relevant domain names in all countries in which we conduct business. Furthermore, the relationship between regulations governing domain names and laws protecting trademarks and similar proprietary rights is unclear. We may be unable to prevent third parties from acquiring domain names that are similar to, infringe upon or otherwise decrease the value of our existing trademarks and other proprietary rights or those we may seek to acquire. Any such inability to protect ourselves could cause us to lose a significant portion of our members and paying subscribers to our competitors.

Table of Contents

We may face potential liability, loss of users and damage to our reputation for violation of our privacy policy or privacy laws and regulations.

Our privacy policy prohibits the sale or disclosure to any third party of any member's personal identifying information, except to the extent expressly set forth in the policy. Growing public concern about privacy and the collection, distribution and use of information about individuals may subject us to increased regulatory scrutiny and/or litigation. In the past, the Federal Trade Commission has investigated companies that have used personally identifiable information without permission or in violation of a stated privacy policy. If we are accused of violating the stated terms of our privacy policy, we may be forced to expend significant amounts of financial and managerial resources to defend against these accusations and we may face potential liability. Our membership database holds confidential information concerning our members, and we could be sued if any of that information is misappropriated or if a court determines that we have failed to protect that information.

In addition, our affiliates handle personally identifiable information pertaining to our members and paying subscribers. Both we and our affiliates are subject to laws and regulations related to Internet communications (including the CAN-SPAM Act of 2003), consumer protection, advertising, privacy, security, and data protection. If we or our affiliates are found to be in violation of these laws and regulations, we may become subject to administrative fines or litigation, which could materially increase our expenses and cause the value of our securities to decline.

We may be liable as a result of information retrieved from or transmitted over the Internet.

We may be sued for defamation, civil rights infringement, negligence, copyright or trademark infringement, invasion of privacy, personal injury, product liability or under other legal theories relating to information that is published or made available on our Web sites and the other sites linked to it. These types of claims have been brought, sometimes successfully, against online services in the past. We also offer email services, which may subject us to potential risks, such as liabilities or claims resulting from unsolicited email or spamming, lost or misdirected messages, security breaches, illegal or fraudulent use of email or personal information or interruptions or delays in email service. Our insurance does not specifically provide for coverage of these types of claims and, therefore, may be inadequate to protect us against them. In addition, we could incur significant costs in investigating and defending such claims, even if we ultimately are not held liable. If any of these events occurs, our revenues could be materially adversely affected or we could incur significant additional expense, and the market price of our securities may decline.

Our quarterly results may fluctuate because of many factors and, as a result, investors should not rely on quarterly operating results as indicative of future results.

Fluctuations in operating results or the failure of operating results to meet the expectations of public market analysts and investors may negatively impact the value of our ordinary shares and depositary shares. Quarterly operating results may fluctuate in the future due to a variety of factors that could affect revenues or expenses in any particular quarter. Fluctuations in quarterly operating results could cause the value of our securities to decline. Investors should not rely on quarter-to-quarter comparisons of results of operations as an indication of future performance. Factors that may affect our quarterly results include:

the demand for, and acceptance of, our online personal services and enhancements to these services;

the timing and amount of our subscription revenues;

the introduction, development, timing, competitive pricing and market acceptance of our Web sites and services and those of our competitors;

Table of Contents

the magnitude and timing of marketing initiatives and capital expenditures relating to expansion of our operations;

the cost and timing of online and offline advertising and other marketing efforts;

the maintenance and development of relationships with portals, search engines, ISPs and other Web properties and other entities capable of attracting potential members and paying subscribers to our Web sites;

technical difficulties, system failures, system security breaches, or downtime of the Internet, in general, or of our products and services, in particular;

costs related to any acquisitions or dispositions of technologies or businesses; and

general economic conditions, as well as those specific to the Internet, online personals and related industries.

As a result of the factors listed above and because the online personals business is still immature, making it difficult to predict consumer demand, it is possible that in future periods results of operations may be below the expectations of public market analysts and investors. This could cause the market price of our securities to decline.

We may need additional capital to finance our growth or to compete, which may cause dilution to existing shareholders or limit our flexibility in conducting our business activities.

We currently anticipate that existing cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities and cash flow from operations will be sufficient to meet our anticipated needs for working capital, operating expenses and capital expenditures for at least the next 12 months. We may need to raise additional capital in the future to fund expansion, whether in new vertical affinity or geographic markets, develop newer or enhanced services, respond to competitive pressures or acquire complementary businesses, technologies or services. Such additional financing may not be available on terms acceptable to us or at all. To the extent that we raise additional capital by issuing equity securities, our shareholders may experience substantial dilution, and to the extent we engage in debt financing, if available, we may become subject to restrictive covenants that could limit our flexibility in conducting future business activities. If additional financing is not available or not available on acceptable terms, we may not be able to fund our expansion, promote our brands, take advantage of acquisition opportunities, develop or enhance services or respond to competitive pressures.

Our limited experience outside the United States increases the risk that our international efforts and operations will not be effective.

Although we currently have offices in Germany, Israel and the United Kingdom and Web sites that serve the Australian, Canadian, Israeli and United Kingdom markets, we have only limited experience with operations outside the United States. Our primary international operations are in Israel, which carries additional risk for our business as a result of continuing hostilities there. Operations in international markets requires management time and capital resources. In addition, we face the following additional risks associated with our operations outside the United States:

challenges caused by distance, language and cultural differences;

local competitors with substantially greater brand recognition, more users and more traffic than we have;

our need to create and increase our brand recognition and improve our marketing efforts internationally and build strong relationships with local affiliates;

longer payment cycles in some countries;

Table of Contents

credit risk and higher levels of payment fraud in some countries;

different legal and regulatory restrictions among jurisdictions;

political, social and economic instability;

potentially adverse tax consequences; and

higher costs associated with doing business internationally.

Our international operations subject us to risks associated with currency fluctuations.

Our foreign operations may subject us to currency fluctuations and such fluctuations may adversely affect our financial position and results. However, sales and expenses to date have occurred primarily in the United States. For this reason, we have not engaged in foreign exchange hedging. In connection with our planned international expansion, currency risk positions could change correspondingly and the use of foreign exchange hedging instruments could become necessary. Effects of exchange rate fluctuations on our financial condition, operations, and profitability may depend on our ability to manage our foreign currency risks. There can be no assurance that steps taken by management to address foreign currency fluctuations will eliminate all adverse effects and, accordingly, we may suffer losses due to adverse foreign currency fluctuation.

Our business could be significantly impacted by the occurrence of natural disasters and other catastrophic events.

Our operations depend upon our ability to maintain and protect our network infrastructure, hardware systems and software applications, which are housed primarily at a data center located in Southern California that is managed by a third party. Our business is therefore susceptible to earthquakes, tsunamis and other catastrophic events, including acts of terrorism. We currently lack adequate redundant network infrastructure, hardware and software systems supporting our services at an alternate site. As a result, outages and downtime caused by natural disasters and other events out of our control, which affect our systems or primary data center, could adversely affect our reputation, brands and business.

We hold a fixed amount of insurance coverage, and if we were found liable for an uninsured claim, or claim in excess of our insurance limits, we may be forced to expend a significant capital to resolve the uninsured claim.

We contract for a fixed amount of insurance to cover potential risks and liabilities, including, but not limited to, property and casualty insurance, general liability insurance, and errors and omissions liability insurance. Although we have not recently experienced any significantly increased premiums as a result of changing policies of our providers, we have experienced increasing insurance premiums due to the increasing size of our business, and thus the increased potential risk to underwriters for insuring our business. If we decide to obtain additional insurance coverage in the future, it is possible that we may not be able to get enough insurance to meet our needs, we may have to pay very high prices for the coverage we do get, or we may not be able to acquire any insurance for certain types of business risk or may have gaps in coverage for certain risks. This could leave us exposed to potential uninsured claims for which we could have to expend significant amounts of capital resources. Consequently, if we were found liable for a significant uninsured claim in the future, we may be forced to expend a significant amount of our operating capital to resolve the uninsured claim.

Our services are not well-suited to many alternate Web access devices, and as a result, the growth of our business could be negatively affected.

The number of people who access the Internet through devices other than desktop and laptop computers, including mobile telephones and other handheld computing devices, has increased

Table of Contents

dramatically in the past few years, and we expect this growth to continue. The lower resolution, functionality and memory currently associated with such mobile devices may make the use of our services through such mobile devices more difficult and generally impairs the member experience relative to access via desktop and laptop computers. If we are unable to attract and retain a substantial number of such mobile device users to our online personals services or if we are unable to develop services that are more compatible with such mobile communications devices, our growth could be adversely affected.

Risks Related to Our Industry

The percentage of canceling paying subscribers in comparison to other subscription businesses requires that we continuously seek new paying subscribers to maintain or increase our current level of revenue.

Internet users in general, and users of online personals services specifically, freely navigate and switch among a large number of Web sites. Monthly subscriber churn represents the ratio expressed as a percentage of (a) the number of paying subscriber cancellations during the period divided by the average number of paying subscribers during the period and (b) the number of months in the period. The number of average paying subscribers is calculated as the sum of the paying subscribers at the beginning and end of the month, divided by two. Average paying subscribers for periods longer than one month are calculated as the sum of the average paying subscribers for each month, divided by the number of months. For the year ended December 31, 2005, the monthly subscriber churn for (1) the JDate segment was 25.9% (2) the AmericanSingles segment was 36.3% and (3) the Web sites in our Other Businesses segment was 25.6%. We cannot assure you that our monthly average subscriber churn will remain at such levels, and it may increase in the future. This makes it difficult for us to have a stable paying subscriber base and requires that we constantly attract new paying subscribers at a faster rate than subscription terminations to maintain or increase our current level of revenue. If we are unable to attract new paying subscribers on a cost-effective basis, our business will not grow and our profitability will be adversely affected.

Our network is vulnerable to security breaches and inappropriate use by Internet users, which could disrupt or deter future use of our services.

Concerns over the security of transactions conducted on the Internet and the privacy of users may inhibit the growth of the Internet and other online services generally, and online commerce services, like ours, in particular. To date, we have not experienced any material breach of our security systems; however, our failure to effectively prevent security breaches could significantly harm our business, reputation and results of operations and could expose us to lawsuits by state and federal consumer protection agencies, by governmental authorities in the jurisdictions in which we operate, and by consumers. Anyone who is able to circumvent our security measures could misappropriate proprietary information, including customer credit card and personal data, cause interruptions in our operations or damage our brand and reputation. Such breach of our security measures could involve the disclosure of personally identifiable information and could expose us to a material risk of litigation, liability or governmental enforcement proceeding. We cannot assure you that our financial systems and other technology resources are completely secure from security breaches or sabotage, and we have occasionally experienced security breaches and attempts at hacking. We may be required to incur significant additional costs to protect against security breaches or to alleviate problems caused by such breaches. Any well-publicized compromise of our security or the security of any other Internet provider could deter people from using our services or the Internet to conduct transactions that involve transmitting confidential information or downloading sensitive materials, which could have a detrimental impact on our potential customer base.

Computer viruses may cause delays or other service interruptions and could damage our reputation, affect our ability to provide our services and adversely affect our revenues. The inadvertent transmission of computer viruses could also expose us to a material risk of loss or litigation and

Table of Contents

possible liability. Moreover, if a computer virus affecting our system were highly publicized, our reputation could be significantly damaged, resulting in the loss of current and future members and paying subscribers.

We face certain risks related to the physical and emotional safety of our members and paying subscribers.

The nature of online personals services is such that we cannot control the actions of our members and paying subscribers in their communication or physical actions. There is a possibility that one or more of our members or paying subscribers could be physically or emotionally harmed following interaction with another of our members or paying subscribers. We warn our members and paying subscribers that we do not and cannot screen other members and paying subscribers and, given our lack of physical presence, we do not take any action to ensure personal safety on a meeting between members or paying subscribers arranged following contact initiated via our Web sites. If an unfortunate incident of this nature occurred in a meeting of two people following contact initiated on one of our Web sites or a Web site of one of our competitors, any resulting negative publicity could materially and adversely affect us or the online personals industry in general. Any such incident involving one of our Web sites could damage our reputation and our brands. This, in turn, could adversely affect our revenues and could cause the value of our ordinary shares and depository shares to decline. In addition, the affected members or paying subscribers could initiate legal action against us, which could cause us to incur significant expense, whether we were successful or not, and damage our reputation.

We face risks of litigation and regulatory actions if we are deemed a dating service as opposed to an online personals service.

We supply online personals services. In many jurisdictions, companies deemed dating service providers are subject to additional regulation, while companies that provide personals services are not generally subject to similar regulation. Because personals services and dating services can seem similar, we are exposed to potential litigation, including class action lawsuits, associated with providing our personals services. In the past, a small percentage of our members have alleged that we are a dating service provider, and, as a result, they claim that we are required to comply with regulations that include, but are not limited to, providing language in our contracts that may allow members to (1) rescind their contracts within a certain period of time, (2) demand reimbursement of a portion of the contract price if the member dies during the term of the contract and/or (3) cancel their contracts in the event of disability or relocation. If a court holds that we have provided and are providing dating services of the type the dating services regulations are intended to regulate, we may be required to comply with regulations associated with the dating services industry and be liable for any damages as a result our past and present non-compliance.

Three separate yet similar class action complaints have been filed against us. On June 21, 2002, Tatyana Fertelmeyster filed an Illinois class action complaint against us in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, based on an alleged violation of the Illinois Dating Referral Services Act. On September 12, 2002, Lili Grossman filed a New York class action complaint against us in the Supreme Court in the State of New York based on alleged violations of the New York Dating Services Act and the Consumer Fraud Act. On November 14, 2003, Jason Adelman filed a nationwide class action complaint against us in the Los Angeles County Superior Court based on an alleged violation of California Civil Code section 1694 et seq., which regulates businesses that provide dating services. In each of these cases, the complaint included allegations that we are a dating service as defined by the applicable statutes and, as an alleged dating service, we are required to provide language in our contracts that allows (i) members to rescind their contracts within three days, (ii) reimbursement of a portion of the contract price if the member dies during the term of the contract and/or (iii) members to cancel their contracts in the event of disability or relocation. Causes of action include breach of applicable state and/or federal laws, fraudulent and deceptive business practices, breach of contract

Table of Contents

and unjust enrichment. The plaintiffs are seeking remedies including declaratory relief, restitution, actual damages although not quantified, treble damages and/or punitive damages, and attorney's fees and costs.

Huebner v. InterActiveCorp., Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 305875 involves a similar action, involving the same plaintiff's counsel as *Adelman*, brought against InterActiveCorp's Match.com that has been ruled related to *Adelman*, but the two cases have not been consolidated. We have not been named a defendant in the *Huebner* case. *Adelman* and *Huebner* each seek to certify a nationwide class action based on their complaints. Because the cases are class actions, they have been assigned to the Los Angeles Superior Court Complex Litigation Program. The court has ordered a bifurcation of the liability issue. At an August 15, 2005 Status Conference, the court set the bifurcated trial on the issue of liability for March 27, 2006. The parties have agreed in principle to continue the bifurcated trial to approximately May 15, 2006 and extend the time for filing briefs and completing discovery, in *Adelman*, with respect to the bifurcated trial. In addition, the parties resumed mediation on February 23, 2006, but it did not result in a settlement.

On March 25, 2005, the court in *Fertelmeyster* entered its Memorandum Opinion and Order (Memorandum Opinion) granting summary judgment in our favor on the grounds that Fertelmeyster lacks standing to seek injunctive relief or restitutionary relief under the Illinois Dating Services Act, Fertelmeyster did not suffer any actual damages, and we were not unjustly enriched as a result of our contract with Fertelmeyster. The Memorandum Opinion disposes of all matters in controversy in the litigation and also provides that we are subject to the Illinois Dating Services Act and, as such, our subscription agreements violate the act and are void and unenforceable. This ruling may subject us to potential liability for claims brought by the Illinois Attorney General or customers that have been injured by our violation of the statute. Fertelmeyster filed a Motion for Reconsideration of the Memorandum Opinion and, on August 26, 2005, the court issued its opinion denying Fertelmeyster's Motion for Reconsideration. In the opinion, the court, among other things: (i) decertified the class, eliminating the last remnant of the litigation; (ii) rejected each of the plaintiff's arguments based on the arguments and law that we provided in our opposition; (iii) stated that the court would not judicially amend the Illinois statute to provide for restitution when the legislature selected damages as the sole remedy; (iv) noted that the cases cited by plaintiff in connection with plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration actually support the court's prior order granting summary judgment in our favor; and (v) denied plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration in its entirety. The time for filing an appeal from the Memorandum Opinion and the court's order denying Fertelmeyster's Motion for Reconsideration has now lapsed and as a result thereof, this litigation has concluded.

In December 2002, the Supreme Court of New York dismissed the case brought by Ms. Grossman. Although the plaintiff appealed the decision, in October 2004, the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division upheld the lower court's dismissal. In addition, two Justices wrote concurring opinions stating their opinion that our services were not covered under the New York Dating Services Act. We intend to defend vigorously against each of the pending lawsuits, however, no assurance can be given that these matters will be resolved in our favor and, depending on the outcome of these lawsuits, we may choose to alter our business practices.

We are exposed to risks associated with credit card fraud and credit payment, which, if not properly addressed, could increase our operating expenses.

We depend on continuing availability of credit card usage to process subscriptions and this availability, in turn, depends on acceptable levels of chargebacks and fraud performance. We have suffered losses and may continue to suffer losses as a result of subscription orders placed with fraudulent credit card data, even though the associated financial institution approved payment. Under current credit card practices, a merchant is liable for fraudulent credit card transactions when, as is the case with the transactions we process, that merchant does not obtain a cardholder's signature. Our failure to adequately control fraudulent credit card transactions would result in significantly higher credit card-

Table of Contents

related costs and, therefore, increase our operating expenses and may preclude us from accepting credit cards as a means of payment.

We face risks associated with our dependence on computer and telecommunications infrastructure.

Our services are dependent upon the use of the Internet and telephone and broadband communications to provide high-capacity data transmission without system downtime. There have been instances where regional and national telecommunications outages have caused us, and other Internet businesses, to experience systems interruptions. Any additional interruptions, delays or capacity problems experienced with telephone or broadband connections could adversely affect our ability to provide services to our customers. The temporary or permanent loss of all, or a portion, of the telecommunications system could cause disruption to our business activities and result in a loss of revenue. Additionally, the telecommunications industry is subject to regulatory control. Amendments to current regulations, which could affect our telecommunications providers, could disrupt or adversely affect the profitability of our business.

In addition, if any of our current agreements with telecommunications providers were terminated, we may not be able to replace any terminated agreements with equally beneficial ones. There can be no assurance that we will be able to renew any of our current agreements when they expire or, if we are able to do so, that such renewals will be available on acceptable terms. We also do not know whether we will be able to enter into additional agreements or that any relationships, if entered into, will be on terms favorable to us.

Our business depends, in part, on the growth and maintenance of the Internet, and our ability to provide services to our members and paying subscribers may be limited by outages, interruptions and diminished capacity in the Internet.

Our performance will depend, in part, on the continued growth and maintenance of the Internet. This includes maintenance of a reliable network backbone with the necessary speed, data capacity and security for providing reliable Internet services. Internet infrastructure may be unable to support the demands placed on it if the number of Internet users continues to increase, or if existing or future Internet users access the Internet more often or increase their bandwidth requirements. In addition, viruses, worms and similar programs may harm the performance of the Internet. We have no control over the third-party telecommunications, cable or other providers of access services to the Internet that our members and paying subscribers rely upon. There have been instances where regional and national telecommunications outages have caused us to experience service interruptions during which our members and paying subscribers could not access our services. Any additional interruptions, delays or capacity problems experienced with any points of access between the Internet and our members could adversely affect our ability to provide services reliably to our members and paying subscribers. The temporary or permanent loss of all, or a portion, of our services on the Internet, the Internet infrastructure generally, or our members and paying subscribers ability to access the Internet could disrupt our business activities, harm our business reputation, and result in a loss of revenue.

Additionally, the Internet, electronic communications and telecommunications industries are subject to federal, state and foreign governmental regulation. New laws and regulations governing such matters could be enacted or amendments may be made to existing regulations at any time that could adversely impact our services. Any such new laws, regulations or amendments to existing regulations could disrupt or adversely affect the profitability of our business.

We are subject to burdensome government regulations and legal uncertainties affecting the Internet that could adversely affect our business.

Legal uncertainties surrounding domestic and foreign government regulations could increase our costs of doing business, require us to revise our services, prevent us from delivering our services over the Internet or slow the growth of the Internet, any of which could increase our expenses, reduce our

Table of Contents

revenues or cause our revenues to grow at a slower rate than expected and materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. Laws and regulations related to Internet communications, security, privacy, intellectual property rights, commerce, taxation, entertainment, recruiting and advertising are becoming more prevalent, and new laws and regulations are under consideration by the United States Congress, state legislatures and foreign governments. For example, during 2004 and 2005, legislation related to the use of background checks for users of online personals services was proposed in Ohio, Texas, California, Michigan and Florida. None of these states enacted these proposed laws, however, state legislatures including Illinois and Florida are still considering the implementation of such legislation. The enactment of any of these proposed laws could require us to alter our service offerings and could negatively impact our performance by making it more difficult and costly to obtain new subscribers and may also subject us to additional liability for failure to properly screen our subscribers. Any legislation enacted or restrictions arising from current or future government investigations or policy could dampen the growth in use of the Internet, generally, and decrease the acceptance of the Internet as a communications, commercial, entertainment, recruiting and advertising medium. In addition to new laws and regulations being adopted, existing laws that are not currently being applied to the Internet may subsequently be applied to it and, in several jurisdictions, legislatures are considering laws and regulations that would apply to the online personals industry in particular. Many areas of law affecting the Internet and online personals remain unsettled, even in areas where there has been some legislative action. It may take years to determine whether and how existing laws such as those governing consumer protection, intellectual property, libel and taxation apply to the Internet or to our services.

In the normal course of our business, we handle personally identifiable information pertaining to our members and paying subscribers residing in the United States and other countries. In recent years, many of these countries have adopted privacy, security, and data protection laws and regulations intended to prevent improper uses and disclosures of personally identifiable information. In addition, some jurisdictions impose database registration requirements for which significant monetary and other penalties may be imposed for noncompliance. These laws may impose costly administrative requirements, limit our handling of information, and subject us to increased government oversight and financial liabilities. Privacy laws and regulations in the United States and foreign countries are subject to change and may be inconsistent, and additional requirements may be imposed at any time. These laws and regulations, the costs of complying with them, administrative fines for noncompliance and the possible need to adopt different compliance measures in different jurisdictions could materially increase our expenses and cause the value of our securities to decline.

Risks Related to Owning Our Securities

The price of our ADSs may be volatile, and if an active trading market for our ADSs does not develop, the price of our ADSs may suffer and decline.

Prior to the registration of all of our issued and outstanding ordinary shares in February 2006, there was no public market for our securities in the United States. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that an active trading market will develop or be sustained or that the market price of our ADSs will not decline. The price at which our ADSs will trade is likely to be highly volatile and may fluctuate substantially due to many factors, some of which are outside of our control. In addition, the stock market has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations that have affected the market price for the stock of many technology, communications and entertainment and media companies. Those market fluctuations were sometimes unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of these companies. Any significant stock market fluctuations in the future, whether due to our actual performance or prospects or not, could result in a significant decline in the market price of our securities.

Table of Contents

Our principal shareholders can exercise significant influence over us, and, as a result, may be able to delay, deter or prevent a change of control or other business combination.

As of March 15, 2006, Joe Y. Shapira, Alon Carmel, Great Hill Investors, LLC and Tiger Global Management, L.L.C. and their respective affiliates beneficially owned approximately, in the aggregate, 52% of our outstanding share capital. Mr. Shapira is a co-founder of our company and current Chairman of our Board of Directors. Mr. Carmel is a co-founder, former President and former Executive Co-Chairman of our Board of Directors. Great Hill Investors, LLC and its affiliates (Great Hill) became our largest shareholder on December 1, 2005 when it purchased an aggregate of 6,000,000 ordinary shares in four privately negotiated transactions. Of the 6,000,000 shares purchased, (i) 1,250,000 shares were purchased from Mr. Shapira at \$4.60 per share, (ii) 1,250,000 shares were purchased from Mr. Carmel at \$4.60 per share, (iii) 1,500,000 shares were purchased from Criterion Capital Management LLC, a more than 5% holder of our securities, at \$5.35 per share and (iv) 2,000,000 shares were purchased from affiliates of Tiger Global Management L.L.C. at \$5.35 per share. Tiger Global Management, L.L.C. (Tiger Global Management) is our second largest shareholder, and one of our directors, Scott Shleifer, is a limited partner of Tiger Global, L.P., an affiliate of Tiger Global Management. These shareholders possess significant influence over our company. Such share ownership and control may have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control of our company, impeding a merger, consolidation, takeover or other business combination involving our company or discourage a potential acquirer from making a tender offer or otherwise attempting to obtain control of our company. Furthermore, such share ownership may have the effect of control over substantially all matters requiring shareholder approval, including the election of directors. Other than the arrangement to elect a director at the selection of Great Hill, as discussed below, we do not expect that these shareholders will vote together as a group.

Our largest shareholder, Great Hill, also possesses a significant amount of voting power and an ability to elect a director of our company.

Great Hill beneficially owns 6,000,000 shares of our company, or approximately 19.8% of our outstanding shares, and has voting control of an aggregate of approximately 60.3% of our securities to elect a director of our company subject to the terms and conditions of the share purchase agreements entered into on December 1, 2005 with each of Mr. Shapira, Mr. Carmel, affiliates of Tiger Global Management, and Criterion Capital Management, LLC (Criterion Capital Management, and collectively with Mr. Shapira, Mr. Carmel and Tiger Global Management, the Selling Shareholders). Pursuant to the terms of the share purchase agreements with each of the Selling Shareholders, for so long as Great Hill collectively owns: (i) in the case of the share purchase agreements entered into with Messrs. Shapira and Carmel, at least 10% of the outstanding ordinary shares; and (ii) in the case of the share purchase agreements entered into with Tiger Global Management and Criterion Capital Management, at least 5% of the outstanding ordinary shares, each Selling Shareholder agreed that:

if at any time Great Hill notifies a Selling Shareholder of its desire and intention to designate a single director (Great Hill Director) in advance of any meeting of the shareholders for the election of directors or when any other approval is sought with respect to the election of directors, such Selling Shareholder agreed to vote all of its voting shares that are owned or held of record by such Selling Shareholder or to which it has voting power or can direct, restrict or control any such voting power (the Remaining Shares) to elect such Great Hill Director; and

if at any time Great Hill notifies a Selling Shareholder of its desire and intention to remove or replace a Great Hill Director or to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of a Great Hill Director, such Selling Shareholder agreed to cooperate in causing the requested removal and/or replacement by voting in the appropriate manner.

Table of Contents

Each Selling Shareholder also irrevocably granted, and appointed Michael A. Kumin, and any other person who shall be designated by Great Hill, as such Selling Shareholder's proxy and attorney (with full power of substitution), to vote all of such Selling Shareholder's Remaining Shares held at the time such consent is sought or meeting is held in any circumstances where a vote, consent or other approval is sought to elect a Great Hill Director. The covenants and obligations of each Selling Shareholder terminate after a Great Hill Director (together with any replacements therefore) has served a single, full term of office of three years, in accordance with the our articles and memorandum of association, as in effect on December 1, 2005.

As a result of its voting arrangement with the Selling Shareholders, Great Hill is able to select a member of our Board of Directors at its discretion and is able to exercise significant influence over our company. This influence has the potential to delay, prevent, change or initiate a change in control, acquisition, merger or other transaction, such as a transaction to take the company private.

We have entered into a standstill agreement pursuant to which Great Hill and its affiliates are permitted to acquire additional voting securities of our company in the future and may initiate and participate in any tender, takeover or exchange offer, other business combination or other transaction, such as taking our company private, any of which may be to the detriment of our shareholders.

On December 1, 2005, we and Great Hill Equity Partners II, which is one of the affiliates of Great Hill, entered into a Standstill Agreement with a term of five years, unless terminated earlier.

Pursuant to the Standstill Agreement, for a period of 14 months from the date of the Standstill Agreement (the Fourteen Month Period), Great Hill Equity Partners II agreed that it would not, without the prior written consent by us:

acquire or seek to acquire, directly or indirectly, ownership of any of our voting securities (or rights to acquire any of our class of securities or any subsidiary thereof) such that Great Hill Equity Partners II and its affiliates (the Great Hill Group) would beneficially own more than 29.9% of our total voting power (the Total Voting Power), which is defined as the aggregate number of votes which may be cast by holders of outstanding voting securities on a poll at a general meeting of ours taking into account any voting restrictions imposed by our Articles of Association, or take any action that would require us to make a public announcement regarding the foregoing under applicable law;

participate in any of the following with respect to us or our subsidiaries: (i) any tender, takeover or exchange offer or other business combination, (ii) any recapitalization, restructuring, liquidation, dissolution or other extraordinary transaction, or (iii) any solicitation of proxies or consents to vote any voting securities;

form, join or participate in a group as defined in Section 13(d)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, in connection with any of the foregoing;

seek to control our Board of Directors; and

enter into any arrangements with any third party with respect to any of the above.

After the expiration of the Fourteen Month Period, Great Hill Equity Partners II agreed that it would not acquire or seek to acquire beneficial ownership of any of our voting securities (or rights to acquire any class of our securities or any subsidiary thereof) or participate in any tender, takeover or exchange offer or other business combination, or any recapitalization, restructuring, dissolution or other extraordinary transaction if (i) prior to giving effect thereto, the Great Hill Group beneficially owns less than 60% of Total Voting Power and (ii) after giving effect, the Great Hill Group would beneficially own more than 29.9% of Total Voting Power.

Under the Standstill Agreement, Great Hill is permitted to, subject to the conditions of the Standstill Agreement, increase its holding of voting securities in our company after the expiration of the Fourteen

Table of Contents

Month Period, and after expiration of the Standstill Agreement, Great Hill may increase its share ownership without restriction. As such, Great Hill may participate in and initiate any tender, takeover or exchange offer, other business combination or other transaction, such as taking our company private, any of which may be to the detriment of our shareholders.

Most of our ordinary shares and ordinary shares issuable upon the exercise of our warrants and options are eligible for sale, which results in dilution and may cause the price of our ADSs to decrease.

If our shareholders sell a substantial number of our shares, including those represented by ADSs and GDSs, in the public market, the market price of our ADSs could fall. Our ordinary shares in the form of GDSs also trade on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. We have filed a registration statement to register for sale in the United States all of our issued and outstanding ordinary shares, ordinary shares underlying all of our outstanding warrants and ordinary shares underlying all of the options held by our officers, directors and shareholders who own more than 10% of our issued and outstanding securities. This registration statement registers an aggregate of 33,263,996 ordinary shares and ordinary shares underlying warrants or options. In addition, we have filed a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, on Form S-8 covering all of the ordinary shares issuable upon exercise of our outstanding options and options available for future grant under our share option schemes. As of February 1, 2006, we had 4,655,201 ordinary shares underlying outstanding options and 14,424,049 ordinary shares underlying options available for future grant. Sales of ordinary shares by existing shareholders in the public market, or the availability of such ordinary shares for sale, could materially and adversely affect the market price of our securities.

You may not be able to exercise your right to vote the ordinary shares underlying your ADSs.

Under the terms of the ADSs, you have a general right to direct the exercise of the votes on the ordinary shares underlying ADSs that you hold, subject to limitations on voting ordinary shares contained in our Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association, as amended. You may instruct the depositary bank, Bank of New York, to vote the ordinary shares underlying our ADSs, but only if we request Bank of New York to ask for your instructions. Otherwise, you will not be able to exercise your right to vote unless you withdraw the ordinary shares underlying the ADSs. However, you may not receive voting materials in time to ensure that you are able to instruct Bank of New York to vote your shares or receive sufficient notice of a shareholders' meeting to permit you to withdraw your ordinary shares to allow you to cast your vote with respect to any specific matter. In addition, Bank of New York and its agents may not be able to timely send out your voting instructions or carry out your voting instructions in the manner you have instructed. As a result, you may not be able to exercise your right to vote and you may lack recourse if your ordinary shares are not voted as you requested.

Your right or ability to transfer your ADSs may be limited in a number of circumstances.

Your ADSs are transferable on the books of the depositary. However, the depositary may close its transfer books at any time or from time to time when it deems expedient in connection with the performance of its duties. In addition, the depositary may refuse to deliver, transfer or register transfers of ADSs generally when our books or the books of the depositary are closed, or at any time if we or the depositary deem it advisable to do so because of any requirement of law or of any government or governmental body, or under any provision of the deposit agreement, or for any other reason.

Our ordinary shares in the form of ADSs or GDSs are traded on more than one market and this may result in price variations.

Our ordinary shares are currently traded on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange in the form of GDSs and our ordinary shares are listed for trading on the American Stock Exchange in the form of ADSs.

Table of Contents

Trading in our ordinary shares in the form of ADSs or GDSs on these markets will be made in different currencies (dollars on the American Stock Exchange and euros on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange), and at different times (resulting from different time zones, different trading days and different public holidays in the U.S. and Germany). The trading prices of our ordinary shares in the form of ADSs or GDSs on these two markets may differ due to these and other factors. Any decrease in the trading price of our ordinary shares in the form of ADSs or GDSs on one of these markets could cause a decrease in the trading price of our ordinary shares in the form of ADSs or GDSs on the other market. Any difference in prices of our ordinary shares in the form of ADSs or GDSs on these two markets could create an arbitrage opportunity whereby an investor could take advantage of the price difference by trading between the markets, thereby potentially increasing the volatility of trading prices of our ADSs and having an adverse affect on the price of our ADSs.

If we offer any subscription rights to our shareholders, your right or ability to perform a sale, deposit, cancellation or transfer of any ADSs issued after exercise of rights might be restricted.

If we offer holders of our ordinary shares any rights to subscribe for additional shares or any other rights, the depositary may make these rights available to you after consultation with us. However, the depositary may allow rights that are not distributed or sold to lapse. In that case, you will receive no value for them. In addition, U.S. securities laws may restrict the sale, deposit, cancellation and transfer of the ADSs issued after exercise of rights. However, we cannot make rights available to you in the United States unless we register the rights and the securities to which the rights relate under the Securities Act or an exemption from the registration requirements is available. In addition, under the deposit agreement, the depositary will not distribute rights to holders of ADSs unless the distribution and sale of rights and the securities to which the rights relate are either exempt from registration under the Securities Act with respect to all holders of ADSs, or are registered under the provisions of the Securities Act. We can give no assurance that we can establish an exemption from registration under the Securities Act, and we are under no obligation to file a registration statement with respect to these rights or underlying securities or to endeavor to have a registration statement declared effective. Accordingly, you may be unable to participate in our rights offerings, if any, and may experience dilution of your holdings as a result.

Investors may be subject to both United States and United Kingdom taxes.

Investors are strongly urged to consult with their tax advisors concerning the consequences of investing in our company by purchasing ADSs. Our ADSs are being sold in the United States, but we are incorporated under the laws of England and Wales. A U.S. holder of our ADSs will generally be treated as the beneficial owner of the underlying ordinary shares, as represented by ADSs, for purposes of U.S. and U.K. tax laws. Therefore, U.S. federal, state and local tax laws and U.K. tax laws will generally apply to ownership and transfer of our ADSs and the underlying ordinary shares. Tax laws of other jurisdictions may also apply.

If you hold shares in the form of ADSs, you may have less access to information about our company and less opportunity to exercise your rights as a shareholder than if you held ordinary shares.

There are risks associated with holding our shares in the form of ADSs, since we are a public limited company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales. We are subject to the Companies Act 1985, as amended, our Memorandum and Articles of Association, and other aspects of English company law. The depositary, the Bank of New York and/or its various nominees, will appear in our records as the holder of all our shares represented by the ADSs and your rights as a holder of ADSs will be contained

Table of Contents

in the deposit agreement. Your rights as a holder of ADSs will differ in various ways from a shareholder's rights, and you may be affected in other ways, including:

you may not be able to participate in rights offers or dividend alternatives if, in the discretion of the depositary, after consultation with us, it is unlawful or not practicable to do so;

you may not receive certain copies of reports and information sent by us to the depositary and may have to go to the office of the depositary to inspect any reports issued;

the deposit agreement may be amended by us and the depositary, or may be terminated by us or the depositary, each with thirty (30) days notice to you and without your consent in a manner that could prejudice your rights, and the deposit agreement limits our obligations and liabilities and those of the depositary.

Your rights as a shareholder will be governed by English law and will differ from and may be inferior to the rights of shareholders under U.S. law.

We are a public limited company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales. Our corporate affairs are governed by our Memorandum and Articles of Association, by the Companies Act 1985, each as amended, and other common and statutory laws in England and Wales. The rights of shareholders to take action against the directors and actions by minority shareholders are to a large extent governed by the common law and statutory laws of England and Wales. These rights differ from the typical rights of shareholders in U.S. corporations. Facts that, under U.S. law, would entitle a shareholder in a U.S. corporation to claim damages may give rise to an alternative cause of action under English law entitling a shareholder in an English company to claim damages in an English court. However, this will not always be the case. For example, the rights of shareholders to bring proceedings against us or against our directors or officers in relation to public statements are different under English law than the civil liability provisions of the U.S. securities laws. In addition, shareholders of English companies may not have standing to initiate shareholder derivative actions in various courts, including before the federal courts of the United States. As a result, our public shareholders may face different considerations in protecting their interests in actions against our company, management, directors or our controlling shareholders, than would shareholders of a corporation incorporated in a jurisdiction in the United States, and our ability to protect our interests if we are harmed in a manner that would otherwise enable us to sue in a United States federal court, may be limited.

You may have difficulties enforcing, in actions brought in courts in jurisdictions located outside the United States, liabilities under the U.S. securities laws. In particular, if you sought to bring proceedings in England based on U.S. securities laws, the English court might consider:

that it did not have jurisdiction; and/or

that it was not the appropriate forum for such proceedings; and/or

that, applying English conflict of laws rules, U.S. law (including U.S. securities laws) did not apply to the relationship between you and us or our directors and officers; and/or

that the U.S. securities laws were of a public or penal nature and should not be enforced by the English court.

Alternatively, if you were to bring an action in a U.S. Court, and we were to bring a competing action in an English Court, the English Court may grant an order seeking to prohibit you from pursuing the action before the U.S. court. You should also be aware that English law does not allow for any form of legal proceedings directly equivalent to the class action available in U.S. courts. In addition, awards of punitive damages (or their nearest English law equivalent), are rare in English courts.

Table of Contents

In addition, we are required by the Companies Act 1985 to prepare for each financial year audited accounts which comply with the requirements of that Act. These UK audited accounts are distributed to holders of our ordinary shares in advance of our annual shareholder meeting at which the UK audited accounts are voted on by our shareholders and are then filed with the Registrar of Companies for England and Wales. The UK audited accounts will be audited by an accounting firm eligible under UK statutory requirements, currently the UK firm Ernst & Young LLP. The UK audited accounts are likely to be materially different to the US GAAP financial statements which will be prepared in a form similar to those included within this prospectus and which will be filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Our shareholders will not have an opportunity to vote on our US GAAP financial statements. Our ability to pay future dividends will be determined by reference to the distributable reserves shown by our UK audited accounts and this may restrict our ability to pay such dividends.

You may have difficulty in effecting service of process or enforcing judgments obtained in the United States against one of our directors named in this prospectus who is not a resident of the United States.

Currently, one of our directors, Martial Chaillet, named in this prospectus is a resident of a country other than the United States. Furthermore, all or a substantial portion of his assets may be located outside the United States. As a result, it may not be possible for you to:

effect service of process within the United States upon such director; or

enforce in U.S. courts judgments obtained against such director in the U.S. courts in any action, including actions under the civil liability provisions of U.S. securities laws; or

enforce in U.S. courts judgments obtained against such director in courts of jurisdictions outside the United States in any action, including actions under the civil liability provisions of U.S. securities laws.

You may also have difficulties enforcing in courts outside the United States judgments obtained in the U.S. courts against any of our directors and some of the experts named in this prospectus or us (including actions under the civil liability provisions of the U.S. securities laws). In particular, there is doubt as to the enforceability in England of U.S. civil judgments predicated purely on U.S. securities laws. In any event, there is no system of reciprocal enforcement in England and Wales of judgments obtained in the U.S. courts. Accordingly, a judgment against any of those persons or us may only be enforced in England and Wales by the commencement of an action before the English court, seeking the recognition of the judgment of the U.S. court at common law in England. Judgment against any of those persons or us, as the case may be, may be granted by the English court without requiring the issues on the merits in the U.S. litigation to be reopened on the basis that those matters have already been decided by the U.S. court. To recognize a U.S. court Judgment, the English court must be satisfied that:

that the judgment is final and conclusive;

that the U.S. court had jurisdiction (as a matter of English law);

that the U.S. judgment is not impeachable for fraud and is not contrary to English rules of natural justice;

that the enforcement of the judgment will not be contrary to public policy or statute in England;

that the judgment is for a liquidated sum;

that the English proceedings were commenced within the relevant limitation period;

that the judgment is not directly or indirectly for the payment of taxes or other charges of a like nature or a fine or penalty;

Table of Contents

that the judgment remains valid and enforceable in the court in which it was obtained unless and until it is stayed or set aside; and

that, before the date on which the U.S. court gave judgment, the issues in question had not been the subject of a final judgment of an English court or of a court of another jurisdiction whose judgment is enforceable in England.

We have never paid any dividend and we do not intend to pay dividends in the foreseeable future.

To date, we have not declared or paid any cash dividends on our ordinary shares and currently intend to retain any future earnings for funding growth. We do not anticipate paying any dividends in the foreseeable future. Moreover, companies incorporated under the laws of England and Wales cannot pay dividends unless they have distributable profits as defined in the Companies Act 1985 as amended. As a result, you should not rely on an investment in our shares if you require dividend income. Capital appreciation, if any, of our shares may be your sole source of gain for the foreseeable future.

Currency fluctuations may adversely affect the price of the ADSs relative to the price of our GDSs.

The price of our GDSs is quoted in euros. Movements in the euro/ U.S. dollar exchange rate may adversely affect the U.S. dollar price of our ADSs and the U.S. dollar equivalent of the price of our GDSs. For example, if the euro weakens against the U.S. dollar, the U.S. dollar price of the ADSs could decline, even if the price of our GDSs in euros increases or remains unchanged.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, including the sections entitled Prospectus Summary, Risk Factors, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Business, contains forward-looking statements that involve substantial risks and uncertainties. All statements other than statements of historical facts contained in this prospectus, including statements regarding our future financial position, business strategy and plans and objectives of management for future operations, are forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as believes, expects, anticipates, intends, estimates, may, will, continue, predict, potential or the negative of these terms or other similar expressions. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations and projections about future events and financial trends that we believe may affect our financial condition, results of operations, business strategy and financial needs. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements, which are subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions described in Risk Factors section and elsewhere in this prospectus, regarding, among other things:

our significant operating losses and uncertainties relating to our ability to generate positive cash flow and operating profits in the future;

difficulty in evaluating our future prospects based on our limited operating history and relatively new business model;

our ability to attract members, convert members into paying subscribers and retain our paying subscribers, in addition to maintain paying subscribers;

the highly competitive nature of our business;

our ability to keep pace with rapid technological change;

the strength of our existing brands and our ability to maintain and enhance those brands;

Table of Contents

our ability to effectively manage our growth;

our dependence upon the telecommunications infrastructure and our networking hardware and software infrastructure;

risks related to our recent accounting restatements;

uncertainties relating to potential acquisitions of companies;

the volatility of the price of our ADSs after this offering;

the strain on our resources and management team of being a public company in the United States;

the ability of our principal shareholders to exercise significant influence over our company; and

other factors referenced in this prospectus and other reports.

You should not rely upon forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. We cannot assure you that the events and circumstances reflected in the forward-looking statements will be achieved or occur. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. Moreover, neither we nor any other person assume responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the forward-looking statements. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to update publicly any forward-looking statements for any reason after the date of this prospectus to conform these statements to actual results or to changes in our expectations.

You should read this prospectus, and the documents that we reference in this prospectus and have filed as exhibits to the related registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission, completely and with the understanding that our actual future results, levels of activity, performance and achievements may materially differ from what we expect. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of ordinary shares in the form of ADSs by the selling security holders listed in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, except for funds received from the exercise of warrants and options held by selling security holders, if and when exercised. We plan to use the net proceeds received from the exercise of any warrants and options for working capital and general corporate purposes. The actual allocation of proceeds realized from the exercise of these securities will depend upon the amount and timing of such exercises, our operating revenues and cash position at such time and our working capital requirements. There can be no assurances that any of the outstanding warrants and options will be exercised. The total maximum proceeds possible from the exercise of options and warrants at February 1, 2006 was approximately \$26.5 million and \$1.1 million, respectively.

RESCISSION OFFER

Under our 2000 Option Scheme, we granted options to purchase ordinary shares to certain of our employees, directors and consultants. California state securities laws generally require qualification for the offer and sale of securities subject to California law. Under California law, the grant of an option constitutes a sale of the underlying shares at the time of the option grant and not at the exercise of the option. Our option grants were not qualified and may not have been exempt from qualification under California state securities laws. As a result, we may have potential liability to those employees, directors and consultants to whom we granted options under the 2000 Option Scheme. In order to address that issue, we may elect to make a rescission offer to the holders of outstanding options under the 2000 Option Scheme to give them the opportunity to rescind the grant of their options.

As of December 31, 2005, assuming every eligible optionee were to accept a rescission offer, we estimate the total cost to us to complete the rescission would be approximately \$1.9 million including statutory interest at 7% per annum. These amounts reflect the costs of offering to rescind the issuance of the outstanding options by paying an amount equal to 20% of the aggregate exercise price for the entire option, which we believe would comply with California state securities laws.

In addition, issuances of securities upon exercise of options granted under our 2000 Option Scheme may not have been exempt from registration and qualification under California state securities laws as a result of the option grants themselves, but also may not have been exempt from registration under federal securities laws. Federal securities laws prohibit the offer or sale of securities unless the sales are registered or exempt from registration. The issuances of ordinary shares upon the exercise of our options were not registered and may not have been exempt from registration under California state and federal securities laws. As a result, we may have potential liability to those employees, directors and consultants to whom we issued securities upon the exercise of these options. In order to address that issue, we may elect to make a rescission offer to those persons who exercised all, or a portion, of those options and continue to hold the shares issued upon exercise, to give them the opportunity to rescind the issuance of those shares (Option Shares).

As of December 31, 2005, assuming every eligible person that continues to hold the securities issued upon exercise of options granted under the 2000 Option Scheme were to accept a rescission offer, we estimate the total cost to us to complete the rescission would be approximately \$6.1 million including statutory interest at 7% per annum, accrued since the date of exercise of the options. These amounts are calculated by reference to the acquisition price of the Option Shares.

For the purposes of English company law, a rescission offer in respect of our Option Shares would take the form of a purchase by our company of the relevant Option Shares. The Companies Act 1985 (Companies Act) provides that we may only purchase our own shares using our distributable profits (as defined by the Companies Act), also known as distributable reserves (Distributable Reserves), or the proceeds from the issuance of new shares for that purpose. When we issue shares at a value which represents a premium over their nominal value, we are required by the Companies Act

Table of Contents

to transfer the premium (subject to certain limited exceptions) to a share premium account. Under the Companies Act, our ability to utilize our share premium account is very limited and does not include the payment of dividends. However, in accordance with a procedure set out in the Companies Act, we have obtained approval from our shareholders and from the High Court of Justice in England and Wales (the Court) to reduce our share premium account by US\$44,000,000 with effect from December 8, 2005 (the Effective Date) in order to reduce or eliminate the deficit on our profit and loss account, which had arisen as a result of previous accumulated losses. This will enable profits, if any, arising after December 31, 2005 to give rise to Distributable Reserves, which we could use to purchase our own Shares pursuant to a rescission offer. In connection with the approval from the Court, we have given an undertaking to the Court for the protection of our creditors, which requires us to transfer to a non-distributable reserve (the Special Reserve) the amount (if any) by which the deficit on our profit and loss account at December 31, 2005 falls short of the amount of the reduction (being US\$44,000,000), and any profits made by us or any of our subsidiaries prior to December 31, 2005, until our non-consenting creditors at the Effective Date (Non-Consenting Creditors) have been paid off. In other words, if there is a surplus on our profit and loss account after application of the \$44.0 million from the share premium reduction and any additional profits made by us prior to December 31, 2005 (Special Reserve Surplus), then we would not be permitted to use the Special Reserve Surplus to purchase our own shares until all Non-Consenting Creditors are paid. However, we do not currently expect that any sums will be required to be transferred to the Special Reserve since we do not anticipate that there will be a surplus on our profit and loss account after application of the share premium reduction and any profits made before December 31, 2005, although this will need to be confirmed when we prepare our audited UK GAAP profit and loss account and balance sheet for the year ended December 31, 2005.

Although we believe we have substantially reduced our accumulated profit and loss account deficit pursuant to the Companies Act, we are not permitted to purchase any of our own shares until we have sufficient Distributable Reserves in order to fund such purchases of our own shares or sufficient proceeds of a new issuance of shares made for the purposes of such purchases of our own shares. As of December 31, 2005, if every eligible person holding Option Shares were to accept the rescission offer, we estimate that the amount we would need in Distributable Reserves is approximately \$6.1 million. After application of the share premium reduction to the accumulated profit and loss account deficit, we anticipate that the deficit will be substantially reduced; however, we will not have any Distributable Reserves, which we will accumulate to the extent that we make any distributable profits in the future. We do not intend to make a rescission offer until we have the Distributable Reserves required to make a rescission offer of the Option Shares.

The undertaking to the Court also prevents us from making any distribution to shareholders, or redeeming or purchasing our own shares, until we have obtained approval at a shareholders' general meeting of our audited UK GAAP balance sheet for the year ended December 31, 2005. It is likely that our UK GAAP balance sheet for the year ended December 31, 2005 will be ready for approval by shareholders on or about May 31, 2006. The share premium reduction will only be reflected on our UK GAAP balance sheet for the purposes of UK law. It will not be reflected on our US GAAP balance sheet.

Any purchase of the Option Shares pursuant to a rescission offer would not only need to be made out of Distributable Reserves, but would also require shareholder approval given in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act.

Such approval must be given by resolution passed with a majority of at least 75% of the votes cast on the resolution (excluding votes carried by the Option Shares proposed to be purchased), having made a copy of the contract for the purchase of the Option Shares available for inspection both at our registered office for at least 15 days prior to the date of the meeting to approve the purchase and at the meeting itself. Once a purchase has been completed, we would be subject to further disclosure obligations in relation to information about the purchase.

Table of Contents

We do not intend to seek shareholder approval for a purchase of Option Shares until we have made a rescission offer which has been accepted by any one or more shareholders and it has become necessary to seek such approval.

In summary, in order to effectuate a rescission offer and repurchase any of our own shares upon any acceptances of the rescission offer, we must satisfy the following conditions: (1) obtain shareholder approval of our audited UK GAAP balance sheet for the year ended December 31, 2005; (2) obtain additional shareholder approval, as further discussed above, of any acceptances of the rescission offer to repurchase shares; and (3) have sufficient Distributable Reserves to repurchase shares subject to the rescission offer.

We have terminated and no longer grant options under our 2000 Option Scheme, but options previously granted under 2000 Option Scheme remain in full force and effect. We filed a registration statement on Form S-8 to cover the issuance of future shares upon exercise of presently unexercised options under the 2000 Option Scheme. However, none of the shares (including shares underlying unexercised options) registered on the Form S-8 will be eligible for resale if they are tendered as part of the rescission offer.

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF GLOBAL DEPOSITARY SHARES**

Our ordinary shares in the form of ADSs were approved in February 2006 for trading on the American Stock Exchange under the trading symbol LOV. The last reported sales price of the ADSs on the American Stock Exchange on April 5, 2006 was \$7.10 per ADS. As of the date of this prospectus, an established public trading market for our ADSs has not yet developed. Our ordinary shares in the form of GDSs currently trade on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange under the symbol MHJG. The following table summarizes the high and low sales prices of our GDSs in euros as reported by the Frankfurt Stock Exchange for the periods noted below, and as translated into U.S. dollars at the currency exchange rate in effect on the date the price was reported on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. The currency exchange rate is based on the average bid and ask exchange price as reported by OANDA for such date.

	High		Low	
Year ended December 31, 2004				
First Quarter	11.85	\$ 14.68	4.20	\$ 5.39
Second Quarter	9.85	\$ 11.79	6.30	\$ 7.63
Third Quarter	8.00	\$ 9.62	2.85	\$ 3.49
Fourth Quarter	7.33	\$ 9.68	4.75	\$ 6.06
Year ended December 31, 2005				
First Quarter	8.25	\$ 10.66	6.16	\$ 8.02
Second Quarter	8.00	\$ 10.37	5.26	\$ 6.47
Third Quarter	7.50	\$ 9.28	5.25	\$ 6.85
Fourth Quarter	6.29	\$ 7.50	4.45	\$ 5.22

The last reported sales price of our GDSs on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange on April 5, 2006 was 5.12 per GDS, or \$6.24 per GDS.

As of March 15, 2006, there were approximately 122 holders of record of our shares, including each account held by our depository and its record holder. These figures do not include beneficial owners who hold shares in nominee name.

DIVIDEND POLICY

We have never declared or paid cash dividends on our ordinary shares. We do not anticipate paying any cash dividends on our ordinary shares in the foreseeable future. We currently intend to retain all available funds and any future earnings to fund the development and growth of our business.

Under English law, any payment of dividends would be subject to the Companies Act 1985, as amended, which requires that all dividends be approved by our board of directors and, in some cases, our shareholders. Moreover, under English law, we may pay dividends on our shares only out of profits available for distribution determined in accordance with the Companies Act 1985, as amended, and accounting principles generally accepted in the United Kingdom, which differ in some respects from U.S. GAAP. We also may incur indebtedness in the future that may prohibit or effectively restrict the payment of dividends on our ordinary shares. Any future determination related to our dividend policy will be made at the discretion of our Board of Directors. In the event that dividends are paid in the future, holders of the ADSs will be entitled to receive payments in U.S. dollars in respect of dividends on the underlying shares in accordance with the deposit agreement. See Description of Share Capital Description of Ordinary Shares Dividends and Description of Share Capital Description of American Depositary Shares Dividends and Distributions.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table summarizes our capitalization as of December 31, 2005.

You should read this table in conjunction with Selected Consolidated Financial Data, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this prospectus.

	December 31, 2005
	(in thousands except per share data)
Notes payable, including current portion	\$ 10,830
Shares subject to rescission	6,089
Shareholders' equity:	
Ordinary shares, £0.01 par value, 80,000,000 shares authorized; 30,241,496 shares issued and outstanding	487
Additional paid-in-capital	64,064
Deferred share-based compensation	
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(302)
Notes receivable from employees	(82)
Accumulated deficit	(45,073)
Total shareholders' equity	19,094
Total capitalization	\$ 36,013

The number of our ordinary shares shown above is based on 30,241,496 shares outstanding as of December 31, 2005. This information excludes:

4,703,250 ordinary shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding options as of December 31, 2005, with exercise prices ranging from \$0.86 to \$9.34 per share and a weighted average exercise price of \$5.57 per share;

430,000 ordinary shares issuable upon the exercise of warrants outstanding as of December 31, 2005, with an exercise price of \$2.46 per share; and

14,386,500 ordinary shares available for issuance under our share option schemes.

Table of Contents

DILUTION

Since this offering is being made solely by the selling shareholders and none of the proceeds will be paid to us, except for funds received from the exercise of warrants and options held by selling shareholders, if and when exercised, our net tangible book value per share will not be affected by this offering.

Table of Contents**SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA**

The following table sets forth our selected consolidated financial data. The data should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the consolidated financial statements, related notes, and other financial information included herein. The following selected consolidated statement of operations data for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2005, and the selected consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of our company included elsewhere in this prospectus. The consolidated statement of operations data for the year ended December 31, 2001 and the selected consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2002 and 2001 are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of our company not included in this prospectus. Our ordinary shares in the form of GDSs currently trade on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, in Germany. Pursuant to the laws governing this exchange, we publicly reported our quarterly and annual operating results. On April 28, 2004, we publicly announced that we had discovered accounting inaccuracies in previously reported financial statements. As a result, following consultation with our new auditors, we restated our financial statements for the first three quarters of 2003 and for each of the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001 to correct inappropriate accounting entries. You should therefore not rely on data derived from such financial statements. The historical results are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected in any future period.

	Years ended December 31, ⁽¹⁾				
	2005	2004 ⁽⁶⁾	2003 ⁽⁶⁾	2002	2001
	(in thousands, except per share amounts)				
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:					
Net revenues	\$ 65,511	\$ 65,052	\$ 36,941	\$ 16,352	\$ 10,434
Direct marketing expenses	24,411	31,240	18,395	5,396	2,044
Contribution margin	41,100	33,812	18,546	10,956	8,390
Operating expenses:*					
Indirect marketing	1,208	2,607	986	403	540
Customer service	2,827	3,379	2,536	1,207	641
Technical operations	7,546	7,184	4,481	1,587	1,772
Product development	4,118	2,013	959	603	359
General and administrative	25,074	29,253 ⁽²⁾	18,537 ⁽²⁾	7,996	5,496
Amortization of intangible assets other than goodwill	1,085	860	555	524	2,137
Impairment of long-lived assets	105	208	1,532		3,997
Total operating expenses	41,963	45,504	29,586	12,320	14,942
Operating (loss)	(863)	(11,692)	(11,040)	(1,364)	(6,552)
Interest (income) and other expenses, net	711	(66)	(188)	(840)	1,627
(Loss) before income taxes	(1,574)	(11,626)	(10,852)	(524)	(8,179)
Provision for income taxes	(136)	1			
Net (loss)	\$ (1,438)	\$ (11,627)	\$ (10,852)	\$ (524)	\$ (8,179)
Net (loss) per share - basic and diluted ⁽³⁾	\$ (0.06)	\$ (0.51)	\$ (0.57)	\$ (0.03)	\$ (0.47)
Weighted average shares outstanding-basic and diluted ⁽³⁾	26,105	22,667	18,970	18,460	17,460

Other Financial Data:

Depreciation	3,624	3,065	1,441	874	544
--------------	-------	-------	-------	-----	-----

Additional Information:

Average paying subscribers ⁽⁴⁾	220,000	226,100	125,800	58,700
---	---------	---------	---------	--------

Table of Contents

2005 2004⁽⁶⁾ 2003⁽⁶⁾ 2002 2001

* Operating expenses include share-based compensation as follows:

Indirect marketing	24	156	79		
Customer service	44				
Technical operations	338	22	140		
Product development	248				
General and administrative	2,063	1,526	1,652		

December 31,

2005 2004 2003 2002 2001

Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:

Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities	17,292	7,423	5,815	7,755	7,569
Total assets	48,620	27,359	16,969	17,461	16,352
Deferred revenue	4,991	3,933	3,232	1,535	993
Capital lease obligations and notes payable	10,830	1,873	487		
Total liabilities	23,437	16,872	11,659	3,998	3,238
Shares subject to rescission ⁽⁵⁾	6,089	3,819			
Accumulated deficit	(45,073)	(43,635)	(32,008)	(21,156)	(20,632)
Total shareholders' equity	19,094	6,668	5,310	13,463	13,114

⁽¹⁾ Refer to Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations for a discussion of certain asset and business acquisitions.

⁽²⁾ In 2004, general and administrative expenses included an expense of approximately \$2.4 million related to an employee severance, \$2.1 million related to the United States initial public offering of MatchNet, Inc. that was planned for mid-2004, but which was withdrawn shortly after the related registration statement was filed in the third quarter of 2004, as well as one legal settlement resulting in the recognition of \$900,000 in expenses in the third quarter and two legal settlements resulting in the recognition of \$2.1 million in expenses in the fourth quarter of 2004. In 2003, general and administrative expenses included a charge of \$1.7 million primarily related to a settlement with Comdisco.

⁽³⁾ For information regarding the computation of per share amounts, refer to note 1 of our consolidated financial statements.

⁽⁴⁾ Average paying subscribers for each month are calculated as the sum of the paying subscribers at the beginning and the end of the month, divided by two. Average paying subscribers for periods longer than one month are calculated as the sum of the average paying subscribers for each month, divided by the number of months in such period. Additionally, refer to Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations for a discussion of business metrics we use to evaluate our business. We did not track data for the year ended December 31, 2001 sufficient to accurately set forth the number of average paying subscribers for the respective periods.

(5) Under our 2000 Executive Share Option Scheme (2000 Option Scheme), we granted options to purchase ordinary shares to certain of our employees, directors and consultants. The issuances of securities upon exercise of options granted under our 2000 Option Scheme may not have been exempt from registration and qualification under federal and California state securities laws, and as a result, we may have potential liability to those employees, directors and consultants to whom we issued securities upon the exercise of these options. In order to address that issue, we may elect to make a rescission offer to those persons who exercised all, or a portion, of those options and continue to hold the shares issued upon exercise, to give them the opportunity to rescind the issuance of those shares. However, it is the Securities and Exchange Commission's position that a rescission offer will not bar or extinguish any liability under the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to these options and shares, nor will a rescission offer extinguish a holder's right to rescind the issuance of securities that were not registered or exempt from the registration requirements under the Securities Act of 1933. As of December 31, 2005, assuming every eligible person that continues to hold the securities issued upon exercise of options granted under the 2000 Option Scheme were to accept a rescission offer, we estimate the total cost to us to complete the rescission would be approximately \$6.1 million including statutory interest at 7% per annum, accrued since the date of exercise of the options. The rescission acquisition price is calculated as equal to the original exercise price paid by the optionee to our company upon exercise of their option.

(6) For the purposes of this and all future filings, prior period classification of share-based compensation was reclassified to conform to current period classification.

Table of Contents**PRO FORMA COMBINED FINANCIAL DATA**

The following unaudited pro forma combined financial information gives effect to the acquisition on May 19, 2005, by Spark Networks plc (formerly MatchNet plc) of MingleMatch, Inc., a corporation based in Provo, Utah. The purchase price for the acquisition was \$12 million in cash, which will be paid over 12 months (as discussed further in note 9 to our consolidated financial statements, notes payable), as well as 150,000 shares of the Company's ordinary shares which, on the date of the acquisition, carried a value of approximately \$1.2 million.

The unaudited pro forma combined financial information is for illustrative purposes only and reflects certain estimates and assumptions. These unaudited pro forma combined financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes, our historical consolidated financial statements and MingleMatch's historical financial statements, including the notes thereto, and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, all of which are included elsewhere in this prospectus.

The pro forma combined statements of operation for the years ended December 31, 2005 gave effect to the acquisition of MingleMatch, Inc. as if it had been completed on January 1, 2005. Our combined financial statements include the results of operations of MingleMatch, Inc. from its acquisition date May 19, 2005 to December 31, 2005. The MingleMatch column for the year ended December 31, 2005 includes MingleMatch activity for the period prior to its acquisition date from January 1, 2005 to May 18, 2005. The pro forma combined financial statements are not necessarily indicative of operating results which would have been achieved had the foregoing transaction actually been completed at the beginning of the subject periods and should not be construed as representative of future operating results.

Year ended December 31, 2005

	Spark Networks	Mingle Match	Pro Forma Adjustments	Pro Forma Consolidated
(in thousands, except per share amounts)				
Net revenues	\$ 65,511	\$ 1,453	\$	\$ 66,964
Direct marketing expenses	24,411	741		25,152
Contribution margin	41,100	712		41,812
Operating expenses:				
Indirect marketing	1,208	79		1,287
Customer service	2,827	147		2,974
Technical operations	7,546	350		7,896
Product development	4,118	113		4,231
General and administrative (excluding share-based compensation)	25,074	986		26,060
Amortization of intangible assets other than goodwill	1,085	2	313 ⁽¹⁾	1,400
Impairment of long lived assets	105			105
Total operating expenses	41,963	1,677	313	43,953
Operating (loss) income	(863)	(965)	(313)	(2,141)
Interest (income) and other expenses, net	711	(209)		502
Pre-tax (loss)	(1,574)	(756)	(313)	(2,643)
Income taxes	(136)			(136)
Net (loss)	\$ (1,438)	\$ (756)	\$ (313)	\$ (2,507)

Edgar Filing: SPARK NETWORKS PLC - Form POS AM

Net (loss) income per ordinary share	basic and diluted	(0.06)	(0.10)
Weighted average ordinary shares outstanding	basic and diluted	26,105	26,105

(1) Represents amortization of intangible assets that would have occurred if the purchase had happened on January 1, 2005.

Table of Contents

	Stub Period Ended May 18, 2005
Domain Names	\$ 297
Subscriber Discounts	
Developed Software	16
Total Amortization	313

The following table summarizes the estimated fair values of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed at the date of acquisition.

	At May 19, 2005
(In thousands)	
Current assets (including cash acquired of \$221)	\$ 295
Property and equipment, net	162
Goodwill	9,742
Domain names and databases	4,655
Total assets acquired	14,854
Current liabilities	41
Deferred tax liability	1,823
Net assets acquired	\$ 12,990

Of the \$4,655,000 of acquired intangible assets, \$2,360,000 was assigned to member databases and will be amortized over three years, \$370,000 was assigned to subscriber databases which will be amortized over three months, \$205,000 was assigned to developed software which will be amortized over five years, and \$1,720,000 was assigned to domain names which are not subject to amortization.

Of the \$9,742,000 of acquired goodwill, \$400,000 was assigned to assembled workforce and \$1,823,000 was as a result of recording a deferred tax liability resulting from differences between tax and book bases as proscribed by SFAS 109.

Table of Contents

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our unaudited and audited consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto included elsewhere in this prospectus.

This prospectus, including the sections entitled Prospectus Summary, Risk Factors, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Business, contains forward-looking statements that involve substantial risks and uncertainties. All statements other than statements of historical facts contained in this prospectus, including statements regarding our future financial position, business strategy and plans and objectives of management for future operations, are forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as believes, expects, anticipates, intends, estimates, may, will, continue, predict, potential or the negative of these terms or other similar expressions. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations and projections about future events and financial trends that we believe may affect our financial condition, results of operations, business strategy and financial needs. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements, which are subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions described in Risk Factors section and elsewhere in this prospectus.

General

We are a public limited company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales and our ordinary shares in the form of GDSs currently trade on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and in the form of ADSs on the American Stock Exchange. We are a leading provider of online personals services in the United States and internationally. Our Web sites enable adults to meet online and participate in a community, become friends, date, form a long-term relationship or marry.

Our revenues have grown from \$659,000 in 1999 to \$65.5 million in 2005. For the year ended December 31, 2005, we had approximately 220,000 average paying subscribers, representing a decrease of 2.7% from the same period in 2004. We define a member as an individual who has posted a personal profile during the immediately preceding 12 months or an individual who has previously posted a personal profile and has subsequently logged on to one of our Web sites at least once in the preceding 12 months. Paying subscribers are defined as individuals who have paid a monthly fee for access to communication and Web site features beyond those provided to our members, and average paying subscribers for each month are calculated as the sum of the paying subscribers at the beginning and the end of the month, divided by two. Our key Web sites are JDate.com, which targets the Jewish singles community in the United States, at a current monthly subscription fee of \$34.95 and AmericanSingles.com, which targets the U.S. mainstream online singles community, at a current monthly subscription fee of \$29.99. Our subscription fees are charged on a monthly basis, with discounts for longer-term subscriptions ranging from three to twelve months.

Longer-term subscriptions are charged up-front and we recognize revenue over the terms of such subscriptions. We have grown both internally and through acquisitions of entities, and selected assets of entities, offering online personals services and related businesses. As a result of each of these acquisitions, we have been able to expand and cross-promote into vertical affinity markets, combine the target entity's existing database of online personals customers into one of our Web sites' databases, with the goal of attracting new members to our Web sites, retaining as many of them as possible and converting them into paying subscribers. Through our business acquisitions, we have expanded into new markets, leveraged and enhanced our existing brands to improve our position within new markets, and gained valuable intellectual property. During the last three years, we made the following acquisitions:

In May 2005, we acquired MingleMatch, Inc., a company that operates religious, ethnic, special interest and geographically targeted online singles communities. The acquisition of

Table of Contents

MingleMatch fits with our strategy of creating affinity-focused online personals that provide quality experiences for our members. We expect that our purchase of MingleMatch will allow for numerous cost savings and revenue synergies. Expected cost savings include savings from cost reductions in customer service and marketing, where we plan to be able to market to existing members of our other Web sites, particularly AmericanSingles. Expected revenue synergies include cross-promotion and bundled subscription opportunities with members of our other Web sites, particularly AmericanSingles.

In September 2004, we purchased a 20% equity interest, with an option to acquire the remaining interest, in Duplo AB, an online provider of social networking products and services in Sweden, with the intent of expanding into new markets and strengthening our existing brands.

In January 2004, we purchased Point Match Ltd., a competitor of JDate.co.il in Israel.

Our future performance will depend on many factors, including:

continued acceptance of online personals services;

our ability to attract a large number of new members and paying subscribers, and retain those members and paying subscribers;

our ability to increase brand awareness, both domestically and internationally;

our ability to sustain and, when possible, increase subscription fees for our services; and

our ability to introduce new targeted Web sites, affiliate programs, fee-based services and advertising as additional sources of revenues.

Our ability to compete effectively will depend on the timely introduction and performance of our future Web sites, services and features, the ability to address the needs of our members and paying subscribers and the ability to respond to Web sites, services and features introduced by competitors. To address this challenge, we have invested and will continue to invest existing personnel resources, namely Internet engineers and programmers, in order to enhance our existing services and introduce new services, which may include new Web sites as well as new features and functions designed to increase the probability of communication among our members and paying subscribers and to enhance their online personals experiences. Our software development team consisted of 20 employees as of December 31, 2005, who are focused on expanding and improving the features and functionality of our Web sites. The Company believes that it has sufficient cash resources on hand to accomplish the enhancements that are currently contemplated.

Critical Accounting Policies, Estimates and Assumptions

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations is based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make certain 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 revenue recognition, prepaid advertising, Web site and software development costs, goodwill, intangible and other long-lived assets, accounting for business combinations, contingencies and income taxes. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that we believe are 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.

Table of Contents

Management has discussed the development and selection of our critical accounting policies, estimates and assumptions with our Board of Directors and the Board has reviewed these disclosures.

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

Revenue Recognition and Deferred Revenue

Substantially all of our revenues are derived from subscription fees. Revenues are presented net of credits and credit card chargebacks. We recognize revenue in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States and with Securities and Exchange Commission Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 104, Revenue Recognition. Recognition occurs ratably over the subscription period, beginning when there is persuasive evidence of an arrangement, delivery has occurred (access has been granted), the fees are fixed and determinable, and collection is reasonably assured. Paying subscribers primarily pay in advance using a credit card and all purchases are final and nonrefundable. Subscription fees collected in advance are deferred and recognized as revenue, using the straight-line method, over the term of the subscription. We reserve for potential credit card chargebacks based on our historical chargeback experience.

Direct Marketing Expenses

We incur substantial expenses related to our advertising in order to generate traffic to our Web sites. These advertising costs are primarily online advertising, including affiliate and co-brand arrangements, and are directly attributable to the revenues we receive from our subscribers. We have entered into numerous affiliate arrangements, under which our affiliate advertises or promotes our Web site on its Web site, and earns a fee whenever visitors to its Web site click through the advertisement to one of our Web sites and registers or subscribes on our Web site. Affiliate deals may fall in the categories of either CPS, CPA, CPC, or CPM, as discussed below. We do not typically have any exclusivity arrangements with our affiliates, and some of our affiliates may also be affiliates for our competitors. Under our co-branded arrangements, our co-brand partners may operate their own separate Web sites where visitors can register and subscribe to our Web sites. Our co-brand arrangements are usually CPS type arrangements.

Our advertising expenses are recognized based on the terms of each individual contract. The majority of our advertising expenses are based on four pricing models:

Cost per subscription (CPS) where we pay an online advertising provider a fee based upon the number of new paying subscribers that it generates;

Cost per acquisition (CPA) where we pay an online advertising provider a fee based on the number of new member registrations it generates;

Cost per click (CPC) where we pay an online advertising provider a fee based on the number of clicks to our Web sites it generates; and

Cost per thousand for banner advertising (CPM) where we pay an online advertising provider a fee based on the number of times it displays our advertisements.

We estimate in certain circumstances the total clicks or impressions delivered by our vendors in order to determine amounts due under these contracts.

Prepaid Advertising Expenses

In certain circumstances, we pay in advance for Internet-based advertising on other Web sites, and expense the prepaid amounts as direct marketing expenses over the contract periods as the contracted

Table of Contents

Web site delivers on its commitment. We evaluate the realization of prepaid amounts at each reporting period and expense prepaid amounts if the contracted Web site is unable to deliver on its commitment.

Web Site and Software Development Costs

We capitalize costs related to developing or obtaining internal-use software. Capitalization of costs begins after the conceptual formulation stage has been completed. Product development costs are expensed as incurred or capitalized into property and equipment in accordance with Statement of Position (SOP) 98-1 Accounting for the Costs of Computer Software Developed or Obtained for Internal Use . SOP 98-1 requires that costs incurred in the preliminary project and post-implementation stages of an internal-use software project be expensed as incurred and that certain costs incurred in the application development stage of a project be capitalized. We exercise judgment in determining which stage of development a software project is in at any point in time.

In accordance with Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) 00-2 Accounting for Web Site Development Costs, we expense costs related to the planning and post-implementation phases of our Web site development efforts. Direct costs incurred in the development phase are capitalized. Costs associated with minor enhancements and maintenance for the Web site are included in expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations.

Capitalized Web site and software development costs are included in internal-use software in property and equipment and amortized over the estimated useful life of the products, which is usually three years. In accordance with the above accounting literature, we estimate the amount of time spent by our engineers in developing our software and enhancements to our Web sites.

On a regular basis, management reviews the capitalized costs of Web sites and software developed to ensure that these costs relate to projects that will be completed and placed in service. Any projects determined not to be viable will be reviewed for impairment in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 144,

Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets.

Valuation of Goodwill, Identified Intangibles and Other Long-lived Assets

We test goodwill and intangible assets for impairment in accordance with SFAS No. 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets and test property, plant and equipment for impairment in accordance with SFAS No. 144. We assess goodwill, and other indefinite-lived intangible assets at least annually, or more frequently when circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. Factors we consider important and which could trigger an impairment review include the following:

- a significant decline in actual projected revenue;
- a significant decline in the market value of our depositary shares;
- a significant decline in performance of certain acquired companies relative to our original projections;
- an excess of our net book value over our market value;
- a significant decline in our operating results relative to our operating forecasts;
- a significant change in the manner of our use of acquired assets or the strategy for our overall business;
- a significant decrease in the market value of an asset;
- a shift in technology demands and development; and
- a significant turnover in key management or other personnel.

Table of Contents

When we determine that the carrying value of goodwill, other intangible assets and other long-lived assets may not be recoverable based upon the existence of one or more of the above indicators of impairment, we measure any impairment based on a projected discounted cash flow method using a discount rate determined by our management to be commensurate with the risk inherent in our current business model. In the case of the other intangible assets and other long-lived assets, this measurement is only performed if the projected undiscounted cash flows for the asset are less than its carrying value. No indicators of impairment in goodwill were present in 2005, 2004 and 2003. We had impairment charges related to long-lived assets of \$1.5 million in 2003 in accordance with SFAS No. 144.

Accounting for Business Combinations

We have acquired the stock or specific assets of a number of companies from 1999 through 2004 some of which were considered to be business acquisitions. Under the purchase method of accounting, the cost, including transaction costs, are allocated to the underlying net assets, based on their respective estimated fair values. The excess of the purchase price over the estimated fair values of the net assets acquired is recorded as goodwill.

The judgments made in determining the estimated fair value and expected useful life assigned to each class of assets and liabilities acquired can significantly impact net income. Different classes of assets will have useful lives that differ. For example, the useful life of a member database, which is three years, is not the same as the useful life of a paying subscriber list, which is three months, or a domain name, which is indefinite. Consequently, to the extent a longer-lived asset is ascribed greater value under the purchase method than a shorter-lived asset, there may be less amortization recorded in a given period or no amortization for indefinite lived intangibles.

Determining the fair value of certain assets and liabilities acquired is subjective in nature and often involves the use of significant estimates and assumptions.

The value of our intangible and other long-lived assets, including goodwill, is exposed to future adverse changes if we experience declines in operating results or experience significant negative industry or economic trends or if future performance is below historical trends. We review intangible assets and goodwill for impairment at least annually or more frequently when circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable using the guidance of applicable accounting literature. We continually review the events and circumstances related to our financial performance and economic environment for factors that would provide evidence of the impairment of goodwill, identifiable intangibles and other long-lived assets.

We use the equity method of accounting for our investments in affiliates over which we exert significant influence. Significant influence is generally having between a 20% to 50% ownership interest. At December 31, 2005, we owned a 20% interest in Duplo AB which we account for using the equity method.

Legal Contingencies

We are currently involved in certain legal proceedings, as discussed in the notes to the financial statements and under Business Legal Proceedings. To the extent that a loss related to a contingency is reasonably estimable and probable, we accrue an estimate of that loss. Because of the uncertainties related to both the amount and range of loss on certain pending litigation, we may be unable to make a reasonable estimate of the liability that could result from an unfavorable outcome of such litigation. As additional information becomes available, we will assess the potential liability related to our pending litigation and make or, if necessary, revise our estimates. Such revisions in our estimates of the potential liability could materially impact our results of operations and financial position.

Table of Contents***Accounting for Income Taxes***

We account for income taxes using the asset and liability method, which requires the recognition of deferred tax assets and liabilities for the expected future tax consequences of temporary differences between the carrying amounts and tax bases of the assets and liabilities. In accordance with the provisions of SFAS No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*, we record a valuation allowance to reduce deferred tax assets to the amount expected to more likely than not to be realized in our future tax returns. As of December 31, 2005 and 2004, we had a valuation allowance that completely offset our net deferred tax asset. Should we determine in the future that we will likely realize all or part of our net deferred tax assets, we will adjust the valuation allowance so that we will have a deferred tax asset available that will be realized in our future tax returns.

At December 31, 2005, we had net operating loss carry-forwards of approximately \$54.4 million and \$50.4 million to reduce future federal and state taxable income, respectively. Under section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code, the utilization of the net operating loss carry-forwards can be limited based on changes in the percentage ownership of our company. Of the net operating losses available, approximately \$1.6 million and \$500,000 for federal and state purposes, respectively, are attributable to losses incurred by an acquired subsidiary. Such losses are subject to other restrictions on usage including the requirement that they are only available to offset future income of the subsidiary. In addition, the available net operating losses do not include any amounts generated by the acquired subsidiary prior to the acquisition date due to substantial uncertainty regarding our ability to realize the benefit in the future.

Adoption of SFAS 123(R)

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement No. 123 (revised 2004), *Share-Based Payment* (Statement 123(R)), a revision of SFAS No. 123, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation*. Statement 123(R) requires a company to recognize compensation expense based on the fair value at the date of grant for share options and other share-based compensation, eliminating the use of the intrinsic value method. We adopted Statement 123(R) on July 1, 2005, and as a result, our loss before income taxes for the year ended December 31, 2005, is \$2.7 million higher, than if we had continued to account for share-based compensation under APB Opinion No. 25. Basic and diluted income per share for the year ended December 31, 2005 would have been \$0.05, if we had not adopted Statement 123(R), compared to reported basic and diluted loss per share of \$(0.06).

At December 31, 2005, we had two share-based employee compensation plans, which are described more fully in Note 10 to the consolidated financial statements contained herein. Prior to July 1, 2005, we accounted for those plans under the recognition and measurement provisions of APB Opinion No. 25, *Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees*, and related Interpretations, as permitted by FASB Statement No. 123, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation*. Only share-based employee compensation related to variable accounting (as discussed in Note 10 to the consolidated financial statements) was recognized in our Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2004 or 2003, and in the six month period ended June 30, 2005, as all options granted under those plans had an exercise price equal to the market value of the underlying ordinary share on the date of grant. Effective July 1, 2005, we adopted the fair value recognition provisions of Statement 123(R), using the modified-prospective-transition method. Under that transition method, compensation cost recognized in the second half of 2005 includes:

(i) compensation cost for all share-based payments granted prior to, but not yet vested as of July 1, 2005, based on the grant date fair value estimated in accordance with the original provisions of Statement 123, and (ii) compensation cost for all share-based payments granted subsequent to July 1, 2005, based on the grant-date fair value estimated in accordance with the provisions of Statement 123(R). Results for prior periods have not been restated.

Table of Contents

Prior to our adoption of Statement 123(R), we did not record tax benefits of deductions resulting from the exercise of share options because of the uncertainty surrounding the timing of realizing the benefits of our deferred tax assets in future tax returns. Statement 123(R) requires the cash flows resulting from the tax benefits resulting from tax deductions in excess of the compensation cost recognized for those options (excess tax benefits) to be classified as financing cash flows. Had we recognized a tax benefit from deductions resulting from the exercise of stock options, we would have classified the benefit as a financing cash inflow on the cash flow statement.

The following table illustrates the effect on net income and earnings per share if we had applied the fair value recognition provisions of Statement 123(R) to options granted under its share option plans in all periods presented. For purposes of this pro forma disclosure, the value of the options is estimated using a Black-Scholes option-pricing model and amortized to expense over the options' vesting periods.

	Year Ended December		
	2005	2004	2003
	(in thousands)		
Net loss as reported	\$ (1,438)	\$ (11,627)	\$ (10,852)
Add: SFAS 123(R) share based employee compensation expense included in reported net income, net of related tax effects	2,717		
Add: share based employee compensation expense recorded in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations Pre-SFAS 123(R)	(30)	367	75
Deduct: Total share based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, of related tax effects	(5,460)	(3,452)	(3,645)
Pro forma net loss	\$ (4,211)	\$ (14,712)	\$ (14,422)
Loss Per Share			
As reported basic & diluted	\$ (0.06)	\$ (0.51)	\$ (0.57)
Pro forma basic & diluted	\$ (0.16)	\$ (0.65)	\$ (0.76)

Note that the above pro forma disclosures are provided for 2004 and 2003 because employee share options were not accounted for using the fair-value method during those periods. Disclosures for 2005 are presented because employee share options were not accounted for using the fair-value method during the first six months of 2005.

In accordance with Statement 123(R), the fair value of each option grant was estimated as of the grant date using the Black-Scholes option pricing model for those options granted prior to July 1, 2005, the following assumptions were used to determine fair value:

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2005	Year Ended December 31, 2004
Expected life in years	4	4
Dividend per share		
Volatility	76.2%	70.0%
Risk-free interest rate	3.5%	3.5%

In accordance with Statement 123(R), we used historical and empirical data to assess different forfeiture rates for three different groups of employees. We must reassess forfeiture rates when deemed necessary and we must calibrate actual forfeiture behavior to what has already been recorded. For the six month period ending December 31, 2005, we had

three groups of employees whose behavior was

Table of Contents

significantly different than those of other groups, therefore we estimated different forfeiture rates for each group. Prospective compensation expense was calculated using a bi-nomial or lattice model with a volatility rate of 75%, a risk free rate of 3.5% and a term of 4 years for options granted subsequent to June 30, 2005. The volatility rate was derived by examining historical share price behavior and assessing management's expectations of share price behavior during the term of the option.

The concepts that underpin lattice models and the Black-Scholes-Merton formula are the same, but the key difference between a lattice model and a closed-form model such as the Black-Scholes-Merton formula is the flexibility of the former. A lattice model can explicitly use dynamic assumptions regarding the term structure of volatility, dividend yields, and interest rates. Further, a lattice model can incorporate assumptions about how the likelihood of early exercise of an employee stock option may increase as the intrinsic value of that option increases or how employees may have a high propensity to exercise options with significant intrinsic value shortly after vesting. Because of the versatility of lattice models, we believe that it can provide a more accurate estimate of an employee share option's fair value than an estimate based on a closed-form Black-Scholes-Merton formula.

We account for shares issued to non-employees in accordance with the provisions of SFAS No. 123(R) and EITF 96-18, Accounting for Equity Instruments That Are Issued to Other Than Employees for Acquiring, or in Conjunction with Selling, Goods and Services .

Table of Contents

The following table describes our pro forma statement of consolidated operations and EBITDA:

Year Ended December 31,

	2005 Spark Networks Consolidated	2005 Share-Based Compensation⁽²⁾	2005 Consolidated Before Share-Based Compensation⁽¹⁾	2004 Spark Networks Consolidated⁽¹⁾	2004 Share-Based Compensation⁽²⁾(4)	2004 Consolidated Before Share-Based Compensation
	(in thousands)					
Net revenues	\$ 65,511	\$	\$ 65,511	\$ 65,052	\$	\$ 65,052
Direct marketing expenses	24,411		24,411	31,240		31,240
Contribution margin	41,100		41,100	33,812		33,812
Operating expenses:						
Indirect marketing	1,208	24	1,184	2,607	156	2,451
Customer service	2,827	44	2,783	3,379		3,379
Technical operations	7,546	338	7,208	7,184	22	7,162
Product development	4,118	248	3,870	2,013		2,013
General and administrative	25,074	2,063	23,011	29,253	1,526	27,727
Amortization of intangible assets other than goodwill	1,085		1,085	860		860
Impairment of long lived assets	105		105	208		208
Total operating expenses	41,963	2,717	39,246	45,504	1,704	43,800
Operating (loss) income	(863)	(2,717)	1,854	(11,692)	(1,704)	(9,988)
Interest (income) and other expenses, net	711		711	(66)		(66)
Pre-tax (loss) income	(1,574)	(2,717)	1,143	(11,626)	(1,704)	(9,922)
Income taxes	(136)		(136)	1		1

Net (loss) income	\$ (1,438)	\$ (2,717)	\$ 1,279	\$ (11,627)	\$ (1,704)	\$ (9,923)
Interest expense	193		193	(32)		(32)
Income taxes	(136)		(136)	1		1
Depreciation	3,624		3,624	3,065		3,065
Amortization of intangible assets	1,085		1,085	860		860
EBITDA⁽³⁾	\$ 3,328	\$ (2,717)	\$ 6,045	\$ (7,733)	\$ (1,704)	\$ (6,029)

- (1) Reported in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).
- (2) We believe it is useful in measuring our operations to exclude share-based compensation expense, which is a non-cash charge recorded in our income statements for the first time in the second half of 2005 as a result of the implementation of SFAS 123(R). Using the non-GAAP measure limits the users ability to judge true expenses of our company in the current period. However, traditionally investors and analysts using financial information discount GAAP operating results to provide a better picture of the cash generating potential of a company. To avoid the limitation, management provides the GAAP measure in all of its financial information other than the information listed in the chart above. We believe that the non-GAAP measure provides useful information to management and investors regarding how the expenses associated with the application of SFAS 123(R) are reflected on the statements of operations and facilitates comparisons to our historical operating results. Our management uses this information internally for reviewing the financial results, forecasting and budgeting.
- (3) EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. EBITDA should not be construed as a substitute for net income (loss) or net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (all as determined in accordance with GAAP) for the purpose of analyzing our operating performance, financial position and cash flows, as EBITDA is not defined by GAAP. We utilize EBITDA as a financial measure because management believes that investors find it to be a useful tool to perform more meaningful comparisons of past, present and future operating results and as a means to evaluate the results of core on-going operations. We believe it is a complement to net income and other GAAP financial performance measures.
- (4) For the purposes of this and all future filings, prior period classification of share-based compensation was reclassified to conform to current period classification.

Table of Contents**Segment Reporting**

We divide our business into three operating segments: (1) the JDate segment, which consists of our JDate.com Web site and its co-branded Web sites, (2) the AmericanSingles segment, which consists of our AmericanSingles.com Web site and its co-branded Web sites, and (3) the Other Businesses segment, which consists of all our other Web sites and businesses.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2005	2004	2003
	(in thousands)		
Revenues			
AmericanSingles	\$ 29,217	\$ 35,224	\$ 19,253
JDate	25,961	23,820	16,091
Other Businesses	10,333	6,008	1,597
Total	\$ 65,511	\$ 65,052	\$ 36,941
Direct Marketing			
AmericanSingles	\$ 15,167	\$ 24,954	\$ 15,887
JDate	2,885	1,740	739
Other Businesses	6,359	4,546	1,769
Total	\$ 24,411	\$ 31,240	\$ 18,395
Contribution			
AmericanSingles	\$ 14,050	\$ 10,270	\$ 3,366
JDate	23,076	22,080	15,352
Other Businesses	3,974	1,462	(172)
Total	\$ 41,100	\$ 33,812	\$ 18,546
Unallocated operating expenses	41,963	45,504	29,586
Operating (loss)	\$ (863)	\$ (11,692)	\$ (11,040)

Key Business Metrics

We regularly review certain operating metrics in order to evaluate the effectiveness of our operating strategies and monitor the financial performance of our business. The key business metrics that we utilize include the following:

Average Paying Subscribers: Paying subscribers are defined as individuals who have paid a monthly fee for access to communication and Web site features beyond those provided to our members. Average paying subscribers for each month are calculated as the sum of the paying subscribers at the beginning and end of the month, divided by two. Average paying subscribers for periods longer than one month are calculated as the sum of the average paying subscribers for each month, divided by the number of months in such period.

Average Monthly Net Revenue per Paying Subscriber: Average monthly net revenue per paying subscriber represents the total net subscriber revenue for the period divided by the number of average paying subscribers for the period, divided by the number of months in the period.

Direct Subscriber Acquisition Costs: Direct subscriber acquisition cost is defined as total direct marketing costs divided by the number of new paying subscribers during the period. This represents the average cost of acquiring a new paying subscriber during the period.

Monthly Subscriber Churn: Monthly subscriber churn represents the ratio expressed as a percentage of (a) the number of paying subscriber cancellations during the period divided by the number of average paying subscribers during the period and (b) the number of months in the period.

Table of Contents

Selected statistical information regarding our key operating metrics is shown in the table below. The references to Other Businesses in this table indicate metrics data for our Other Businesses segment, excluding travel and events. Our Other Businesses segment includes all MingleMatch Web sites, along with JDate.co.il (Israel), Cupid (Israel), Date.ca (Canada), Matchnet.co.uk (United Kingdom), Matchnet.de (Germany), Matchnet.com.au (Australia), Glimpse.com (United States) and CollegeLuv.com (United States). At the time of acquisition in May 2005, MingleMatch had approximately 23,000 average paying subscribers.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2005	2004	2003
Average Paying Subscribers (in thousands):			
AmericanSingles	105.3	132.5	71.5
JDate	70.5	69.8	50.7
Other Businesses	44.2	23.8	3.6
Total	220.0	226.1	125.8
Average Monthly Net Revenue per Paying Subscriber:			
AmericanSingles	\$ 23.12	\$ 22.16	\$ 22.43
JDate	30.70	28.42	26.44
Other Businesses	17.58	16.75	23.72
Total	24.44	23.53	24.09
Direct Subscriber Acquisition Cost:			
AmericanSingles	\$ 35.16	\$ 43.29	\$ 45.70
JDate	12.70	8.09	4.39
Other Businesses	32.05	34.74	80.32
Total	28.36	33.85	33.84
Monthly Subscriber Churn:			
AmericanSingles	36.3%	35.6%	32.1%
JDate	25.9%	25.8%	22.4%
Other Businesses	25.6%	26.8%	33.4%
Total	30.8%	31.7%	28.2%

In 2003 and 2004, the larger increase in average paying subscribers for AmericanSingles as compared to the increase for JDate was primarily due to JDate possessing a larger portion of its market, while AmericanSingles possessed a smaller portion of its market and its average paying subscribers has, as a result, grown more quickly. For the year ended December 31, 2005, the decrease in average paying subscribers for AmericanSingles as compared to the slight increase for JDate was primarily due to a corporate initiative to reduce marketing spending related to AmericanSingles and increase spending related to JDate.

We have embarked on increases in marketing spending for JDate, primarily in the area of off-line marketing. Such marketing initiatives are targeted at brand building and name recognition. The marketing programs most prominently include print and billboard advertising. We include the costs of these marketing programs in the direct marketing expense for the JDate segment. As these are new marketing initiatives and spending that we have not previously undertaken, it has resulted in an increase in our customer acquisition cost for JDate. Even after these increased spending programs, the cost of customer acquisition for JDate is significantly lower than for our other segments due to the strong brand perception and word of mouth reputation of JDate. Our recent marketing initiatives are targeted specifically at maintaining that strong word of mouth name reputation and brand recognition.

Table of Contents

We expect the cost of customer acquisition for JDate to remain below the acquisition cost for our other segments. AmericanSingles and our other Web sites operate in much more competitive environments, and therefore we generally must spend more on marketing to attract new subscribers. Monthly subscriber churn rate is somewhat independent from an increasing number of subscribers opting for multi-month contracts. During a period where the number of total new subscribers and subscribers canceling are both increasing, but more new subscribers are choosing longer term contracts, then churn rate can increase while average revenue per subscriber falls. We are constantly striving to improve our Web sites to retain our existing subscribers. However, we do not forecast churn rates, and lack the ability to accurately do so.

Results of Operations

The following is a more detailed discussion of our financial condition and results of operations for the periods presented.

The following table presents our historical operating results as a percentage of net revenues for the periods indicated:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2005	2004	2003
Net revenues	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Direct marketing	37.3	47.7	49.8
Contribution margin	62.7	51.6	50.2
Operating expenses:			
Indirect marketing	1.8	4.0	2.7
Customer service	4.3	5.2	6.9
Technical operations	11.5	11.0	12.1
Product development	6.3	3.1	2.6
General and administrative (excluding share-based compensation)	38.3	44.7	50.2
Amortization of intangible assets other than goodwill	1.7	1.3	1.5
Impairment of long lived assets	0.2	0.3	4.1
Total operating expenses	64.1	69.6	80.1
Operating (loss) income	(1.3)	(17.8)	(29.9)
Interest and other expenses, net	1.1	(0.1)	(0.5)
Loss income before income taxes	(2.4)	(17.7)	(29.4)
Provision for income taxes	(0.2)		
Net (loss) income	(2.2)%	(17.7)%	(29.4)%

For the purposes of this and all future filings, prior period classification of share-based compensation was reclassified to conform to current period classification.

Year Ended December 31, 2005 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2004**Business Metrics**

Edgar Filing: SPARK NETWORKS PLC - Form POS AM

For the year ended December 31, 2005, average paying subscribers for the JDate segment increased 1.0% to 70,500, compared to 69,800 for the same period last year. For the year ended December 31, 2005, average paying subscribers for the AmericanSingles segment decreased 20.5% to 105,300 compared to 132,500 for the same period in 2004. For the year ended December 31, 2005, average paying subscribers for Web sites in our Other Businesses segment increased 85.7% to 44,200,

Table of Contents

compared to 23,800 for the same period in 2004. The increase in average paying subscribers for JDate for the year ended December 31, 2005 is a result of increased marketing spending to acquire new JDate members. The decrease in average paying subscribers for AmericanSingles is due to a decline in the total marketing expenditures in 2005 compared to 2004. In the last three quarters of 2005, we stabilized our marketing spending rate for AmericanSingles, and accordingly we expect that the number of average paying subscribers for AmericanSingles will begin to stabilize as well. The increase in average paying subscribers for our Other Businesses segment is due primarily to the acquisitions of MingleMatch in May 2005 and the launch of our Cupid website in Israel, as well as increases in our international Web sites which began operations in early 2004.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, average monthly net revenue per paying subscriber for the JDate segment increased 8% to \$30.70 compared to \$28.42 for the year ended December 31, 2004. The increase was due to an increase in net revenue associated with new subscriptions at a higher price point. We believe JDate, which experienced more average daily visitors and more page views than any other religious online personals service in 2005 according to a report by comScore Media Metrix, is the market leader for online personals in the Jewish singles market and a market leader in raising our price for this service in 2004. We believe JDate will continue to be the market leader for online personals in the Jewish singles market, and thus we expect that we will continue to be a pricing leader in that market. For the year ended December 31, 2005, average monthly net revenue per paying subscriber for the AmericanSingles segment increased 4.3% to \$23.12 from \$22.16 for the year ended December 31, 2004. The increase was due to a price increase for AmericanSingles implemented in June 2005. We believe AmericanSingles, which was ranked as the third largest provider of online personals services in the United States in terms of total unique visitors in 2005 according to comScore Media Metrix, is a leading service in the general online personals market but does not have a dominant position. Our price increase in June 2005 followed price increases at competing Web sites. We expect we will continue to have to consider competitive pressures in setting pricing for AmericanSingles. For the year ended December 31, 2005, average monthly net revenue per paying subscriber for Web sites in our Other Businesses segment increased 5.0% to \$17.58, compared to \$16.75 for the year ended December 31, 2004. The increase was primarily due to the addition of MingleMatch during the second quarter of 2005.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, direct subscriber acquisition cost for JDate increased 57.0% to \$12.70 compared to \$8.09 for the same periods in 2004. The increase in direct subscriber acquisition costs for JDate is due to new marketing initiatives for the JDate site in order to attract new subscribers. For the year ended December 31, 2005, direct subscriber acquisition costs for AmericanSingles decreased 18.8% to \$35.16 compared to \$43.29 for the same period in 2004 due to a decrease in marketing expenditures associated with the AmericanSingles Web site as well as increased efficiency of marketing spending. For the year ended December 31, 2005, direct subscriber acquisition cost for the Web sites in our Other Businesses segment decreased 7.7% to \$32.05 compared to \$34.74 for the same period in 2004. This decrease was primarily due to the acquisition of MingleMatch which has a lower acquisition cost per subscriber than the other sites included in this segment.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, monthly subscriber churn for JDate increased slightly to 25.9% compared to 25.8% for the same period in 2004. For the year ended December 31, 2005, monthly subscriber churn for AmericanSingles increased to 36.3%, compared to 35.6% for the same period in 2004. For the year ended December 31, 2005, monthly subscriber churn for the Web sites in our Other Businesses segment decreased to 25.6% compared to 26.8% for the same period in 2004. The decrease in the churn at year end 2005 is due to the addition of MingleMatch.

Net Revenues

Substantially all of our net revenues are derived from subscription fees. The remainder of our net revenues, accounting for less than 2% of net revenues for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, are attributable to certain promotional events. Revenues are presented net of credits and credit

Table of Contents

card chargebacks. We expect net revenues from promotional events to comprise an even smaller percentage of net revenues in the future. We also expect to generate revenues from advertising on our Web sites in the future. Our subscriptions are offered in durations of one, three, six and twelve months. Plans with durations of longer than one month are available at discounted rates. Most subscription programs renew automatically for subsequent periods until subscribers terminate them.

Net revenues for JDate increased 9.2% to \$26.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to \$23.8 million in 2004. The increase in net revenues for JDate is due to an increase in pricing in mid 2004 which contributed to increased revenues. Net revenues for AmericanSingles decreased 17.1% to \$29.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2005, compared to \$35.2 million for the same period in 2004. The decrease in AmericanSingles net revenue is due to the decrease in average paying subscribers as discussed above. Net revenues for our Other Businesses segment increased 71.7% to \$10.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to \$6.0 million for the same period in 2004, largely driven by the purchase of MingleMatch, Inc. in the second quarter of 2005.

Direct Marketing Expenses

Direct marketing expenses for JDate increased 65.8% to \$2.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to \$1.7 million in 2004. The increase in marketing spent was due to new marketing initiatives for JDate. Direct marketing expenses for AmericanSingles decreased 39.2% to \$15.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to \$25.0 million for the same period in 2004. The decrease in AmericanSingles marketing was due to a corporate initiative to reduce marketing spending related to the site. Direct marketing expenses for our Web sites in our Other Businesses segment increased 39.9% to \$6.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to \$4.5 million for the same period in 2004. The increase in spending related to our Web sites in our Other Businesses segment is attributed to the acquisition of MingleMatch and additional advertising in order to generate traffic to our newer international Web sites which commenced operations in early 2004. The cost of customer acquisition for JDate is significantly lower than for our other segments due to the strong brand perception and name recognition for and word of mouth reputation for JDate. AmericanSingles and our other Web sites operate in much more competitive environments, and must spend more on marketing to attract new subscribers.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses consist primarily of indirect marketing, customer service, technical operations, product development and general and administrative expenses. Operating expenses decreased 7.8% to \$41.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to \$45.5 million in the same period in 2004. Stated as a percentage of net revenues, operating expenses decreased to 64.1% for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to 69.6% for the same period in 2004. The decrease is due primarily to a decrease in indirect marketing expenses as discussed below.

Indirect Marketing. Indirect marketing expenses consist primarily of salaries for our sales and marketing personnel and other associated costs such as public relations. Indirect marketing expenses decreased 53.7% to \$1.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to \$2.6 million for the same period in 2004. Stated as a percentage of net revenues, indirect marketing expenses decreased to 1.8% for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to 4.0% for the same period in 2004. The decrease is due to a decrease in headcount in our marketing department, and the termination of the Chief Marketing Officer in the fourth quarter of 2004 a position which has not been replaced. We expect these costs to increase in total dollars as we expand our marketing initiatives but to decrease as a percentage of net revenues as we add additional paying subscribers.

Customer Service. Customer service expenses consist primarily of costs associated with our member services center. Customer services expenses decreased 16.3% to \$2.8 million for the year ended

Table of Contents

December 31, 2005 compared to \$3.4 million for the same period in 2004. Stated as a percentage of net revenues, customer service expenses decreased to 4.3% for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to 5.2% for the same period in 2004. The decrease is due to a decrease in headcount from 2004 to 2005 offset by share-based compensation as a result of the adoption of SFAS 123(R) of \$44,000 for 2005. During the first nine months of 2004 we had higher staffing in our member services center in order to better serve our customers due to the launch of new Web sites and new platforms. During the remainder of 2004 and in 2005, we worked to increase our efficiency in handling our call volume, and therefore reduced our headcount accordingly. We expect these costs to continue to increase in total dollars as we support our increasing base of members and subscribers but to decrease as a percentage of net revenues as we add additional paying subscribers.

Technical Operations. Technical operations expenses consist primarily of the people and systems necessary to support our network, Internet connectivity and other data and communication support. Technical operations expenses increased 4.2% to \$7.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to \$7.2 million in 2004. The increase is primarily due to an increase in depreciation expense associated with the increase in hardware to support our network and an increase in capitalized software amortization associated with redesigning our operating platform as well as an increase in share based compensation as a result of the adoption of SFAS 123(R) of \$316,000 for 2005. As a percentage of net revenues, technical operations decreased to 11.5% for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to 11.0% in the same period last year. We expect technical operations costs to increase in total dollars with any increase in traffic, members or paying subscribers but to decrease as a percentage of net revenues as we add additional paying subscribers.

Product Development. Product development expenses consist primarily of costs incurred in the development, creation and enhancement of our Web sites and services. Product development expenses increased 105% to \$4.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to \$2.0 million in 2004. As a percentage of net revenues, product development expenses increased to 6.3% for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to 3.1% in 2004. The increase is due primarily to an increase in headcount associated with pursuing new business opportunities as well as improving the infrastructure of our existing businesses, as well as share based compensation, as a result of the adoption of SFAS 123(R) of \$248,000 in 2005. We expect our product development costs to increase in total dollars as we launch new Web sites and develop additional features and functionality on our Web sites to enhance our members' experience and satisfaction and increase the number, and percentage, of members that become paying subscribers but to remain constant as a percentage of net revenues as we add additional paying subscribers.

General and Administrative. General and administrative expenses consist primarily of corporate personnel-related costs, professional fees, credit card processing fees, and occupancy and other overhead costs. General and administrative expenses decreased 14.2% to \$25.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to \$29.3 million for the same period in 2004. The decrease in general and administrative expenses is due primarily to lower legal expenses and capitalized IPO costs which were expensed in the third quarter of 2004. The decrease was offset by an increase in consulting services as well as an increase in credit card processing fees, including charges and fines, and an increase in share based compensation of \$537,000 in 2005 as a result of the adoption of SFAS 123(R). Stated as a percentage of net revenues, general and administrative expenses decreased to 38.3% for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to 44.7% in 2004. We expect these general and administrative expenses to increase in total dollars as we continue to hire additional personnel, and as sales and the inherent credit card processing fees increase. We also expect general and administrative expenses to increase in total dollars due to the anticipated increase in professional fees resulting from the filing of our registration statement and related documents and our subsequent obligations as a public reporting company in the United States. However, we expect general and administrative expenses, excluding credit card processing fees, to decrease as a percentage of net revenues as we add additional paying subscribers.

Table of Contents

Amortization of Intangible Assets Other Than Goodwill. Amortization expenses consist primarily of amortization of intangible assets related to the MingleMatch acquisition as well as previous acquisitions, primarily SocialNet and PointMatch. Amortization expense increased 26.2% to \$1.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to \$860,000 in 2004. The increase is due to the amortization of intangible assets resulting from the MingleMatch acquisition in the second quarter of 2005 partially offset by intangibles related to older acquisitions being fully amortized in the first quarter of 2005.

Interest Income/ Loss and Other Expenses, Net. Interest income/loss and other expenses consist primarily of interest expense associated with notes payable, interest income from temporary investments in interest bearing accounts and marketable securities and income on our investments in non-controlled affiliates. Expenses increased to \$711,000 for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to a gain of \$66,000 for the same period in 2004. The increase was due primarily to recognition of imputed interest expense on the notes due to MingleMatch, losses upon liquidation of marketable securities and loss from Duplo recognized under the equity method of accounting.

Net Loss. Net loss in 2005 was affected by compensation expense related to the adoption of SFAS 123(R) of \$2.7 million, increased amortization expense related to the purchase of MingleMatch of \$675,000, partially offset by a decrease in indirect marketing costs of \$1.1 million.

Year Ended December 31, 2004 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2003***Business Metrics***

Average paying subscribers for JDate increased 37.7%, to approximately 69,800 for the year ended December 31, 2004 from approximately 50,700 for the year ended December 31, 2003. Average paying subscribers for AmericanSingles increased 85.3%, to approximately 132,500 for the year ended December 31, 2004 from approximately 71,500 for the year ended December 31, 2003. Average paying subscribers for Web sites in our Other Businesses segment increased to approximately 23,800 for the year ended December 31, 2004 from approximately 3,600 for the year ended December 31, 2003. The increase in paying subscribers for all of our segments corresponds to the increased marketing expenditures for all of our segments. The larger increase in average paying subscribers for AmericanSingles as compared to the increase for JDate was primarily due to JDate possessing a larger portion of its market. The increase in paying subscribers in our Other Businesses segment was due to growth in our international Web sites, including our Israel affiliate, which was acquired at the beginning of 2004, and our Web sites in Israel, United Kingdom and Canada.

Average monthly net revenue per paying JDate subscriber increased 7.5%, to \$28.42 for the year ended December 31, 2004 from \$26.44 for the year ended December 31, 2003. Average monthly net revenue per paying AmericanSingles subscriber decreased 1.2% to \$22.16 for the year ended December 31, 2004 from \$22.43 for the year ended December 31, 2003. Average monthly net revenue per paying subscriber for Web sites in our Other Businesses segment decreased 29.4%, to \$16.75 for the year ended December 31, 2004 from \$23.72 for the year ended December 31, 2003. The increase for JDate was primarily due to a price increase which was put into effect in January 2004. The decrease for AmericanSingles was due to an increase in the proportion of subscribers paying for multi-month subscriptions, for which they receive a discount on the monthly rate compared to the single-month subscription price. The decrease for Web sites in our Other Businesses segment was primarily due to the growth of new Web sites with lower subscription prices than those Web sites that represented our Other Businesses segment in 2003.

Direct subscriber acquisition cost for JDate increased 84.3%, to \$8.09 in 2004 from \$4.39 in 2003. Direct subscriber acquisition cost for AmericanSingles decreased 5.3%, to \$43.29 in 2004 from \$45.70 in 2003. Direct subscriber acquisition cost for the Web sites in our Other Businesses segment decreased 56.7%, to \$34.74 in 2004 from \$80.32 in 2003. The increase in direct subscriber acquisition cost for JDate was due primarily to the cost of new marketing initiatives, including offline billboard campaigns

Table of Contents

designed to solidify and expand JDate's brand awareness. Despite this increase, the cost of customer acquisition for JDate is significantly lower than for our other segments due to the strong brand perception and name recognition for and word of mouth reputation for JDate. AmericanSingles and our other Web sites operate in much more competitive environments, and must spend more on marketing to attract new subscribers. The decrease in direct subscriber acquisition cost for AmericanSingles and the Web sites in our Other Businesses segment was due improved marketing efficiency, such that greater marketing expenditures were made without significant increases in our average subscriber acquisition costs. For AmericanSingles, we began to put a greater emphasis on pay for performance advertising models, such as cost per subscription (CPS) and cost per acquisition (CPA) arrangements, where we are better able to monitor and manage our cost of subscriber acquisition.

Monthly subscriber churn for JDate increased to 25.8% for the year ended December 31, 2004 from 22.4% for the year ended December 31, 2003. Monthly subscriber churn for AmericanSingles increased to 35.6% for the year ended December 31, 2004 from 32.1% for the year ended December 31, 2003. Monthly subscriber churn for Web sites in our Other Businesses segment decreased to 26.8% for the year ended December 31, 2004 from 33.4% for the year ended December 31, 2003. The increase in monthly subscriber churn for JDate and AmericanSingles was due primarily to implementation in late 2003 of the pay-to-respond feature which required members to upgrade to paying subscriber status before they could respond to emails from other paying subscribers. Members who subscribe specifically to utilize the pay-to-respond feature are less likely to renew their subscriptions than those who subscribe to initiate communications. The decrease in monthly subscriber churn for the Web sites in our Other Business segment was due to growth and maturity of those businesses. Some of the Web sites in our Other Businesses segment were launched in late 2003, including our sites in Canada and the UK. During the early startup period for a Web site which requires a critical mass of members in order to attract new members, churn rates are higher. As subscribers see the same other members of the community repeatedly, they are more prone to quit the service. As the Web site community grows, churn rates typically decline as subscribers take longer to feel they have exhausted their possibilities within the community.

Net Revenues

Substantially all of our net revenues are derived from subscription fees. The remainder of our net revenues, accounting for less than 2% of net revenues for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, are attributable to certain promotional events. Revenues are presented net of credits and credit card chargebacks. We expect net revenues from promotional events to comprise an even smaller percentage of net revenues in the future. We also expect to generate revenues from advertising on our Web sites in the future. Our subscriptions are offered in durations of one, three, six and twelve months. Plans with durations of longer than one month are available at discounted rates. Most subscription programs renew automatically for subsequent periods until subscribers terminate them.

Net revenues for JDate increased 48.0%, to \$23.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2004 from \$16.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2003. Net revenues for AmericanSingles increased 83.0%, to \$35.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2004, compared to \$19.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2003. Net revenues for our Other Businesses segment increased 276.2%, to \$6.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2004 compared to \$1.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2003. The increase in JDate's net revenues is primarily attributable to an increase in JDate's monthly subscription price during the first quarter of 2004. The increase in net revenues for AmericanSingles is primarily due to an increase in subscriptions, as discussed above. The increase in net revenues for our Other Businesses segment is due primarily to the growth of our businesses in Israel, whose growth was aided by our acquisition of Point Match Ltd. in the first quarter of 2004, as well as growth in our UK and Canada Web sites.

Table of Contents***Direct Marketing Expenses***

Direct marketing expenses primarily consist of advertising costs and direct costs to obtain new paying subscribers. Direct marketing expenses for JDate increased 135.5%, to \$1.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2004 from approximately \$739,000 for the year ended December 31, 2003. Direct marketing expenses for AmericanSingles increased 57.1%, to \$25.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2004 compared to \$15.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2003. Direct marketing expenses for Web sites in our Other Businesses segment increased 157.0%, to \$4.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2004 from \$1.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2003. The increases for JDate and AmericanSingles are due to an overall increase in the cost of online advertising, which is our primary source for advertising, as well as new marketing initiatives for JDate. In addition, for our AmericanSingles Web site, we initiated an aggressive marketing program in the second quarter of 2004. We reduced our marketing for AmericanSingles in subsequent quarters in 2004 in order to reduce our subscriber acquisition cost. The cost of customer acquisition for JDate is significantly lower than for our other segments due to the strong brand perception and name recognition for and word of mouth reputation for JDate. AmericanSingles and our other Web sites operate in much more competitive environments, and must spend more on marketing to attract new subscribers. For Web sites in our Other Businesses segment, in addition to the increase in the cost of online advertising, our direct marketing expenses also increased because of the additional expenses associated with the Web site assets acquired in the Point Match Ltd. acquisition.

As a percentage of revenues, total direct marketing expenses for JDate increased to 7.3% in 2004 from 4.6% in 2003. The increase was due to new marketing initiatives for JDate. As a percentage of revenues, total direct marketing expenses for AmericanSingles decreased to 70.8% in 2004 from 82.5% in 2003. The decrease was due to improved marketing efficiency, including greater emphasis on pay for performance advertising models, such that greater marketing expenditures were made without significant increases in our average subscriber acquisition costs. As a percentage of revenues, total direct marketing expenses for our Other Businesses segment decreased to 75.7% in 2004 from 110.8% in 2003. The decrease was due to improved marketing efficiency, including greater emphasis on pay for performance advertising models, as well as emphasis on making the contribution of Web sites in this segment a positive number. Overall, for all of our segments, total direct marketing expenses decreased to 48.0% from 49.8% for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003 respectively.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses primarily consist of indirect marketing, customer service, technical operations, product development and general and administrative expenses. Operating expenses increased 53.8% to approximately \$45.5 million in 2004 from approximately \$29.6 million in 2003. Stated as a percentage of net revenues, operating expenses decreased to 70.0% for 2004 from 80.1% in 2003. The increase in total dollars was primarily the result of a higher level of general and administrative expenses, as well as an increase in indirect marketing and technical operations as discussed below. The decrease as a percentage of revenues was primarily the result of economies of scale in customer service and technical operations costs required to support an increasing revenue base.

Indirect Marketing. Indirect marketing expenses primarily consist of salaries for our sales and marketing personnel and other associated costs such as public relations. Indirect marketing expenses increased 164.4%, to approximately \$2.6 million in 2004 compared to \$986,000 in 2003. Stated as a percentage of net revenues, indirect marketing expenses increased to 4.0% for 2004 from 2.7% in 2003. The increase in total dollars and as a percentage of net revenues was largely as a result of an increase in headcount in our marketing department.

Customer Service. Customer service expenses primarily consist of costs associated with our member service center. Customer service expenses increased 33.2%, to \$3.4 million in 2004 compared to \$2.5 million in 2003. Stated as a percentage of net revenues, customer service expenses decreased to

Table of Contents

5.2% for 2004 from 6.9% in 2003. The increase in total dollars was largely as a result of an increase in headcount, which increase was driven by the larger number of members and paying subscribers. The decrease as a percentage of revenues was primarily the result of increased efficiency of usage of our customer service personnel in supporting a larger member and subscriber base.

Technical Operations. Technical operations expenses primarily consist of the people and systems necessary to support our network, Internet connectivity and other data and communication support. Technical operations expenses increased 60.3% to \$7.2 million in 2004 from \$4.5 million in 2003. Stated as a percentage of net revenues, technical operations expenses decreased to 11.0% in 2004 from 12.1% in 2003. The increase in total dollars was due to an increase in headcount necessary to support the growth in the number of members, paying subscribers and traffic to our Web sites. The decrease as a percentage of revenues was primarily the result of economies of scale in headcount required to support a larger member and subscriber base.

Product Development. Product development expenses primarily consist of costs incurred in the development, creation and enhancement of our Web sites and services. Product development expenses increased 109.9%, to \$2.0 million in 2004 compared to \$959,000 in 2003. Stated as a percentage of net revenues, product development expenses increased to 3.1% in 2004 from 2.6% in 2003. The increase in total dollars and as a percentage of net revenues was largely as a result of costs associated with technical enhancements to our Web sites as well as an increase in headcount necessary to support these enhancements. We expense these costs as incurred unless they are required to be capitalized under generally accepted accounting principles in the United States. In addition to the expenses set forth above, our capitalized product development costs were approximately \$658,000 and \$825,000 in 2004 and 2003, respectively. The amortization of those costs is included in this line item.

General and Administrative Expenses. General and administrative expenses primarily consist of corporate personnel-related costs, professional fees, credit card processing fees, and occupancy and other overhead costs. General and administrative expenses increased 57.8%, to \$29.3 million in 2004 from \$18.5 million in 2003. Stated as a percentage of net revenues, general and administrative expenses decreased to 45.1% in 2004 from 50.2% in 2003. The increase in total dollars was largely as a result of an increase in hiring people to support our growth, an employee severance charge of approximately \$2.4 million, as well as expenses of \$2.1 million related to the United States initial public offering of MatchNet, Inc. that was planned for mid-2004, but which was withdrawn shortly after the related registration statement was filed in the third quarter of 2004, as well as one legal settlement resulting in the recognition of \$900,000 in expenses in the third quarter and two legal settlements resulting in the recognition of \$2.1 million in expenses in the fourth quarter of 2004. The decrease as a percentage of revenues was primarily the result of economies of scale in supporting a larger member and subscriber base.

Amortization of Intangible Assets Other Than Goodwill. Amortization expenses consist primarily of amortization of intangible assets related to previous acquisitions, primarily SocialNet and Point Match. Amortization expenses increased 55.0% to \$860,000 in 2004, compared to \$555,000 in 2003. The increase was primarily due to amortization related to the Point Match acquisition, which was completed in January 2004.

Impairment of Long-lived Assets. In December 2004, based on changes in management and reevaluation of existing projects we determined that certain internally developed software projects would not be completed. As such, we recorded an impairment charge of \$208,000.

Interest Income and Other Expenses, Net. Interest income and other expenses, net primarily consist of gain (loss) associated with temporary investments in interest bearing accounts and marketable securities. Interest income and other expenses, net decreased 64.9%, to approximately \$66,000 in 2004 from \$188,000 in 2003, principally due to foreign exchange effects.

Table of Contents**Quarterly Results of Operations**

You should read the following tables presenting our quarterly results of operations in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes contained elsewhere in this prospectus. We have prepared the unaudited information on substantially the same basis as our audited consolidated financial statements which, in the opinion of management, includes all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, except as otherwise indicated, necessary for the presentation of the results of operations for such periods. You should also keep in mind, as you read the following tables, that our operating results for any quarter are not necessarily indicative of results for any future quarters or for a full year.

	Three months ended⁽¹⁾							
	Dec 31, 2005	Sep 30, 2005	June 30, 2005	Mar 31, 2005	Dec 31, 2004	Sep 30, 2004	June 30, 2004	Mar 31, 2004
(In thousands except per share amounts)								
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:								
Net revenues	\$ 16,586	\$ 16,935	\$ 15,464	\$ 16,526	\$ 17,052	\$ 17,138	\$ 15,812	\$ 15,050
Direct marketing expenses	6,059	7,073	6,051	5,228	6,628	8,748	9,325	6,539
Contribution margin	10,527	9,862	9,413	11,298	10,424	8,390	6,487	8,511
Operating expenses:*								
Indirect marketing	450	255	238	265	547	912	568	580
Customer service	1,040	650	560	577	778	723	903	975
Technical operations	2,698	1,898	1,548	1,402	1,983	1,482	2,085	1,634
Product development	1,169	1,059	1,060	830	637	505	531	340
General and administrative	5,061	7,529	6,405	6,079	7,694	7,578	6,227	7,754
Amortization of intangible assets other than goodwill	237	437	301	110	190	188	238	244
Impairment of long-lived	105				208			

Edgar Filing: SPARK NETWORKS PLC - Form POS AM

assets

Total operating expenses	10,760	11,828	10,112	9,263	12,037	11,388	10,552	11,527
Income (loss) from operations	(233)	(1,966)	(699)	2,035	(1,613)	(2,998)	(4,065)	(3,016)
Interest (income) and other expenses, net	426	141	168	(24)	(52)	(46)	28	4
Income (loss) before income taxes	(659)	(2,107)	(867)	2,059	(1,561)	(2,952)	(4,093)	(3,020)
Income taxes	(256)	56	(8)	72				1
Net income (loss)	\$ (403)	\$ (2,163)	\$ (859)	\$ 1,987	\$ (1,561)	\$ (2,952)	\$ (4,093)	\$ (3,021)
Net income (loss) per share basic ⁽²⁾	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.08)	\$ (0.03)	\$ 0.08	\$ (0.06)	\$ (0.13)	\$ (0.18)	\$ (0.14)
Net income (loss) per share diluted ⁽²⁾				\$ 0.07				
Weighted average shares outstanding basic ⁽²⁾	27,530	26,080	25,661	25,117	24,234	23,356	22,264	21,286
Weighted average shares outstanding diluted ⁽²⁾				29,236				
Other Financial Data:								
Depreciation	\$ 913	\$ 942	\$ 919	\$ 848	\$ 857	\$ 839	\$ 790	\$ 579
Additional Information:								
Average Paying Subscribers ⁽³⁾	224,200	220,800	215,600	222,600	229,000	239,600	228,400	207,400
Average monthly net revenue per	\$ 24.66	\$ 24.57	\$ 23.12	\$ 24.32	\$ 24.06	\$ 23.50	\$ 22.74	\$ 23.83

paying subscriber ⁽⁴⁾									
Subscriber churn ⁽⁵⁾	29.7%	31.4%	30.8%	31.7%	32.4%	31.6%	30.6%	32.1%	
Average direct subscriber acquisition cost ⁽⁶⁾	\$ 27.78	\$ 30.23	\$ 31.11	\$ 23.84	\$ 29.37	\$ 37.41	\$ 40.53	\$ 27.82	

Three Months Ended

Dec 31, Sep 30, June 30, Mar 31, Dec 31, Sep 30, June 30, Mar 31,
2005 2005 2005 2005 2004 2004 2004 2004

* Operating expenses include share-based compensation as follows:

Indirect marketing	\$ 14	\$ 10	\$	\$	\$ 28	\$ 31	\$ 46	\$ 51
Customer service	22	22						
Technical operations	170	168				(379)	111	290
Product development	124	124						
General and administrative	1,063	1,028	(115)	87	514	(891)	532	1,371

- (1) Certain financial information for prior periods has been reclassified to conform to the 2005 periods presentation.
- (2) For information regarding the computation of per share amounts, refer to Note 1 of our consolidated financial statements.
- (3) Represents average paying subscribers calculated as the sum of the average paying subscribers for each month, divided by the number of months. Average paying subscribers for each month are calculated as the sum of the paying subscribers at the beginning and end of the month, divided by two.

Table of Contents

- (4) Represents the total net subscriber revenue for the period divided by the number of average paying subscribers for the period, divided by the number of months in the period.
- (5) Represents the ratio expressed as a percentage of (i) the number of paying subscriber cancellations during the period divided by the number of average paying subscribers during the period and (ii) the number of months in the period. On a monthly basis, the average number of paying subscribers is calculated as the sum of the paying subscribers at the beginning and end of the period divided by two.
- (6) Represents direct marketing expense divided by the gross number of subscribers added during the period. The historic direct subscriber acquisition cost we reported included indirect marketing costs.

Restatement of Previous Consolidated Financial Statements for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2003

In previous periods, we incorrectly recognized a full month of revenue in the month in which members paid in advance for their membership subscription fees, regardless of the effective date of the subscription, and deferred the balance of the fees for multi-month subscriptions. In July 2003, we began to defer and recognize revenue on a daily basis, based on the effective date of the subscription, and restated prior periods financial statements to reflect that policy.

In previous periods we had capitalized bounty costs, which represented amounts paid to third parties for members acquired on an individual basis through third party Web sites or email campaigns. These costs were being amortized over a three year period, on an accelerated basis. In July 2003, we determined that these costs should be expensed as incurred, and that we should restate the prior years' financial statements to conform to U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The reason for the change was that bounty costs were meant to drive free memberships or registrations and any resulting member was not required to become a paying subscriber. Therefore, those expenses should be recognized immediately, since a conversion from non-paying member to a paying subscriber is not guaranteed. Accordingly, we have restated the consolidated financial statements to expense these costs as incurred. From 1998 through 2002, we acquired several businesses and assets. At the time of those acquisitions, the fair values of the intangible assets acquired were not properly determined. In 2004, we hired a valuation expert to measure the fair value of such assets at the date of each acquisition. As a result of this process, we determined that certain allocations previously reported were inappropriate. In addition, we did not properly and timely accrue for some services provided and we identified certain errors in prior years' consolidation process.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

As of December 31, 2005, we had cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities of \$17.3 million. We have historically financed our operations with internally generated funds and offerings of equity securities. We have no revolving or term credit facilities.

Net cash provided by operations was \$3.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to net cash used of \$1.6 million for the same period in 2004. The increase is primarily due to a significantly lower loss. In 2004, we had negative operating cash flow due mainly to increased marketing spending, primarily for AmericanSingles, which was designed to boost revenues for that segment. During the second half of 2004, and in the first quarter of 2005, marketing spending on AmericanSingles was reduced in order to reduce the subscriber acquisition cost, and improve the contribution margin (net revenues minus direct marketing costs), and this also resulted in improvement in cash flow from operations. In addition, net loss was affected by higher non-cash charges for depreciation and amortization as a result of the MingleMatch purchase as well as SFAS 123(R) related charges. Operating cash flow in 2005 was negatively impacted by a decrease in accounts payable.

Net cash used by investing activities was \$259,000 for 2005 compared to net cash used of \$11.2 million for 2004. The decrease in cash used was as a result of liquidating marketable securities as well as a reduction in capital expenditures during 2005, partially offset by the purchase of

Table of Contents

MingleMatch in 2005. During 2004, net cash used by investing activities included acquisition of businesses, primarily PointMatch of \$5.6 million, as well as capital expenditures for property and equipment of \$5.5 million, mainly for increased server and internet hosting equipment for our growing Web sites. During 2005, net cash used by investing activities included \$1.8 million for the acquisition of MingleMatch (net of cash acquired), as well as capital expenditures of \$1.4 million, primarily for hardware and software for our Web sites. We anticipate that future capital expenditures for equipment and software for our Web site re-architecture will continue to be less than our pace of spending in 2004 as the re-architecture project is primarily focused on software architecture and is intended to make use of our existing hardware capacity.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$9.1 million for 2005 compared to \$15.0 million for 2004. In 2004, we completed a private placement of 600,000 ordinary shares which resulted in net proceeds to the Company of \$3.7 million, as well as the exercise of share options and warrants which resulted in net proceeds of \$11.5 million. Cash provided by financing activities in 2005 was due almost entirely to the exercise of options and warrants offset by payments for notes payable related to the MingleMatch acquisition.

As discussed in our financial statements, we issued certain securities that may in the future be subject to a rescission offer commenced by us. We do not believe such a rescission offer would affect our ability to obtain financing in the future, due to our belief that a rescission offer would not be accepted by our shareholders or option holders in an amount that would represent a material expenditure by us. This belief is based on the fact that a rescission offer, if made, would result in our offering to repurchase shares at a weighted average price of \$2.09 and to repurchase options with a weighted average exercise price of \$3.71, while the trading price of our shares closed at \$7.42 per share on December 31, 2005. As of December 31, 2005, the cost to rescind shares issued pursuant to options where the rescission value exceeds the difference between the exercise price of the underlying option and the market price for our securities as of the close of trading on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange would be \$1.9 million including statutory interest, of which \$1.7 million relates to the 200,000 shares held by our former Co-Chairman. As of December 31, 2005, assuming every eligible optionee were to accept a rescission offer, we estimate the total cost to us to complete the rescission for the unexercised options would be approximately \$1.9 million, including statutory interest. As of December 31, 2005, the total number of options subject to a rescission is 2,405,750 with a weighted average rescission offer repurchase price of \$0.80 per share, including statutory interest. As of December 31, 2005, the cost to rescind unexercised options where the rescission value exceeds the difference between the options exercise price and the market price for our securities as of the close of trading on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange would be \$551,000 including statutory interest.

We believe that our current cash and cash equivalents, marketable securities and cash flow from operations will be sufficient to meet our anticipated cash needs for working capital, capital expenditures and contractual obligations, including promissory note payments to MingleMatch in respect of that acquisition, for at least the next 12 months. We had positive operating cash flow in 2005 and anticipate continued positive cash flow from operations. This belief is based on our belief stated above that we do not anticipate that a rescission offer will be accepted by our shareholders. Thus, we do not anticipate requiring additional capital; however, if required or desirable, we may raise additional funds through bank financing or through the capital markets issuance of debt or equity.

As discussed in Note 9 to our consolidated financial statements in this prospectus, in May 2005, the Company issued five short term promissory notes in connection with the MingleMatch acquisition in the cumulative face value amount of \$10 million with a computed principal of \$9.7 million after imputed interest and discount of \$253,000, computed at a 3.08% interest rate.

In September 2004, the Company issued a promissory note to Comdisco in the amount of \$1.7 million as a final settlement for a lawsuit. The note bears simple interest at the rate of 2.75% per year and is payable in installments, excluding accrued interest, on (i) September 15, 2005 in the amount of

Table of Contents

\$400,000 (paid); (ii) September 15, 2006 in the amount of \$400,000; and (iii) September 15, 2007 in the amount of \$900,000.

The following table describes our contractual commitments and obligations as of December 31, 2005 (in thousands):

	Less than			More than	
	1 Year	1-3 Years	4-5 Years	5 Years	Total
Operating leases	\$ 414	\$ 202	\$	\$	\$ 616
Other commitments and obligations	10,411	1,077			11,488
Total contractual obligations	\$ 10,825	\$ 1,279	\$	\$	\$ 12,104

We had other commitments and obligations consisting of notes payable for acquisitions and legal settlements as well as, contracts with software licensing, communications, computer hosting and marketing service providers. These amounts totaled \$10.4 million for less than one year and \$1.1 million between one and three years. Contracts with other service providers are for 30 day terms or less.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We do not have any relationships with unconsolidated entities or financial partnerships, such as entities often referred to as structured finance or special purpose entities, which would have been established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually, narrow or limited purposes. We do not have any outstanding derivative financial instruments, off-balance sheet guarantees, interest rate swap transactions or foreign currency forward contracts.

Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

We are exposed to market risk attributed to changes in interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates.

Interest Rate Risk

Our exposure to market rate risk for changes in interest rates relate primarily to our cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities. We have not used derivative financial instruments to mitigate such risk. We invest our excess cash in debt instruments of the U.S. Government and its agencies.

Investments in both fixed-rate and floating-rate interest-earning instruments carry a degree of interest rate risk. Fixed-rate securities may have their market values adversely impacted due to a rise in interest rates, while floating-rate securities may produce less income than expected if interest rates fall. Due in part to these factors, our future investment income may fall short of expectations due to changes in interest rates or we may suffer losses in principal if forced to sell securities which have declined in market value due to changes in interest rates. Due to the short-term nature of our investment portfolio, and our ability to liquidate this portfolio in short order, we do not believe that a 10% increase in interest rates would have a material effect on the fair market value of our investment portfolio.

Foreign Currency Risk

Our exposure to foreign currency risk is due primarily to our international operations. Revenues and certain expenses related to our international Web sites are denominated in the functional currencies of the local countries they serve. Primary currencies include Israeli shekels, Canadian dollars, British pound sterling and Euros. Our foreign subsidiary in Israel conducts business in their local currency. We translate into U.S. dollars the assets and liabilities using period-end rates of exchange, and revenues and expenses using average rates of exchange for the year. Any weakening of the U.S. dollar against these foreign currencies will result in increased revenue, expenses and translation gains and losses in our

Table of Contents

consolidated financial statements. Similarly, any strengthening of the U.S. dollar against these currencies will result in decreased revenues, expenses and translation gains and losses. Foreign exchange gains and losses were not material to our earnings for the years ended December 31 2005, 2004 and 2003.

Change in Accountants

On March 23, 2004, upon the authorization of our Board of Directors, we dismissed Stonefield Josephson, Inc. as our U.S. auditors and engaged Ernst & Young LLP as our independent auditors. Chantrey Vellacott DFK resigned as our UK auditors on the same date. During the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the subsequent period from January 1, 2004 to March 23, 2004, Stonefield Josephson, Inc. did not have any disagreement with us on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure or auditing scope or procedure, which disagreements, if not resolved to the satisfaction of Stonefield Josephson, Inc., would have caused them to make reference to the subject matter of the disagreement in connection with their reports on our financial statements for such years. The reports of Stonefield Josephson, Inc. on financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001 did not contain an adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion, and were not qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles. We did not consult with Ernst & Young LLP on any financial or accounting reporting matters before its appointment. Notwithstanding the foregoing, during the course of the preparation of our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2003, we discovered accounting inaccuracies in previously reported financial statements, including those for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001 that were covered by reports issued by Stonefield Josephson, Inc. Difficulties arose from differing views between Ernst & Young LLP and Stonefield Josephson, Inc. regarding the necessity and scope of a restatement of 2002 and 2001 financial statements. Up to that point, we had expected to include Stonefield Josephson, Inc.'s reports on those years in a registration statement that MatchNet, Inc. filed on August 4, 2004. However, we were unable to timely obtain concurrence from Stonefield Josephson, Inc. that restatements were required and the extent of such restatements. As a result, we directed Ernst & Young LLP to reaudit the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001 and restated our financial statements for these years and for the first three quarters of 2003 to correct inappropriate accounting entries.

The restatements primarily related to the timing of recognition of deferred revenue and the capitalization of bounty costs, which are the amounts paid to online marketers to acquire members. The restatements, which are in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles, pertained primarily to timing matters and had no impact on cash flow from operations or our ongoing operations. The impact on net loss for 2002 and 2001 was an increase of \$1.0 million and \$1.5 million, respectively.

Recent Accounting Developments

In May 2005, the FASB issued SFAS No. 154, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*, a replacement of Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 20, *Accounting Changes*, and SFAS No. 3, *Reporting Accounting Changes in Interim Financial Statements* (SFAS 154). SFAS 154 changes the requirements for the accounting for, and reporting of, a change in accounting principle. Previously, voluntary changes in accounting principles were generally required to be recognized by way of a cumulative effect adjustment within net income during the period of the change. SFAS 154 requires retrospective application to prior periods' financial statements, unless it is impracticable to determine either the period-specific effects or the cumulative effect of the change. SFAS 154 is effective for accounting changes made in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2005; however, the statement does not change the transition provisions of any existing accounting pronouncements. We do not believe adoption of SFAS 154 will have a material effect on our financial position, cash flows or results of operations.

Table of Contents**BUSINESS**

Throughout this prospectus, we refer to Spark Networks plc (known as MatchNet plc until January 10, 2005), an English company, and our subsidiaries as we, us, our, our company, Spark Networks and MatchNet unless otherwise indicated. Spark Networks, MatchNet, JDate, AmericanSingles and MingleMatch are our trademarks. Trade names, trademarks and service marks of other companies appearing in this prospectus are the property of the respective holders.

Our Business

We are a leading provider of online personals services in the United States and internationally. Our Web sites enable adults to meet online and participate in a community, become friends, date, form a long-term relationship or marry. We provide this opportunity through the many features on our Web sites, such as detailed profiles, onsite email centers, real-time chat rooms and instant messaging services. In 2005, Spark Networks averaged approximately 3.3 million monthly unique visitors to our Web sites in the United States, according to comScore Media Metrix, which ranked us as the third largest provider of online personals services in the United States. comScore Media Metrix defines total unique visitors as the estimated number of different individuals that visited any content of a Web site, a category, a channel, or an application during the reporting period. The number of total unique visitors to our Web sites as measured by comScore Media Metrix does not correspond to the number of members we have in any given period. Currently, our key Web sites are JDate.com and AmericanSingles.com. We operate several international Web sites and maintain operations in both the United States and Israel. Information regarding the geographical source of our revenues can be found in Note 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements included in this annual report. Membership on our sites is free and allows a registered user to post a personal profile and to access our searchable database of member profiles. The ability to initiate most communication with other members requires the payment of a monthly subscription fee, which represents our primary source of revenue. We also offer discounted subscription rates for members who subscribe for longer periods, ranging from three to twelve months. Following their initial terms, subscriptions on our Web sites renew automatically for subsequent one-month periods until paying subscribers terminate them.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, we had approximately 220,000 average paying subscribers, representing a decrease of 2.7% from 2004. Our JDate and AmericanSingles segments had approximately 70,500 and 105,300 average paying subscribers for the year ended December 31, 2005, an increase of 1% and a decrease of 20.5%, respectively, compared to 2004.

Our Industry

We believe that online personals fulfill significant needs for single adults who are looking to meet a companion or date. Traditional methods such as printed personals advertisements, offline dating services and public gathering places often do not meet the needs of time-constrained single people. Printed personals advertisements offer individuals limited personal information and interaction before meeting. Offline dating services are time-consuming, expensive and offer a smaller number of potential partners. Public gathering places such as restaurants, bars and social venues provide a limited ability to learn about others prior to an in-person meeting. In contrast, online personals services facilitate interaction between singles by allowing them to screen and communicate with a large number of potential companions. With features such as detailed personal profiles, email and instant messaging, this medium allows users to communicate with other singles at their convenience and affords them the ability to meet multiple people in a safe and secure online setting.

Our Competitive Strengths

Strength of JDate Brand. We believe that JDate's strong brand recognition in the Jewish community is a valuable asset. An analysis of comScore Media Metrix data, for the twelve

Table of Contents

months ended December 31, 2005, reveals that JDate.com experienced more average daily visitors and more page views than any other religious online personals service, and that JDate.com is the most popular religion-focused online personals service in the United States. We believe the strength of the JDate brand will continue to allow us to market to the Jewish community profitably while maintaining a high penetration rate. Because of the strength of the JDate brand, we are not required to spend as much on marketing to drive a member to JDate as we are our other Web sites, and as is typical of other Web sites in the industry.

Web Site Functionality. We continually evaluate the functionality of our Web sites to improve our members' online personals experience. Many of the features that we offer, such as onsite email, real-time chat rooms and instant messaging, increase the probability of communication between our members, which we believe increases the number and percentage of members who become paying subscribers. We believe those types of functionality drives return visits to our Web sites and help us retain paying subscribers who might otherwise consider switching to our competitors' Web sites.

Customer Service Focus. We believe that our customer service focus offers us a competitive advantage and differentiates us from our major competitors. Our multi-lingual call center is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with customer service representatives. These representatives help members with a range of assistance, such as matters relating to completing personal profiles and choosing photos for their profiles, and answering questions about billing and technical issues. We believe that the quality of our customer service increases member satisfaction which, in turn, also increases the number and percentage of members that become and remain paying subscribers.

Our Online Personals Services

Our online personals services offer single adults convenient and secure settings for meeting other singles. Visitors to our Web sites are encouraged to become registered members by posting profiles. Posting a profile is a process where visitors are asked various questions about themselves, including information such as their tastes in food, hobbies and desired attributes of potential partners. Members are also urged to post photos, since this is likely to improve their chances of making successful contact with other members. Members can perform detailed searches of other profiles and save their preferences, and their profiles can be viewed by other members. In most cases, in order for a member to initiate email and instant message communication with others, that member must purchase a subscription. A subscription affords access to the paying subscribers' on-site email and instant messaging systems, enabling such subscribers to communicate with other members and paying subscribers. Our subscription fees are charged on a monthly basis, with discounts for longer-term subscriptions ranging from three to twelve months.

Our Web Sites. We believe we are a unique company in the online personals industry because, in addition to servicing mass markets, we also operate Web sites targeted at selected vertical affinity markets. We currently offer Web sites in English and Hebrew. Our key Web sites are as follows:

JDate.com. JDate was our first Web site and is dedicated to the Jewish community and culture, and those who are seeking to be part of it. An analysis of comScore Media Metrix data for the twelve months ended December 31, 2005, revealed that JDate.com experienced more average daily visitors and more page views than any other religious online personals service, and that JDate.com is the most popular religion-focused online personals service in the United States. JDate members are primarily concentrated in the New York, Los Angeles, Miami and Chicago metropolitan areas. The current fee for a one-month subscription on JDate is \$34.95.

Table of Contents

AmericanSingles.com. AmericanSingles is our mainstream U.S. online personals community, targeted at an audience of singles between the ages of 25 and 49. The Web site caters to singles of all races, ethnicities and interests. AmericanSingles members are primarily concentrated in major metropolitan areas across the United States. The current fee for a one-month subscription on AmericanSingles is \$29.99.

Other Web sites.

Web site

Target Markets

AdventistSinglesConnection.com*	Adventist singles
AsianSinglesConnection.com*	Asian singles
BBWPersonalsPlus.com*	Big beautiful women, big handsome men and their admirers
BlackSinglesConnection.com*	African American singles
CanadianPersonals.net*	Canadian singles
CatholicMingle.com*	Catholic singles
ChristianMingle.com*	Christian singles
CollegeLuv.com	College singles
Cupid.co.il	Jewish singles (Israel only)
Date.ca	Canadian singles
Date.co.uk	UK singles
DeafSinglesConnection.com*	Deaf singles
GreekSinglesConnection.com*	Greek singles
IndianMatrimonialNetwork.com*	Indian singles
InterracialSingles.net*	Interracial singles
ItalianSinglesConnection.com*	Italian singles
JDate.co.il	Jewish singles (Israel only)
JewishMingle.com*	Jewish singles
LatinSinglesConnection.com*	Hispanic/Latin singles
LDSMingle.com*	Mormon singles
MilitarySinglesConnection.com*	Military singles
PrimeSingles.net*	Mature singles
SingleParentsMingle.com*	Single parents
UKSinglesConnection.com*	UK singles

* Acquired through our acquisition of MingleMatch, Inc.

Web Site Features. We strive to offer traditional as well as new and different ways for our members to communicate. Examples of ways our members and paying subscribers can communicate include:

On-site Email. We provide all paying subscribers with private message centers, dedicated to communications with other paying subscribers. These personal on-site email boxes offer features such as customizable folders for storing correspondence, the ability to know when sent messages were read, as well as block and ignore functions, which afford paying subscribers the ability to control future messages from specific paying subscribers.

Hot Lists and Favorites. Among the most popular features on our Web sites, Hot Lists enable paying subscribers to see who's interested in them and to save those favorite members that they are interested in. Lists include (1) who has viewed your profile, (2) your favorites and (3) who has emailed you. Paying

subscribers can group their

Table of Contents

favorites into customized folders and add their own notes, including details included in a member's profile.

Real-time Chat Rooms. Paying subscribers can utilize our exclusive chat rooms to mix and mingle in real-time, building a sense of community through group discussions. Additional features enable users to add customized graphics such as emoticons to their conversations.

Ice Breakers. Members can send pre-packaged opening remarks, referred to on the Web sites as flirts, to other members or paying subscribers.

Click! Our patented *Click!* feature connects members who think they would be compatible with each other. A member simply clicks yes, no or maybe in another member's profile. When two members click yes in each other's profiles, our patented feature sends an email to both of them alerting them of a possible connection.

Travel and Events. As a complement to our online services, we offer travel opportunities and other promotional events which allow individuals to meet in a more personal environment. Our travel and event programs are typically trips, dinners or other mixer events designed to facilitate social interaction. Less than 2% of our revenues for the year ended December 31, 2005 were generated from travel and events.

Business Strategy

We intend to grow our subscription-based revenue by driving additional traffic to our Web sites, through integrated and targeted marketing and cross-promotion into vertical affinity markets such as those acquired in the MingleMatch, Inc. acquisition. In addition, by providing strong customer service and improved features and functionality on our Web sites, we intend to provide more reasons for visitors to our Web sites to become and remain subscribers.

Drive Traffic. We believe there are significant opportunities to drive additional traffic to our Web sites and identify new markets, where we can leverage our existing infrastructure to increase subscriptions.

Integrated and targeted marketing. We believe that targeting potential members with consistent and compelling marketing messages, delivered through a broad mix of marketing channels, will be effective in driving more traffic and a higher percentage of relationship-oriented singles to our Web sites. We intend to use a variety of channels to build our brand and increase our base of subscribers including online and offline advertising customer relationship management tools, public relations, promotional alliances and special events.

Cross-Promote Into Vertical Affinity Markets. Our large base of members provides us with a significant amount of consumer data to evaluate cross-promotion opportunities for growth into vertical affinity markets such as those acquired in the MingleMatch acquisition. We are able to analyze different groups of members by key metrics such as total potential subscribers and average revenue per paying subscriber and identify those targeted groups that may prefer a service dedicated to their particular affinity groups. We intend to target and cross-promote into vertical affinity markets that we believe are receptive to paid online personals and are large enough to attain a critical mass of members and paying subscribers.

Increase Subscription Rates. We had approximately 220,000 average paying subscribers for the year ended December 31, 2005. We believe that a significant growth opportunity lies in our ability to increase the number of visitors to our Web sites who become paying subscribers.

Table of Contents

Improved technology. We believe that the more successful members are in finding matches in our database, the more likely they are to want to communicate with those members. To initiate email and instant message communication, members must become paying subscribers. We intend to continue to enhance our technology and the quality and relevance of our search results to provide fast, relevant suggestions.

Leveraging strong customer service. Each time a member or potential member contacts our customer service center by email or phone, he or she represents a potential new paying subscriber to our services. By training our customer service representatives on upselling opportunities, we believe they will continue to be successful in selling and building loyalty to our subscription-based services.

Improved member communications. We believe that enhanced member communication is a key component to growing our business. We continue to focus on improving and enhancing our Web site functionality and features to encourage communications between members. Most of these communications require that members become paying subscribers. We will also continue to inform members of new features and functions with the goal of increasing the number of visitors to our Web sites who become paying subscribers.

Customer Service

Our customer support and service function operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As of December 31, 2005, we employed 42 customer service representatives at our Beverly Hills, California facility, 19 representatives in Provo, Utah and 13 customer service representatives at our facility in Israel. Our team of customer service representatives helps members with matters ranging from completing personal essays and choosing photos for their profiles to answering questions about billing and technical issues. Customer service representatives receive ongoing training in an effort to better personalize the experience for visitors, members and paying subscribers that call in and to capitalize on upselling opportunities. On average, our customer service center receives approximately 1,700 phone calls and 5,000 emails per day, and our average wait time for phone calls and response time for emails are approximately three minutes and four hours, respectively.

Marketing

We engage in a variety of marketing activities intended to drive consumer traffic to our Web sites and allow us the opportunity to introduce our products and services to prospective members. Our marketing efforts are principally focused online, where we employ a combination of banner and other display advertising on Web portals and other specialized sites. We also rely on commercial search listings and direct email campaigns to attract potential members and paying subscribers, and utilize a network of online affiliates, through which we acquire traffic. None of these affiliates, individually, represents a material portion of our revenue. These affiliate arrangements are easily cancelable, often with only one-day notice. Typically, we do not have any exclusivity arrangement with our affiliates, and some of our affiliates may also be affiliates for our competitors.

In addition to our online marketing efforts, we supplement our marketing by employing a variety of offline marketing activities. These primarily consist of print and outdoor advertising, public relations, event sponsorship and promotional alliances. We believe that more targeted marketing messages, delivered through an array of available marketing channels, will improve consumer awareness of our brands, drive more traffic to our Web sites and, therefore, increase the numbers of our members and paying subscribers. Specifically for JDate, we increased offline marketing spending. Such marketing initiatives are targeted at brand building and name recognition.

Table of Contents

Technology

Our software development team consisted of 20 employees as of December 31, 2005, who are focused on expanding and improving the features and functionality of our Web sites. Since feature and functionality development is an important element of our strategy, we plan to expand that team. In addition to our development team, an additional 20 employees monitor and maintain our software and hardware infrastructure.

Our network infrastructure and operations are designed to deliver high levels of availability, performance, security and scalability in a cost-effective manner. The majority of our software architecture is based on standard modular Microsoft technology, which we believe facilitates the addition of new Web sites and features.

We recently completed a re-architecture of our primary system based on distributed Service Oriented Architecture principles using the Microsoft.Net platform. This re-architecture included changes to our server and network configurations, database schemas and deployment, web presentation methodologies and introduced a variety of new application services. We believe that this new architecture will enable us to more rapidly develop new capabilities and enhance our ability to scale our Web sites.

Our primary email system runs on dedicated appliances, with each server capable of sending approximately 2 million messages per hour. In addition to our email servers, we operate other Web and database servers, which are co-located at a data center facility in El Segundo, California that is operated by a third party. We are currently increasing redundant hardware and software systems in order to better support our services.

Intellectual Property

We rely on a combination of patent, trademark, copyright and trade secret laws in the United States and other jurisdictions as well as confidentiality procedures and contractual provisions to protect our proprietary technology and our brands. We also enter into confidentiality and invention assignment agreements with our employees and consultants and confidentiality agreements with other third parties.

Spark Networks, JDate and AmericanSingles are some of our trademarks, whether registered or not, in the United States and several other countries. AmericanSingles and JDate are registered trademarks in the United States. JDate is also a registered trademark in the EU, Australia, Israel and Canada. Spark Networks is a registered trademark in the United States and EU. Our rights to these registered trademarks are perpetual as long as we use them and renew them periodically. We also have a number of other registered and unregistered trademarks. In addition, we hold a United States patent to *Click!*, which lasts until January 24, 2017, that pertains to an automated process for confidentially determining whether people feel mutual attraction or have mutual interests. *Click!* is important to our business in that it is a method and apparatus for detection of reciprocal interests or feelings and subsequent notification of such results. The patent describes the method and apparatus for the identification of a person's level of attraction and the subsequent notification when the feeling or attraction is mutual.

Competition

We operate in a highly competitive environment with minimal barriers to entry. We believe that the primary competitive factors in creating a community on the Internet are functionality, brand recognition, critical mass of members, member affinity and loyalty, ease-of-use, quality of service and reliability. We compete with a number of large and small companies, including vertically integrated Internet portals and specialty-focused media companies that provide online and offline products and services to the markets we serve. Our principal online personals services competitors include Yahoo! Personals, Match.com, a wholly-owned subsidiary of InterActiveCorp, and eHarmony, all of which operate primarily in North America. In addition, we face competition from social networking Web

Table of Contents

sites such as MySpace and Friendster. There are also numerous other companies offering online personals services that compete with us, but are smaller than we are in terms of paying subscribers and annual revenue generation.

Employees

As of December 31, 2005, we had 193 full-time employees. We are not subject to any collective bargaining agreements and we believe that our relationship with our employees is good.

Facilities

We do not own any real property. Our headquarters are located in Beverly Hills, California, where we occupy approximately 26,500 square feet of office space that houses our technology department, customer service operations, and most of our corporate and administrative personnel. This lease expires on July 31, 2007. Our monthly base rent for this facility is \$53,850. We also currently lease office space in Provo, Utah; Cupertino, California; San Francisco, California, Israel; England; and Germany. We believe that our facilities are adequate for our current needs and suitable additional or substitute space will be available in the future to replace our existing facilities, if necessary, or accommodate expansion of our operations.

Legal Proceedings

Three separate yet similar class action complaints have been filed against us. On June 21, 2002, Tatyana Fertelmeyster filed an Illinois class action complaint against us in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, based on an alleged violation of the Illinois Dating Referral Services Act. On September 12, 2002, Lili Grossman filed a New York class action complaint against us in the Supreme Court in the State of New York based on alleged violations of the New York Dating Services Act and the Consumer Fraud Act. On November 14, 2003, Jason Adelman filed a nationwide class action complaint against us in the Los Angeles County Superior Court based on an alleged violation of California Civil Code section 1694 et seq., which regulates businesses that provide dating services. In each of these cases, the complaint included allegations that we are a dating service as defined by the applicable statutes and, as an alleged dating service, we are required to provide language in our contracts that allows (i) members to rescind their contracts within three days, (ii) reimbursement of a portion of the contract price if the member dies during the term of the contract and/or (iii) members to cancel their contracts in the event of disability or relocation. Causes of action include breach of applicable state and/or federal laws, fraudulent and deceptive business practices, breach of contract and unjust enrichment. The plaintiffs are seeking remedies including declaratory relief, restitution, actual damages although not quantified, treble damages and/or punitive damages, and attorney's fees and costs.

Huebner v. InterActiveCorp., Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 305875 involves a similar action, involving the same plaintiff's counsel as *Adelman*, brought against InterActiveCorp's Match.com that has been ruled related to *Adelman*, but the two cases have not been consolidated. We have not been named a defendant in the *Huebner* case. *Adelman* and *Huebner* each seek to certify a nationwide class action based on their complaints. Because the cases are class actions, they have been assigned to the Los Angeles Superior Court Complex Litigation Program.

A mediation occurred in *Adelman* in 2004 that did not result in a settlement. A post-mediation status conference was held on Friday, July 16, 2004. At that Status Conference, the court suggested that the parties agree to a bifurcation of the liability issue. The purpose of the bifurcation is to allow the Court to determine whether as a matter of law the California Dating Services Act (CDS Act) applies to us. In this way, if the Court determines that the CDS Act is inapplicable, all further expenses associated with discovery and class certification can be avoided. The Court has permitted limited discovery including document requests and interrogatories, the parties will each be permitted to take one

Table of Contents

deposition without further leave of the Court, the parties will be allowed to designate expert witnesses, and the Court will conduct a trial on the issue of the applicability of the CDS Act to our business in the spring of 2006.

Although some written discovery relating to the bifurcated trial has been completed, depositions have not yet been taken. A second mediation occurred in *Adelman* on Friday, February 10, 2006. The mediation resumed on February 23, 2006, but did not result in a settlement. The parties have agreed in principle to continue the bifurcated trial to approximately May 15, 2006 and extend the time for filing briefs and completing discovery.

On March 25, 2005, the court in *Fertelmeyster* entered its Memorandum Opinion and Order (*Memorandum Opinion*) granting summary judgment in our favor, on the grounds that Fertelmeyster lacks standing to seek injunctive relief or restitutionary relief under the Illinois Dating Services Act, Fertelmeyster did not suffer any actual damages, and that we were not unjustly enriched as a result of our contract with Fertelmeyster. The *Memorandum Opinion* disposes of all matters in controversy in the litigation and also provides that we are subject to the Illinois Dating Services Act and, as such, our subscription agreements violate the act and are void and unenforceable. This ruling may subject us to potential liability for claims brought by the Illinois Attorney General or customers that have been injured by our violation of the statute. Fertelmeyster filed a Motion for Reconsideration of the *Memorandum Opinion* and, on August 26, 2005, the court issued its opinion denying Fertelmeyster's Motion for Reconsideration. In the opinion, the court, among other things: (i) decertified the class, eliminating the last remnant of the litigation; (ii) rejected each of the plaintiff's arguments based on the arguments and law that we provided in our opposition; (iii) stated that the court would not judicially amend the Illinois statute to provide for restitution when the legislature selected damages as the sole remedy; (iv) noted that the cases cited by plaintiff in connection with plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration actually support the court's prior order granting summary judgment in our favor; and (v) denied plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration in its entirety. The time period for filing an appeal from the *Memorandum Opinion* in the *Fertelmeyster* Action has now expired, and as a result, the *Fertelmeyster* litigation is now concluded.

In December 2002, the Supreme Court of New York dismissed the case brought by Ms. Grossman. Although the plaintiff appealed the decision, in October 2004, the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division upheld the lower court's dismissal. In addition, two Justices in a concurring opinion concluded that our services were not covered under the New York Dating Services Act.

A lawsuit was filed against us in the United States District Court for the Central District of California by Datingcity, Ltd, Case No. CV05-4463 SJO (SSx). The Complaint alleges causes of action for (1) Breach of Contract, (2) Unjust Enrichment, (3) Promissory Estoppel, and (4) Accounting. Datingcity alleges that it entered into a contract with Spark for the sale of a database owned by Datingcity. Datingcity further alleges that Spark did not pay Datingcity the agreed upon price for the purchase of the database. We contend that the contract at issue was signed in error, Datingcity misrepresented the quality of its database, and the information contained in the database was virtually useless and without value. Accordingly, on July 15, 2005, we filed an Answer and Counterclaim against Datingcity alleging claims for (1) Rescission based on Unilateral Mistake, (2) Rescission based on Mutual Mistake, (3) Rescission based on Failure of Consideration, (4) Rescission based on Fraud in the Inducement, (5) Fraud, (6) Negligent Misrepresentation, and (7) Declaratory Relief. At a status conference that was held on August 22, 2005, the court scheduled this matter for a jury trial on April 25, 2006. However, in September 2005 we settled this litigation by paying Datingcity \$75,000.

On July 21, 2005, Leonard Kristal (*Kristal*) and MatchPower Ltd. (*MatchPower*) filed an action in the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Civil Action No. SC086367, entitled *LEONDARD KRISTAL, and MATCHPOWER, LTD., Plaintiffs, v. MATCHNET, PLC; SPARK NETWORKS, PLC, and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive, Defendants (the Kristal/ MatchPower Action)*. In their complaint, Kristal and MatchPower assert claims for a breach of contract, wrongful termination in violation of

Table of Contents

public policy, and solicitation of employee by misrepresentation. MatchPower alleges that it entered into an agreement with us to pay MatchPower the sum of \$15,000 per month from March 30, 2004 through April 2005 and that we now owe MatchPower the sum of \$90,000 under the agreement. We have filed a Motion to Dismiss and/or for Forum Non Conveniens under the MatchPower agreement, which provides that the exclusive jurisdiction for disputes is the English courts, in order to require that MatchPower litigate its claims, if any, in England. The court has granted that Motion and MatchPower is no longer a party to the case. Kristal alleges that (i) we entered into an employment agreement pursuant to which Kristal was employed on a part-time basis at the rate of \$10,000 per month through April 2005, (ii) the employment agreement was amended in July 2004 to increase Kristal's monthly salary to \$15,000 per month, (iii) Kristal was required to move and establish residency in Los Angeles and (iv) the employment agreement was terminated on December 22, 2004. Kristal alleges that we owe him \$85,000 under the agreement, plus a waiting time penalty of \$15,000. Kristal also alleges that, in August 2004, we orally promised Kristal the right to purchase at least 110,000 shares of our shares at a purchase price of \$2.50 and that he was terminated because he made a written complaint that he had not been paid according to his contract and as a result, his termination was a retaliatory termination in violation of public policy. Kristal claims that he is entitled to recover damages for pain and suffering and emotional distress and punitive damages based on his retaliatory termination. In addition, Kristal claims that he was induced to move to Los Angeles for the purpose of accepting employment from us in Los Angeles and that we promised Kristal employment at least through April 2005, together with wages for employment at the rate of \$15,000 per month. According to Kristal, we misrepresented to Kristal the length of his employment and the compensation therefore, and as a result, he claims he is entitled to double damages caused by misrepresentations allegedly made by us to Kristal pursuant to California Labor Code § 972.

A mediation occurred in the Kristal/ MatchPower Action on January 17, 2006. At the mediation, the parties entered into a binding settlement stipulation (the Stipulation). According to the terms of the Stipulation, we will pay to Kristal the sum of \$150,000 in equal monthly installments of \$8,333.33 commencing February 1, 2007, and Kristal and MatchPower will: (i) execute general releases of known and unknown claims in our favor and (ii) dismiss with prejudice the action they have filed against us. A disagreement exists regarding the language to be included, and the scope of, the General Release. We anticipate that the Stipulation will be enforced according to its terms.

On March 10, 2005, Akonix Systems, Inc. (Akonix) filed with the American Arbitration Association a demand for arbitration against us. Akonix, which provided software services to us pursuant to a Project Contract and Amendment thereto (Akonix Contract), claims that we breached an obligation under the Akonix Contract to issue to Akonix an option to purchase 50,000 shares of our common stock at a strike price equal to the October 23, 2000 last trading price of such stock on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (the Stock Option). Although the Akonix Contract called for the Stock Option to be delivered to Akonix by December 19, 2001, Akonix did not demand delivery of the Stock Option until mid-2004.

Akonix claims damages in excess of \$500,000, based on the difference between the strike price for the Stock Option and the highest trading price of our stock in 2004. We contend that Akonix is not entitled to pursue any claim based on the Stock Option because, among other things, (a) Akonix did not timely demand issuance of the Stock Option, (b) Akonix did not tender to us payment of the option price, and (c) the provision in the Akonix Contract for issuance of the Stock Option is unenforceable, as no agreement was reached on the length of time within which Akonix was entitled to exercise the Stock Option.

In *Akonix*, the parties have recently had a status conference with the arbitrator, pursuant to which the applicable deadlines for completing discovery and proceeding with the arbitration have been continued indefinitely. In the status conference, the parties agreed in concept to mediating this dispute. The mediation in *Akonix* occurred on January 31, 2006. At the mediation, we proposed to settle the claims

Table of Contents

of Akonix for a payment of \$75,000. On February 16, 2006, Akonix accepted our proposal. Settlement documents have been executed, and a settlement payment was made.

On September 16, 2005, Soheil Davood (Davood) filed a Complaint against Spark entitled *Soheil Davood vs. Spark Networks, plc*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC 339998, alleging causes of action for (1) Breach of Express Warranty, (2) Breach of Implied Warranty, (3) Negligent Misrepresentation, and (4) Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress. Davood alleges (i) he subscribed to JDate, a website operated by us; (ii) he communicated with a female; (iii) she gave him what he thought was her phone number; and (iv) when he called the number, it was a rejection hotline recording causing him to be humiliated and suffer emotional distress. Davood has dismissed this action against Spark.

We have filed an action in the Los Angeles County Superior Court (*JetPay*) against JetPay Merchant Services, LLC, Los Angeles Superior Court Civil Action No. BC346182. In the Complaint in *JetPay*, we assert causes of action against JetPay for breach of oral contract, intentional misrepresentation, fraudulent inducement, intentional interference with economic advantage, breach of fiduciary duty, negligence, unfair business practices, and declaratory relief. We seek compensatory damages against JetPay in the sum of \$2,277,095.38 together with punitive damages to the extent permitted by applicable California law as provided in the Complaint in the *JetPay* Action. After we filed the Complaint against JetPay, we discovered that JetPay had retained, converted, and/or not distributed to us funds belonging to us in the aggregate amount of approximately \$331,000 not reflected in the Complaint filed by us against JetPay. We intend to amend our Complaint to seek the recovery of all such funds. JetPay has provided a written memorandum to us in which JetPay claims that it suffered actual damages of \$439,012.70 as of January 10, 2006 and is entitled to recover liquidated damages in the amount of \$682,514.54.

On February 21, 2006, JetPay filed a Notice of Removal of our state court action against JetPay to the United States District Court for the Central District of California (California Federal Court Action). JetPay has filed an Answer to our Complaint and a Counterclaim in the California Federal Court Action in which JetPay asserts the claims previously raised by JetPay in its correspondence with us. In addition, JetPay has filed a Complaint against us in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas (Texas Federal Court Action) in which it asserts the same claims it has alleged in its Counterclaim in the California Federal Court Action. JetPay has announced its intention to file a Motion to Stay or dismiss the California Federal Court Action so that its claims can be prosecuted in the Texas Federal Court Action, and when that motion is filed, we will vigorously oppose it in order to prosecute our claims against JetPay in the California Federal Court Action. For the reasons set forth in our Complaint in *JetPay* among others, we believe that we are not indebted to JetPay in any amount whatsoever, we intend to vigorously defend any claim filed by JetPay against us, whether in *JetPay* or otherwise, and we are in the process of prosecuting *JetPay* for the recovery of the damages set forth above suffered by the us as a result of the acts and omissions of JetPay.

We intend to defend vigorously against each of the lawsuits. However, no assurance can be given that these matters will be resolved in our favor and, depending on the outcome of these lawsuits, we may choose to alter our business practices.

We have additional existing legal claims and may encounter future legal claims in the normal course of business. In our opinion, the resolutions of the existing legal claims are not expected to have a material impact on our financial position or results of operations. We believe we has accrued appropriate amounts where necessary in connection with the above litigation.

Table of Contents**MANAGEMENT****Executive Officers and Directors**

As of April 5, 2006, our executive officers and directors are set forth below.

Name	Age	Position
David E. Siminoff	41	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
Gregory R. Liberman	33	Chief Operating Officer, General Counsel and Company Secretary
Mark G. Thompson	44	Chief Financial Officer
Joe Y. Shapira	52	Chairman of the Board
Michael A. Brown	41	Director
Martial Chaillet	58	Director
Benjamin Derhy	51	Director
Laura Lauder	45	Director
Scott L. Shleifer	27	Director

David E. Siminoff has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer since August 2004 and as a member of our Board of Directors since March 2004. From October 2003 to February 2004, Mr. Siminoff was Chief Financial Officer of PayByTouch, a company that produces biometric payment services and during interim periods of employment, Mr. Siminoff was a private investor of several start-up companies. From August 1994 to January 2003, Mr. Siminoff served as a Research Analyst and Portfolio Manager for Capital Research and Management Company, where he dealt primarily with Media and Internet technologies. In 1998 he was named Best of the Buyside by Institutional Investor Magazine. Prior to his work with Capital Research, Mr. Siminoff founded EastNet, a global syndicate barter company. Mr. Siminoff received both BA and MBA degrees from Stanford University and a Masters degree in Fine Arts from the University of Southern California film school.

Gregory R. Liberman was appointed Chief Operating Officer in August 2005 and has served as our General Counsel since October 2004 and Company Secretary since January 2005. From January 2004 to May 2004 Mr. Liberman served as General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of CytRx Corporation, a publicly-traded biotechnology company based in Los Angeles. During his tenure there, Mr. Liberman oversaw legal affairs, policy and strategy for the company. From January 2002 to December 2003, Mr. Liberman served as an independent strategic consultant. Immediately prior to that consulting work, from September 2001 to November 2001, he attended and completed the Program for Management Development at Harvard Business School. From March 1999 to August 2001, Mr. Liberman served in a variety of senior legal and corporate development roles at telecommunications firm Global Crossing and Internet infrastructure providers GlobalCenter (then, a subsidiary of Global Crossing) and Exodus Communications. Mr. Liberman joined Exodus, where he ultimately served as Vice President, Legal & Corporate Affairs, after Global Crossing's sale of GlobalCenter to Exodus. Immediately prior to Exodus' acquisition of GlobalCenter, Mr. Liberman served as GlobalCenter's Vice President, Corporate Development and Associate General Counsel. While at Global Crossing, Mr. Liberman served as Director, Business Development Counsel. Mr. Liberman earned a JD, with Honors, from The Law School at the University of Chicago and an AB, with University Distinction and Honors in Economics, from Stanford University.

Table of Contents

Mark G. Thompson has served as our Chief Financial Officer since October 2004. He brings 18 years of financial management and capital markets experience to his current role. From December 2002 to October 2003 and from February 2004 to September 2004 Mr. Thompson served as CFO of Pay By Touch, the leading provider of biometric payment authentication and payment processing services. From October 2003 to February 2004 Mr. Thompson was Vice President Finance of Pay By Touch. From August 2001 to October 2002 Mr. Thompson was CFO of Vectiv and from July 1999 to July 2001 he was CFO of MarketTools, a provider of online marketing research. Previously, he was Corporate Treasurer of PeopleSoft and Assistant Treasurer of Chiron. Mr. Thompson also held senior positions in finance and engineering at Chevron. He holds a BS degree in electrical engineering from Texas A&M University and an MBA from The Haas School of Business at The University of California at Berkeley.

Joe Y. Shapira has served as our Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors since February 2005 but has resigned from his executive operating role effective December 31, 2005. Mr. Shapira remains Chairman of the Board. From February 2004 to February 2005, Mr. Shapira served as our Executive Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors. From our inception in September 1998 to February 2004, Mr. Shapira served as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board. He was a co-founder and director of NetCorp, the original developer and owner of JDate. In 1995, Mr. Shapira developed a concept for dating over the Internet and oversaw the software development, design and implementation of the business model of JDate.com. Previously, from 1991 until 1994, Mr. Shapira co-founded and served as a director and officer of Matrix Video Duplication Corporation, a publicly listed company on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. From 1987 until 1991, Mr. Shapira co-founded and served as a director and officer of Video Tape Industries, Inc. From 1983 to 1987, Mr. Shapira was a principal in Sha-Rub Investment Co., a Southern California real estate development company. Mr. Shapira graduated from the Ort Singlavosky Institution of Technology in Tel Aviv, Israel in 1972.

Michael A. Brown has served as a member of our Board of Directors since December 2004. Since September 2002, Mr. Brown has been a managing partner at government and public affairs consulting firm Alcalde & Fay, based in Washington, D.C. At Alcalde & Fay, Mr. Brown is focused on international trade, foreign relations, federal and state representation and public policy. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors of Spark Networks, Mr. Brown serves on the Board of Directors of Comcast of Washington, DC. From June 1996 to September 2002, he practiced law at Washington-based Patton Boggs LLP, where he concentrated on a range of municipal issues. Mr. Brown has twice been appointed as a member to the U.S. Presidential Delegations to Africa and serves as the president of the Ronald H. Brown Foundation, which seeks to carry on the work of Mr. Brown's father, who was U.S. Secretary of Commerce under former President Bill Clinton. Mr. Brown earned a BA degree from Clark University and a JD from Widener University School of Law.

Martial Chaillet has served as a member of our Board of Directors since February 2005. Mr. Chaillet founded MediaWin & Partners in January 2003. MediaWin is a private investment firm that focuses primarily on investments in media and media-related companies. Prior to founding MediaWin, Mr. Chaillet served in a variety of roles at The Capital Group for thirty years, most recently as Senior Vice President and Global Portfolio Manager of Capital Research and Management, the mutual fund arm of the financial institution. In addition to serving on our Board of Directors, Mr. Chaillet sits on the Boards of Directors of Infosearch, Wisekey, Snap TV and Media Partners. Mr. Chaillet earned a degree in Econometrics from the University of Geneva and graduated, with honors, from the Swiss Technical School.

Table of Contents

Benjamin Derhy has served as a member of our Board of Directors since October 2004. Over the last five years, Mr. Derhy has not held any employment positions but has been a private investor and entrepreneur, focusing on Internet, consumer products and real estate sectors as well as start-up companies in Europe and Israel. His experience also includes working with American companies and their expansion internationally. In 1984, Mr. Derhy co-founded Turbo Sportswear, a successful clothing manufacturer, and was employed there until 1997. Previously, he was controller at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, responsible for annual budgets, financial planning and cost accounting. Mr. Derhy holds both BA and MBA degrees from the Hebrew University.

Laura Lauder has served as a member of our Board of Directors since January 2005. Mrs. Lauder has served as a General Partner at Lauder Partners, a Silicon Valley-based venture capital fund, for the past ten years. At Lauder Partners, Mrs. Lauder focuses primarily on Internet and cable-related investments. In addition to her work at Lauder Partners, Mrs. Lauder is involved in a variety of philanthropic initiatives, particularly in the Jewish community. In the past, she has served on the boards of numerous organizations, including the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation and its Endowment Committee, the Jewish Education Service of North America, the Jewish Funders Network, American Jewish World Service and the National Public Radio Foundation. In 2004, Mrs. Lauder was named one of "10 Women to Watch" by *Jewish Woman* magazine. Mrs. Lauder earned a BA in International Relations from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill and the Universidad de Sevilla, Spain.

Scott L. Shleifer has served as a member of our Board of Directors since December 2004. Mr. Shleifer joined Tiger Global Management, L.L.C. in July 2002. Tiger Global Management is an equity investment firm currently managing approximately \$1 billion. Mr. Shleifer is a Managing Director focusing primarily on investments in the Internet, for-profit education, and business services sectors. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors of Spark Networks, Mr. Shleifer sits on the Board of Directors of PRC.EDU, an online, for-profit education company in China. Prior to joining Tiger Global Management, Mr. Shleifer was a private equity investor at The Blackstone Group from July 1999 to June 2002. He received a BS in Economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated magna cum laude.

There are no family relationships among any of our executive officers or directors.

Compensation of Directors

We pay non-employee directors an annual compensation of \$30,000 for their services, except Scott Shleifer who does not receive compensation as a director. In addition, non-employee directors receive a fee of \$1,000 for each board and committee meeting attended in person and \$500 for each such meeting attended by phone. Non-employee directors are also reimbursed for reasonable costs and expenses that are approved and incurred in the performance of their duties. Officers of our company who are members of the Board of Directors are not paid any directors' fees. Directors are eligible to receive, from time to time, grants of options to purchase shares under our 2004 Share Option Scheme as determined by the Board of Directors. In 2004, we granted options to purchase 80,000 ordinary shares, which vest over a four-year period, to Michael Brown and Benjamin Derhy, and in February 2005 we made a similar grant of options to purchase 80,000 ordinary shares to Laura Lauder and Martial Chaillet.

Election of Directors

Our Articles of Association provide that all directors appointed by the Board since the last annual general meeting are subject to election by shareholders at the first annual general meeting following their appointment. Our Articles of Association also provide that the re-election of our Board of Directors shall be performed through a retirement by rotation system. At each annual general meeting one-third, or the number nearest to but not exceeding one-third, of our Board of Directors

Table of Contents

shall retire from office by rotation. Any retiring director shall be eligible for re-election. Our directors who retire by rotation include (1) any director who wishes to retire and not to offer himself for re-election and (2) any further directors who retire by rotation are those who have been longest in office since their last election or re-election. Where two or more persons became or were re-elected as directors on the same day, those to retire, unless they otherwise agree among themselves, are determined by lot.

Board Committees

Audit Committee. The audit committee consists of Martial Chaillet, Michael Brown and Benjamin Derhy, each of whom are independent directors. Mr. Chaillet, Chairman of the audit committee, is an audit committee financial expert as defined under Item 401(h) of Regulation S-K. The purpose of the audit committee is to represent and assist our Board of Directors in its general oversight of our accounting and financial reporting processes, audits of the financial statements and internal control and audit functions. The audit committee's responsibilities include:

The appointment, replacement, compensation, and oversight of work of the independent auditor, including resolution of disagreements between management and the independent auditor regarding financial reporting, for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services.

Reviewing and discussing with management and the independent auditor various topics and events that may have significant financial impact on our company or that are the subject of discussions between management and the independent auditors.

Compensation Committee. The compensation committee consists of Scott Shleifer, Benjamin Derhy and Laura Lauder, each of whom are independent directors. Mr. Shleifer is the Chairman of the compensation committee. The compensation committee is responsible for the design, review, recommendation and approval of compensation arrangements for our directors, executive officers and key employees, and for the administration of our share option schemes, including the approval of grants under such schemes to our employees, consultants and directors. The compensation committee also reviews and determines compensation of our executive officers, including our Chief Executive Officer.

Nominating Committee. The nominating committee consists of Michael Brown, Martial Chaillet and Laura Lauder, each of whom are independent directors. Mr. Brown is the Chairman of the nominating committee. The nominating committee assists in the selection of director nominees, approves director nominations to be presented for shareholder approval at our annual general meeting and fills any vacancies on our Board of Directors, considers any nominations of director candidates validly made by shareholders, and reviews and considers developments in corporate governance practices.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

To date, we have had a compensation committee or other Board committee performing equivalent functions. All members of our Board of Directors, some of whom were executive officers, participated in deliberations concerning executive officer compensation.

Table of Contents**Summary Executive Compensation Table**

The following table sets forth information concerning the annual and long-term compensation earned by our Chief Executive Officer and each of the other executive officers who served during the year ended December 31, 2005, and whose annual salary and bonus during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2003, 2004 and 2005 exceeded \$100,000 (the Named Executive Officers).

Name and Principal Position	Year	Annual Compensation			Long-Term Compensation	
		Salary	Bonus	Other Annual Compensation ⁽³⁾	Securities	All Other
					Underlying	Compensation ⁽⁴⁾
				Options		
David E. Siminoff ⁽¹⁾ President and Chief Executive Officer	2005	\$ 480,000	\$	\$		\$ 14,000
	2004	164,701			1,275,000	800
Joe Y. Shapira ⁽²⁾ Chairman of the Board	2005	365,833			250,000	14,000
	2004	370,207		20,000		12,645
	2003	528,000	1,372,000	20,000		14,000
Gregory R. Liberman ⁽⁵⁾ Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel	2005	186,742	25,000		150,000	7,500
	2004	33,409			100,000	
Philip C. Nelson ⁽⁶⁾ Chief Technology Officer	2005	250,000				10,000
	2004	61,553			250,000	10,000
Mark G. Thompson ⁽⁷⁾ Chief Financial Officer	2005	200,000	25,000			8,000
	2004	49,242			250,000	1,083

⁽¹⁾Mr. Siminoff became our President and Chief Executive Officer in August 2004 and has served on the Board of Directors since March 2004.

⁽²⁾Mr. Shapira served as our Chief Executive Officer in 2004 and 2003 and until he became Executive Co-Chairman in February 2004. Mr. Shapira became sole Executive Chairman in February 2005. Mr. Shapira resigned from an executive operating role with our company effective December 31, 2005, but remains Chairman of the Board. Compensation amounts for 2005 exclude a severance payment of \$125,000 from us to Mr. Shapira pursuant to a Separation Agreement entered into on January 27, 2006 with effect from January 1, 2006.

⁽³⁾Represents an annual automobile allowance.

⁽⁴⁾Represents the amount of our annual matching contribution to each individual's 401(k) account.

⁽⁵⁾

Mr. Liberman has served as our General Counsel since October 2004 and Chief Operating Officer since September 2005.

(6) Mr. Nelson became our Chief Technology Officer in October 2004. Mr. Nelson's employment with our company ended on April 4, 2006.

(7) Mr. Thompson became our Chief Financial Officer in October 2004.

Employment Agreements

We hired David E. Siminoff as our President and Chief Executive Officer in August 2004 at an annual salary of \$480,000. In addition, we granted Mr. Siminoff options to purchase 1,250,000 ordinary shares at a per share exercise price of \$4.24. Of these options, 156,250 vested and became exercisable on February 12, 2005, and 156,250 options vested and became exercisable on August 12, 2005 and 312,500 vest each of the three 12-month periods thereafter. If Mr. Siminoff is terminated, including

Table of Contents

voluntary termination, within six months after a change of control, which is defined in Mr. Siminoff's option agreement as an acquisition of more than 45% of our then outstanding shares, or other acquisition of effective control of our company, all of his options will vest immediately. If Mr. Siminoff is terminated without cause or if he terminates his employment with us for good reason, 30% of his unvested options will be accelerated and he will also be entitled to payment of his monthly salary in effect at the time of termination for a period of nine months following such termination. Pursuant to the terms of his Employment Agreement, Mr. Siminoff may not directly or indirectly compete with us or solicit our customers during the term of his Employment Agreement and he may not disclose any confidential information during or after his employment. In August 2004, Mr. Siminoff also agreed to continue to serve as a member of our Board of Directors. For his services as director, Mr. Siminoff received options to purchase 25,000 ordinary shares at a per share exercise price of \$9.55, all of which are currently vested. Pursuant to the offer letter and executive employment agreement with Mark Thompson, we hired Mr. Thompson as our Chief Financial Officer in October 2004 at an annual salary of \$200,000 and upon a successful listing of our shares or a derivative security of our shares on a national exchange or the Nasdaq National Market in the United States, we will pay him a bonus of \$80,000. This bonus was paid upon our listing on the American Stock Exchange in February 2006. In addition, we granted Mr. Thompson options to purchase 250,000 ordinary shares at a per share exercise price of \$6.69. Those options will vest at a rate of 12,500 shares per quarter for quarterly periods commencing three months after the date his employment commenced; provided, however, that options to purchase 50,000 of those shares will accelerate upon a successful listing of our shares or a derivative security of our shares on a national exchange or the Nasdaq National Market in the United States. These options were accelerated upon our listing on the American Stock Exchange in February 2006. In addition, all of the options will accelerate upon a change of control of our company, which is defined in Mr. Thompson's employment agreement as the acquisition of more than 50% of our outstanding shares. Pursuant to the terms of his Employment Agreement, Mr. Thompson may not directly or indirectly solicit our customers using confidential information for a period of 12 months following the termination of his Employment Agreement and he may not disclose any confidential information during or after his employment.

We hired Philip Nelson as our Chief Technology Officer in October 2004 at an annual salary of \$250,000. Mr. Nelson's last date of employment with us was April 4, 2006. At the commencement of Mr. Nelson's employment, we granted him options to purchase 250,000 ordinary shares at a per share exercise price of \$6.69. According to the terms of the share option agreement, Mr. Nelson's options vested at a rate of 15,625 shares per quarter, with the first vesting date occurring in January 2005. In addition, all unvested options would have become vested upon a change of control of our company, which was defined in Mr. Nelson's employment agreement as the acquisition of more than 50% of our outstanding shares. Pursuant to the terms of his Employment Agreement, Mr. Nelson may not directly or indirectly solicit our customers using confidential information for a period of 12 months following the termination of his Employment Agreement and he may not disclose any confidential information during or after his employment. Pursuant to the Executive Employment Agreement with Joe Y. Shapira, effective March 1, 2005, Mr. Shapira served as the Executive Chairman of our Board of Directors at an annual salary of \$350,000. On December 31, 2005, Mr. Shapira resigned from an executive operating role with our company. On January 27, 2006, we entered into a separation agreement with Mr. Shapira (the Separation Agreement) with effect from January 1, 2006 pursuant to which Mr. Shapira's Employment Agreement was terminated. Mr. Shapira continues to be a director and serve as Chairman of our Board of Directors. In connection with Mr. Shapira's departure from an executive role with our company, and pursuant to the Separation Agreement, Mr. Shapira received a one-time severance payment of \$125,000. According to the Separation Agreement, Mr. Shapira retained all share options previously awarded to him, and such options will vest and become exercisable on the terms set forth

Table of Contents

in the respective option certificates. In the past, we had granted Mr. Shapira options to purchase 250,000 ordinary shares at a per share exercise price of \$10.50. The options vest at a rate of 31,250 shares per quarter commencing June 1, 2005 and will continue to vest so long as Mr. Shapira remains a director. All unvested options will become vested upon a change in control of our company, which is defined as the acquisition of more than 50% of our outstanding shares. Mr. Shapira may not disclose any confidential information during or after his employment. In August 2005, we entered into an executive employment agreement with Gregory R. Liberman, our General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, making Mr. Liberman our Chief Operating Officer. Pursuant to terms of the employment agreement, Mr. Liberman will be compensated at an annual salary of \$200,000, and upon a successful listing of our shares or a derivative security of our shares on a national exchange or the Nasdaq National Market in the United States, we will pay him a bonus of \$25,000. This bonus was paid upon our listing on the American Stock Exchange in February 2006. In March 2006, Mr. Liberman's annual salary was raised to \$250,000. We also granted Mr. Liberman options, in addition to options granted to him prior to becoming our Chief Operating Officer, to purchase 115,000 ordinary shares at a per share exercise price of \$8.74. Those options will vest at a rate of 6.25% per quarter for quarterly periods commencing three months after the date his employment commenced; provided, however, that options to purchase 50,000 of those shares will accelerate upon a successful listing of our shares or a derivative security of our shares on a national exchange or the Nasdaq National Market in the United States. These options were accelerated upon our listing on the American Stock Exchange in February 2006. In addition, all of the options will accelerate upon a change of control of our company, which is defined in Mr. Liberman's employment agreement as the acquisition of more than 50% of our outstanding shares. Pursuant to the terms of his Employment Agreement, Mr. Liberman may not directly or indirectly solicit our customers using confidential information for a period of 12 months following the termination of his Employment Agreement and he may not disclose any confidential information during or after his employment.

Our Compensation Committee typically determines each executive officer's annual bonus and will consider the officer's performance in light of corporate goals and objectives relevant to executive compensation, such as our net revenues, competitive market data pertaining to executive compensation at comparable companies, and such other factors, including factors unrelated to our financial performance, as it may deem relevant. All of our executive officers are eligible to receive an annual bonus at the discretion of the Compensation Committee. There is no specific limit on the amount of a bonus that an officer may receive.

Options Granted in the Year Ended December 31, 2005

The following table sets forth information concerning individual grants of stock options in 2005 to the Named Executive Officers:

Name	Individual Grants				Potential Realizable Value	
	Number of Securities Underlying Options Granted	Percent of Total Options Granted to Employees ⁽¹⁾	Exercise or Base Price Per Share ⁽²⁾	Expiration Date	at Assumed Annual Rates of Stock Price Appreciation for Option Term ⁽³⁾	
					5%	10%
David E. Siminoff		%	\$		\$	\$
Joe Y. Shapira	250,000	18.1	9.12	03/01/12	928,189	2,163,075
Gregory R. Liberman	35,000	2.5	7.72	02/03/12	109,999	256,343

Edgar Filing: SPARK NETWORKS PLC - Form POS AM

Gregory R. Liberman	115,000	8.3	8.47	08/31/12	396,536	924,098
Mark G. Thompson						
Philip C. Nelson						

Table of Contents

- (1)The total number of options granted to our employees, excluding 160,000 shares underlying options granted to non-employee directors, during 2005 was 1,384,000.
- (2)The exercise price per share of options granted represents the fair market value of the underlying shares on the date the options were granted and are converted from Euros to U.S. dollars using the exchange rate as of December 31, 2005.
- (3)In order to comply with the rules of the SEC, we are including the gains or option spreads that would exist for the respective options we granted to the Named Executive Officers. We calculated these gains by assuming an annual compound stock price appreciation of 5% and 10% from the date of the option grant until the termination date of the option, which is the seventh anniversary of the grant date. These gains do not represent our estimate or projection of the future price of the ordinary shares.

Options Exercises and Options Values for Year Ended December 31, 2005

The following table sets forth information concerning option exercises in 2005 and option values as of December 31, 2005 to the Named Executive Officers:

Name	Shares Acquired on Exercise ⁽¹⁾	Value Realized ⁽²⁾	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options at Fiscal Year-End		Value of Unexercised In-the-Money Options at Fiscal Year-End ⁽³⁾	
			Exercisable	Un-exercisable	Exercisable	Un-exercisable
David E. Siminoff		\$	337,500	937,500	\$ 1,162,193	\$ 3,486,578
Joe Y. Shapira	2,500,000	10,689,588	93,750	156,250		
Gregory R. Lieberman			38,751	211,249	37,013	111,038
Mark G. Thompson			50,000	200,000	79,947	319,788
Philip C. Nelson			62,500	187,500	99,934	299,801

- (1)Shares acquired on exercise includes all shares underlying the share option or portion of the option exercised, without deducting shares held to satisfy tax obligations, if any, sold to pay the exercise price or otherwise disposed of.
- (2)The value realized of exercised options is the product of (a) the excess of the per share fair market value of the ordinary share on the date of exercise over the per share option exercise price and (b) the number of shares acquired upon exercise.
- (3)The value of unexercised in-the-money options is based on a price per share of \$7.42, which was the price of a share as quoted on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange at the close of business on December 31, 2005, minus the exercise price, multiplied by the number of shares underlying the option.

Benefit Plans**2004 Share Option Scheme**

Our 2004 Share Option Scheme (2004 Option Scheme) provides us the ability to grant share options to employees, consultants and directors, and is administered by our Board of Directors, which determines the option grant date, option price and vesting schedule of each option in accordance with the terms of our 2004 Option Scheme. Although

our Board of Directors determines the exercise prices of options granted under the 2004 Option Scheme, the exercise price per share may not be less than 85% of the fair market value, as defined in the 2004 Option Scheme, on the date of grant. Options granted under the 2004 Option Scheme vest and terminate over various periods at the discretion of our Board of Directors, but subject to the terms of the 2004 Option Scheme. Moreover, the exercise of options may be made subject to such performance or other conditions as our Board of Directors may

Table of Contents

determine. Options granted under the 2004 Option Scheme are personal to the option holder to whom they are granted and no transfer or assignment is permitted, other than a transfer to the option holder's personal representatives on death.

Our 2004 Option Scheme terminates on September 20, 2014, unless our Board of Directors terminates it earlier. Nevertheless, options granted under the 2004 Option Scheme may extend beyond the date of termination. Our Board of Directors has the discretion, subject to limitations set forth in the 2004 Option Scheme, to determine different exercise and lapse provisions. If a third party makes an offer to all shareholders to acquire all or a majority of our issued and outstanding shares, other than those shares which are already owned by the offeror, an option holder under the 2004 Option Scheme may exercise any of his or her options at any time within six months of the offeror obtaining control of us; provided, however that the options do not lapse pursuant to a separate provision under the 2004 Option Scheme prior to exercise. If an effective resolution in general meeting for our voluntary winding-up is passed before the date on which an option lapses, such an outstanding option then becomes exercisable for a period of three months after such resolution becomes effective. However, no exercise of an option is permitted at any time after the option has lapsed under a separate provision of the 2004 Option Scheme. At the end of the three month period all options will lapse.

In addition to the terms described above, options granted to employees and service providers of our Israeli subsidiary who are resident in Israel are also subject to the Sub-Plan for Israeli Employees and Service Providers. The Sub-Plan, which incorporates the 2004 Plan by reference, provides additional rules applicable to options granted to those Israeli Employees and Service Providers, as defined by the Sub-Plan.

As of December 31, 2005, 2,613,500 share options were outstanding under the 2004 Option Scheme at prices ranging from \$5.90 to \$9.34 per share.

2000 Share Option Scheme

Under the terms of our 2000 Executive Share Option Scheme (2000 Option Scheme), our Board of Directors was able to grant options, in their discretion, to our employees, directors and consultants. The Board of Directors determined the option price, vesting schedule and termination provisions of each option, subject to limitations contained in the 2000 Option Scheme. In September 2004, our Board of Directors resolved to cease granting options under the 2000 Option Scheme although, pursuant to the provisions of the 2000 Option Scheme, all outstanding options previously granted under the 2000 Option Scheme continue in full force and effect. Our Board of Directors intends to use our 2004 Option Scheme to grant options to employees, consultants and directors in the future.

As of December 31, 2005, 2,089,750 share options were outstanding under the 2000 Option Scheme at prices ranging from \$0.86 to \$9.34 per share.

Employee Benefit Plan

We have a defined contribution plan under Section 401(k) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code covering all full-time employees, and providing for matching contributions by us, as defined in the plan. Participants in the plan may direct the investment of their personal accounts to a choice of mutual funds consisting of various portfolios of stocks, bonds, or cash instruments. Contributions made by us to the plan for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003 were approximately \$234,000, \$184,000, and \$110,000, respectively.

Table of Contents

Indemnification of Directors and Officers and Limitation of Liability

Pursuant to our Articles of Association and in accordance with the Companies Act 1985, we provide the following indemnification to our directors and other officers:

- (a) Indemnification of directors in respect of proceedings brought by third parties (covering both legal costs and the financial costs of any adverse judgment, except for the legal costs of unsuccessful defenses of criminal proceedings, fines imposed in criminal proceedings and penalties imposed by certain regulatory bodies);
- (b) Payment of directors' defense costs as they are incurred, including if the action is brought by the company itself. A director in this situation would still be liable to pay any damages awarded to our company and to repay his defense costs to the company if his defense were unsuccessful, other than where the company chooses to indemnify him in respect of legal costs incurred in certain types of civil third party proceedings; and
- (c) Indemnification of our officers who are not directors without many of the restrictions that apply to indemnification of directors.

We have entered into indemnification agreements with our directors and executive officers that require us to indemnify them from and against all liabilities, costs, including legal costs, claims, actions, proceedings, demands, expenses and damages arising in connection with the performance by them of their respective duties to the fullest extent permitted by our Memorandum and Articles of Association and applicable law, each as modified from time to time.

We are required to disclose such indemnities in our annual directors' report which is publicly filed with the Registrar of Companies for England and Wales. Shareholders are able to inspect any relevant indemnification agreement. We maintain a directors' and officers' insurance policy. The policy insures directors and other officers against unindemnified losses arising from certain wrongful acts in their capacities as directors and officers and reimburses our company for those losses for which we have lawfully indemnified our directors and officers. The policy contains various exclusions.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

Efficient Frontier

In 2004, we entered into an agreement with Efficient Frontier, a provider of online marketing optimization services to procure and manage a portion of our online paid search and keyword procurement efforts. The Chief Executive Officer of Efficient Frontier is Ms. Ellen Siminoff, who is the wife of our Chief Executive Officer, David E. Siminoff. We paid approximately \$335,000 to Efficient Frontier in 2005 and \$61,000 in 2004.

Yobon, Inc.

In 2004, we invested \$250,000 in Yobon, Inc., a provider of Web toolbar technology. Our former Chief Technology Officer, Phil Nelson, is the Chairman of Yobon. In December 2005, we determined that the value of the Yobon investment would not be realized in full and recorded an impairment charge in the amount of \$105,000.

Other Relationships

Until August 31, 2005, we employed Elraz Sela, the nephew of Alon Carmel, our former Co-Executive Chairman of the Board, in an executive position for which we compensated him \$120,000 per year. In addition, several other relatives of each of Joe Y. Shapira, currently our Chairman of the Board, and Alon Carmel hold non-executive positions with us and Spark Networks Israel for which they are compensated less than \$60,000.

Other Agreements

On December 1, 2005, Great Hill Investors, LLC, Great Hill Equity Partners II Limited Partnership and Great Hill Affiliate Partners II L.P. purchased an aggregate of 6,000,000 ordinary shares in four privately negotiated transactions. Of the 6,000,000 shares purchased, (i) 1,250,000 shares were purchased from Joe Y. Shapira, our Chairman of the Board of Directors, at \$4.60 per share, (ii) 1,250,000 shares were purchased from Alon Carmel, our former Co-Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors, at \$4.60 per share, (iii) 1,500,000 shares were purchased from Criterion Capital Management LLC, a more than 5% holder of our securities, at \$5.35 per share, and (iv) 2,000,000 shares were purchased from affiliates of Tiger Global Management, L.L.C at \$5.35 per share. Tiger Global Management was our largest shareholder prior to the sale of the 2,000,000 shares, and one of our directors, Scott Shleifer, is a limited partner of Tiger Global, L.P., an affiliate of Tiger Global Management and one of the sellers of the 2,000,000 shares.

We had entered into a confidentiality agreement dated October 14, 2005 with Great Hill Equity Partners II (Great Hill) that contained a provision (the Standstill Provision) pursuant to which Great Hill agreed not to, among other things, directly or indirectly acquire, offer to acquire, or propose to acquire more than 2% of any class of our securities or rights to acquire more than 2% of any class of our securities for a period of one year from the date of the confidentiality agreement without our prior written consent. On December 1, 2005, we and Great Hill entered into a standstill agreement (the Standstill Agreement) pursuant to which we waived the Standstill Provision and Great Hill agreed that its ability to increase its beneficial ownership of our securities would be subject to the terms and conditions of the Standstill Agreement, which has a term of five years unless terminated earlier. Pursuant to the Standstill Agreement, for a period of 14 months from the date of the Standstill Agreement (the Fourteen Month Period), Great Hill agreed that it would not, without the prior written consent by us:

acquire or seek to acquire, directly or indirectly, by purchase or otherwise, ownership of any of our voting securities (or rights to acquire any of our class of securities or any subsidiary thereof) such that Great Hill and its affiliates (the Great Hill Group) would

Table of Contents

beneficially own more than 29.9% of our total voting power (the Total Voting Power), which is defined as the aggregate number of votes which may be cast by holders of outstanding voting securities on a poll at a general meeting of ours taking into account any voting restrictions imposed by our Articles of Association, or take any action that would require us to make a public announcement regarding the foregoing under applicable law;

participate in any of the following with respect to us or our subsidiaries: (i) any tender, takeover or exchange offer or other business combination, (ii) any recapitalization, restructuring, liquidation, dissolution or other extraordinary transaction, or (iii) any solicitation of proxies or consents to vote any voting securities;

form, join or participate in a group as defined in Section 13(d)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, in connection with any of the foregoing;

seek to control our Board of Directors; and

enter into any arrangements with any third party with respect to any of the above.

After the expiration of the Fourteen Month Period, Great Hill agreed that it would not acquire or seek to acquire beneficial ownership of any of our voting securities (or rights to acquire any class of our securities or any subsidiary thereof) or participate in any tender, takeover or exchange offer or other business combination, or any recapitalization, restructuring, dissolution or other extraordinary transaction *if* (i) prior to giving effect thereto, the Great Hill Group beneficially owns less than 60% of Total Voting Power and (ii) after giving effect, the Great Hill Group would beneficially own more than 29.9% of Total Voting Power.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Great Hill Group, after the Fourteen Month Period, would not be deemed to beneficially own any voting securities owned by another person if the sole reason is being a member of a group with such person and there are no other indicia of beneficial ownership of such securities that are attributable to the Great Hill Group.

The provisions of the Standstill Agreement do not apply to (i) repurchases, redemptions, a rights issue, recapitalizations and consolidation or a share capital reduction us, and (ii) offers to acquire securities by the Great Hill Group to all of the holders of our voting securities.

Furthermore, each member of the Great Hill Group agreed not to sell or transfer shares purchased pursuant to certain share purchase agreements for 180 days from the date of the Standstill Agreement without our written consent.

On December 1, 2005, in connection with the exercise of options, each of Joe Y. Shapira and Alon Carmel entered into tax indemnification agreements with us. Mr. Shapira is currently the Chairman of our Board of Directors.

Mr. Carmel is a co-founder, our former President and former Executive Co-Chairman of our Board of Directors.

Pursuant to the indemnification agreements, each of Messrs. Shapira and Carmel agreed to indemnify and to pay us any taxes (including income, employment or other withholding taxes), interest and/or penalties and other costs and expenses (including attorney's fees incurred by us) we are required to pay as a result of our failure to withhold any federal, state, local or foreign taxes in respect of the exercise of each of their options, respectively.

On January 27, 2006, we entered into a separation agreement with Joe Y. Shapira (the Separation Agreement) with effect from January 1, 2006 pursuant to which Mr. Shapira's employment agreement dated March 1, 2005 (the Employment Agreement) was terminated. Mr. Shapira will continue as the non-executive Chairman of our Board of Directors. According to the Separation Agreement, we agreed to pay Mr. Shapira severance pay in the lump sum amount of \$125,000, minus applicable state and federal withholdings. Mr. Shapira will retain all share options previously awarded to him, and such options will vest and become exercisable on the terms set forth in the respective option certificates. For his services as a director, we will pay Mr. Shapira a director's fee at the rate of

Table of Contents

\$30,000 per year, payable in monthly installments of \$2,500 each for each month of service. In addition, Mr. Shapira will receive \$1,000 for his in-person attendance at a Board or committee meeting and \$500 for his attendance at a telephonic Board or committee meeting, in addition to reimbursement for approved expenses incurred in the performance of his duties. According to the Separation Agreement, Mr. Shapira is expected to attend at least four Board meetings and, if applicable, four committee meetings per year. Mr. Shapira's appointment to the Board will extend until our next annual general meeting and continue as long as he is reelected to the Board by our shareholders, unless Mr. Shapira resigns or is removed in accordance with our Memorandum and Articles of Association and applicable law. We agreed to defend and indemnify Mr. Shapira to the fullest extent permitted by our charter documents and applicable law against any demand, claim, cause of action, action, loss, and/or liability that is made against him arising from or relating to Mr. Shapira's employment with us, service as a director of our company, or otherwise. Mr. Shapira agreed to release and discharge us from any and all employment termination claims, actions, demands, rights, or damages of any kind for termination of Mr. Shapira's employment, Employment Agreement and/or separation from our company.

Table of Contents**PRINCIPAL AND SELLING SHAREHOLDERS**

This prospectus covers the offer and sale by the selling shareholders from time to time of up to an aggregate of 33,263,996 ordinary shares in the form of ADSs, including 2,595,000 ordinary shares underlying options that were issued to selling shareholders and 430,000 ordinary shares underlying warrants that were issued to selling shareholders.

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the beneficial ownership of our ordinary shares, as of March 15, 2006, for:

each selling shareholder;

each person or entity who we know beneficially owns more than 5% of our ordinary shares;

each of our Named Executive Officers and each of our directors; and

all of our executive officers and directors as a group.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission and includes voting or investment power with respect to the securities. The number of ordinary shares outstanding, on an as-converted basis, used in calculating the percentage for each listed person or entity includes ordinary shares underlying options or a warrant held by the person or entity, all of which are being registered in this registration statement, but excludes ordinary shares underlying options or warrants held by any other person or entity. In addition, each person's or entity's warrants and options that are exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2006 is disclosed below. Percentage of beneficial ownership is based on 30,296,396 ordinary shares outstanding as of March 15, 2006. The term "selling shareholders" also includes any transferees, pledgees, donees, or other successors in interest to the selling shareholders named in the table below. To our knowledge, except as provided below or in any prospectus supplements, none of the selling shareholders has had a material relationship with us within the past three years other than as a result of the ownership of the shares covered by this prospectus. To our knowledge, except as indicated by footnote and subject to applicable community property laws, each person named in the table has sole voting and investment power with respect to the ordinary shares set forth opposite such person's name. Unless otherwise indicated, the address of our officers and directors is c/o: Spark Networks plc, 8383 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 800, Beverly Hills, California 90211.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Ordinary Shares Beneficially Owned Prior to the Offering		Number of Ordinary Shares Registered for Sale Hereby	Ordinary Shares Beneficially Owned After Completion of the Offering ⁽¹⁾	
	Number of Shares	Percentage of Shares		Number of Shares	Percentage of Shares
5% stockholders:					
Great Hill Investors, LLC ⁽²⁾	6,000,000	19.8%	6,000,000		%
Tiger Global Management, L.L.C. ⁽³⁾	4,631,085	15.3	4,631,085		
Capital Research and Management Company ⁽⁴⁾	3,159,680	10.4	3,159,680		
Alon Carmel ⁽⁵⁾	2,753,848	9.1	2,753,848		

FM Fund Management Limited ⁽⁶⁾	2,201,890	7.3	2,201,890
Named Executive Officers and Directors:			
David E. Siminoff ⁽⁷⁾	2,124,500	6.7	2,124,500
Joe Y. Shapira ⁽⁸⁾	3,012,639	9.9	3,012,639

Table of Contents

Name of Beneficial Owner	Ordinary Shares Beneficially Owned Prior to the Offering		Number of Ordinary Shares Registered for Sale Hereby	Ordinary Shares Beneficially Owned After Completion of the Offering ⁽¹⁾	
	Number of Shares	Percentage of Shares		Number of Shares	Percentage of Shares
Gregory R. Liberman ⁽⁹⁾	262,500	*	262,500		
Mark Thompson ⁽¹⁰⁾	250,000	*	250,000		
Philip Nelson ⁽¹¹⁾	250,000	*	250,000		
Scott Shleifer ⁽¹²⁾		*			
Michael Brown ⁽¹³⁾	80,000	*	80,000		
Benjamin Derhy ⁽¹⁴⁾	80,000	*	80,000		
Laura Lauder ⁽¹⁵⁾	180,000	*	180,000		
Martial Chaillet ⁽¹⁶⁾	200,000	*	200,000		
All directors and executives as a group (10 persons) ⁽¹⁷⁾	6,439,639	19.6%	6,439,639		%
Other Selling Shareholders:					
Criterion Capital Management LLC ⁽¹⁸⁾	1,126,337	3.7	1,126,337		
European Catalyst Fund ⁽¹⁹⁾	823,966	2.7	823,966		
Absolute Return Europe Fund ⁽²⁰⁾	800,501	2.6	800,501		
Europlay Capital Advisors, LLC ⁽²¹⁾	447,711	1.5	447,711		
Absolute Octane Fund ⁽²²⁾	380,978	1.3	380,978		
Absolute German Fund ⁽²³⁾	304,263	1.0	304,263		
Elmar Bob	150,000	*	150,000		
Alex Sandel	122,781	*	122,781		
Jason Yair Barzilay	100,710	*	100,710		
The Levy Family Trust of 1997 Dtd 7/10/98 Charles M. Levy & Lydia Levy TTEEs	96,776	*	96,776		
Michael McCullough & Ana Rowen McCullough Comm. Prop	82,350	*	82,350		
John B. Peterson ⁽²⁴⁾	75,000	*	75,000		
Natalie N. Peterson ⁽²⁵⁾	75,000	*	75,000		
Absolute LargeCap Fund ⁽²⁶⁾	50,000	*	50,000		
Ursula Siekmann	40,000	*	40,000		
Karen Coster	27,500	*	27,500		
Yoav Cohen	25,000	*	25,000		
Brigitte Kandel	20,000	*	20,000		
Peter Kandel	20,000	*	20,000		
Yaacov Metzler & Nancy Metzler JTWROS	20,000	*	20,000		
Patrick J. Ferrell	18,039	*	18,039		

Edgar Filing: SPARK NETWORKS PLC - Form POS AM

Dan Rhodes	15,000	*	15,000
John Benjamin Peterson and Natalie Nicole Peterson ⁽²⁷⁾	13,188	*	13,188
David Martin	12,300	*	12,300
Debbie Rosten	12,000	*	12,000
Christopher Kandel	10,000	*	10,000

Table of Contents

Name of Beneficial Owner	Ordinary Shares Beneficially Owned Prior to the Offering		Number of Ordinary Shares Registered for Sale Hereby	Ordinary Shares Beneficially Owned After Completion of the Offering ⁽¹⁾	
	Number of Shares	Percentage of Shares		Number of Shares	Percentage of Shares
Norman Agran	10,000	*	10,000		
Steven G. Small	10,000	*	10,000		
John J. Lucena Sole TTEE John J. Lucena Living Trust	10,000	*	10,000		
Reid Hoffman	9,478	*	9,478		
Stefanie Giesen Anderle	9,000	*	9,000		
Stephen Andrew Nichols	8,000	*	8,000		
Barry J. Uphoff and Linda A. Uphoff JTWROS	7,000	*	7,000		
Ron Kenan	6,500	*	6,500		
Roger Filer	6,250	*	6,250		
David Pomije	5,918	*	5,918		
Henry C. McCullough & Dana McCullough JTWROS	5,500	*	5,500		
Dr. Eithan Ephrati	5,500	*	5,500		
Brent E. Wood and Teresa D. Wood, Jr. Ten.	4,250	*	4,250		
Greg Lahann	4,143	*	4,143		
Barry J. Uphoff	4,100	*	4,100		
Bruce Cunningham	4,034	*	4,034		
Allen Blue	4,000	*	4,000		
Chris Saccheri	4,000	*	4,000		
David Cullinan	4,000	*	4,000		
Lauren Jacobsen	4,000	*	4,000		
Leslie Grant	4,000	*	4,000		
Sharon Shapira	4,000	*	4,000		
Seymour Gussack	3,000	*	3,000		
Isaac Zaharoni	3,000	*	3,000		
Terra Terwilliger	2,959	*	2,959		
Andres Martinez	2,600	*	2,600		
Sung J. Chyun	2,500	*	2,500		
Steve Kaufman	2,061	*	2,061		
David Breskin	2,000	*	2,000		
David Rowland	2,000	*	2,000		
Michael Gerard	2,000	*	2,000		
Michael Grant	2,000	*	2,000		

Edgar Filing: SPARK NETWORKS PLC - Form POS AM

Niel Bennet Brandon	2,000	*	2,000
Sanjay Zaveri	2,000	*	2,000
Vincent Eric Johnson	2,000	*	2,000
Richard L. Turnure Ex	2,000	*	2,000
Roger Mcomber	2,000	*	2,000

Table of Contents

Name of Beneficial Owner	Ordinary Shares Beneficially Owned Prior to the Offering		Number of Ordinary Shares Registered for Sale Hereby	Ordinary Shares Beneficially Owned After Completion of the Offering ⁽¹⁾	
	Number of Shares	Percentage of Shares		Number of Shares	Percentage of Shares
Sheila C. Ruby TTEE Sheila C. Ruby Trust	2,000	*	2,000		
Stanley Lee Marshall	2,000	*	2,000		
Galli Francesco	1,350	*	1,350		
Robert E. Enslein Jr.	1,170	*	1,170		
Nuri Halperin	1,150	*	1,150		
Amit Korda	1,000	*	1,000		
Amit Korda Avk Acct	1,000	*	1,000		
Christopher Lee	1,000	*	1,000		
Eli Amir	1,000	*	1,000		
Gidon Hilb	1,000	*	1,000		
Naama Korda	1,000	*	1,000		
Jonathan Mazer	1,000	*	1,000		
Ohad Safran	1,000	*	1,000		
US Clearing Corp.	1,000	*	1,000		
Tamara L. Thompson	887	*	887		
Jedediah Rosenzweig	875	*	875		
Alisande M. Rozyngo	591	*	591		
Ronald F. McGraw	500	*	500		
Tim C. Chen	500	*	500		
Don MacKenzie	357	*	357		
Niquette Hunt	346	*	346		
Ryan Koonce	312	*	312		
Marc De Luise	300	*	300		
Scott Gerstein	300	*	300		
Robert Marinelli & Monserrate Marinelli Jt. Ten	273	*	273		
Michal Freeman-Shor	268	*	268		
Mike Torgersen	260	*	260		
Virginia W. Wei	236	*	236		
Allan Rosenthal TTEE Rosenthal Bypass Trust U/ A	200	*	200		
Avi Baratz	200	*	200		
Shawn J. Fried	200	*	200		
Yehuda Riess & Candi L. Riess	200	*	200		
Greg Oberfield	180	*	180		

Edgar Filing: SPARK NETWORKS PLC - Form POS AM

Edward Kessler	173	*	173
Mark Castillo	146	*	146
Brian O. Lucena	135	*	135
Diana Cruz	99	*	99
Yan Pujante	84	*	84

Table of Contents

Name of Beneficial Owner	Ordinary Shares Beneficially Owned Prior to the Offering		Number of Ordinary Shares Registered for Sale Hereby	Ordinary Shares Beneficially Owned After Completion of the Offering ⁽¹⁾	
	Number of Shares	Percentage of Shares		Number of Shares	Percentage of Shares
Paul Soltoff	83	*	83		
Scott Zakalik	75	*	75		
Karl Fluis	69	*	69		
Karl Maurer	54	*	54		
Scott J. Boland	50	*	50		
Linda E. Burgdorf	41	*	41		
Rima Vogensen	29	*	29		
Naomi Bloom	26	*	26		
Donald Oberfield	13	*	13		
Debra Vernon	10	*	10		
Scott D. Bretschneider	3	*	3		
Nigel Coster	1	*	1		
All Other Selling Shareholders ⁽²⁸⁾	3,543,915	11.7%	3,543,915		
Total	33,263,996				

* Less than 1%.

⁽¹⁾ Represents the amount of shares that will be held by the selling shareholder after completion of this offering based on the assumption that all shares registered for sale hereby will be sold. However, the selling shareholders may offer all, some or none of the shares pursuant to this prospectus and any prospectus supplement.

⁽²⁾ Consists of 68,862 shares held by Great Hill Investors, LLC (GHI); 5,713,465 shares held by Great Hill Equity Partners II, Limited Partnership (GHEP II); and 217,673 shares held by Great Hill Affiliate Partners II, L.P. (GHAP II, and together GHI and GHEP II, the Funds). Each Fund is an investment fund, principally engaged in the business of making private equity and other investments. Great Hill Partners GP II, LLC (GP II, and together with the Funds, the Great Hill Entities) is the sole general partner of GHEP II and GHAP II. Stephen F. Gormley, Christopher S. Gaffney and John G. Hayes (collectively, the Controlling Persons) are the managers of GP II and GHI. The principal business office of the Funds, GP II and the Controlling Persons is c/o Great Hill Partners, LLC, One Liberty Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109.

⁽³⁾ Consists of 3,649,746 shares held by Tiger Global, L.P.; 892,576 shares held by Tiger Global, Ltd.; and 88,763 shares held by Tiger Global II, L.P. Each entity has sole voting power over the shares it holds; Tiger Global Management, L.L.C. is the investment manager of Tiger Global, L.P., Tiger Global, Ltd. and Tiger Global II, L.P. and it has shared investment power over the 4,631,085 shares; Charles P. Coleman III is the sole managing member of the Tiger Global Management, L.L.C. Tiger Global Performance, L.L.C. is the sole general partner of Tiger Global, L.P.; Charles P. Coleman III is the sole managing member of the general partner of Tiger Global, L.P.; Tiger Global Performance, L.L.C. is the sole general partner of Tiger Global II, L.P.; Charles P. Coleman III is the sole managing member of Tiger Global II, L.P. The address for Tiger Global Management, L.L.C., Tiger Global, L.P. and Tiger Global II, L.P. is 101 Park Avenue, 48th Floor, New York, New York 10178. The address

for Tiger Global, Ltd. is c/o Ironshore Corporate Services Limited, Queensgate House, South Church Street, P.O. Box 1234, George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands.

- (4) Capital Research and Management Company (CRMC), an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, is deemed to be the beneficial owner of 3,159,680 shares as a result of acting as investment adviser to various investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. CRMC has sole dispositive power over these shares. Included in the holdings of CRMC is the holding of SMALLCAP World Fund, Inc., an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, which is advised by CRMC. SMALLCAP World Fund, Inc. is the beneficial owner of 2,328,503 shares, of which it has sole voting power. Based on information provided to us by CRMC, CRMC is an affiliate of a broker-dealer and it acquired these securities in the ordinary course of business and that at the time of the acquisition of these securities, it had no agreements or understandings, directly or indirectly, with any person to distribute these securities. The persons controlling the investment decisions with respect to the shares held by CRMC and SMALLCAP World Fund are Gordon Crawford, J. Blair Frank, J. Dale Harvey, Claudia Huntington, Jonathan Knowles and Mark Denning. The address for both entities is 333 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, California 90071.
- (5) Includes (i) 8,000 shares held by his spouse and (ii) 550,000 shares held by the Shapira Children s Trust of which Mr. Carmel is the trustee. Mr. Carmel is a co-founder of our company, served as our President in 2003, 2002 and 2001 and became Executive Co-Chairman in February 2004. Mr. Carmel resigned as Executive Co-Chairman in February 2005.
- (6) The registered office of FM Fund Management Limited is Queensgate House, South Church Street, George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands. Florian Homm has voting and investment powers for the shares held by FM Fund Management Limited.

Table of Contents

- (7) Includes 1,275,000 shares issuable upon exercise of share options, 337,500 shares of which underlie options exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2006.
- (8) Includes (i) 250,000 shares issuable upon exercise of share options, 93,750 shares of which underlie options exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2006, (ii) 1,062,415 shares held by the Joe Shapira Family Trust of which Mr. Shapira is trustee, (iii) 550,000 shares held by the Shapira Children's Trust of which Alon Carmel is trustee and Mr. Shapira has the right to substitute the corpus, and (iv) 12,000 shares held by a third-party custodian for Mr. Shapira's children. Mr. Shapira disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by the Shapira Children's Trust and by third-party custodian for his children, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest.
- (9) Consists of 250,000 ordinary shares issuable upon the exercise of options, which includes 62,814 shares issuable upon the exercise of options that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2006 and 50,000 shares issuable upon the exercise of options that vested upon the listing of our securities on the American Stock Exchange. Mr. Liberman is our Chief Operating Officer, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary.
- (10) Consists of 250,000 ordinary shares issuable upon the exercise of options, which includes 75,000 shares issuable upon exercise of options that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2006 and 50,000 shares issuable upon exercise of options that vested upon the listing of our securities on the American Stock Exchange. Mr. Thompson is our Chief Financial Officer.
- (11) Consists of 250,000 ordinary shares issuable upon the exercise of options, which includes 93,750 shares issuable upon the exercise of options that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2006 and 50,000 shares issuable upon the exercise of options that vested upon the listing of our securities on the American Stock Exchange. Mr. Nelson is our former Chief Technology Officer. In 2004, we invested \$250,000 in Yobon, Inc., a provider of web toolbar technology. In exchange for our investment in Yobon, we received a secured convertible promissory note. The note will automatically convert into equity of Yobon upon its completion of an equity financing of at least \$1,000,000, if such equity financing is completed within certain timeframes. Mr. Nelson is the Chairman of Yobon.
- (12) Excludes 3,649,746 shares held by Tiger Global, L.P. and 88,763 shares held by Tiger Global II, L.P., of which Scott Shleifer is a limited partner. Mr. Shleifer holds the position of Managing Director at Tiger Global Management, L.L.C.
- (13) Represents shares issuable upon exercise of share options, 20,000 shares of which underlie options exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2006.
- (14) Represents shares issuable upon exercise of share options, 25,000 shares of which underlie options exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2006.
- (15) Represents 100,000 shares held by Mrs. Lauder's husband and 80,000 shares issuable to Mrs. Lauder upon exercise of share options, 25,000 shares of which underlie options exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2006.
- (16) Includes 80,000 shares issuable upon exercise of share options, 25,000 shares of which underlie options exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2006.
- (17) Shares beneficially owned by all executive officers and directors as a group include options to purchase 2,595,000 shares, 949,064 shares of which are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2006.
- (18) Consists of 70,231 shares held by Criterion Capital Partners, L.P. ("CCP"), 232,090 shares held by Criterion Institutional Partners L.P. ("CIP"), and 824,016 shares held by Criterion Capital Partners, Ltd. ("CCPL")(together, the "Funds"). Each Fund is a private investment fund. Criterion Capital Management, LLC is the general partner of CCP and CIP and the investment adviser to CCPL. Christopher H. Lord is the manager of Criterion Capital Management, LLC. The address of Criterion Capital Management, LLC CCP and CIP is 435 Pacific Avenue, 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94144. The address of CCPL is Walkers SPV Limited, P.O. Box 908 GT, Walker House, George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, BWI.
- (19) Guillermo Hernandez, investment manager of European Catalyst Fund, has voting and investment powers for the shares held by European Catalyst Fund.
- (20) Florian Homm, director of Absolute Return Europe Fund, has voting and investment powers for the shares held by Absolute Return Europe Fund.

- (21) Includes 430,000 ordinary shares issuable upon the exercise of warrants that are currently exercisable. In August 2003, we issued warrants to Europlay Capital Advisors, LLC (ECA) for the purchase of up to 1,000,000 ordinary shares at an exercise price of \$2.49 per share in exchange for financial consulting services provided to us by ECA. In December 2004, ECA and our company agreed to accelerate vesting of 250,000 of the remaining 500,000 unvested warrants, and cancel the remaining 250,000 unvested warrants. Accordingly, we issued a warrant certificate for 750,000 shares. Pamela Colburn is the Managing Director of ECA and has investment and voting powers over the shares held by ECA. Based on information provided to us by ECA, ECA is an affiliate of a broker-dealer and it acquired these securities in the ordinary course of business and that at the time of the acquisition of these securities, it had no agreements or understandings, directly or indirectly, with any person to distribute these securities.
- (22) Peter Irlblad, investment manager of Absolute Octane Fund, has voting and investment powers for the shares held by Absolute Octane Fund.
- (23) Frank Siebrecht, investment manager of Absolute German Fund, has voting and investment powers for the shares held by Absolute German Fund.
- (24) In June 2005, we issued 150,000 ordinary shares to two shareholders of MingleMatch, Inc., one of which was Mr. Peterson, in connection with our acquisition of MingleMatch.
- (25) In June 2005, we issued 150,000 ordinary shares to two shareholders of MingleMatch, Inc., one of which was Ms. Peterson, in connection with our acquisition of MingleMatch.
- (26) Antonio Porsia, investment manager of Absolute LargeCap Fund, has voting and investment powers for the shares held by Absolute LargeCap Fund.
- (27) In June 2005, each of Mr. and Mrs. Peterson received 75,000 ordinary shares in connection with our acquisition of MingleMatch, Inc.

Table of Contents

⁽²⁸⁾ Represents shares for which we are unable to obtain information regarding the beneficial owners. Our ordinary shares are traded on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange in the form of GDSs. The ordinary shares that are traded in the form of GDSs constitute approximately 65% of our outstanding shares, all of which are on deposit with The Bank of New York, our depository bank for the GDSs. We have been unable to obtain information for beneficial owners who hold their securities through non-U.S. brokers and certain beneficial owners who have chosen not to provide information. We will provide information regarding such beneficial holders through the filing of post-effective amendments. We will file post-effective amendments to include additional selling shareholders at such times that we file post-effective amendments to update this registration statement with information from our Form 10-Q and Form 10-K filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In order to be included as a selling shareholder in any post-effective amendment to this registration statement, the holder must provide us with information regarding the beneficial owner, including, but not limited to, the name, total amount of shareholdings (including options and warrants), whether the beneficial owner is a broker-dealer or an affiliate of a broker-dealer, the name of the natural person with disposition power if the shares are held by an entity, and whether the holder has had a material relationship with us within the past three years. Such information will be used to prepare post-effective amendments that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission to update the selling shareholders table. No ADSs may be delivered until such time as any information regarding such selling shareholder is included in a post-effective amendment, if not already included, and the post-effective amendment is filed with and declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission. We will (i) identify as underwriters all sellers who are broker-dealers that did not receive their shares as underwriting compensation or who are broker-dealer affiliates that acquired their shares with a view toward distribution; and (ii) with regard to the resale of shares by broker-dealer affiliates who did not purchase with a view toward distribution, disclose that (A) the seller purchased in the ordinary course of business and (B) at the time of the purchase of the securities to be resold the seller had no agreements or understandings, directly or indirectly, with any person to distribute the securities.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF SHARE CAPITAL

Description of Ordinary Shares

We are providing you with a summary description of our ordinary shares and the material rights of holders of our ordinary shares. Please remember that summaries by their nature lack the precision of the information summarized and that a person's rights and obligations as a holder of our ordinary shares will be determined by reference to our Memorandum and Articles of Association and applicable English law, each as modified from time to time, and not by this summary. We urge you to review our Memorandum and Articles of Association in their entirety and to seek appropriate professional advice regarding their interpretation and applicable English law.

General

Our authorized share capital is £800,000 divided into 80,000,000 ordinary shares of £0.01 each. Set forth below is information concerning the share capital and related summary information concerning the material provisions of our Memorandum and Articles of Association, or Memorandum and Articles, and applicable English company law.

Voting rights

Every holder of ordinary shares who, being an individual, is present in person or by proxy or, being a corporation, has an authorized representative present who is not himself a shareholder, at a general meeting has one vote on a show of hands. Proxies voting on a show of hands do not have more than one vote each, even if they hold a number of proxies or are shareholders themselves. On a poll, every holder of ordinary shares present in person, by its authorized representative or by proxy has one vote for each share held. Voting at a general meeting is by a show of hands unless a poll is demanded. A poll may be demanded by:

the chairman of the meeting;

not less than three shareholders present at the meeting in person, by proxy or represented by an authorized representative and entitled to vote;

any shareholder or shareholders present at the meeting in person, by proxy or represented by an authorized representative and representing not less than one-tenth of the total voting rights of all shareholders having the right to vote at such meeting; or

any shareholder or shareholders present in person, by proxy or represented by an authorized representative and holding a number of ordinary shares conferring a right to vote at the meeting, being shares on which an aggregate sum has been paid up equal to not less than one-tenth of the total sum paid up on all of the shares conferring that right.

Where a poll is not demanded, the interests of beneficial owners of ordinary shares who hold through a nominee may not be reflected in votes cast on a show of hands if that nominee does not attend the meeting or receives conflicting voting instructions from different beneficial owners for whom it holds the shares as nominee. Since, under English law, voting rights are only conferred on registered holders of shares, a person holding through a nominee may not directly demand a poll.

Unless otherwise required by law or the Memorandum and Articles, voting in a general meeting is by ordinary resolution. An ordinary resolution, for example, a resolution for the appointment of directors, the declaration of a final dividend, the appointment of the auditors, the increase of authorized share capital or grant of authority to allot shares, requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shareholders (a) present in person or by an authorized representative or by proxy, excluding the chairman of the meeting in his role as proxy, in the case of a vote by show of hands or (b) present in person, by an authorized representative or by proxy and holding shares conferring in the aggregate a

Table of Contents

majority of the votes actually cast on the ordinary resolution, in the case of a vote by poll. In the case of a tied vote, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chairman of the meeting is entitled to cast a deciding vote. A special resolution, for example, a resolution amending the Memorandum and Articles, changing the name of our company or waiving statutory pre-emption rights on the issue of shares for cash, or an extraordinary resolution, for example, modifying the rights of any class of shares at a meeting of the holders of such class or relating to matters concerning the liquidation of our company, requires the affirmative vote of not less than three-quarters of shareholders present in person, represented by an authorized representative or by proxy and holding shares conferring in aggregate at least three-quarters of the votes actually cast on the resolution, on a vote by poll.

Unless our Board of Directors determines otherwise, no shareholder is entitled to vote in respect of any share held by him either personally or by proxy or to exercise any other right conferred by membership in relation to any shareholders' meetings, if any sum is payable by him to us in respect of that share. Our Memorandum and Articles of Association do not contain restrictions on the right of non-UK residents or foreign owners to be registered holders or exercise voting rights in respect of our ordinary shares.

Notices of Shareholder Meetings

An Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting at which it is proposed to pass a Special Resolution or a resolution of which special notice has been given to our company shall be called on least 21 days' written notice and any other Extraordinary General Meeting is required to be called on at least 14 days' written notice. The period of notice in each case is exclusive of the day on which the notice is served or deemed to be served and of the day of the meeting itself.

General Meetings may be held on shorter notice than that specified above if such shorter notice is approved by (i) in the case of an Annual General Meeting, all the shareholders entitled to attend and vote at that meeting; and (ii) in the case of an Extraordinary General Meeting by a majority in number of the shareholders entitled to attend and vote at the meeting, such majority holding at least 95% in nominal value of the shares giving the right to attend and vote at that meeting.

The accidental omission to give notice to or the non-receipt of a notice by any shareholder will not invalidate the proceedings at the relevant meeting.

Our articles provide that where a notice or other document is served or sent by post, service or delivery is deemed to be effected on the expiry of 24 hours after the relevant document is posted.

Dividends

The payment of final dividends with respect to any financial year must be recommended by our Board of Directors and approved by the shareholders by ordinary resolution, provided that no such dividend shall exceed the amount recommended by our Board of Directors. If, in the opinion of our Board of Directors, our financial position justifies such payments, the Board of Directors may also from time to time pay interim dividends of amounts, on dates and in respect of periods as they think fit.

No dividend can be paid other than out of profits available for distribution under the provisions of the Companies Act 1985, as amended, and accounting principles generally accepted in the United Kingdom, which differ in some respects from U.S. GAAP. In addition, as a public limited company, we may make a distribution only if and to the extent that, at the time of distribution and following the distribution, the amount of our net assets is not less than the aggregate of the called-up share capital and undistributable reserves (as such terms are defined in the Companies Act 1985) and if, and to the extent that, the distribution does not reduce the amount of those assets to less than that aggregate. No dividend or other moneys payable on or in respect of a share shall bear interest as against us unless otherwise provided by the rights attached to the share. Any dividend unclaimed after a period of 12 years from the date on which it was declared or became due for payment will be forfeited and will

Table of Contents

revert to us. Our Memorandum and Articles of Association do not contain restrictions on the right of non-UK resident holders of our ordinary shares to receive dividends and other payments.

Winding up

If our company is wound up, the liquidator may, pursuant to the authority given by an extraordinary resolution of our company and any other sanction required by English statutory law, divide among the members, in specie or in kind, the whole or any part of our assets and, for that purpose, value any assets as he deems fair and determine how the division is carried out among shareholders or different classes of shareholders. No shareholder will be compelled to accept any shares or other property in respect of which there is a liability. Distributions to shareholders on a winding up are only usually made after the settlement of claims of the various classes of creditor and subject to applicable company and insolvency laws. Early distributions can be made subject to shareholders providing appropriate forms of indemnity. Where a distribution is proposed to be made to a particular class of shareholders on a winding up, such a distribution is usually made pro rata to their holdings of shares in the company.

Shareholder Derivative Suits

Under English law, our shareholders generally have no right to sue on our behalf. When a wrong has been done to or against us, we are usually the proper plaintiff. There are exceptions including in the case of fraud on minority shareholders, the case of a breach of a duty owed personally to a shareholder where that shareholder has suffered personal loss separate and distinct from any loss suffered by the company and when the act complained of is illegal or ultra vires. English law permits an individual shareholder of ours to apply for a court order when our affairs are being or have been conducted in a manner unfairly prejudicial to the interests of one or more of our shareholders or when any actual or proposed act or omission by us is or would be prejudicial. When granting relief, a court has wide discretion and may authorize civil proceedings to be brought on our behalf by a shareholder on such terms as the court may direct.

Issues of shares and pre-emption rights

The directors of English companies may only allot shares and disapply statutory pre-emption rights if authorized by the shareholders. The current authority for this purpose expires on December 10, 2009 but we may, before such expiry, make an offer or agreement which would or might require equity securities to be allotted after such expiry and our Board of Directors may allot equity securities pursuant to any such offer or agreement as if the authority had not expired.

Transfer of shares

Any holder of shares in a certified form may transfer in writing all, or any, of its shares in any usual or common form or in any other form which our Board of Directors may approve. The instrument of transfer of a share must be signed by or on behalf of the transferor and, except in the case of fully paid shares, by or on behalf of the transferee. The transferor will remain the holder of the shares concerned until the name of the transferee is entered in our register of shareholders. The transfer of uncertificated shares may be made in accordance with and be subject to the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 1995.

Our Board of Directors may, in their absolute discretion and without assigning any reason, refuse to register any transfer of shares, not being fully paid shares. Our Board of Directors may also refuse to register an allotment or transfer shares, whether fully paid or not, to more than four persons jointly. Moreover, the registration of transfers may be suspended at such times and for such periods, but not exceeding thirty days in any year, as our Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

Table of Contents

Our Board of Directors may decline to recognize any instrument of transfer unless it is in respect of only one class of shares and is lodged, duly stamped if required, at the Registrar's Office accompanied by the relevant share certificate(s) together with such other evidence as the Board may reasonably require to show the right of the transferor to make the transfer. In the case of a transfer by a recognized clearing house or a nominee of a recognized clearing house or of a recognized investment exchange, the lodgment of share certificates is only necessary if and to the extent that certificates have been issued in respect of the shares in question.

Disclosure of transactions of ownership

The Companies Act 1985 provides that a person, including a company and other legal entities, that acquires any interest of 3% or more of any class of our relevant share capital, which includes ADSs and GDSs representing shares, is required to notify us in writing of its interest within two days following the day on which the obligation arises. Relevant share capital, for these purposes, means our issued share capital carrying the right to vote in all circumstances at a general meeting. After the 3% level is exceeded, similar notifications must be made where the interest falls below the 3% level or otherwise in respect of increases or decreases of a whole percentage point. For purposes of the notification obligation, the interest of a person in shares means any kind of interest in shares including interests in any shares:

in which a spouse, or child or stepchild under the age of 18, is interested;

in which a company is interested, which includes interests held by other companies over which that company has effective voting power, and either (a) that company or its directors generally act in accordance with that person's directions or instructions or (b) that person controls one-third or more of the voting power of that company at general meetings; or

in which another party is interested and the person and that other party are parties to an agreement under section 204 of the Companies Act 1985. Such an agreement is one which provides for two or more parties to acquire interests in shares of a particular public company and imposes obligations or restrictions on any of the parties as to the use, retention or disposal of such interests acquired pursuant to such agreement, if any interest in the company's shares is in fact acquired by any of the parties pursuant to the agreement.

Some non-material interests may be disregarded for the purposes of calculating the 3% threshold, but the obligation of disclosure will still apply where such interests exceed 10% or more of any class of our relevant share capital and to increases or decreases through a whole percentage point.

In addition, pursuant to section 212 of the Companies Act 1985, we may, as a public company and by written notice, require a person whom we know or have reasonable cause to believe to be, or to have been at any time during the three years immediately preceding the date on which the notice is issued, interested in shares comprised in our relevant share capital to confirm that fact or to indicate whether or not that is the case.

Where a person holds or during the previous three years had held an interest in the shares, that person must give any further information that may be required relating to this interest and any other interest in the shares of which this person is aware.

Where we serve a notice under the foregoing provisions on a person who is or was interested in the shares and that person fails to give us any information required by the notice within the time specified in the notice, we may apply to the English courts for an order directing that the shares in question be subject to restrictions prohibiting, among other things, any transfer, the exercise of voting rights, the taking up of rights and, other than during a liquidation, payments in respect of those shares.

Table of Contents

A person who fails to fulfill the obligations imposed by sections 198 and 212 of the Companies Act 1985 may be subject to criminal penalties.

Variation of rights and alteration of share capital

Whenever our share capital is divided into different classes of shares, the special rights attached to any class may, subject to the provisions of English statutory law, be varied or abrogated, either with the consent in writing of the holders of three-quarters in nominal value of the issued shares of the class, or with the sanction of an extraordinary resolution passed at a separate general meeting of the holders of the shares of the class, but not otherwise, and may be so varied or abrogated either while our company is a going concern or during or in contemplation of a winding up. At every such separate general meeting, the necessary quorum is at least two persons holding or representing by proxy issued shares of the class and any holder of shares of the class present in person or by proxy may demand a poll and will have one vote for every share of the class held by him. At any adjourned meeting any holder of shares of the class present in person or by proxy is a quorum.

We may from time to time by ordinary resolution at a general meeting:

increase the share capital by the creation of new shares of such amount as the resolution shall prescribe with such preferred, deferred or other special rights, or subject to such restrictions, whether as regards dividend, return of capital, voting or otherwise as may be determined and which may be redeemable;

consolidate and divide all or any of the share capital into shares of larger amount than our existing shares;

cancel shares which, at the date of the passing of the resolution, have not been taken, or agreed to be taken, by any person and diminish the amount of our share capital by the amount of shares so cancelled; and

subdivide all or any of the shares into shares of a smaller amount than is fixed by the Memorandum and Articles and may by resolution determine that as between the holders of the shares resulting from such subdivision one or more of the shares may, as compared with the others, have any such preferred, deferred or other special rights or be subject to any restrictions, as we have the power to attach to unissued or new shares.

Subject to English statutory law, we may purchase our own shares of any class, including redeemable shares, but so that if there shall be in issue any shares convertible into equity share capital of our own company then no purchase of our own shares shall be made unless it has first been approved by an extraordinary resolution passed at a separate meeting of the holders of such convertible shares.

Subject to the provisions of English statutory law, we may, by special resolution, reduce our share capital, capital redemption reserve, share premium account or other undistributable reserve in any way.

Directors

Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution of the holders of ordinary shares, our Articles provide that there shall not be less than three directors. At each annual general meeting one-third (or the number nearest to but not exceeding one-third) of our Board of Directors shall retire from office by rotation. Our directors who retire by rotation include any director who wishes to retire and not to offer himself for re-election. Any further directors who retire by rotation are those who have been longest in office since their last re-election, but, as between persons who become directors on the same day, those to retire (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) are determined by lot. A retiring director is eligible for re-election. Any director may be removed from office at any time by an ordinary

Table of Contents

resolution of which special notice has been given in accordance with the Act. Our Memorandum and Articles do not provide for a maximum age for directors.

Our Articles provide that a director may be party to or be interested in any contract or transaction to which we are a party, and a director, or any firm of which he is a member, may be remunerated for any services provided to us or any office held (other than the office of Auditor) relating to us. In any such case, the director may retain all profits and advantages accruing to him. Our Articles also provide that (subject to certain exceptions), a director who is in any way interested in a contract or proposed contract with our company shall declare his interest to the Board, and, subject to certain exceptions, will not be entitled to vote at Board meetings in respect of any contract, arrangement or proposal in which that Director has a material interest, nor will that Director be counted towards the quorum in relation to any resolution on which he is prohibited from voting.

Our Articles provide that our Board of Directors may exercise all of our powers to borrow money and to mortgage or charge our undertaking, property, and uncalled capital and, subject to applicable English law, to issue debentures and other securities. The Board is required to restrict our borrowings, in the absence of shareholders approval, in accordance with a formula set out in the Articles.

The ordinary remuneration of our directors for holding office as such shall from time to time be determined by our Board of Directors. However, such remuneration may not exceed £200,000 per annum in aggregate or such higher amount as the shareholders may, by ordinary resolution, determine and will be divisible among our Board of Directors as they agree. Our Board of Directors may also grant additional remuneration to any director who holds any executive office or who serves on any committee of our Board of Directors and, have the power to pay and agree to pay gratuities, pensions or other retirement, death or disability benefits to any Director or ex-Director. Our Board of Directors are also entitled to be repaid all reasonable expenses incurred by them respectively in the performance of their duties.

Description of American Depositary Shares

The Bank of New York is the depositary for the American Depositary Shares, or ADSs. The Deposit Agreement is available for inspection at the Corporate Trust Office of the Bank of New York. The Bank of New York's principal executive office is located at One Wall Street, New York, New York 10286.

American Depositary Shares are frequently referred to as ADSs and represent ownership interests in securities that are on deposit with the depositary bank. ADSs are normally evidenced by certificates that are commonly known as American Depositary Receipts or ADRs. The depositary bank typically appoints a custodian to safekeep the securities on deposit.

We are providing you with a summary description of the material terms of the ADSs and of your material rights as an owner of ADSs. Please remember that summaries by their nature lack the precision of the information summarized and that a holder's rights and obligations as an owner of ADSs will be determined by reference to the terms of the deposit agreement and not by this summary. We urge you to review the deposit agreement in its entirety.

Each ADS represents the right to receive one ordinary share on deposit with the custodian. An ADS will also represent the right to receive any other property received by the depositary bank or the custodian on behalf of the owner of the ADS but that has not been distributed to the owners of ADSs because of legal restrictions or practical considerations.

If you become an owner of ADSs, you will become a party to the deposit agreement and therefore will be bound to its terms and to the terms of the ADR that evidence your ADSs. The deposit agreement and the ADR specify our rights and obligations as well as your rights and obligations as an owner of ADSs and those of the depositary bank. The deposit agreement and the ADRs are governed by New

Table of Contents

York law. However, our obligations to the holders of ordinary shares will continue to be governed by the laws of the United Kingdom, which may be different from the laws in the United States.

As an owner of ADSs, you may hold your ADSs either by means of an ADR registered in your name or through a brokerage or safekeeping account. If you decide to hold your ADSs through your brokerage or safekeeping account, you must rely on the procedures of your broker or bank to assert your rights as an ADS owner. Please consult with your broker or bank to determine what those procedures are. This summary description assumes you have opted to own the ADSs directly by means of an ADR registered in your name and, as such, we will refer to you as the holder. When we refer to you, we assume the reader owns ADSs and will own ADSs at the relevant time.

Dividends and Distributions

As a holder, you generally have the right to receive the distributions we make on the securities deposited with the custodian. To date, we have never declared or paid cash dividends on our ordinary shares, and we do not anticipate paying any cash dividends on our ordinary shares or the ADSs that represent our ordinary shares in the foreseeable future. In addition, your receipt of any dividends and distributions may be limited, by practical considerations and legal limitations. These practical considerations and legal limitations include situations such as where the value of ordinary shares or rights to be distributed is too small to justify the expense of making the distribution, as well as the inability to distribute rights or other securities to holders of ADSs in a jurisdiction where such distribution would require registration of the securities to be distributed. Holders will receive such distributions under the terms of the deposit agreement in proportion to the number of ADSs held as of a specified record date.

Distributions of Cash

If and whenever we make a cash distribution for the securities on deposit with the custodian, we will notify the depositary bank and deposit the funds with the custodian. Upon receipt of such notice and confirmation of the deposit of the requisite funds, the depositary bank will arrange for the funds to be converted into U.S. dollars and for the distribution of the U.S. dollars to the holders, subject to any restrictions imposed by the laws and regulations of the United Kingdom.

The conversion into U.S. dollars will take place only if practicable and if the U.S. dollars are transferable to the United States. For example, it may not be practicable to convert foreign currency into U.S. dollars where the depositary determines the cash to be distributed is too small to be distributed in light of expenses of conversion into dollars, or where such conversion or distribution can be effected only with the approval or license of any government or agency that is denied or not obtainable. Where a conversion does take place, the amounts distributed to holders will be net of the fees, expenses, taxes and governmental charges payable by holders under the terms of the deposit agreement. The depositary will apply the same method for distributing the proceeds of the sale of any property, such as undistributed rights, held by the custodian in respect of securities on deposit.

Distributions of Shares

If and whenever we make a free distribution of ordinary shares in respect of the securities on deposit with the custodian, we will notify the depositary bank and deposit the applicable number of ordinary shares with the custodian. Upon receipt of notice of such deposit, the depositary bank will either distribute to holders new ADSs representing the ordinary shares deposited or modify the ADS-to-ordinary shares ratio, in which case each ADS you hold will represent rights and interests in the additional ordinary shares so deposited. Only whole new ADSs will be distributed. Fractional entitlements will be sold and the proceeds of such sale will be distributed as in the case of a cash distribution.

Table of Contents

The distribution of new ADSs or the modification of the ADS-to-ordinary shares ratio upon a distribution of ordinary shares will be made net of the fees, expenses, taxes and governmental charges payable by holders under the terms of the deposit agreement. In order to pay such taxes or governmental charges, the depositary bank may sell all or a portion of the new ordinary shares so distributed.

No such distribution of new ADSs will be made if it would violate a law (e.g., the U.S. securities laws) or if it is not reasonably practicable. It may not be reasonably practicable to distribute shares where the value of such shares to be distributed is too small to justify the expense of making the distribution. If the depositary bank does not distribute new ADSs as described above, it may sell the ordinary shares received upon the terms described in the deposit agreement and will distribute the proceeds of the sale as in the case of a distribution of cash.

Distributions of Rights

If and whenever we intend to distribute rights to purchase additional ordinary shares, we will give prior notice to the depositary bank and we will assist the depositary bank in determining whether it is lawful and reasonably practicable to distribute rights to purchase additional ADSs to holders. It may not be reasonably practicable to distribute rights where the value of such rights to be distributed is too small to justify the expense of making the distribution.

Moreover, if registration under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, or other applicable law is required, the depositary bank will not offer you the rights unless a registration statement covering the distribution of the rights and the underlying securities to all our ADS holders is effective. We are under no obligation to file a registration statement for any of these rights or underlying securities or to endeavor to cause a registration statement to be declared effective.

The depositary bank may establish procedures to distribute rights to purchase additional ADSs to holders and to enable such holders to exercise such rights if it is lawful and reasonably practicable to make the rights available to holders of ADSs, and if we provide all of the documentation contemplated in the deposit agreement, such as opinions to address the lawfulness of the transaction. You may be required to pay fees, expenses, taxes and other governmental charges to subscribe for the new ADSs upon the exercise of your rights.

The depositary bank will not distribute the rights to you if:

We do not timely request that the rights be distributed to you or we request that the rights not be distributed to you; or

We fail to deliver satisfactory documentation to the depositary bank; or

The depositary bank determines that it is not reasonably practicable to distribute the rights, such as where the value of the rights to be distributed is too small to justify the expense of making the distribution.

The depositary bank may sell the rights that are not exercised or not distributed if such sale is lawful and reasonably practicable. The proceeds of such sale will be distributed to holders as in the case of a cash distribution. If the depositary bank is unable to sell the rights, it will allow the rights to lapse.

Other Distributions

If and whenever we intend to distribute property other than cash, ordinary shares or rights to purchase additional ordinary shares, we will notify the depositary bank in advance and will indicate whether we wish such distribution to be made to you. If so, we will assist the depositary bank in determining whether such distribution to holders is lawful and reasonably practicable. Lawful and practicable considerations include situations such as where the value of distribution is too small to justify the

Table of Contents

expense of making the distribution, as well as the inability to make a distribution to holders of ADSs in a jurisdiction where such distribution would require registration of the securities to be distributed.

If it is reasonably practicable to distribute such property to you and if we provide all of the documentation contemplated in the deposit agreement, the depositary bank will distribute the property to the holders in the manner it deems practicable.

The distribution will be made net of fees, expenses, taxes and governmental charges payable by holders under the terms of the deposit agreement. In order to pay such taxes and governmental charges, the depositary bank may sell all or a portion of the property received.

The depositary bank will not distribute the property to you and will sell the property if:

We do not deliver satisfactory documentation to the depositary bank; or

The depositary bank determines that all or a portion of the distribution to you is not reasonably practicable.

The proceeds of such a sale will be distributed to holders as in the case of a cash distribution.

Changes Affecting Ordinary Shares

The ordinary shares held on deposit for your ADSs may change from time to time. For example, there may be a change in nominal or par value, a split-up, cancellation, consolidation or reclassification of such ordinary shares or a recapitalization, reorganization, merger, consolidation or sale of assets.

If any such change were to occur, your ADSs would, to the extent permitted by law, represent the right to receive the property received or exchanged in respect of the ordinary shares held on deposit. The depositary bank may in such circumstances deliver new ADSs to you or call for the exchange of your existing ADSs for new ADSs. If the depositary bank may not lawfully distribute such property to you, the depositary bank may sell such property and distribute the net proceeds to you as in the case of a cash distribution.

Issuance of ADSs Upon Deposit of Ordinary Shares

The depositary bank will create ADSs on your behalf if you or your broker deposit ordinary shares with the custodian. The depositary bank will deliver these ADSs to the person you indicate only after you pay any applicable issuance fees and any charges and taxes payable for the transfer of the ordinary shares to the custodian, including stamp duty stamp duty reserve tax and stock transfer taxes or fees. Your ability to deposit ordinary shares and receive ADSs may be limited by U.S. and U.K. legal considerations applicable at the time of deposit.

The issuance of ADSs may be delayed until the depositary bank or the custodian receives confirmation that all required approvals have been given and that the ordinary shares have been duly transferred to the custodian. The depositary bank will only deliver ADSs in whole numbers.

When you make a deposit of ordinary shares, you will be responsible for transferring good and valid title to the depositary bank. As such, you will be deemed to represent and warrant that:

The ordinary shares are duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid, and non-assessable;

All preemptive, and similar, rights, if any, with respect to such ordinary shares have been validly waived or exercised;

You are duly authorized to deposit the ordinary shares; and

The ordinary shares presented for deposit are not, and the ADSs issuable upon such deposit will not be, restricted securities, as defined in the deposit agreement.

Table of Contents

Furthermore, upon your deposit of ordinary shares with the depositary bank for ADSs, including any surrender of ADSs to the depositary bank and request for ADSs, you will be required to provide certain information to the Company prior to the issuance of the ADSs, including information regarding (i) the total number securities (including options and warrants) you beneficially hold in our company, (ii) whether you are a registered broker-dealer or an affiliate of a broker-dealer, (iii) the name of the natural person with disposition power if the shares are held by an entity, (iv) whether you have had a material relationship with our company during the past three years, and (v) such other information that may be required to be included in any post-effective amendment to this registration statement. No ADSs will be issued until (i) you provide the requested information to the Company, (ii) such information is included in a post-effective amendment, if not already included, and (iii) the post-effective amendment is filed with and declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Transfer, Combination and Split-Up of ADRs

As an ADR holder, you will be entitled to transfer, combine or split up your ADRs and the ADSs evidenced thereby. For transfers of ADRs, you will have to surrender the ADRs to be transferred to the depositary bank and also must:

Ensure that the surrendered ADR certificate is properly endorsed or otherwise in proper form for transfer;

Provide such proof of identity and genuineness of signatures as the depositary bank deems appropriate;

Provide any transfer stamps required by the State of New York or the United States; and

Pay all applicable fees, charges, expenses, taxes and other government charges payable by ADR holders pursuant to the terms of the deposit agreement, upon the transfer of ADRs.

To have your ADRs either combined or split up, you must surrender the ADRs in question to the depositary bank with your request to have them combined or split up, and you must pay all applicable fees, charges and expenses payable by ADR holders, pursuant to the terms of the deposit agreement, upon a combination or split-up of ADRs.

Withdrawal of Ordinary Shares Upon Cancellation of ADSs

As a holder, you will be entitled to surrender your ADSs to the depositary bank for cancellation and then receive the corresponding number of underlying ordinary shares at the custodian's offices. Your ability to withdraw the ordinary shares may be limited by U.S. and U.K. legal considerations applicable at the time of withdrawal. In order to withdraw the ordinary shares represented by your ADSs, you will be required to pay to the depositary the fees for cancellation of ADSs and any charges and taxes payable upon the transfer of the ordinary shares being withdrawn, including stamp duty, stamp duty reserve tax and stock transfer taxes or fees. You assume the risk for delivery of all funds and securities upon withdrawal. Once canceled, the ADSs will not have any rights under the deposit agreement. If you hold an ADR registered in your name, the depositary bank may ask you to provide proof of identity and genuineness of any signature and such other documents as the depositary bank may deem appropriate before it will cancel your ADSs. The withdrawal of the ordinary shares represented by your ADSs may be delayed until the depositary bank receives satisfactory evidence of compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. The depositary bank will only accept ADSs for cancellation that represent a whole number of securities on deposit. If you surrender a number of ADSs for withdrawal representing other than a whole number of ordinary shares, the depositary bank will either return the number of ADSs representing any remaining fractional ordinary shares or sell the ordinary shares represented by the ADSs you surrendered and remit the net proceeds of that sale to you as in the case of a distribution in cash.

Table of Contents

You will have the right to withdraw the securities represented by your ADSs at any time except for:

Temporary delays that may arise because (1) the transfer books for the ordinary shares or ADSs are closed, or (2) ordinary shares are immobilized on account of a shareholders' meeting or a payment of dividends;

Obligations to pay fees, taxes and similar charges; and

Restrictions imposed because of laws or regulations applicable to ADSs or the withdrawal of securities on deposit.

The deposit agreement may not be modified to impair your right to withdraw the securities represented by your ADSs except to comply with mandatory provisions of law.

Voting Rights

As a holder, you generally have the right under the deposit agreement to instruct the depositary bank to exercise the voting rights for the ordinary shares represented by your ADSs. For a description of the voting rights of holders of ordinary shares, see Description of Ordinary Shares Voting Rights.

At our request and at our expense, the depositary will distribute to you any notice of shareholders' meeting received from us together with information explaining how to instruct the depositary bank to exercise the voting rights of the ordinary shares underlying the ADSs.

The depositary bank will set a record date by which it must receive valid voting instructions from a holder of ADSs. Upon the timely receipt of written instructions of a holder of ADSs in the manner specified by the depositary bank, the depositary bank shall endeavor, insofar as practicable and permitted under applicable law and our Memorandum and Articles, to vote the ordinary shares represented by such holder's ADSs in accordance with such holder's instructions. The depositary bank will only vote or attempt to vote the ordinary shares underlying your ADSs as you instruct.

If the depositary bank has solicited voting instructions from you and no instructions are received by the depositary on or before the date established by the depositary for such purpose, the depositary will deem that you have instructed the depositary to give a discretionary proxy to a person designated by us with respect to your deposited securities and the depositary will give a discretionary proxy to a person designated by us to vote your deposited securities, provided, that no such instruction shall be deemed given and no such discretionary proxy shall be given with respect to any matter as to which we inform the depositary that we do not wish such proxy given, substantial opposition exists or such matter materially and adversely affects the rights of holders of shares.

We cannot assure you that you will receive the voting materials in time to ensure that you can instruct the depositary bank to vote your shares. In addition, the depositary bank and its agents are not responsible for failing to carry out voting instructions or for the manner of carrying out voting instructions as long as they act in good faith.

Notices and Reports

The depositary bank will make available for inspection by registered holders at its corporate trust office any reports and communications, including any proxy soliciting material, received from us, which are both (a) received by the depositary bank as the holder of the deposited ordinary shares, and (b) made generally available to the holders of such deposited ordinary shares by us. The depositary bank will also, upon our written request, send to the registered holders copies of such reports when furnished by us pursuant to the deposit agreement. Any such reports and communications, including any proxy soliciting materials, furnished to the depositary bank by us will be furnished in English.

Table of Contents

Fees and Charges

As an ADS holder, you will be required to pay the following service fees to the depositary bank:

Fee of \$5.00 or less per 100 ADSs or portion thereof for the execution and delivery of ADRs and the surrender of ADRs;

Fee of \$0.02 or less per ADS for any cash distribution made pursuant to the deposit agreement;

Fee for the distribution of shares, such fee being in an amount equal to the fee for the execution and delivery of ADSs referred to above which would have been charged as a result of the deposit of such shares but which shares are instead distributed by the depositary to holders; and

Fee not in excess of \$1.50 per certificate for an ADR or ADRs for transfers made pursuant to the terms of the Deposit Agreement.

As an ADS holder you will also be responsible to pay certain fees and expenses incurred by the depositary bank and certain taxes and governmental charges such as:

Fees for the transfer and registration of ordinary shares charged by the registrar and transfer agent for the ordinary shares in the United Kingdom, *e.g.*, upon deposit and withdrawal of ordinary shares;

Expenses incurred for converting foreign currency into U.S. dollars;

Fees and expenses incurred by the depositary in compliance with exchange controls or other regulatory requirements;

Expenses for cable, telex and fax transmissions and for delivery of securities;

Taxes and duties upon the transfer of securities, *e.g.*, when ordinary shares are deposited or withdrawn from deposit; and

Fees and expenses incurred in connection with the delivery or servicing of ordinary shares on deposit.

We have agreed to pay certain other charges and expenses of the depositary bank. Note that the fees and charges you may be required to pay may vary over time and may be changed by agreement between us and the depositary bank. You will receive prior notice of such changes.

Amendments and Termination

We may agree with the depositary bank to modify the deposit agreement at any time without your consent. Any modifications that would materially prejudice any of your substantial rights under the deposit agreement will not become effective as to outstanding ADRs until 30 days after notice is given to registered holders of that amendment. You will be bound by the modifications to the deposit agreement if you continue to hold your ADSs after the modifications to the deposit agreement become effective. The deposit agreement cannot be amended to prevent you from withdrawing the ordinary shares represented by your ADSs except to comply with applicable law.

We have the right to direct the depositary bank to terminate the deposit agreement. Similarly, the depositary bank may in certain circumstances on its own initiative terminate the deposit agreement. In either case, the depositary bank must give notice to the holders at least 30 days before termination.

On and after the date of termination, you will be entitled to delivery of the amount of our ordinary shares represented by the ADSs evidenced by your ADRs upon (i) surrender of such ADRs at the

Table of Contents

Corporate Trust Office of the depositary bank, (ii) payment of the fee of the depositary bank for the surrender of ADRs, and (iii) payment of any applicable taxes or governmental charges. If any ADRs remain outstanding after the date of termination, the depositary bank will discontinue the registration of transfers of ADSs and suspend the distribution of dividends and other distributions to such ADR holders. In addition, the depositary bank will not give any further notices or perform any further acts under the deposit agreement, except that the depositary bank will continue to collect dividends and other distributions pertaining to deposited securities, sell rights and other property as provided in the deposit agreement, and continue to deliver deposited securities in exchange for ADRs surrendered to the depositary bank.

At any time after the expiration of one year from the date of termination, the depositary bank may sell the deposited securities then held and may thereafter hold uninvested the net proceeds of any such sale, together with any other cash then held by it, unsegregated and without liability for interest, for the pro rata benefit of the holder of ADRs that have not been surrendered. After making such sale, the depositary bank will be discharged from all obligations under the deposit agreement, except to account for the net proceeds and other cash from the sale, after deducting, in each case, applicable fees, expenses and taxes. Upon the termination of the deposit agreement, we will be discharged from all obligations under the deposit Agreement except for our obligations under certain surviving provisions, such as indemnification.

Books of Depositary

The depositary bank will maintain ADS holder records at its depositary office. You may inspect such records at that office during regular business hours solely for the purpose of communicating with other holders in the interest of business matters relating to the ADSs and the deposit agreement.

The depositary bank will maintain in The City of New York facilities to record and process the issuance, cancellation, combination, split-up and transfer of ADRs. These facilities may be closed from time to time, except to the extent prohibited by law.

Limitations on Obligations and Liabilities

The deposit agreement expressly limits our obligations and the obligations of the depositary bank. It also limits our liability and the liability of the depositary bank. We and the depositary bank:

are only obligated to take the actions specifically set forth in the deposit agreement without negligence or bad faith;

are not liable if either of us is prevented or delayed by law or circumstances beyond our control from performing our obligations under the deposit agreement;

are not liable if either of us exercises discretion permitted under the deposit agreement;

have no obligation to become involved in a lawsuit or other proceeding related to the ADRs or the deposit agreement on your behalf or on behalf of any other person;

may rely upon any documents we believe in good faith to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party.

In the deposit agreement, we agree to indemnify the depositary bank for acting as depositary, except for losses caused by the depositary's own negligence or bad faith, and the depositary bank agrees to indemnify us for losses resulting from its negligence or bad faith.

Pre-Release Transactions

The deposit agreement permits the depositary bank to deliver ADSs before deposit of our ordinary shares. This is called a pre-release of the ADS. The depositary bank may also deliver shares upon

Table of Contents

surrender of pre-released ADSs (even if the ADSs are surrendered before the pre-release transaction has been closed out). A pre-release is closed out as soon as the underlying shares are delivered to the depository bank. The depository bank may receive ADSs instead of shares to close out a pre-release. The depository bank may pre-release ADSs only under the following conditions: (1) before or at the time of the pre-release, the person to whom the pre-release is being made represents to the depository in writing that it or its customer owns the shares or ADSs to be deposited; (2) the pre-release is fully collateralized with cash or other collateral that the depository bank considers appropriate; and (3) the depository bank must be able to close out the pre-release on not more than five business days' notice. In addition, the depository bank will limit the number of ADSs that may be outstanding at any time as a result of pre-release, although the depository bank may disregard the limit from time to time, if it thinks it is appropriate to do so.

Taxes

You will be responsible for the taxes and other governmental charges payable on your ADSs and the securities represented by your ADSs. We, the depository bank and the custodian may deduct from any distribution the taxes and governmental charges payable by holders and may sell any and all property on deposit to pay the taxes and governmental charges payable by holders. You will be liable for any deficiency if the sale proceeds do not cover the taxes that are due on your ADSs and the securities represented by your ADSs.

The depository bank may refuse to deliver ADSs, to deliver transfer, split and combine ADRs or to release securities on deposit until all taxes and charges are paid by you. The depository bank and the custodian may take reasonable administrative actions to obtain tax refunds and reduced tax withholding for any distributions on your behalf. However, you may be required to provide to the depository bank and to the custodian proof of taxpayer status and residence and such other information as the depository bank and the custodian may require to fulfill legal obligations.

Foreign Currency Conversion

The depository bank will arrange for the conversion of all foreign currency received into U.S. dollars if such conversion is practical, and it will distribute the U.S. dollars in accordance with the terms of the deposit agreement. You may be required to pay fees and expenses incurred in converting foreign currency, such as fees and expenses incurred in complying with currency exchange controls and other governmental requirements.

If the conversion of foreign currency is not practical or lawful, or if any required approvals are denied or not obtainable at a reasonable cost or within a reasonable period, the depository bank may take the following actions in its discretion:

Convert the foreign currency to the extent practical and lawful and distribute the U.S. dollars to the holders for whom the conversion and distribution is lawful and practical.

Distribute the foreign currency to holders for whom the distribution is lawful and practical.

Hold the foreign currency without liability for interest for the applicable holders.

The Custodian

The depository bank has agreed with the custodian that the custodian will receive and hold the deposited securities for the account of the depository bank in accordance with the deposit agreement. If the custodian resigns or is discharged from its duties under the deposit agreement, the depository bank will promptly appoint a successor custodian. The resigning or discharged custodian will deliver the deposited securities and related records to the custodian designated by the depository bank. If the

Table of Contents

depository bank resigns or is discharged from its duties under the deposit agreement, the custodian will continue to act as custodian and will be obligated to comply with the direction of the successor depository.

Governing Law

The deposit agreement is governed by the laws of the State of New York. We and the depository bank have agreed that the federal or state courts in The City of New York shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any suit, action or proceeding and to settle any dispute between us that may arise out of or in connection with the deposit agreement. We also submitted to the jurisdiction of these courts and we have appointed an agent for service of process in The City of New York.

Warrants

As of February 1, 2006, warrants to purchase a total of 430,000 ordinary shares were outstanding with exercise prices of \$2.52 per share. Each warrant contains provisions for the adjustment of the exercise price and the number of shares issuable upon the exercise of the warrant in the event of certain types of reorganizations and significant corporate transactions. Warrant holders have certain registration rights once the only trading market for our securities is located within the United States. These registration rights expire when the shares can be sold pursuant to Rule 144 of the Securities Act of 1933.

Registrar

The registrar for our ordinary shares is Capita IRG, plc.

Listing

Our ADSs are listed on the American Stock Exchange under the trading symbol LOV.

Table of Contents

SHARES ELIGIBLE FOR FUTURE SALE

As of February 1, 2006, we had 30,247,996 ordinary shares issued and outstanding, including those represented by Global Depository Shares, or GDSs.

This registration statement registers all of our outstanding ordinary shares, including those represented by GDSs, under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. All of our ordinary shares, represented by ADSs, will be freely tradable within the United States without restriction or further registration under the Securities Act, unless these ordinary shares are purchased by affiliates as that term is defined in Rule 144 under the Securities Act. Immediately prior to this offering, there was no established public market for ADSs in the United States. Our ordinary shares in the form of GDSs are freely tradable on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange in Germany. Upon effectiveness, this registration statement would also have the effect of allowing holders of our GDSs to surrender the GDSs and hold ordinary shares in the form of ADSs and publicly trade such ADSs in the United States, subject to volume and manner of sales limitations as set forth in Rule 144 with respect to affiliates. Once GDSs have been surrendered for ordinary shares, the shares may not be re-deposited for GDSs, and if and when all GDSs have been surrendered, we intend to terminate the GDS deposit agreement such that our ordinary shares will only be traded in the form of ADSs. Shareholders may continue to trade on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange after the effectiveness of the registration statement. Future sales of substantial amounts of ADSs or GDSs in the public markets could adversely affect prevailing market prices of our ADSs.

Rule 144

All of our ordinary shares that are being registered in this offering and will be freely tradable without restriction or further registration under the Securities Act of 1933. If shares are sold by our affiliates, as that term is defined in Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933, pursuant to Rule 144 their sales of shares would be governed by the limitations and restrictions that are described below.

In general, under Rule 144, as currently in effect, a person who owns ordinary shares that were acquired from us or an affiliate of us at least one year prior to the proposed sale is entitled to sell within any three-month period, a number of ordinary shares that does not exceed the greater of:

1% of the number of ordinary shares then outstanding, which as of February 1, 2006 will equal approximately 302,248 ordinary shares; or

the average weekly trading volume of our ordinary shares in the form of ADSs on the American Stock Exchange during the four calendar weeks preceding the filing of a notice on Form 144 with respect to such sale.

Sales under Rule 144 are also subject to certain manner of sale provisions and notice requirements and to the availability of current public information about us.

Rule 144(k)

Under Rule 144(k), a person who is not deemed to have been one of our affiliates for purposes of the Securities Act at any time during the 90 days preceding a sale and who has beneficially owned the ordinary shares proposed to be sold for at least two years, including the holding period of any prior owner other than an affiliate of us, is entitled to sell such ordinary shares without complying with the manner of sale, public information, volume limitation or notice provisions of Rule 144.

Rule 701

In general, under Rule 701 as currently in effect, any of our employees, consultants or advisors who purchase ordinary shares from us in connection with a compensatory stock or option plan or other written agreement will be eligible to resell such ordinary shares 90 days after we become subject to Section 13 or 13(d) of the Exchange Act in reliance on Rule 144, but without compliance with certain

Table of Contents

restrictions, including the holding period, contained in Rule 144. Grants of options under the 2000 Option Scheme, and the exercise thereof, do not comply with the requirements of Rule 701 and therefore Rule 701 is not applicable to ordinary shares purchased pursuant to the exercise of such options.

Additional Registration of Ordinary Shares

On November 18, 2005, we filed a registration statement under the Securities Act on Form S-8 covering all of our ordinary shares underlying outstanding options and ordinary shares reserved for issuance upon the exercise of options available for grant under our share option schemes. After such registration statement became effective, shares registered under that registration statement are, subject to vesting provisions and Rule 144 volume limitation, manner of sale, notice and public information requirements applicable to our affiliates, available for sale in the open market. As of February 1, 2006, options to purchase 4,655,201 ordinary shares were issued and outstanding under our share option schemes and 14,424,049 ordinary shares were available for issuance under our share option schemes. We also had 430,000 ordinary shares issuable upon the exercise of warrants outstanding as of February 1, 2006. All of the ordinary shares underlying these warrants are being registered in this registration statement.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling shareholders, and any of their transferees, pledgees, assignees and successors-in-interest, may, from time to time, sell any or all of their shares of our ordinary shares in the form of ADSs on any stock exchange, market or trading facility on which the shares are traded or in private transactions. These sales may be at fixed or negotiated prices. The selling shareholders may use any one or more of the following methods when selling shares:

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker-dealer solicits purchasers;

block trades in which the broker-dealer will attempt to sell the shares as agent but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;

purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its account;

an exchange distribution in accordance with the rules of the applicable exchange;

privately negotiated transactions;

settlement of short sales entered into after the date of this prospectus;

broker-dealers may agree with the selling shareholders to sell a specified number of such shares at a stipulated price per share;

a combination of any such methods of sale; or

through the writing or settlement of options or other hedging transactions, whether through an options exchange or otherwise.

The selling shareholders may also sell shares under Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933, if available, rather than under this prospectus and any prospectus supplement.

Broker-dealers engaged by the selling shareholders may arrange for other brokers-dealers to participate in sales. Broker-dealers may receive commissions or discounts from the selling shareholders (or, if any broker-dealer acts as agent for the purchaser of shares, from the purchaser) in amounts to be negotiated, which commissions and discounts are not expected to exceed what is customary in the types of transactions involved.

In connection with the sale of our ordinary shares in the form of ADSs or interests therein, the selling shareholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions, which may in turn engage in short sales of the ADSs in the course of hedging the positions they assume. The selling shareholders may also sell shares of our ADSs short and deliver these securities to close out their short positions, or loan or pledge the ADSs to broker-dealers that in turn may sell these securities. The selling shareholders may also enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions or the creation of one or more derivative securities which require the delivery to such broker-dealer or other financial institution of shares offered by this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, which shares such broker-dealer or other financial institution may resell pursuant to this prospectus (as supplemented or amended to reflect such transaction).

The selling shareholders and any broker-dealers or agents that are involved in selling the shares may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act in connection with such sales. In such event, any commissions received by such broker-dealers or agents and any profit on the resale of the shares purchased by them may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts under the Securities Act. We are not aware of any selling shareholders that have any agreement or understanding, directly or indirectly, with any person to distribute our ADSs.

We have paid certain fees and expenses incurred by us incident to the registration of the shares.

Table of Contents

Because selling shareholders may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act, they will be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act. We are not aware if any selling shareholder has entered into any agreements, understandings or arrangements with any underwriter or broker-dealer regarding the sale of the ordinary shares. There is no underwriter or coordinating broker acting in connection with the proposed sale of the ordinary shares by the selling shareholders.

We intend to keep this prospectus effective until all of the shares have been sold pursuant to the prospectus and any prospectus supplement or Rule 144 under the Securities Act or any other rule of similar effect. The resale shares will be sold only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers if required under applicable state securities laws. In addition, in certain states, the ordinary shares may not be sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale in the applicable state or an exemption from the registration or qualification requirement is available and is complied with.

Under applicable rules and regulations under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, any person engaged in the distribution of the ordinary shares may not simultaneously engage in market making activities with respect to our ADSs for a period of one or five business days, depending on our public float and average daily trading volume, prior to the commencement of the distribution. In addition, the selling shareholders will be subject to applicable provisions of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, including Regulation M, which may limit the timing of purchases and sales of shares of our ADSs by the selling shareholders or any other person. We will make copies of this prospectus and any prospectus supplement available to the selling shareholders and will inform them of the need to deliver a copy of this prospectus and any prospectus supplement to each purchaser at or prior to the time of the sale.

Table of Contents**TAXATION****United Kingdom Tax Considerations**

The following is a summary of the U.K. tax considerations relevant to shareholders and ADS holders. The summary is intended only as a general guide to current U.K. tax legislation and Inland Revenue practice and applies only to our shareholders and ADS holders who hold shares and ADSs as an investment and who are the absolute beneficial owners thereof. Certain categories of our shareholders and ADS holders may be subject to special rules and this summary does not apply to such shareholders and ADS holders. For example, certain categories of shareholders or ADS holders such as dealers, and shareholders and ADS holders who receive such shares and ADSs upon the exercise of warrants or options to purchase such shares may be subject to special rules. If you are in any doubt as to your taxation position or if you are subject to tax in any jurisdiction other than the U.K., you should consult an appropriate professional adviser immediately.

This summary does not purport to be a complete analysis or listing of all of the potential tax consequences of holding our shares or ADSs. Prospective purchasers of our ADSs and shares are advised to consult their own tax advisers concerning the consequences under U.K. laws of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the ADSs and/or shares.

This summary is based on the existing tax laws of the United Kingdom as in effect on the date hereof and what is understood to be current U.K. Inland Revenue published practice as at the date hereof, all of which are subject to change or changes in interpretation, possibly with retroactive effect. In addition, this summary is based in part upon the representations of The Bank of New York as at the date hereof and the assumption that each obligation in the Deposit Agreement and any related agreement will be performed in accordance with its terms.

Taxation of Dividends

Under current U.K. taxation legislation, no tax will be withheld or deducted for or on account of income tax from dividends paid by us.

A U.K. resident individual shareholder will generally be entitled to a tax credit in respect of any dividend received. The amount of the tax credit is equal to one-ninth of the cash dividend or 10% of the aggregate of the cash dividend and the associated tax credit (the Gross Dividend). An individual shareholder who, taking account of the Gross Dividend he or she receives, is liable to income tax at the basic or starting rate will pay income tax at 10% of the Gross Dividend so that the tax credit will satisfy his income tax liability on the Dividend Payment. An individual shareholder must, to the extent that his income, including the Gross Dividend, exceeds the threshold for higher rate income tax, pay income tax at 32.5% of the Gross Dividend. After deducting the tax credit, he would therefore have to account for additional income tax at 22.5% of the Gross Dividend.

U.K. resident shareholders who are not liable to U.K. tax on dividends, including pension funds and charities, will not be entitled to claim repayment of the tax credit attaching to dividends paid by us.

A U.K. resident corporate shareholder will generally not be subject to U.K. corporation tax on dividends. Such shareholders will not be able to claim repayment of the tax credit attaching to dividends paid by us.

A non-U.K. resident shareholder is not generally entitled to the benefit of a tax credit in respect of any dividend received. A non-U.K. resident shareholder may also be subject to foreign taxation on dividend income under local law. A shareholder who is not resident in the U.K., for tax purposes, should consult his own tax adviser concerning his tax liabilities on dividends.

The tax treatment described above will also apply where dividends are received in respect of shares held in ADS form.

Table of Contents

Taxation of Capital Gains

A holder who is not resident or ordinarily resident in the U.K. and whose shares or ADSs are not attributable to a trade, profession or vocation carried on in the United Kingdom through a branch or agency, or permanent establishment, will not be subject to U.K. tax on any gains realized on a disposal of the shares or ADSs, except as mentioned below in relation to temporarily non-U.K. resident individuals. Such a holder may however be liable to non-U.K. tax under local law.

A disposal of shares by a shareholder, or ADSs by an ADS holder, who is resident or, in the case of an individual, ordinarily resident for tax purposes in the United Kingdom or who is not U.K.-resident but carries on a trade, profession or vocation in the United Kingdom through a branch or agency, or permanent establishment, to which the shares or ADSs are attributable, may, depending on the holder's circumstances and subject to any available exemption or relief, give rise to a chargeable gain or allowable loss for the purposes of the taxation of chargeable gains.

A holder who is an individual and who has, on or after March 17, 1998, ceased to be resident or ordinarily resident for tax purposes in the United Kingdom for a period of less than 5 complete tax years and who disposes of the shares or ADSs during that period may also be liable to U.K. taxation of chargeable gains, subject to any available exemption or relief, if that holder returns to the United Kingdom as resident or ordinarily resident within that period.

On a disposal of shares or ADSs by an individual who is resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom for taxation purposes, the shares or ADSs may attract taper relief, which reduces the amount of chargeable gains according to how long the shares or ADSs have been held.

A holder of shares or ADSs who is a company resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes will benefit from indexation allowance which, in general terms, increases the capital gains tax base cost of an asset in accordance with changes in the retail prices index and reduces any chargeable gain accordingly.

U.K. Inheritance and Gift Taxes

Our shares and ADSs will be assets situated in the U.K. for the purposes of U.K. inheritance tax. A gift of such assets by, or the death of, an individual holder of such assets may, subject to certain exemptions and reliefs, give rise to a liability to U.K. inheritance tax even if the holder is neither domiciled in the U.K. nor deemed to be domiciled in the U.K. under certain rules relating to long residence or previous domicile. For U.K. inheritance tax purposes, a transfer of assets at less than full market value may be treated as a gift and particular rules apply to gifts where the donor reserves or retains a benefit. Special rules also apply to close companies and to trustees of settlements who hold shares bringing them within the charge to U.K. inheritance tax.

An individual who is domiciled in the U.S. for the purposes of the United Kingdom/ United States Estate and Gift Tax Convention (the Estate Tax Treaty) and who is not a national of the U.K. for the purposes of the Estate Tax Treaty will generally not be subject to U.K. inheritance tax in respect of our shares or ADSs on the individual's death or on a lifetime gift of shares or ADSs, provided that the applicable U.S. federal gift or estate tax liability is paid, unless the shares or ADSs are part of the business property or a permanent establishment of an enterprise in the U.K. or pertain to a fixed base in the U.K. of an individual used for the performance of independent personal services. Where the shares or ADSs have been placed in trust by a settlor who, at the time of the settlement, was a U.S. national, the shares or ADSs will generally not be subject to U.K. inheritance tax provided that the settlor, at the time of the settlement, was treated as domiciled in the U.S. for the purposes of the Estate Tax Treaty. In the exceptional case where the shares or ADSs are subject to both U.K. inheritance tax and to U.S. federal gift or estate tax, the Estate Tax Treaty generally provides for the tax paid in the U.K. to be credited against the tax paid in the U.S. or for tax paid in the U.S., to be credited against tax payable in the U.K. based on priority rules set out in that Treaty.

Table of Contents

Shareholders should consult an appropriate professional adviser if they make a gift of any kind of the shares or ADSs or intend to hold any shares or ADSs through trust arrangements.

U.K. Stamp Duty and Stamp Duty Reserve Tax

The transfer on sale of a share in an English company will generally be liable to ad valorem stamp duty at the rate of 0.5% of the amount or value of the consideration for the transfer rounded up to the nearest £5. An exception to this principle is where shares are traded on CREST, an electronic share trading settlement system, which does not currently apply to our shares. The purchaser normally pays the stamp duty.

An unconditional agreement to sell a share will generally give rise to a liability on the purchaser to stamp duty reserve tax (SDRT) at the rate of 0.5% of the amount or value of the consideration for the sale. If a duly stamped transfer in respect of the agreement is produced within six years of the date on which the agreement is entered into or, if later, the date on which it becomes unconditional, any SDRT paid is repayable, generally with interest, and any unpaid SDRT charge is cancelled. There is no reciprocal treaty between the U.K. and the U.S. relating to U.K. stamp duties.

Issues or transfers of shares (1) to, or to a nominee or agent for, a person whose business is or includes issuing depositary receipts or (2) to, or to a nominee or agent for, a person whose business is or includes providing clearance services, will generally be subject to stamp duty or SDRT at 1.5% of the amount or value of the consideration or the issue price, or, in certain circumstances, the value of the shares transferred, rounded up to the nearest £5 in the case of stamp duty. Strictly, the depositary or clearance operator, or its nominee, as the case may be, will be accountable for this liability for stamp duty or SDRT. However, it is anticipated that any stamp duty or SDRT payable by the Depositary will be charged to the holder of the ADS or the depositor of any security represented by the ADS.

No U.K. stamp duty will be payable on the acquisition or transfer of an ADS following its initial issuance provided that the transfer and any separate instrument of transfer remains at all times outside the United Kingdom and that the instrument of transfer is not executed in or brought into the United Kingdom. An agreement to transfer an ADS will not give rise to SDRT. On a transfer of shares from the custodian or depositary to a holder of an ADS upon cancellation of the ADS, a fixed stamp duty of £5 per instrument of transfer will be payable.

Any transfer for value of the underlying shares represented by ADSs or agreement to transfer these underlying shares may give rise to a liability on the transferee to stamp duty or SDRT at 0.5% of the value of the consideration for the transfer.

Table of Contents

United States Tax Considerations

The following summary describes the material United States federal income tax consequences that are relevant to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of ordinary shares or ADSs acquired by holders in this initial offering. This summary is based on the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, its legislative history, existing final, temporary and proposed Treasury Regulations, rulings and judicial decisions, all as currently in effect and all of which are subject to prospective and retroactive rulings and changes. We will not seek a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service with regard to the United States federal income tax treatment relating to investment in our equity shares or ADSs and, therefore, there can be no assurance that the IRS will agree with the conclusions stated herein. This summary is not a comprehensive description of all United States federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to a particular investor, and you are urged to consult your own tax advisor regarding your specific tax situation. This summary does not address the state, local and foreign tax consequences of an investment in our equity shares or ADSs. In addition, this summary applies only to holders who are not the selling shareholders, who hold equity shares or ADSs as capital assets (generally, property held for investment) under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and it does not address the tax consequences that may be relevant to investors subject to special tax treatment, such as:

tax-exempt organizations;

regulated investment companies and real estate investment trusts;

insurance companies;

broker-dealers and traders in securities;

banks or other financial institutions;

investors whose functional currency is not the United States dollar;

investors that hold our equity shares or ADSs as part of a hedge, straddle or conversion transaction;

investors that own, directly, indirectly, or by attribution 10% or more of our total combined voting stock;

investors subject to the United States alternative minimum tax;

United States expatriates and those investors who are U.S. Holders (as defined below) and who are also tax residents of any other country; or

persons holding ADSs or ordinary shares through partnerships or other pass through entities.

You should consult your own tax advisor regarding the United States federal, state, local and foreign and other tax consequences of purchasing, owning, and disposing of our equity shares or ADSs in your particular circumstances. We believe that we were not a passive foreign investment company, as defined in Section 1297(a) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, in 2004 or 2005 and do not expect to become a passive foreign investment company in the future, and this summary so assumes.

Table of Contents

Taxation of U.S. Holders

You are a U.S. Holder if you are a beneficial owner of equity shares or ADSs and you are for United States federal income tax purposes:

a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation, or any other entity taxable as a corporation, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any state thereof, including the District of Columbia;

an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income tax regardless of its source; or

a trust if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or if the trust has made a valid election under U.S. Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

If a partnership holds equity shares or ADSs, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. Partners of partnerships holding our equity shares or ADSs should consult their own tax advisors.

Distributions on Equity Shares or ADSs

The gross amount of any distribution (other than in liquidation), including the fair market value of all distributions of ordinary shares whenever a U.S. Holder may elect to receive cash distributions in lieu of ordinary share distributions, that you receive with respect to our ordinary shares or ADSs (before reduction for U.K. income tax, if any, withheld from such distributions) generally will be included in your gross income on the day on which you, in the case where you own ordinary shares, or the Depository, in the case where you own ADSs, receive the distribution. This distribution will be taxed to you as a dividend to the extent such distribution does not exceed our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as calculated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Dividends received by an individual U.S. Holder during taxable years before 2009 will generally be taxed at a maximum rate of 15%, provided certain holding period requirements and other conditions are satisfied. Although no such rules are currently in effect, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service may require in the future that, as a prerequisite to the application of the reduced maximum 15% rate on our dividends, we certify that we are not a passive foreign investment company. We will undertake reasonable steps to provide such a certification, if so required; however, if we are unable to so certify because we determine that we are in fact a passive foreign investment company or the certification process is materially burdensome to us, our dividends will be taxed at ordinary income tax rates, currently, up to 35%.

To the extent any distribution exceeds our earnings and profits, the distribution will first be treated as a tax-free return of capital to the extent of your adjusted tax basis in our ordinary shares or ADSs, as applicable, and will be applied against and reduce such basis. To the extent that such distribution exceeds your adjusted tax basis, the distribution will be taxed as gain recognized on a sale or exchange of our ordinary shares or ADSs, as applicable. See Sale or Exchange of Equity Shares or ADSs, below. Because we are not a United States corporation, generally, no dividends-received deduction will be allowed to a corporate U.S. Holder with respect to dividends paid by us, except as provided in Section 245 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Unless we are treated as a U.S.-owned foreign corporation, dividends paid by us to individual U.S. Holders should generally be treated as foreign source income for U.S. foreign tax credit limitation purposes, and subject to certain limitations, U.K. taxes, if any, withheld from a distribution will be eligible, at the election of the U.S. Holder, for credit or deduction against such Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability. Generally, it will be more advantageous to claim a credit because a credit reduces U.S. federal income taxes on a dollar-for-dollar basis, while a deduction merely reduces the taxpayer's income subject to tax. We will be treated as a U.S.-owned foreign corporation if fifty percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock or of its total value is owned,

Table of Contents

directly or indirectly, by U.S. Holders, in which case only part of our dividend that is apportioned to our earnings and profits from non-U.S. sources would be treated as foreign source income for U.S. foreign tax credit limitation purposes. If a refund of the tax withheld is available to you under the laws of the U.K. or under an applicable treaty, the amount of tax withheld that is refundable will not be eligible for such credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability and will not be eligible for the deduction against your U.S. federal taxable income. If the dividends are qualified dividend income, the amount of the dividend taken into account for purposes of calculating the foreign tax credit limitation will in general be limited to the gross amount of the dividend, multiplied by the reduced rate divided by the highest rate of tax normally applicable to dividends. The limitation on foreign taxes eligible for credit is calculated separately with respect to specific classes of income. For this purpose, dividends distributed by us with respect to ADSs or shares will generally constitute passive income or, in the case of certain U.S. Holders, financial services income. Recently enacted legislation will modify the foreign tax credit limitation by reducing the number of classes of foreign source income to two for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006. Under this recently enacted legislation, dividends distributed by us with respect to ADSs or ordinary shares would generally constitute passive category income but could, in the case of certain U.S. Holders, constitute general category income. The rules regarding the availability of foreign tax credits are complex, and U.S. Holders may be subject to different rules regarding the source of income on dividends and to various limitations on the amount of foreign tax credits that are available. We therefore urge you to consult your own tax advisor regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under your particular circumstances.

Sale or Exchange of Equity Shares or ADSs

A U.S. Holder will generally recognize capital gain or loss upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of the equity shares or ADSs measured by the difference between the U.S. dollar value of the amount received and the U.S. Holder's tax basis (determined in U.S. dollars) in the equity shares or ADSs. Any such gain or loss will generally be U.S. source gain or loss and will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss, if your holding period in the ADSs or the shares exceeds one year. If you are a non-corporate U.S. Holder, any capital gain generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at preferential rates if specified minimum holding periods are met. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to significant limitations.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules

U.S. Holders generally will be subject to a special tax regime that would differ in certain material respects from the tax treatment described above if we are, or were to become, a passive foreign investment company for United States federal income tax purposes. We would be classified as a passive foreign investment company for any taxable year if either: (a) at least 75% of our gross income is passive income, or (b) at least 50% of our assets (determined on the basis of a quarterly average) produce or are held for the production of passive income. Although the determination of whether a corporation is a passive foreign investment company is made annually, and thus may be subject to change, we do not believe that in 2004 or 2005 we were a passive foreign investment company as defined in Section 1297(a) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and we do not expect to become a passive foreign investment company in the future. We urge you to consult your own tax advisor regarding the adverse tax consequences of owning the equity shares or ADSs of a passive foreign investment company.

Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders

A Non-U.S. Holder is a beneficial owner of equity shares or ADSs that is not a U.S. Holder.

Distributions on Equity Shares or ADSs

Non-U.S. Holders generally will not be subject to United States federal income or withholding tax on dividends received from us with respect to equity shares or ADSs, unless such income is considered effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a United States trade or business (and, if

Table of Contents

required by an applicable income tax treaty, the income is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained in the United States).

Sale or Exchange of Equity Shares or ADSs

Non-U.S. Holders generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax on any gain realized upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of equity shares or ADSs unless:

such gain is considered effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a United States trade or business (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, the income is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained in the United States); or

if such Non-U.S. Holder is an individual that is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year of the disposition and certain other conditions are met.

In addition, if you are a corporate Non-U.S. Holder, any effectively connected dividend income or gain (subject to certain adjustments) may be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty).

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

In general, dividends on equity shares or ADSs, and payments of the proceeds of a sale, exchange or other disposition of equity shares or ADSs, paid to a U.S. Holder within the United States or through certain United States-related financial intermediaries are subject to information reporting and may be subject to backup withholding at a rate currently equal to 28% unless the holder:

is a corporation or other exempt recipient; or

provides an accurate taxpayer identification number and makes any other required certification.

Non-U.S. Holders generally are not subject to information reporting or backup withholding. However, such holders may be required to provide a certification to establish their non-U.S. status in connection with payments received within the United States or through certain U.S.-related financial intermediaries.

You generally will be allowed a credit of the amount of any backup withholding against your United States federal income tax liability, or you may obtain a refund of any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules that exceed your income tax liability by filing a refund claim with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

THE ABOVE SUMMARIES REFLECT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF CURRENT LAW AND PRACTICE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES. PROSPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS AND ADS HOLDERS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS REGARDING THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND FOREIGN TAX CONSEQUENCES OF PURCHASING, OWNING, AND DISPOSING OF SUCH HOLDERS' EQUITY SHARES OR ADSs IN SUCH HOLDERS' PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Step toe & Johnson, London, England will pass for us as to the valid issuance under English law of the ordinary shares being offered by this prospectus.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Spark Networks plc at December 31, 2005 and 2004, and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2005, appearing in this prospectus and registration statement have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon appearing elsewhere herein, and are included in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements of MingleMatch, Inc. at December 31, 2004 and 2003, and for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 2004, appearing in this prospectus and registration statement have been audited by Tanner LC, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon appearing elsewhere herein, and are included in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed a registration statement on Form S-1 with the SEC for the ADSs that the selling shareholders are offering by this prospectus. This prospectus does not include all of the information contained in the registration statement. You should refer to the registration statement and its exhibits for addition information. Whenever we make reference in this prospectus to any of our contracts, agreements or other documents, the references are not necessarily complete and you should refer to the exhibits attached to the registration statement for copies of the actual contract, agreement or other document. We are required to file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC.

You can read our SEC filings, including the registration statement, over the Internet at the SEC's Web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document we file with the SEC at its public reference facilities at 100 F Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20549. You may also obtain copies of the documents at prescribed rates by writing to the Public Reference Section of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference facilities. Our SEC filings are also available at the office of the American Stock Exchange. For further information on obtaining copies of our public filings at the American Stock Exchange, you should call (212) 306-1000.

We maintain a corporate Web site at www.spark.net. You may access our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed with, or furnished to, the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, with the SEC free of charge at our Web site as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with, or furnished to, the SEC. The reference to our Web address is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute incorporation by reference of the information contained at this Web site.

Table of Contents

INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Page
Spark Networks plc (formerly known as MatchNet plc)	
<u>Report of Ernst & Young LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	F-2
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004</u>	F-3
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004, and 2003</u>	F-4
<u>Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003</u>	F-5
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003</u>	F-6
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	F-7
MingleMatch, Inc.	
<u>Report of Tanner LC, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	F-33
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2004 and 2003</u>	F-34
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three months ended March 31, 2005 and 2004 (unaudited) and the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003</u>	F-35
<u>Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Deficit for the three months ended March 31, 2005 (unaudited) and the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003</u>	F-36
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the three months ended March 31, 2005 and 2004 (unaudited) and the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003</u>	F-37
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	F-38

Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Board of Directors and Shareholders
of Spark Networks plc

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Spark Networks plc as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the related consolidated statements of operations, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2005. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Spark Networks plc at December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2005, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, in 2005 the Company changed its method of accounting for stock based compensation.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Los Angeles, California
February 15, 2006

F-2

Table of Contents

SPARK NETWORKS PLC
(formerly known as MatchNet plc)
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(In thousands, except share data)

	December 31,	
	2005	2004
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 17,096	\$ 4,265
Marketable securities	196	3,158
Restricted cash	1,085	1,330
Accounts receivable, net of allowance of \$13	932	641
Advances to employees	1	20
Prepaid expenses and other	1,492	879
Total current assets	20,802	10,293
Property and equipment, net	4,453	6,467
Goodwill, net	17,344	7,955
Intangible assets, net	4,627	1,069
Investment in noncontrolled affiliate	1,099	1,167
Deposits and other assets	295	408
Total assets	\$ 48,620	\$ 27,359
Liabilities and Shareholders Equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,267	\$ 3,014
Accrued liabilities	3,632	8,052
Deferred revenue	4,991	3,933
Notes payable – current portion	9,930	400
Current portion of obligations under capital leases		173
Total current liabilities	20,820	15,572
Deferred tax liability	1,717	
Notes payable – long term	900	1,300
Total liabilities	23,437	16,872
Shares subject to rescission	6,089	3,819
Commitments and contingencies (note 13)		
Shareholders' equity:		
Authorized capital £800,000 divided into 80,000,000 ordinary shares of 1p each; issued and outstanding 30,241,496 shares as of December 31, 2005, 24,587,351 shares as of December 31, 2004 at a stated value of:	487	401
Additional paid-in-capital	64,064	50,423
Deferred share-based compensation		(305)

Edgar Filing: SPARK NETWORKS PLC - Form POS AM

Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	(302)	(13)
Notes receivable from employees	(82)	(203)
Accumulated deficit	(45,073)	(43,635)
Total shareholders equity	19,094	6,668
Total liabilities and shareholders equity	\$ 48,620	\$ 27,359

See accompanying notes.

F-3

Table of Contents

SPARK NETWORKS PLC
(formerly known as MatchNet plc)
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(In thousands, except per share data)

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2005	2004	2003
Net revenues	\$ 65,511	\$ 65,052	\$ 36,941
Direct marketing expenses	24,411	31,240	18,395
Contribution margin	41,100	33,812	18,546
Operating expenses ¹ :			
Indirect marketing	1,208	2,607	986
Customer service	2,827	3,379	2,536
Technical operations	7,546	7,184	4,481
Product development	4,118	2,013	959
General and administrative	25,074	29,253	18,537
Amortization of intangible assets other than goodwill	1,085	860	555
Impairment of long-lived assets	105	208	1,532
Total operating expenses	41,963	45,504	29,586
Operating loss	(863)	(11,692)	(11,040)
Interest (income) and other expenses, net	711	(66)	(188)
Loss before income taxes	(1,574)	(11,626)	(10,852)
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	(136)	1	
Net loss	\$ (1,438)	\$ (11,627)	\$ (10,852)
Net loss per share – basic and diluted	\$ (0.06)	\$ (0.51)	\$ (0.57)
Weighted average shares outstanding – basic and diluted	26,105	22,667	18,970

(1) Operating expenses include share-based compensation as follows:

Indirect marketing	\$ 24	\$ 156	\$ 79
Customer service	44		
Technical operations	338	22	140
Product development	248		
General and administrative	2,063	1,526	1,652

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents

SPARK NETWORKS PLC
(formerly known as MatchNet plc)
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF
SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY
(In thousands)

	Ordinary shares	Additional	Deferred	Accumulated	Notes	Total		
	Shares	Amount	paid-in	share	other	receivable		
			capital	compensation	comprehensive	from		
			accumulated		income	employees		
			deficit		(loss)	deficit		
						Total		
						shareholders		
						equity		
BALANCE, December 31, 2002	18,707	\$ 299	\$ 34,237	\$	\$ 83	\$	\$ (21,156)	\$ 13,463
Issuance of ordinary shares upon exercise of share options and warrants	850	14	1,057					1,071
Unrealized loss on marketable securities					(123)			(123)
Share-based compensation			4,443	(2,572)				1,871
Issuance of loans to employees						(120)		(120)
Net loss							(10,852)	(10,852)
BALANCE, December 31, 2003	19,557	313	39,737	(2,572)	(40)	(120)	(32,008)	5,310
Issuance of ordinary shares upon exercise of share options and warrants	4,430	77	7,603					7,680
Private placement of ordinary shares	600	11	3,646					3,657
Unrealized loss on marketable securities					(73)			(73)
Foreign currency translation adjustment					100			100
Share-based compensation			(563)	2,267				1,704
Issuance of loans to employees						(83)		(83)
Net loss							(11,627)	(11,627)

Edgar Filing: SPARK NETWORKS PLC - Form POS AM

BALANCE, December 31, 2004	24,587	401	50,423	(305)	(13)	(203)	(43,635)	6,668
Issuance of ordinary shares upon exercise of share options and warrants	5,304	79	8,356					8,435
Issuance of ordinary shares for acquisition	150	3	1,076					1,079
Issuance of ordinary shares for settlement	200	4	1,797					1,801
Unrealized gain on marketable securities					114			114
Foreign currency translation adjustment					(403)			(403)
Share-based compensation			2,412	305				2,717
Loans to employees						121		121
Net loss							(1,438)	(1,438)
 BALANCE, December 31, 2005	 30,241	 \$ 487	 \$ 64,064	 \$	 \$ (302)	 \$ (82)	 \$ (45,073)	 \$ 19,094

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents

SPARK NETWORKS PLC
(formerly known as MatchNet plc)
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(In thousands)

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2005	2004	2003
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net loss	\$ (1,438)	\$ (11,627)	\$ (10,852)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to cash provided by (used in) operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	4,709	3,925	1,996
Impairment of notes receivable and long-lived assets	226	208	1,532
Share-based compensation	2,717	1,704	1,871
Shares issued for legal settlement	97		
Deferred tax liability	(106)		
Imputed interest on notes payable	181		
(Gain) loss from sale of marketable securities	107	(3)	
Loss from investment in noncontrolled affiliate	68		
Notes payable issued for legal settlement		1,700	
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable	(291)	(231)	(318)
Advances to employees	19	45	1,497
Restricted cash	245	(1,330)	
Prepaid expenses and other assets	22	146	(297)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(3,668)	3,126	5,477
Deferred revenue	1,058	701	1,697
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	3,946	(1,636)	2,603
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Sale of marketable securities	2,967	3,553	5,422
Purchases of marketable securities		(3,000)	(2,033)
Purchases of property and equipment	(1,448)	(5,467)	(2,733)
Purchases of businesses and intangible assets		(5,077)	(151)
Purchase of noncontrolled affiliate		(1,167)	
Cash paid in acquisition of business, net of cash acquired	(1,778)		
Deposit for acquisition of business			(2,046)
Net cash used in investing activities	(259)	(11,158)	(1,541)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Proceeds from issuance of ordinary shares	10,705	15,156	1,071
Principal payments of capital lease obligations	(173)	(314)	(176)
Notes payable	(388)		
Loans and advances to employees		182	(385)
Payment on notes payable for acquisition	(1,000)		

Edgar Filing: SPARK NETWORKS PLC - Form POS AM

Net cash provided by financing activities	9,144	15,024	510
Net increase (decrease) in cash	12,831	2,230	1,572
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	4,265	2,035	463
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 17,096	\$ 4,265	\$ 2,035
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:			
Cash (received) paid for interest	\$ 42	\$ 41	\$ 75
Cash paid for income taxes	\$	\$ 1	\$
Supplemental information of non-cash investing and financing activities:			
Equipment capital lease financing			\$ 662
MingleMatch, Inc. acquisition Short-term notes payable issued	\$ 10,000		
Fair value of ordinary shares issued	\$ 1,079		
Accrued transaction costs	\$ 165		
Shares issued for legal settlement expensed in prior year	\$ 1,793		

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents

SPARK NETWORKS PLC
(formerly known as MatchNet plc)
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. The Company and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Company

Spark Networks plc (formerly known as MatchNet plc) (the Company) is a public limited company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales. The Company has American depositary receipts which are traded on the American Stock Exchange and global depositary receipts which are traded on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. The Company and its consolidated subsidiaries provide online personals services, in the United States and internationally, whereby adults are able to post information about themselves (profiles) on the Company's Web sites and search and contact other individuals who have posted profiles.

Membership on the Company's online services, which includes the posting of a personal profile and photos, and access to its database of profiles is free. The Company charges a subscription fee for one, three, six and twelve-month subscriptions to members allowing them to initiate communication with other members and subscribers via the Company's confidential email communications platform. Two way communications through the Company's confidential email platform can only take place between paying subscribers.

Principles of Consolidation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the parent Company and all of its majority owned subsidiaries. All significant intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated in consolidation.

The financial statements of the Company's foreign subsidiary are prepared using the local currency as the subsidiary's functional currency. The Company translates the assets and liabilities using period-end rates of exchange, and revenues and expenses using average rates of exchange for the year. The resulting gain or loss is included in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) and are excluded from net income (loss).

Reclassification

Certain prior year financial information has been reclassified to conform with current year classifications.

Revenue Recognition and Deferred Revenue

Substantially all of the Company's revenues are derived from subscription fees. Revenues are presented net of credits and credit card chargebacks. The Company recognizes revenue in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States and with Securities and Exchange Commission Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 104,

Revenue Recognition. Recognition occurs ratably over the subscription period, beginning when there is persuasive evidence of an arrangement, delivery has occurred (access has been granted), the fees are fixed and determinable, and collection is reasonably assured. Subscribers pay in advance, primarily by using a credit card, and all purchases are final and nonrefundable. Fees collected in advance for subscriptions are deferred and recognized as revenue using the straight line method over the term of the subscription.

The Company derives a small amount of revenues (less than 2% in 2005, 2004, and 2003) from certain promotional events. Revenues and the related expenses associated with these events are recognized at the conclusion of each event.

Table of Contents

The Company also earns a small amount of revenue from barter arrangements. The Company provides internet banner advertising space to a marketing associate in exchange for similar advertising space on the marketing associate's web site. Barter transactions are valued based on amounts realized in similar cash transactions occurring within six months prior to the date of the barter transaction. Revenue and the related marketing expenses, had these been cash arrangements, totaled \$21,000, \$93,000, and \$66,000 for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004, and 2003 respectively. The Company recorded these barter arrangements as direct marketing expense and related revenue based on the number of new registrations generated from the marketing associates and the average historic member acquisition costs.

Advertising Costs

Advertising costs are expensed as incurred. For the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004, and 2003 the Company incurred advertising costs amounting to approximately \$23.3 million, \$29.1 million, and \$18.1 million respectively.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

All highly liquid instruments with an original maturity of three months or less are considered cash and cash equivalents.

Marketable Securities

The Company makes temporary investments of cash in liquid interest bearing accounts and marketable securities. Marketable securities are classified as available for sale, in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standard (SFAS) No. 115, Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities , and are stated at fair market value, with any unrealized gains or losses reported as other comprehensive income (loss) under shareholders equity in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. Realized gains or losses and declines in value that are other than temporary, if any, on available-for-sale securities are calculated using the specific identification method and are reported in other income or expense as incurred. For the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, realized gains and recorded losses were insignificant. In 2005, the Company sold securities in the amount of \$3.0 million and recognized a loss of \$107,000 and reclassified specifically identifiable losses from unrecognized gains and losses of \$112,000. As of December 31, 2005, investment in marketable securities consists of government debt securities with maturities between five to ten years. The fair value of the available for sale securities approximates their carrying value (amortized cost). Unrealized gains and losses were immaterial.

Restricted Cash

The credit card processors the Company uses regularly withhold deposits and maintain balances which we record as restricted cash. As of December 31, 2005 and 2004, the Company had \$1.1 million and \$1.3 million in restricted cash, respectively.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable is primarily composed of credit card payments for membership fees pending collection from the credit card processors. The Company records a reserve based on historical charge back levels experienced over the preceding three-month period. The allowance for doubtful accounts as of December 31, 2005 and 2004 was approximately \$13,000 and \$13,000, respectively. The chargeback reserve as of December 31, 2005 and 2004 was approximately \$117,000 and \$66,000, respectively. Amounts charged to expense for 2005 and 2004 were approximately \$51,000 and \$72,000, respectively.

Table of Contents**Prepaid Advertising Expenses**

In certain circumstances, the Company pays in advance for Internet based advertising on other contracted Web sites, and expenses the prepaid amounts over the contract periods as the contracted Web site delivers on their commitment. The Company evaluates the realization of prepaid amounts at each reporting period, and expenses prepaid amounts if it determines that the contracted Web site will be unable to deliver on their commitment.

Web Site and Software Development Costs

The Company capitalizes costs related to developing or obtaining internal-use software. Capitalization of costs begins after the conceptual formulation stage has been completed. Product development costs are expensed as incurred or capitalized into property and equipment in accordance with Statement of Position (SOP) 98-1 Accounting for the Costs of Computer Software Developed or Obtained for Internal Use. SOP 98-1 requires that costs incurred in the preliminary project and post-implementation stages of an internal use software project be expensed as incurred and that certain costs incurred in the application development stage of a project be capitalized.

In accordance with Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) 00-2 Accounting for Web Site Development Costs, the Company expenses costs related to the planning and post implementation phases of Web site development efforts. Direct costs incurred in the development phase are capitalized. Costs associated with minor enhancements and maintenance for the Web site are included in expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations. Capitalized Web site and software development costs are included in internal-use software in property and equipment and amortized over the estimated useful life of the products, which is usually three years. The following table summarizes capitalized software development costs for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003 (in thousands):

	2005	2004	2003
Capitalized	\$ 350	\$ 658	\$ 825
Expensed	\$ 595	\$ 693	\$ 602
Unamortized Balance	\$ 800	\$ 1,045	\$ 1,080

In 2004, the Company recorded an impairment for capitalized software development costs of approximately \$208,000.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost, net of accumulated depreciation, which is provided using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the asset. Amortization of leasehold improvements is calculated using the straight-line method over the remaining term of the lease. Amortization of assets recorded under capital leases is included in depreciation expense over the term of the leases. Upon the sale or retirement of property or equipment, the cost and related accumulated depreciation and amortization are removed from the Company's financial statements with the resulting gain or loss, if any, reflected in the Company's results of operations.

In October 2003, the Company changed the estimated useful life over which property and equipment are depreciated from a range of five to seven years previously used, to three years based on business developments that took place in 2003, and on management's opinion that rapid changes in technology reduced the useful life of the Company's assets. The effect of the change in estimate is immaterial to the financial statements.

Table of Contents

Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of the net assets acquired resulting from business acquisitions. On January 1, 2002, the Company adopted SFAS No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*, which no longer requires the periodic amortization of goodwill. As of December 31, 2005 and 2004, the Company had unamortized goodwill of approximately \$17.3 million and \$8.0 million respectively. Goodwill has been tested for impairment under the provisions of SFAS No. 142 and these tests indicated that there was no impairment.

Intangible Assets

Intangible assets resulting from the acquisitions of entities accounted for using the purchase method of accounting are estimated by management based on the fair value of assets received. Identifiable intangible assets are comprised mainly of purchased member and subscriber databases, domain names, and acquired technologies. Domain names were determined to have indefinite useful lives, thus, they are not amortized. Intangible assets with finite useful lives are amortized using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives (three years for member databases, three months for subscriber databases and five years for acquired technologies).

Impairment of Long-lived Assets

The Company assesses the impairment of assets, which include property and equipment and identifiable intangible assets, whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that such assets might be impaired and the carrying value may not be recoverable. Events and circumstances that may indicate that an asset is impaired may include significant decreases in the market value of an asset or common stock, a significant decline in actual and projected revenue, a change in the extent or manner in which an asset is used, shifts in technology, loss of key management or personnel, changes in the Company's operating model or strategy and competitive forces as well as other factors. If events and circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable and the expected undiscounted future cash flows attributable to the asset are less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss equal to the excess of the asset's carrying value over its fair value is recorded. Fair value is determined based on the present value of estimated expected future cash flows using a discount rate commensurate with the risk involved, quoted market prices or appraised values, depending on the nature of the assets.

In December 2004, based on changes in management and the reevaluation of our existing projects, the Company determined that certain internally developed software projects would not be necessary to be completed. As such, the Company recorded an impairment charge of \$208,000.

In October 2003, based on business developments that took place in 2003, and on management's opinion that rapid changes in technology reduced the fair value of some of its property and equipment (mostly computer equipment and capitalized software costs), the Company recorded an impairment charge of approximately \$1.5 million.