


MEETING DATE	Thu, 21 Jan 2016 8:00 am	TYPE	AGM	ISSUE DATE	Mon, 28 Dec 2015
MEETING LOCATION	2750 Coast Avenue, Building 6, Mountain View, California 94043				
CURRENT INDICES	S&P500				
SECTOR	Prepackaged software				

PROPOSALS		ADVICE
1a	Elect Eve Burton Independent Non-Executive Director.	For
1b	Elect Scott D. Cook Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he is the founder and former Chairman, CEO and President of the Company. He is also the beneficial owner of approximately 4.87% of the outstanding share equity. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.	Oppose
1c	Elect Richard L Dalzell Independent Non-Executive Director.	For
1d	Elect Diane B. Greene Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as she has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.	Oppose
1e	Elect Suzanne Nora Johnson Lead Director. Not considered independent as she has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.	Oppose
1f	Elect Dennis D. Powell Non-Executive Director. Not considered independent as he has served on the Board for more than nine years. There is insufficient independent representation on the Board.	Oppose
1g	Elect Brad D. Smith Chairman and CEO. Combined roles at the head of the Company. There should be a clear division of responsibilities at the head of the Company between the running of the board and the executive responsibility for the running of the Company's business. No one individual should have unfettered powers of decision. Combining the two roles in one person represents a concentration of power that is potentially detrimental to board balance, effective debate, and board appraisal. Triodos oppose this resolution.	Oppose
1h	Elect Jeff Weiner Independent Non-Executive Director.	For
2	Appoint the Auditors Ernst & Young LLP proposed. Non-audit fees represented 1.24% of audit fees during the year under review. This level of non-audit fees does not raise serious concerns about the independence of the statutory auditors. Acceptable proposal. Triodos vote in favour.	For

3 Advisory vote on executive compensation

Oppose

The Company has submitted a proposal for shareholder ratification of its executive compensation policy and practices. The voting outcome for this resolution reflects the balance of opinion on the adequacy of disclosure, the balance of performance and reward and the terms of executive employment. Annual cash bonuses are based on the following performance measures: revenue; non-GAAP operating income; deferred revenue balance; and individual performance. The Company included non-financial metrics into the annual bonus structure, which is considered best practice; however, specific non-financial targets are not disclosed. The Company awarded performance-based RSUs (50%), service-based RSUs (25%) and stock options (25%). Also, the Company awarded a one time performance-based RSUs based on QuickBooks Online (QBO) subscription growth to motivate senior executives to pursue subscription growth in the QuickBooks Online business. The Company has disclosed targets for all its long-term incentives; however, maximum potential realised long-term incentive award opportunities are not disclosed which raises concerns over the potential excessiveness of the remuneration structure.

For fiscal year 2015, annual cash awards were considered excessive; the actual bonus payouts to NEOs were in the range of 97.1% to 125% of their individual target bonus. However, no payout exceeded 200% of base salary, which is considered best practice. The Compensation Committee has discretion to adjust the actual payment levels for each participant up to a maximum of 250% of the participant's salary, which is not acceptable. Performance-based RSUs are earned based on the Company's three-year relative TSR compared to a peer group. The use of a sole performance criterion is not considered appropriate in evaluating performance. Stock options are based on share price appreciation, which is not best practice as there are many external factors which influence share price that are out of the control of the executives. Also, the Company awarded time-vesting RSUs which vest in less than three years.

The Company has 'clawback' provisions for performance equity awards, and beginning in 2016, the Company have implemented such provisions for cash bonus payments. Estimated severance payments and benefits are excessive. Upon termination without cause following a change in control Brad D. Smith will receive a total amount of \$54,955,271. The compensation rating is: CEC.

Based on the excessive cash bonus payments, Triodos oppose this resolution.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR RESOLUTIONS

Proposal 3 - Advisory vote on executive compensation

Disclosure: C- Annual cash bonuses are based on the following performance measures: revenue; non-GAAP operating income; deferred revenue balance; and individual performance. The Company included non-financial metrics into the annual bonus structure, which is considered best practice; however, specific non-financial targets are not disclosed. The Company awarded performance-based RSUs (50%), service-based RSUs (25%) and stock options (25%). Also, the Company awarded a one time performance-based RSUs based on QuickBooks Online (QBO) subscription growth to motivate senior executives to pursue subscription growth in the QuickBooks Online business. The Company has disclosed targets for all its long-term incentives; however, maximum potential realised long-term incentive award opportunities are not disclosed which raises concerns over the potential excessiveness of the remuneration structure.

Balance: E- For fiscal year 2015, annual cash awards were considered excessive; the actual bonus payouts to NEOs were in the range of 97.1% to 125% of their individual target bonus. However, no payout exceeded 200% of base salary, which is considered best practice. The Compensation Committee has discretion to adjust the actual payment levels for each participant up to a maximum of 250% of the participant's salary, which is not acceptable. Performance-based RSUs are earned based on the Company's three-year relative TSR compared to a peer group. The use of a sole performance criterion is not considered appropriate in evaluating performance. Stock options are based on share price appreciation, which is not best practice as there are many external factors which influence share price that are out of the control of the executives. Also, the Company awarded time-vesting RSUs which vest in less than three years.

Contract: C- The Company has 'clawback' provisions for performance equity awards, and beginning in 2016, the Company have implemented such provisions for cash bonus payments. Estimated severance payments and benefits are excessive. Upon termination without cause following a change in control Brad D. Smith will receive a total amount of \$54,955,271.

For Private Circulation only

©Copyright 2015 PIRC Ltd

Researcher: Irene Tsopanoglou
Email: pircresearch@pirc.co.uk

Information is believed to be correct but cannot be guaranteed. Opinions and recommendations constitute our judgement as of this date and are subject to change without notice. The document is not intended as an offer, solicitation or advice to buy or sell securities. Clients of Pensions & Investment Research Consultants Ltd may have a position or engage in transaction in any of the securities mentioned.



Pensions & Investment Research Consultants Limited
8th Floor, Suite 8.02, Exchange Tower
2 Harbour Exchange Square
E14 9GE

Tel: 020 7247 2323
Fax: 020 7247 2457
<http://www.pirc.co.uk>

Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority