
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 20-F

(Mark One)

REGISTRATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR 12(g) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020.

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____

OR

SHELL COMPANY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of event requiring this shell company report

Commission file number: 001-38696

Niu Technologies

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

N/A

(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

Cayman Islands

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**No.1 Building, No. 195 Huilongguan East Road,
Changping District, Beijing 102208
People's Republic of China**

(Address of principal executive offices)

Hardy Peng Zhang, Chief Financial Officer

Telephone: +86 10-6432-1899

Email: ir@niu.com

**No.1 Building, No. 195 Huilongguan East Road,
Changping District, Beijing 102208
People's Republic of China**

(Name, Telephone, E-mail and/or Facsimile number and Address of Company Contact Person)

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

Title of each class	Trading Symbol (s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
American depositary shares (one American depositary share representing two Class A ordinary shares, par value US\$0.0001 per share) Class A ordinary shares, par value US\$0.0001 per share*	NIU	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (The Nasdaq Global Market) The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (The Nasdaq Global Market)

* Not for trading, but only in connection with the listing on The Nasdaq Global Market of American depositary shares.

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

(Title of Class)

Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act:

None

(Title of Class)

Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the annual report.

134,378,432 Class A ordinary shares and 17,982,020 Class B ordinary shares, par value US\$0.0001 per share, as of December 31, 2020.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes No

If this report is an annual or transition report, indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No

Note - Checking the box above will not relieve any registrant required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 from their obligations under those Sections.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files).

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Emerging growth company

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

†The term "new or revised financial accounting standard" refers to any update issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board to its Accounting Standards Codification after April 5, 2012.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management's assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report. Yes No

Indicate by check mark which basis of accounting the registrant has used to prepare the financial statements included in this filing:

U.S. GAAP International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board Other

If "Other" has been checked in response to the previous question, indicate by check mark which financial statement item the registrant has elected to follow.

Item 17 Item 18

If this is an annual report, indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

(APPLICABLE ONLY TO ISSUERS INVOLVED IN BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed all documents and reports required to be filed by Sections 12, 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 subsequent to the distribution of securities under a plan confirmed by a court.

Yes No

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION	1
PART I	2
Item 1. Identity of Directors, Senior Management and Advisers	2
Item 2. Offer Statistics and Expected Timetable	2
Item 3. Key Information	3
Item 4. Information on the Company	44
Item 4A. Unresolved Staff Comments	73
Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects	73
Item 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees	98
Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions	107
Item 8. Financial Information	108
Item 9. The Offer and Listing	109
Item 10. Additional Information	110
Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk	120
Item 12. Description of Securities Other than Equity Securities	121
PART II	124
Item 13. Defaults, Dividend Arrearages and Delinquencies	124
Item 14. Material Modifications to the Rights of Security Holders and Use of Proceeds	124
Item 15. Controls and Procedures	124
Item 16A. Audit Committee Financial Expert	125
Item 16B. Code of Ethics	125
Item 16C. Principal Accountant Fees and Services	125
Item 16D. Exemptions from the Listing Standards for Audit Committees	126
Item 16E. Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers	126
Item 16F. Change in Registrant's Certifying Accountant	126
Item 16G. Corporate Governance	126
Item 16H. Mine Safety Disclosure	126
PART III	127
Item 17. Financial Statements	127
Item 18. Financial Statements	127
Item 19. Exhibits	127
SIGNATURES	130

INTRODUCTION

In this annual report, except where the context otherwise requires and for purposes of this annual report only:

- “ADRs” are to the American depositary receipts that evidence the ADSs;
- “ADSs” are to the American depositary shares, each of which represents two Class A ordinary shares;
- “China” or the “PRC” are to the People’s Republic of China, excluding, for the purposes of this annual report only, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan;
- “Class A ordinary shares” are to our Class A ordinary shares, par value US\$0.0001 per share;
- “Class B ordinary shares” are to our Class B ordinary shares, par value US\$0.0001 per share;
- “NIU,” “we,” “us,” “our company” and “our” are to Niu Technologies, our Cayman Islands holding company and its subsidiaries, its consolidated variable interest entity and the subsidiaries of the consolidated variable interest entity;
- “ordinary shares” are to our Class A and Class B ordinary shares, par value US\$0.0001 per share;
- “our variable interest entity” and “our VIE” are to Beijing Niudian Technology Co., Ltd., or Beijing Niudian;
- “our WFOE” are to Beijing Niudian Information Technology Co., Ltd., or Niudian Information;
- “RMB” and “Renminbi” are to the legal currency of China; and
- “US\$,” “U.S. dollars,” “\$,” and “dollars” are to the legal currency of the United States.

Unless otherwise noted, all translations from Renminbi to U.S. dollars and from U.S. dollars to Renminbi in this annual report were made at a rate of RMB 6.5250 to US\$1.00, the exchange rate on as of the end of December 2020 set forth in the H.10 statistical release of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. We make no representation that any Renminbi or U.S. dollar amounts could have been, or could be, converted into U.S. dollars or Renminbi, as the case may be, at any particular rate, or at all.

FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This annual report on Form 20-F contains forward-looking statements that reflect our current expectations and views of future events. These statements are made under the “safe harbor” provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. You can identify these forward-looking statements by terminology such as “may,” “will,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “future,” “intend,” “plan,” “believe,” “estimate,” “is/are likely to” or other similar expressions. We have based these forward-looking statements largely 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. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to:

- our mission, goals and strategies;
- our future business development, financial conditions and results of operations;
- the expected growth of electric two-wheeled vehicle industry;
- our expectations regarding demand for and market acceptance of our products and services;
- our expectations regarding our relationships with our users/customers, suppliers, strategic partners and other stakeholders;
- competition in our industry; and
- relevant government policies and regulations relating to our industry.

We would like to caution you not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements and you should read these statements in conjunction with the risk factors disclosed in “Item 3 Key Information— D. Risk Factors.” Those risks are not exhaustive. We operate in a rapidly evolving environment. New risks emerge from time to time and it is impossible for our management to predict all risk factors, nor can we assess the impact of all factors on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ from those contained in any forward-looking statement. We do not undertake any obligation to update or revise the forward-looking statements except as required under applicable law.

PART I

Item 1. Identity of Directors, Senior Management and Advisers

Not applicable.

Item 2. Offer Statistics and Expected Timetable

Not applicable.

Item 3. Key Information

A. Selected Financial Data

The following selected consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss) data (other than data in U.S. dollars) and selected consolidated statements of cash flows data (other than data in U.S. dollars) for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020 and the selected consolidated balance sheets data (other than data in U.S. dollars) as of December 31, 2019 and 2020 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements, which are included in this annual report beginning on page F-1. Our selected consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss) data and selected consolidated statements of cash flows data for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2017 and selected consolidated balance sheets data as of December 31, 2016, 2017 and 2018 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements not included in this annual report, except for the effects of the retrospective adjustments on the presentation and classification of changes in restricted cash in our consolidated statements of cash flows due to the adoption of Accounting Standards Update No. 2016-18, Statement of Cash Flows: Restricted Cash (“ASU 2016-18”), on January 1, 2019. Our consolidated financial statements are prepared and presented in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Our historical results do not necessarily indicate results expected for any future periods. You should read this Selected Financial Data section together with our consolidated financial statements and the related notes in conjunction with “Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects” below.

	2016	2017	For the Year Ended December 31,		2020	
	RMB	RMB	2018	2019	RMB	US\$
	(in thousands, except for share amounts and per share data)					
Selected Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) Data:						
Revenues	354,810	769,368	1,477,781	2,076,289	2,444,329	374,610
Cost of revenues ⁽¹⁾	(367,587)	(714,670)	(1,279,156)	(1,589,738)	(1,885,180)	(288,917)
Gross profit (loss)	(12,777)	54,698	198,625	486,551	559,149	85,693
Operating expenses						
Selling and marketing expenses ⁽¹⁾	(89,754)	(83,065)	(150,151)	(182,873)	(200,761)	(30,768)
Research and development expenses ⁽¹⁾	(33,090)	(39,493)	(91,812)	(67,187)	(105,335)	(16,143)
General and administrative expenses ⁽¹⁾	(97,119)	(74,799)	(272,464)	(79,616)	(104,860)	(16,070)
Total operating expenses	(219,963)	(197,357)	(514,427)	(329,676)	(410,956)	(62,981)
Government grants	1,308	833	1,396	29,834	22,441	3,439
Operating income (loss)	(231,432)	(141,826)	(314,406)	186,709	170,634	26,151
Change in fair value of a convertible loan	—	(43,006)	(34,500)	—	—	—
Interest expenses	(2,320)	(3,154)	(7,722)	(11,397)	(7,381)	(1,131)
Interest income	661	1,007	2,999	16,899	8,787	1,347
Investment income	370	2,316	4,602	6,088	17,698	2,712
Income (loss) before income taxes	(232,721)	(184,663)	(349,027)	198,299	189,738	29,079
Income tax expense	—	—	—	(8,214)	(21,086)	(3,232)
Net income (loss)	(232,721)	(184,663)	(349,027)	190,085	168,652	25,847
Net income (loss) per ordinary share						
— Basic	(22.35)	(7.02)	(5.30)	1.28	1.12	0.17
— Diluted	(22.35)	(7.02)	(5.30)	1.24	1.07	0.16
Weighted average number of ordinary shares and ordinary shares equivalents outstanding used in computing net income (loss) per ordinary share						
— Basic	10,414,325	26,295,181	65,834,876	149,025,166	150,897,412	150,897,412
— Diluted	10,414,325	26,295,181	65,834,876	153,248,188	157,835,868	157,835,868

(1) Share-based compensation expenses are allocated in cost of revenues and operating expenses items as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31,					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB	US\$
	(in thousands)					
Cost of revenues	220	253	247	292	644	99
Selling and marketing expenses	1,378	1,611	2,125	4,657	9,945	1,524
Research and development expenses	13,530	13,879	52,864	4,207	10,918	1,673
General and administrative expenses	63,177	46,784	210,639	10,466	18,102	2,774
Total	78,305	62,527	265,875	19,622	39,609	6,070

The following table presents our selected consolidated balance sheets data as of December 31, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020:

	As of December 31,					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB	US\$
	(in thousands)					
Selected Consolidated Balance Sheets Data:						
Cash	91,121	111,996	569,060	279,946	227,004	34,790
Term deposit	—	—	27,453	174,405	130,498	20,000
Restricted cash	110,992	169,889	179,263	221,656	168,469	25,819
Short-term investments	50,087	85,188	120,241	310,439	745,609	114,270
Accounts receivable, net	20,598	10,382	54,425	115,229	101,320	15,528
Inventories	66,782	88,226	142,382	178,633	142,166	21,788
Total assets	388,535	503,632	1,185,252	1,510,840	1,846,809	283,036
Short-term bank borrowings	99,531	168,234	179,978	217,394	180,000	27,586
Convertible loan	116,729	151,558	—	—	—	—
Accounts payable	71,818	124,938	249,666	258,988	395,826	60,663
Total liabilities	349,223	591,023	614,845	719,310	853,435	130,795
Total mezzanine equity	252,506	237,845	—	—	—	—
Total shareholders' equity (deficit)	(213,194)	(325,236)	570,407	791,530	993,374	152,241

The following table presents our selected consolidated cash flow data for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020:

	For the Year Ended December 31,					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB	US\$
	(in thousands)					
Selected Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows Data:						
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities ⁽¹⁾	(123,054)	80,063	8,569	178,680	465,599	71,356
Net cash used in investing activities	(59,950)	(55,929)	(103,590)	(467,889)	(535,232)	(82,028)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities ⁽¹⁾	289,725	68,703	555,383	35,282	(13,164)	(2,017)
Effect of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash and restricted cash	9,380	(13,065)	6,076	7,206	(23,332)	(3,576)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and restricted cash	116,101	79,772	466,438	(246,721)	(106,129)	(16,265)
Cash and restricted cash at the beginning of the year	86,012	202,113	281,885	748,323	501,602	76,874
Cash and restricted cash at the end of the year	202,113	281,885	748,323	501,602	395,473	60,609

- (1) We adopted Accounting Standards Update No. 2016-18, Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230): Restricted Cash on January 1, 2019. As a result of adopting this new accounting update, we retrospectively adjusted the consolidated statements of cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2017 and 2018 to include restricted cash in cash and cash equivalents when reconciling the beginning-of-period and end-of-period total amounts shown on the consolidated statements of cash flows. The impact of our retrospective reclassification on cash flows from operating activities for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2017 and 2018 was nil, nil and an increase of RMB0.8 million, respectively. The impact of our retrospective reclassification on cash flows from financing activities for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2017 and 2018 was an increase of RMB64.7 million, an increase of RMB66.3 million and nil, respectively.

B. Capitalization and Indebtedness

Not applicable.

C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds

Not applicable.

D. Risk Factors

Summary of Risk Factors

Investing in the ADSs involves significant risks. You should carefully consider all of the information in this annual report before making an investment in the ADSs. Below please find a summary of the principal risks we face, organized under relevant headings.

Risks Relating to Our Business and Industry

Risks and uncertainties related to our business and industry include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Our success depends upon the continued strength of our brand. If we are not able to maintain and enhance our brand, our business and operating results may be adversely affected;
- Our success is dependent on the continued popularity of our existing products and services and our continued innovation and successful launches of new products and services, and we may not be able to anticipate or make timely responses to changes in the preferences of consumers;
- We rely heavily on city partners and franchised stores for sales and distribution of our products and our success depends on our offline distribution network;
- We rely substantially on external suppliers for certain components and raw materials used in our products.
- We may not be able to maintain profitability;
- Our products and services may experience quality problems from time to time, which could result in decreased sales, adversely affect our results of operations and harm our reputation;
- We may be compelled to undertake product recalls or take other actions, which could adversely affect our brand image and results of operations;
- We may face intense competition in the electric two-wheeled vehicles industry;
- Our marketing strategy of appealing to and growing sales to a more diversified group of users may not continue to be successful; and
- We may not be able to prevent others from unauthorized use of our intellectual property, which could harm our business and competitive position.

Risks Related to Our Corporate Structure

- If the PRC government finds that the agreements that establish the structure for operating some of our operations in China do not comply with PRC regulations relating to the relevant industries, or if these regulations or the interpretation of existing regulations change in the future, we could be subject to severe penalties or be forced to relinquish our interests in those operations;
- Uncertainties exist with respect to the interpretation and implementation of the newly enacted Foreign Investment Law of the PRC and how it may impact the viability of our current corporate structure, corporate governance and business operations; and
- We rely on contractual arrangements with our VIE and its shareholders for a large portion of our business operations, which may not be as effective as direct ownership in providing operational control.

Risks Related to Doing Business in China

- Changes in China's economic, political or social conditions or government policies could have a material and adverse effect on our business and results of operations;
- Uncertainties in the interpretation and enforcement of PRC laws and regulations could limit the legal protections available to you and us;
- We may be adversely affected by the complexity, uncertainties and changes in PRC regulation on internet-related businesses and companies;
- We may rely on dividends and other distributions on equity paid by our PRC subsidiaries to fund any cash and financing requirements we may have, and any limitation on the ability of our PRC subsidiaries to make payments to us could have a material and adverse effect on our ability to conduct our business; and
- Our ADSs may be delisted under the Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act if the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, or the PCAOB, is unable to inspect auditors who are located in China. The delisting of our ADSs, or the threat of their being delisted, may materially and adversely affect the value of your investment. Additionally, the inability of the PCAOB to conduct inspections deprives our investors with the benefits of such inspections.

Risks Related to Our ADSs

- The trading price of the ADSs is likely to be volatile, which could result in substantial losses to investors;
- If securities or industry analysts do not publish research or publishes inaccurate or unfavorable research about our business, or if they adversely change their recommendations regarding the ADSs, the market price for our ADSs and trading volume could decline;
- The sale or availability for sale of substantial amounts of the ADSs could adversely affect their market price;
- Our dual-class voting structure will limit your ability to influence corporate matters and could discourage others from pursuing any change of control transactions that holders of our Class A ordinary shares and the ADSs may view as beneficial; and
- The dual-class structure of our ordinary shares may adversely affect the trading market for the ADSs.

Risks Relating to Our Business

Our success depends upon the continued strength of our brand. If we are not able to maintain and enhance our brand, our business and operating results may be adversely affected.

We believe that our brand has significantly contributed to the success of our business and that maintaining and enhancing the brand is critical to retaining and expanding our customer base. Our marketing, design, research and products are aimed at reinforcing consumer perceptions of our “NIU” brand as a premium smart e-scooter brand. Therefore, failure to protect our brand or to grow the value of the “NIU” brand may have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations, including losing our customers.

We focus on promoting awareness of our “NIU” brand generally and in particular as a premium brand for high-quality smart e-scooters globally. We seek to maintain and strengthen our brand image through marketing initiatives, including advertising, consumer promotions and trade promotions. Maintaining and strengthening our brand image depends on our ability to adapt to a rapidly changing media environment and preferences of customers to receiving information, including our increasing reliance on social media and online dissemination of advertising campaigns. If we do not continue to improve, maintain and strengthen our brand, we may lose the opportunity to build a critical mass of customers. Additionally, promoting and positioning our brand will likely depend significantly on our ability to provide high-quality products and services and engage with our customers as intended. If we are unsuccessful in doing so, our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects could be materially and adversely affected.

Our success is dependent on the continued popularity of our existing products and services and our continued innovation and successful launches of new products and services, and we may not be able to anticipate or make timely responses to changes in the preferences of consumers.

The success of our operations depends on our ability to introduce new or enhanced smart e-scooters, and other new products. Consumer preferences differ across and within each of the regions in which we operate or plan to operate and may shift over time in response to changes in demographic and social trends, economic circumstances and the marketing efforts of our competitors. There can be no assurance that our existing products will continue to be favored by consumers or that we will be able to anticipate or respond to changes in consumer preferences in a timely manner. Our failure to anticipate, identify or react to these particular preferences could adversely affect our sales performance and our profitability. In addition, demand for many of our products, including accessories, are closely linked to customers’ purchasing power and disposable income levels, which may be adversely affected by unfavorable economic developments in the countries in which we operate.

We devote significant resources to product development. However, we may not be successful in developing innovative new products, and our new products may not be commercially successful. To the extent that we are not able to effectively gauge the direction of our key markets and successfully identify, develop and manufacture new or improved products in these changing markets, our financial results and our competitive position may suffer. Moreover, there are inherent market risks associated with new product introductions, including uncertainties about marketing and consumer preference, and there can be no assurance that we will be successful in introducing new products. We may expend substantial resources developing and marketing new products that may not achieve expected sales levels.

Additionally, our competitive advantage also depends on the smart features and data services we provide to our users. Our smart e-scooters are connected to our NIU app. By using smart e-scooters’ built-in GPS, on-board computer, algorithms and cloud technology, our NIU app enables riders to seamlessly receive real-time data including, among others, anti-theft alerts, daily riding habits and power supply, real-time diagnostics and maintenance and service station directory. We cannot assure you that we will be able to continue to innovate and develop new smart features and data services, which may jeopardize customer experience and affect both our sales of scooters and provision of related services.

We rely heavily on city partners and franchised stores for sales and distribution of our products and our success depends on our offline distribution network.

We have established a distinct omnichannel retail network to sell our products and services to our customers. In China, our offline retail channels consist of city partners and franchised stores, whereas in European and other countries, we rely on overseas distributors. Our unique “city partner” system plays an important role in our offline sales strategy in China. City partners are our exclusive distributors who either open and operate franchised stores or sign up franchised stores. As of December 31, 2020, we had 246 city partners and 1,616 franchised stores in China. Our offline distribution network plays a crucial role in our omnichannel retail system. We rely on these city partners and franchised stores in China to directly interact with and serve our users, but the interest of city partners and franchised stores may not be entirely aligned with ours or with that of other city partners and franchised stores. As of December 31, 2020, one distributor accounted for greater than 10% of our net accounts receivable. There can be no assurance that we will be able to maintain our existing relationships with city partners and franchised stores. Additionally, our existing city partners and franchised stores may not be able to maintain past levels of sales or expand their sales. In addition, as we seek to expand into new regions in China, we cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully establish and maintain relationships with new city partners and franchised stores in these regions on favorable terms or at all.

Furthermore, we manage our franchised stores in a real-time and interactive manner. We closely monitor their sales performance, service levels and activities within the franchised stores through the store level management system that was implemented by us in early 2018. However, we cannot assure you that we will be successful in managing our city partners and franchised stores and detecting inconsistencies with our brand image or values or noncompliance with the provisions of our distribution agreements by them. Any noncompliance by our city partners or franchised stores could, among other things, negatively affect our brand reputation, demands for our products and our relationships with other city partners and franchised stores. Any of these could have a material and adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

We rely substantially on external suppliers for certain components and raw materials used in our products.

We purchase certain key components and raw material, such as batteries, motors, tires, battery chargers and controllers from external suppliers for use in our operations and production of products, and a continuous and stable supply of these components and raw materials that meet our standards is crucial to our operations and production. We normally enter into one-year procurement agreements with our external suppliers. We expect to continue to rely on external suppliers for a substantial percentage of our production requirements in the future. We had two and nil suppliers accounting for greater than 10% of our total purchases in 2019 and 2020, respectively. We cannot assure you that we will be able to maintain our existing relationships with these suppliers and continue to be able to source electric motors, batteries or other key components and raw materials we use in our products on a stable basis and at a reasonable price or at all. For example, our suppliers may increase the prices for the components or materials we purchase and/or experience disruptions in their production of the components or materials.

The supply chain also exposes us to multiple potential sources of delivery failure or component shortages. While we obtain components from multiple sources whenever possible, similar to other scooter manufacturers, some of the components used in our products are purchased by us from a single source. To date, we have not found qualified and cost-efficient alternative sources for most of the single sourced components used in our products and we generally do not maintain long-term agreements with our single source suppliers. We have integrated the suppliers’ technologies within our products such that having to change to an alternative supplier may cause significant disruption to our operations. In the event that the supply of key components is interrupted for whatever reason or there are significant increases in the prices of these key components, our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may be materially and adversely affected. Additionally, changes in business conditions, force majeure, governmental changes and other factors beyond our control or that we do not presently anticipate could also affect our suppliers’ ability to deliver components to us on a timely basis.

We incur significant costs related to procuring components and raw materials required to manufacture and assemble our products. The prices for the components and raw materials fluctuate depending on factors beyond our control including market conditions and demand for these components and materials. Substantial increases in the prices for the components or raw materials we use in producing our products would increase our costs and reduce our margins. For example, in the fourth quarter of 2017, we had a lower gross profit margin as a result of the increase in cost of products caused by increased prices in raw materials. Any of the foregoing could materially and adversely affect our results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

We may not be able to maintain profitability.

We have incurred net losses in the past. In 2018, we had a net loss of RMB349.0 million. In 2019 and 2020, we had a net profit of RMB190.1 million and RMB168.7 million (US\$25.8 million), respectively. We had net cash provided by operating activities of RMB8.6 million, RMB178.7 million and RMB465.6 million (US\$71.4 million) in 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively. We cannot assure you that we will be able to maintain net profits or positive cash flow from operating activities in the future. Our ability to maintain profitability depends in large part on our ability to increase sales of our products and services, increase cost efficiency and manage operating expenses. We intend to continue to increase our sales of products, improve gross margin, manage and further reduce our operating expenses as a proportion of our total revenues, but there can be no assurance that we will achieve this goal and maintain profitability in the future.

Our products and services may experience quality problems from time to time, which could result in decreased sales, adversely affect our results of operations and harm our reputation.

Our products and services can contain design and manufacturing defects. Sophisticated cloud electric central unit and software, such as those developed by us, often contain “bugs” that can unexpectedly interfere with the software’s intended operation. Defects may also occur in components and products that we purchase from third-party suppliers. There can be no assurance we will be able to detect and fix all defects in the hardware, software and services we offer. Failure to do so could result in lost in revenue, significant warranty and other expenses and harm to our reputation.

Additionally, we source and purchase key components or accessories in our operations and production of products from third-party suppliers, such as batteries, motors, tires, battery chargers, helmets and controllers. We cannot assure that the quality and functions of these key components or accessories supplied by third-party suppliers will be consistent with and maintained at our high standard. Any defects or quality issues in these key components or accessories or any noncompliance incidents associated with these third-party suppliers could result in quality issues with our products and hence compromise our brand image and results of operations.

We may be compelled to undertake product recalls or take other actions, which could adversely affect our brand image and results of operations.

Our products may not perform consistently with customers’ expectations or with other scooters currently available on the market. Any product defects or any other failure of our products to perform as expected could harm our reputation and result in adverse publicity, lost revenue, delivery delays, product recalls, product liability claims, harm to our brand and reputation, and significant warranty and other expenses, and could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects.

On November 21, 2019, the State Administration for Market Regulation issued the Interim Provisions on the Administration of Recall of Consumer Goods, or the Recall Provisions, which became effective on January 1, 2020. Pursuant to the Recall Provisions, if a manufacturer is aware of any potential defect in its products, or receive such notice from relevant governmental authorities, it must investigate in a timely manner and report the results of such investigation to the relevant authorities. Where any defect is found during the investigation, the manufacturer must immediately cease to manufacture, sell, or import the relevant products and recall such products. We have not received any such notice from authorities, or initiated, voluntarily or involuntarily, any product recalls in accordance with the Recall Provisions.

In the future, we may at various times, voluntarily or involuntarily, initiate a recall if any of our products, including any systems or parts sourced from our suppliers, prove to be defective or noncompliant with applicable laws and regulations. Such recalls, whether voluntary or involuntary or caused by systems or components engineered or manufactured by us or our suppliers, could involve significant expense and could adversely affect our brand image in our target markets, as well as our business, prospects, financial condition and results of operations.

We may face intense competition in the electric two-wheeled vehicles industry.

We operate in the electric two-wheeled vehicles industry and face competition. We expect additional competitors to enter this market. Our future competitors may enjoy competitive advantages, such as (i) greater capacity to leverage their sales efforts and marketing expenditures across a broader portfolio of products, (ii) more established relationships with a larger number of suppliers, contract manufacturers and channel partners, (iii) access to larger and broader user bases, (iv) greater brand recognition, (v) greater financial, research and development, marketing, distribution and other resources, (vi) more resources to make investments and acquisitions and (vii) larger intellectual property portfolios. We may face potential competition from both domestic players and established international electric scooter manufacturers.

Moreover, although we have developed our data analytics to our customers as a value-added service, some of the mass-market electric scooter manufacturers have been adopting lithium-ion battery and app connectivity technologies to enter the electric two-wheeled vehicles market, which further intensifies direct competition. We believe our exclusive focus on smart electric scooters and the benefits we receive by manufacturing in China are the basis on which we can compete in the electric two-wheeled vehicles market in spite of the challenges posed by market competition. We believe that we are strategically positioned in the electric two-wheeled vehicles market, given the quality, performance and unique design of our products. Nonetheless, increasing competition may lead to lower unit sales and the subsequent increase in inventory may result in a further downward price pressure and adversely affect our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects. Our ability to successfully compete in our industry will be fundamental to our future success in existing and new markets and our market share. There can be no assurance that we will be able to compete successfully in our markets. If our competitors introduce new products or services that compete with or surpass the quality, price or performance of our products or services, we may be unable to satisfy existing customers or attract new customers at the prices and levels that would allow us to generate attractive rates of return on our investment.

Our marketing strategy of appealing to and growing sales to a more diversified group of users may not continue to be successful.

We have been successful in marketing our smart e-scooters in large part by promoting the NIU brand experience and lifestyle. Our marketing, design, research and products are aimed to reinforcing customer perceptions of our NIU brand as a premium smart e-scooter brand. We aim to provide users with a good user experience, including by providing our users with access to a full suite of services conveniently through our NIU app and services stores. In addition, we seek to engage with our users on an ongoing basis using online and offline channels, such as NIU community and clubs. We cannot assure you that our services, including NIU Care and NIU Cover, or our efforts to engage with our users using both our online and offline channels, will be successful, which could impact our revenues as well as our customer satisfaction and marketing.

To sustain and grow the business over the long term, we must continue to be successful in selling products and promoting the NIU brand experience and lifestyle to a broader and more diverse set of users. We must also execute its diversification strategy without adversely impacting the strength of the brand with core users. Failure to successfully drive demand for our smart e-scooters may have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

We may not be able to prevent others from unauthorized use of our intellectual property, which could harm our business and competitive position.

We consider our copyrights, trademarks, trade names, internet domain names, patents and other intellectual property rights invaluable to our ability to continue to develop and enhance our brand recognition. We have invested significant resources to develop our own intellectual property. Failure to maintain or protect these rights could harm our business. We rely on a combination of patents, patent applications, trade secrets, including know-how, copyright laws, trademarks, intellectual property licenses, contractual rights and any other agreements to establish and protect our proprietary rights in our technology. In addition, we enter into confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements with our employees and business partners. See “Item 4. Information On the Company—B. Business Overview — Intellectual Property.” Statutory laws and regulations are subject to judicial interpretation and enforcement and may not be applied consistently due to the lack of clear guidance on statutory interpretation. Contractual rights may be breached by counterparties, and there may not be adequate remedies available to us for any such breach.

The measures we take to protect our intellectual property rights may not be sufficient or adequate to prevent infringement on or misuse of our intellectual property. Any unauthorized use of our intellectual property by third parties may adversely affect our current and future revenues and our reputation. Preventing unauthorized uses of intellectual property rights could be difficult, costly and time-consuming, particularly in China. Litigation may be necessary to enforce our intellectual property rights. Initiating infringement proceedings against third parties can be expensive and time-consuming, and divert management's attention from other business concerns. We may not prevail in litigation to enforce our intellectual property rights against unauthorized use. Furthermore, the practice of intellectual property rights enforcement by the PRC regulatory authorities is subject to significant uncertainty. We may have to resort to litigation to protect our intellectual property rights. Failure to adequately protect our intellectual property could harm our brand name and materially affect our business and results of operations.

We may need to defend ourselves against patent, trademark or other proprietary rights infringement claims, which may be time-consuming and would cause us to incur substantial costs.

Companies, organizations or individuals, including our competitors, may hold or obtain patents, trademarks or other proprietary rights that would prevent, limit or interfere with our ability to make, use, develop, sell or market our products, which could make it more difficult for us to operate our business. From time to time, we may receive communications from holders of patents or trademarks regarding their proprietary rights. Companies holding patents or other intellectual property rights may bring suits alleging infringement of such rights or otherwise assert their rights and urge us to take licenses. Our applications and uses of trademarks relating to our design, software or artificial intelligence technologies could be found to infringe upon existing trademark ownership and rights.

Additionally, we may fail to own or apply for key trademarks in a timely fashion, or at all, which may damage our reputation and brand. Additionally, we receive from time to time letters alleging infringement of patents, trademarks or other intellectual property rights by us.

As our patents may expire and may not be extended, our patent applications may not be granted and our patent rights may be contested, circumvented, invalidated or limited in scope, our patent rights may not protect us effectively.

As of December 31, 2020, we owned 379 patents, 199 registered trademarks and 26 copyrights relating to various aspects of our operations and 2 registered domain names, including www.niu.com. Of the 199 registered trademarks, 43 are registered in the PRC and 156 in other countries and regions. As of the same date, we had 202 applications for patents and trademarks pending in the PRC, Europe and other jurisdictions. For our pending applications, we cannot assure you that we will be granted patents pursuant to our pending applications. Even if our patent applications succeed and we are issued patents in accordance with them, it is still uncertain whether these patents will be contested, circumvented or invalidated in the future.

In addition, the rights granted under any issued patents may not provide us with proprietary protection or competitive advantages. The claims under any patents that issue from our patent applications may not be broad enough to prevent others from developing technologies that are similar or that achieve results similar to ours. It is also possible that the intellectual property rights of others will bar us from licensing and from exploiting any patents that are issued from our pending applications. Numerous patents and pending patent applications owned by others exist in the fields in which we have developed and are developing our technology. These patents and patent applications might have priority over our patent applications and could subject our patent applications to invalidation. Finally, in addition to those who may claim priority, any of our existing or pending patents may also be challenged by others on the basis that they are otherwise invalid or unenforceable.

We may be materially and adversely affected by negative publicity.

We rely heavily on our brand image in selling our products. Negative publicity relating to our products and services, shareholders, management, employees, operations, distributors, business partners, industry or products similar to ours, could materially and adversely affect consumer perceptions of our brand and result in decreased demand for our products. There have been various negative reports regarding our products and us in the past, in both online and traditional media, and there can be no assurance that we will not experience negative publicity in the future or that such negative publicity will not have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition or prospects.

In particular, any actual or alleged illegal acts of our shareholders or management may undermine our brand image and materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations. In June 2015, in connection with the trading of stock of a public company listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, Mr. Yi'nan Li, one of our beneficial owners at the time, as well as a shareholder of Beijing Niudian, was convicted of one count of insider trading by the Guangdong Shenzhen Municipal Intermediate People's Court in January 2017, and his prison sentence ended in December 2017. Mr. Li is not a member of the board of directors or management team of Niu Technologies, or otherwise involved in its operations in any capacity. Glory Achievement Fund Limited, one of our shareholders that holds 33.7% of our outstanding shares and 24.9% of our total voting power, as of March 31, 2021, is ultimately and wholly held by a trust, which has Mr. Li as the beneficiary and is administered by an independent trustee and initially by three individual protectors unrelated to Mr. Li. Any decision making with respect to the voting or disposal of the shares held by Glory Achievement Fund Limited in our company or other dealings in our securities is subject to approval by the protectors. Mr. Li will be able to replace the protectors with persons appointed by himself in August 2028 or when the trust beneficially owns, through Glory Achievement Fund Limited or otherwise, no more than 10% of our outstanding shares. Mr. Li has undertaken not to act as a member of our board of directors or the management team of our company or any of its subsidiaries or variable interest entities, or otherwise be involved in our operations in any capacity. Furthermore, we have adopted corporate governance measures to restrict his access to our non-public information. Any negative publicity incident associated with our shareholders and management could materially and adversely affect the trading price of the ADSs.

We may be subject to product liability or warranty claims that could result in significant direct or indirect costs, or we could experience greater returns from retailers than expected, which could harm our business and operating results.

We may become subject to product liability claims, which could harm our business, prospects, operating results and financial condition. The electric two-wheeled vehicles industry experiences significant product liability claims and we face inherent risk of exposure to claims in the event our products do not perform as expected or malfunction resulting in property damage, personal injury or death. A successful product liability claim against us could require us to pay a substantial monetary award. Moreover, a product liability claim could generate substantial negative publicity about our products and business and inhibit or prevent commercialization of our future products which would have material adverse effect on our brand, business, prospects and operating results. Any insurance coverage might not be sufficient to cover all potential product liability claims. Any lawsuit seeking significant monetary damages may have a material adverse effect on our reputation, business and financial condition.

We generally provide various warranties on different components and parts of our products and across different markets. In China, we provide extended quality warranty to our users for terms varying from six months to three years, subject to certain conditions, among others, including that warranty only applies to normal use and quality issues. The occurrence of any material defects in our products could make us liable for damages and warranty claims in excess of our current reserves. In addition, we could incur significant costs to correct any defects, warranty claims or other problems, including costs related to product recalls. Any negative publicity related to the perceived quality of our products could affect our brand image, decrease retailer, distributor and customer demand, and adversely affect our operating results and financial condition. While our warranty is limited to repairs and returns, warranty claims may result in litigation, the occurrence of which could adversely affect our business and operating results.

We may fail to comply with legal or regulatory requirements or to obtain or adhere to requirements under relevant licenses, permits, registrations or certificates.

Our manufacturing and other production facilities as well as the packaging, storage, distribution, advertising and labeling of our products, are subject to extensive legal and regulatory requirements. For example, pursuant to the Regulation on the Administration of Production Licenses for Industrial Products of the PRC and Measures for the Implementation of the Regulation on the Administration of Production Licenses for Industrial Products of the PRC, we must maintain the Production License for National Industrial Products for the production of our products. Loss of or failure to renew or obtain necessary permits, licenses, registrations or certificates could delay or prevent us from meeting product demand, introducing new products, building new facilities or acquiring new businesses and could materially and adversely affect our operating results. If we are found to be in violation of applicable laws and regulations, we could be subject to administrative punishment, including fines, injunctions, recalls or asset seizures, as well as potential criminal sanctions, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

In addition, future material changes in industry standards, laws and regulations, such as increased restrictions on manufacturers, could result in increased operating costs or affect our ordinary operations, which could also have a material adverse effect on our operations and our financial results. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation” for additional details regarding the permits, licenses, registrations and other requirements applicable to us, our subsidiaries and affiliates. We largely rely on our own standards concerning the production and quality control of such products. While we are committed to producing high-quality products, there can be no assurance that our current production or quality control standards will satisfy any applicable laws and regulations that may come into effect in the future.

Our products are subject to safety standards and failure to satisfy such mandated standards would have a material adverse effect on our business and operating results.

All scooters must comply with the safety standards of the market where the scooters are sold. In China, scooters must meet or exceed all mandated safety standards, including national level and local level standards. It is required under these standards to conduct rigorous testing and use approved materials and equipment. In May 2018, the State Administration for Market Regulatory and the National Standardization Administration of China jointly promulgated the Regulation on Safety Technical Specification for Electric Bicycle and announced the new standard GB17761-2018 which came into effect on April 15, 2019, or the New Standard, replacing the old standard GB17761-1999, or the Old Standard, and allowing a 11-month transition period to meet the New Standard starting from May 2018. Besides, a technical resolution on the interpretation and implement of the New Standard was promulgated jointly by an expert group on TC12 motorcycle and component technology of Certification and Accreditation Administration of the PRC and China National Motorcycle Testing Centre (Tianjin) on March 25, 2019, which set some more specific and stricter requirements for the design of the electric bicycles. Although this resolution has not been adopted by the PRC national government as a national regulation, such interpretations that may be promulgated by the government authorities from time to time may still cause uncertainty regarding the compliance of our business. Although we have been certified that we are in compliance with the Old Standard and after the release of the New Standard, we were also recognized as “the First Batch of Electric Bicycle Manufacturers Meeting the New National Standard” by the Quality Control and Technical Evaluation Control Room of the National Electric Bicycle and Battery Product Quality Supervision and Inspection Center, our products may fail to meet the New Standard and relevant interpretations of the New Standard. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation” for further details.

Some of our e-scooters products may not be qualified for the New Standard for electric bicycles in terms of weight and other specifications. In response to and in order to meet the New Standard, we may choose to re-engineer such products to either meet the New Standard or meet the standard of electric motorcycles. Since the promulgation of the New Standard, we have launched several new models that are designed to be qualified for the New Standard for electric bicycles. Certain of our existing and future models will be manufactured and sold as electric motorcycles in China in compliance with relevant regulations. As manufacturing electric motorcycles requires a special license, we entered into a manufacturing cooperation agreement with a qualified motorcycle manufacturer to manufacture the products classified as electric motorcycles. In addition, Jiangsu Xiaoniui has been listed in the Road Motor Vehicle Manufacturers and Products List (batch 327) issued by MIIT on January 13, 2020 as an enterprise permitted to manufacture motorcycles and we are in the process of obtaining the World Manufacturer Identifier (WMI) and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). In addition, users may be required to obtain registration or riding licenses, which may materially and adversely affect our sales of the models qualified as electric motorcycles in China as well as our business and results of operations.

There is no guarantee that our products will satisfy the relevant standard and requirements for electric bicycles or motorcycles or maintain our collaboration with third-party manufacturers to produce the motorcycles, and we may be required to satisfy additional industry standards and face regulation changes relating to electric bicycle and motorcycle business in the future. If our models were found to be in noncompliance of relevant laws and regulations, the models in question would be prohibited from being sold in the Chinese market, which would in turn materially and adversely affect our sales and revenue, and cause damage to our brand and result in liabilities. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation—Regulations Relating to Production of E-Scooter—Regulations on Production of Electric Bicycle” and “—Regulations on Qualification of Production of Electric Motorcycle.”

The electric bicycles and motorcycles must pass various tests, undergo a certification process and finally be affixed with China Compulsory Certification, or CCC, prior to being delivered from the factory, being sold, or being used in any commercial case, and such certification is also subject to periodic renewal. On March 14, 2019, the Opinions of the State Administration for Market Regulation, the MIIT and the Ministry of Public Security on Intensifying Supervision of the Execution of National Standards for Electric Bicycles, or the Opinions, was promulgated. The Opinions provides that the market supervision department should strengthen the management of CCC certification for electric bicycles, strengthen inspections of certification agencies and manufacture enterprises, and should only allow vehicles that meet the New Standards and obtained CCC certification flowing into the market. We have obtained CCC certification for all of our current products, and will try to obtain CCC certification for our future products. There is no guarantee, however, all series of our products will always comply with the CCC standard and satisfy the requirements of CCC certification, or we will be able to renew our current certification or certify timely our new products in the future. If our products were found to be in noncompliance of the CCC standard, we would be prohibited from selling such e-scooters in the Chinese market, which would in turn materially and adversely affect our sales and revenue, and cause damage to our brand and result in liabilities. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulations— Regulations Relating to Production of E-Scooter—Regulations on Product Quality.”

We retain certain personal information about our users and may be subject to various privacy and consumer protection laws.

We use our NIU Inspire system to log information about each smart e-scooter’s use in order to aid us in smart e-scooter diagnostics, repair and maintenance, as well as to help us collect data regarding the user’s charge time, battery usage, mileage, efficiency habits and location information. Our users may object to the use of these data, which may harm our business. Possession and use of users’ personal information in conducting our business may subject us to regulatory burdens in China and other jurisdictions, such as the European Union, which would require us to obtain users’ consent, restrict our use of such personal information and hinder our ability to expand our user base. In the event of a data breach or other unauthorized access to our user data, we may have obligations to notify users about the incident and we may need to provide some form of remedy for the individuals affected by the incident. For example, in May 2018 the European Union’s new regulation governing data practices and privacy called the General Data Protection Regulation, or the GDPR, became effective and substantially replaced the data protection laws of the individual European Union member states. The law requires companies to meet more stringent requirements regarding the handling of personal data of individuals in the EU than were required under predecessor EU requirements. In the United Kingdom, a Data Protection Bill that substantially implements the GDPR also became law in May 2018. The law also increases the penalties for non-compliance, which may result in monetary penalties of up to 20.0 million Euros or 4% of a company’s worldwide turnover, whichever is higher. In the U.S., various federal, state and foreign legislative and regulatory bodies, or self-regulatory organizations, may expand current laws or regulations, enact new laws or regulations or issue revised rules or guidance regarding privacy, data protection, information security. For example, California enacted the California Consumer Privacy Act, which, among other things, requires new disclosures to California consumers and afford such consumers new abilities to opt out of certain sales of personal information. Outside of the European Union and the U.S., many countries and territories have laws, regulations, or other requirements relating to privacy, data protection, information security, and consumer protection, and new countries and territories are adopting such legislation or other obligations with increasing frequency.

If users allege that we have improperly used, released or disclosed their personal information, we could face legal claims and reputational damage. We may incur significant expenses to comply with privacy, consumer protection and security standards and protocols imposed by law, regulation, industry standards or contractual obligations. Additionally, we use third-party cloud services to store the data collected. If third parties improperly obtain and use the personal information of our users, we may be required to expend significant resources to resolve these problems. A major breach of our network security and systems could create serious negative consequences for our businesses and future prospects, including possible fines, penalties, reduced customer demand for our products, and harm to our reputation and brand. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation” for further details.

We are subject to a variety of costs and risks due to our continued expansion internationally that may not be successful and could adversely affect our profitability and operating results.

Our smart e-scooters have international models that are manufactured for sales and distribution in overseas markets. International expansion represents a large opportunity to further grow our business and enhance our competitive position, and is one of our core strategies.

We may enter into new geographic markets where we have limited or no experience in marketing, selling, and localizing and deploying our smart e-scooters. International expansion has required and will continue to require us to invest significant capital and other resources and our efforts may not be successful. International sales and operations may be subject to risks such as:

- limited brand recognition (compared with our home market in China);
- costs associated with establishing new distribution networks;
- difficulty to find qualified partners for overseas distribution;
- inability to anticipate foreign consumers' preferences and customs;
- difficulties in staffing and managing foreign operations;
- burdens of complying with a wide variety of local laws and regulations, including personal data protection, battery, motor, packaging and labeling;
- political and economic instability;
- trade restrictions;
- lesser degrees of intellectual property protection;
- tariffs and customs duties and the classifications of our goods by applicable governmental bodies; and
- a legal system subject to undue influence or corruption.

The occurrence of any of these risks could negatively affect our international business and consequently our business and operating results. In addition, the concern over these risks may also prevent us from entering into or releasing certain of our smart e-scooters in certain markets.

We rely on third-party logistic service providers to deliver our online direct sales orders and certain overseas orders.

We typically rely on third-party logistic service providers to deliver our online direct sales orders and certain overseas orders. Damage or disruption to our distribution logistics due to disputes, weather, natural disasters, fire, explosions, terrorism, pandemics or labor strikes could impair our ability to distribute or sell our products. Inadequate third-party logistics services could also potentially disrupt our distribution and sales and compromise our business reputation. Failure to take adequate steps to mitigate the likelihood or potential impact of such events, or to effectively manage such events if they occur, could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations, as well as require additional resources to restore our supply chain.

Our operations may be interrupted by production difficulties due to mechanical failures, utility shortages or stoppages, fire, natural disaster or other calamities at or near our facilities.

We are reliant on equipment and technology in our facilities for the production and quality control of our products, and our operations are subject to production difficulties such as capacity constraints of our production facilities, mechanical and systems failures and the need for construction and equipment upgrades, any of which may cause the suspension of production or/and reduced output. There can be no assurance that we will not experience problems with our equipment or technology in the future or that we will be able to address any such problems in a timely manner. Problems with key equipment or technology in one or more of our production facilities may affect our ability to produce our products or cause us to incur significant expense to repair or replace such equipment or technology. Also, scheduled and unscheduled maintenance programs may affect our production output. Any of these could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

Furthermore, we depend on a continuous supply of utilities, such as electricity and water, to operate our production facilities. Any disruption to the supply of electricity or other utilities to our production facilities may disrupt our production. This could adversely affect our ability to fulfill our sales orders and consequently may have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations. In addition, our operations are subject to operational risks. Fire, natural disasters, pandemics or extreme weather, including earthquakes, droughts, floods, typhoons or other storms, or excessive cold or heat could cause power outages, fuel shortages, water shortages, damage to our production facilities, any of which could impair or interfere with our operations. A fire accident happened at the warehouse in our rented plant facility in Jiangsu Province of the PRC in April 2018, and we suffered a RMB21.8 million loss for the inventories damaged and cost incurred to repair property and equipment in the second quarter of 2018. We cannot assure you that similar events will not happen again in the future or that we will be able to take adequate measures to mitigate the likelihood or potential impact of similar events, or to effectively respond to such events if they occur, which could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our financial and operating performance may be adversely affected by epidemics or other public health crises.

Our financial and operating performance may be materially and adversely affected by the outbreak of epidemics or other public health crises. For example, since late December 2019, an outbreak of a new type of severe pneumonia caused by novel coronavirus (COVID-19) spread globally. During such epidemic outbreak, government-imposed measures such as travel restriction, extended holidays and delay of business resumption, interrupted normal operation of businesses and adversely affected and slowed down the economic development during the period.

Many aspects of our operations were harmed as a result of the ongoing epidemic of the novel coronavirus. We prioritized the health and safety of our employees, and took various preventative and quarantine measures across our company soon after the outbreak. Due to the strict measures in response to the outbreak, we had to reduce work resumption rate in February and March of 2020 after the Chinese New Year holiday. Even after we resumed production activities, the efficiency was affected by the precautionary measures we took. Transportation and logistics services were significantly affected as well, which delayed or suspended the delivery of our products and the supply of our raw materials. As a result of the pandemic, we also suffered from shrinking market demand from China in the first quarter of 2020 and overseas markets on an ongoing basis. Due to the decreasing demand as a result of the outbreak, our revenues of the first quarter of 2020 saw a decrease of 34.4% year over year. In addition, we incurred fixed costs in operating expenses despite the decrease in sales and level of operations. As a result, our net results was adversely affected in the first quarter of 2020. For the same reason, our efforts on retail sales network expansion internationally was temporarily suspended. Our branding and marketing activities were affected, as marketing activities were limited to online only.

Beginning in the second quarter of 2020, we experienced recovery and growth in results of operations propelled by the strong recovery in sales in China. However, our sales in international markets have been continuously affected due to the ongoing pandemic in those markets. Given the uncertainty around the extent and timing of the potential future spread or mitigation of the COVID-19 and around the imposition or relaxation of protective measures, we cannot reasonably estimate the impact to our future results of operations, cash flows, or financial condition for 2021. We cannot assure you that the COVID-19 pandemic can be eliminated or contained in the near future, or at all, or a similar outbreak will not occur again.

Any prolonged occurrence or recurrence of these health epidemics or other adverse public health developments in China or any of the major markets in which we do business may have a material adverse effect on our business and operations. Our business could also experience a slowdown or temporary suspension in production in geographic locations impacted. Any prolonged restrictive measures put in place in order to control an outbreak of contagious disease or other adverse public health development, in China or any of our targeted markets, may have a material and adverse effect on our business operations.

If we fail to maintain an effective system of internal control over financial reporting, we may be unable to accurately report our financial results or prevent fraud.

We are subject to reporting obligations under the U.S. securities laws. Among other things, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, as required by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, or Section 404, adopted rules requiring every public company, including us, to include a management report on the company's internal control over financial reporting in its annual report, which contains management's assessment of the effectiveness of the company's internal control over financial reporting. In addition, once we cease to be an "emerging growth company," as such term is defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012 (as amended by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015), or the JOBS Act, our independent registered public accounting firm may be required to report on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting.

Our independent registered public accounting firm has not conducted an audit of our internal control over financial reporting. However, in connection with the audit of our consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018, we and our independent registered public accounting firm identified a material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting. The material weakness identified related to our lack of sufficient financial reporting and accounting personnel with appropriate knowledge of U.S. GAAP and SEC reporting requirements to properly address complex U.S. GAAP accounting issues and to prepare and review our consolidated financial statements and related disclosures to fulfill U.S. GAAP and SEC financial reporting requirements. As defined in the standards established by the U.S. Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, a "material weakness" is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis.

In 2019, we took measures to address the material weakness identified above. We have implemented measures to improve our internal control over financial reporting, including: (i) hired an additional a reporting associate with appropriate knowledge and experience in U.S. GAAP accounting and SEC reporting and one more internal audit associate with experience in internal control, internal audit and SOX compliance; (ii) upgraded our financial system to enhance our effectiveness and enhance control of financial analysis; (iii) established effective oversight and clarifying reporting requirements for non-recurring and complex transactions to ensure consolidated financial statements and related disclosures are accurate, complete and in compliance with U.S. GAAP and SEC reporting requirements; (iv) established a regular training program for our accounting staffs, especially training related to U.S. GAAP and SEC reporting requirements; and (v) implemented and formalized comprehensive internal controls over financial reporting, including developing a comprehensive policy and procedure manual, to allow for prevention, early detection and resolution of potential compliance issues.

In connection with the audit of our financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020, we did not identify any material weakness in our internal controls and our financial reporting. Our management has concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2020. See “Item 15. Controls and Procedures.” In the future, however, if we fail to maintain effective internal control over financial reporting, our management may not be able to conclude that we have effective internal control over financial reporting at a reasonable assurance level. A failure to maintain effective internal controls over financial reporting could result in inaccuracies in our financial statements and could also impair our ability to comply with applicable financial reporting requirements and related regulatory filings on a timely basis. As a result, our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects, as well as the trading price of our ADSs, may be materially and adversely affected. Moreover, ineffective internal control over financial reporting could expose us to increased risk of fraud or misuse of corporate assets and subject us to potential delisting from the stock exchange on which we list, regulatory investigations and civil or criminal sanctions. We may also be required to restate our financial statements from prior periods.

Furthermore, even if our management concludes that our internal control over financial reporting is effective, our independent registered public accounting firm, after conducting its own independent testing, may issue a report that is qualified if it is not satisfied with our internal controls or the level at which our controls are documented, designed, operated or reviewed, or if it interprets the relevant requirements differently from us. In addition, since we have been a public company, our reporting obligations may place a significant strain on our management, operational and financial resources and systems for the foreseeable future. We may be unable to timely complete our evaluation testing and any required remediation. If we fail to maintain an effective internal control environment, we could suffer material misstatements in our consolidated financial statements and fail to meet our reporting obligations, which would likely cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information. This could in turn limit our access to capital markets, harm our results of operations, and lead to a decline in the trading price of the ADSs. Additionally, ineffective internal control over financial reporting could expose us to increased risk of fraud or misuse of corporate assets and subject us to potential delisting from the stock exchange on which we list, regulatory investigations and civil or criminal sanctions. We may also be required to restate our consolidated financial statements for prior periods.

If our suppliers or distributors fail to use ethical business practices and comply with applicable laws and regulations, our brand image could be harmed due to negative publicity.

Our core values, which include developing high-quality smart e-scooters while operating with integrity, are an important component of our brand image, which makes our reputation sensitive to allegations of unethical business practices. We do not control the business practices of our suppliers or distributors. Accordingly, we cannot guarantee their compliance with ethical business practices, such as environmental responsibilities, fair wage practices and compliance with child labor laws, among others. A lack of demonstrated compliance could lead us to seek alternative suppliers or distributors which could increase our costs and results in delayed delivery of our products or other disruptions of our operations.

Violation of labor or other laws by our suppliers or distributors or the divergence of their labor or other practices from those generally accepted as ethical in the markets in which we do business could also attract negative publicity for us and our brand. This could diminish the value of our brand image and reduce demand for our products if, as a result of such violation, we were to attract negative publicity. If we, or other players in our industry, encounter similar problems in the future, it could harm our brand image, business, prospects, results of operations and financial condition.

Any significant cybersecurity incident or disruption of our information technology systems or those of third-party partners could materially damage user relationships and subject us to significant reputational, financial, legal and operation consequences.

We depend on our information technology systems, as well as those of third parties, to develop new products and services, host and manage our services, store data, process transactions, respond to user inquiries, and manage inventory and our supply chain. Any material disruption or slowdown of our systems or those of third parties whom we depend upon could cause outages or delays in our services, particularly in the form of interruption of services delivered by our mobile app, which could harm our brand and adversely affect our operating results. We rely on cloud servers maintained by cloud service providers to store our data, and all of the data we collected are hosted at third-party cloud service providers.

Problems with our cloud service providers or the telecommunications network providers with whom they contract could adversely affect the user experience delivered by us. Our cloud service providers could decide to cease providing us services without adequate notice. Any change in service levels at our cloud servers or any errors, defects, disruptions or other performance problems with our information technology systems could harm our brand and may damage the data of our users. If changes in technology cause our information technology systems, or those of third parties whom we depend upon, to become obsolete, or if our or their information systems are inadequate to handle our growth, we could lose users, and our business and operating results could be adversely affected.

Our success depends on our ability to retain our core management team and other key personnel.

Our performance depends on the continued service and performance of our directors and senior management as they are expected to play an important role in guiding the implementation of our business strategies and future plans. If any of our directors or any members of our senior management were to terminate their service or employment, there can be no assurance that we would be able to find suitable replacements in a timely manner, at acceptable cost or at all. The loss of services of key personnel or the inability to identify, hire, train and retain other qualified and managerial personnel in the future may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects. Additionally, we rely on our research and development personnel for product development and technology innovation. If any of our key research and development personnel were to leave us, we cannot assure you that we can secure equally competent research and development personnel in a timely manner, or at all.

We are a relatively young company, and we may not be able to sustain our rapid growth, effectively manage our growth or implement our business strategies.

We have a limited operating history. We are formed in September 2014, and we launched our first product, the NQi Series scooter, in June 2015. Although we have experienced significant growth since our inception, our historical growth rate may not be indicative of our future performance due to our limited operating history.

You should consider our business and future prospects in light of the risks and challenges we face as a new entrant into our industry, including, among other things, with respect to our ability to:

- produce safe, reliable and quality smart e-scooters;
- build a well-recognized brand;
- establish and expand our customer base;
- successfully market our products and services;
- improve and maintain our operational efficiency;
- maintain a reliable, secure, high-performance and scalable technology infrastructure;
- attract, retain and motivate talented employees;
- anticipate and adapt to changing market conditions, including technological developments and changes in competitive landscape;
- navigate an evolving and complex regulatory environment; and
- identify suitable facilities to expand manufacturing capacity.

If we fail to address any or all of these risks and challenges, our business may be materially and adversely affected.

We have limited experience to date in high volume manufacturing of our smart e-scooters. We cannot assure you that we will be able to develop or ensure efficient, automated, low-cost manufacturing capability and processes, and reliable sources of component supply that will enable us to meet the quality, price, engineering, design and production standards, as well as the production volumes required to successfully mass-market our currently available products and future scooters. We may not be able to achieve similar results or grow at the same rate as we had in the past. As our business grows, we may adjust our product and service offerings. These adjustments may not achieve expected results and may have a material and adverse impact on our financial conditions and results of operations

In addition, our rapid growth and expansion have placed, and continue to place, significant strain on our management and resources. This level of significant growth may not be sustainable or achievable at all in the future. We believe that our continued growth will depend on many factors, including continued launch of new products, effective marketing, successful entry into other overseas market and operating efficiency. We cannot assure you that we will achieve any of the above, and our failure to do so may materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Higher employee costs and inflation may adversely affect our business and our ability to achieve or maintain profitability.

China's overall economy and the average wage in China have increased in recent years and are expected to grow. The average wage level for our employees has also increased in recent years. We expect that our employee costs, including wages and employee benefits, will increase. Unless we are able to pass on these increased employee costs to those who pay for our products and services, our ability to achieve or maintain profitability and our results of operations may be materially and adversely affected.

We outsource our production labor needs to third-party labor service companies. Typically, we enter into agreements with labor service companies, pursuant to which labor service companies send their employees to work on our assembly and production lines. The labor service companies are responsible for entering into labor contracts with their employees and provide, among others, social benefits and bear costs relating to accidents or injuries happened at the work place in accordance with PRC laws and regulations. We may be unable to enter into new agreements or extend existing agreements with them on terms and conditions acceptable to us, and therefore may need to contract with other third parties and incur additional labor costs. Despite our price resilience, the rising employee costs as a result of higher labor cost of our contract manufacturers and operation staff and increasing raw material price cannot be easily passed to end consumers in the form of higher retail prices due to competition in the electric two-wheeled vehicles market. Our ability to achieve or maintain profitability therefore may be adversely affected if labor cost and inflation continue to rise in the future.

We may need additional capital, and financing may not be available on terms acceptable to us, or at all.

We believe our cash on hand will be sufficient to meet our current and anticipated needs for general corporate purposes for at least the next 12 months. We may, however, need additional cash resources in the future if we experience changes in business conditions or other developments. We may also need additional cash resources in the future if we find and wish to pursue opportunities for investment, acquisition, capital expenditure or similar actions. If we determine in the future that our cash requirements exceed the amount of cash and cash equivalents we have on hand, we may seek to issue equity or equity linked securities or obtain debt financing. The issuance and sale of additional equity would result in further dilution to our shareholders. The incurrence of indebtedness would result in increased fixed obligations and could result in operating covenants that would restrict our operations. We cannot assure you that financing will be available in amounts or on terms acceptable to us, if at all.

Our business is subject to seasonal and quarterly fluctuations, and if our sales fall below our forecasts, our overall financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected.

Our revenues and operating results have fluctuated in the past from quarter to quarter, due to, among others, seasonal factors. Our revenues have been higher in the third quarter each year primarily as a result of ideal weather conditions for riding e-scooters and have been lower in the first quarter each year primarily as a result of unideal weather condition. Accordingly, any shortfall in expected third-quarter revenues would adversely affect our annual operating results. Our advertising and promotion expenses tend to be event-driven. We typically conduct various advertising and promotional events when we launch new products. As a result, the costs relating to such marketing and promotional events may increase significantly in the relevant quarter, which may cause our results of operations and financial performance to fluctuate from quarter to quarter.

We note that, in general, scooter sales tend to decline over the winter season and we anticipate that our sales of currently available e-scooters and the upcoming new products may have similar seasonality. However, our rapid growth may obscure the extent to which seasonality trends have affected our business and our limited operating history makes it difficult for us to assess the exact nature or extent of the seasonality of our business. Our operating results could also suffer if we do not generate revenues consistent with our expectations for this seasonal demand because many of our procurement are based on anticipated levels of annual revenues and past years' pattern of reasonability. Accordingly, yearly or quarterly comparisons of our operating results may not be useful and our operating results in any particular period will not necessarily be indicative of the results to be expected for any future period.

An economic downturn or economic uncertainty may adversely affect consumer discretionary spending and demand for our products and services.

Our products and services may be considered discretionary items for some consumers. Factors affecting the level of consumer spending for such discretionary items include general economic conditions, and other factors, such as consumer confidence in future economic conditions, fears of recession, the availability and cost of consumer credit, levels of unemployment and tax rates. As global economic uncertainty remains, trends in consumer discretionary spending also remain unpredictable and subject to reductions. Unfavorable economic conditions may lead consumers to delay or reduce purchases of our products and services and consumer demand for our products and services may not grow as we expect. Our sensitivity to economic cycles and any related fluctuation in consumer demand for our products and services may have an adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition.

We have limited insurance coverage, which could expose us to significant costs.

We maintain certain insurance policies to safeguard against various risks associated with our business and operations, including mainly property insurance and product liability insurance for models in the overseas markets and public liability insurance for models in the China market. However, we cannot assure you that our insurance coverage is sufficient to prevent us from any loss or that we will be able to successfully claim our losses under our current insurance policy on a timely basis, or at all, which may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

We have granted, and may continue to grant, options and other types of awards under our share incentive plan, which may result in increased share-based compensation expenses.

In January 2016 and September 2018, our shareholders and board of directors approved the 2016 Global Share Incentive Plan and the 2018 Share Incentive Plan, respectively, to attract and retain the best available personnel, provide additional incentives to employees, directors and consultants, and promote the success of our business. The maximum aggregate number of ordinary shares that may be issued under the 2016 Global Share Incentive Plan, as amended in March 2018, or the Amended and Restated 2016 Plan, is 5,861,480 Class A ordinary shares. Under the 2018 Share Incentive Plan, the maximum aggregate number of ordinary shares available for issuance is 6,733,703 Class A ordinary shares, subject to certain annual increases. As of December 31, 2020, options to purchase 2,759,824 Class A ordinary shares and 465,066 restricted share units had been granted and were outstanding under the Amended and Restated 2016 Plan, excluding options or restricted share units that were forfeited or canceled after the relevant grant dates. As of December 31, 2020, options to purchase 3,232,500 Class A ordinary shares and 3,183,856 restricted share units had been granted and were outstanding under the 2018 Share Incentive Plan. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, we recorded RMB265.9 million, RMB19.6 million and RMB39.6 million (US\$6.1 million) in share-based compensation expenses, respectively.

We believe the granting of share-based awards is of significant importance to our ability to attract and retain key personnel and employees, and we will continue to grant share-based compensation to employees in the future. As a result, our expenses associated with share-based compensation may increase, which may have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

Competition for highly skilled personnel is often intense and we may incur significant costs or be unsuccessful in attracting, integrating, or retaining qualified personnel to fulfill our current or future needs.

We have, from time to time, experienced, and we expect to continue to experience, difficulty in hiring and retaining highly skilled employees with appropriate qualifications. In addition, if any of our senior management or key personnel joins a competitor or engages in a competing business, we may lose business, knowhow, trade secrets, business partners and key personnel. Furthermore, prospective candidates and existing employees often consider the value of the equity awards they receive in connection with their employment. Thus, our ability to attract or retain highly skilled employees may be adversely affected by declines in the perceived value of our equity or equity awards. Furthermore, there are no assurances that the number of shares reserved for issuance under our share incentive plans will be sufficient to grant equity awards adequate to recruit new employees and to compensate existing employees.

We are or may be subject to risks associated with strategic alliances or acquisitions.

We have entered into and may in the future enter into joint research and development agreements, co-branding agreements and strategic alliances with various third parties to further our business purpose from time to time. These alliances could subject us to a number of risks, including risks associated with sharing proprietary information, non-performance by the third party and increased expenses in establishing new strategic alliances, any of which may materially and adversely affect our business. We may have limited ability to monitor or control the actions of these third parties and, to the extent any of these strategic third parties suffers negative publicity or harm to their reputation from events relating to their business, we may also suffer negative publicity or harm to our reputation by virtue of our association with any such third party.

In addition, although we have no current acquisition plans, if appropriate opportunities arise, we may acquire additional assets, products, technologies or businesses that are complementary to our existing business. In addition to possible shareholders' approval, we may also have to obtain approvals and licenses from relevant government authorities for the acquisitions and to comply with any applicable PRC laws and regulations, which could result in increased delay and costs, and may derail our business strategy if we fail to do so. Furthermore, past and future acquisitions and the subsequent integration of new assets and businesses into our own require significant attention from our management and could result in a diversion of resources from our existing business, which in turn could have an adverse effect on our business operations. Acquired assets or businesses may not generate the financial results we expect. Acquisitions could result in the use of substantial amounts of cash, potentially dilutive issuances of equity securities, the occurrence of significant goodwill impairment charges, amortization expenses for other intangible assets and exposure to potential unknown liabilities of the acquired business. Moreover, the costs of identifying and consummating acquisitions may be significant.

Our business could be adversely affected by trade tariffs or other trade barriers.

Our products are exported to a number of geographical markets, such as Europe, the U.S. and Southeast Asia, and we plan to further expand our overseas sales in the future. Our ability to sell our products to overseas markets may be affected by trade tariffs or other trade barriers. Moreover, a discord in international trade relations and the implementation of new tariff or trade barriers could negatively affect our global sales. Starting from early 2018, the U.S. government imposed several rounds of tariffs on Chinese goods, the categories of which include our e-scooters and accessories. While the two parties signed a phase one agreement in January 2020, the tariffs on our products have yet been lifted. In addition, the European Union imposed tariffs on imports of e-bikes, which are defined as cycle with pedal assistance and an auxiliary electric motor, originating in the PRC. Any of the existing tariffs and trade barriers and any future ones could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We are subject to changing law and regulations regarding regulatory matters, corporate governance and public disclosure that have increased both our costs and the risk of non-compliance.

We are subject to rules and regulations by various governing bodies, including, for example, the Securities and Exchange Commission, which is charged with the protection of investors and the oversight of companies whose securities are publicly traded, and the various regulatory authorities in China and the Cayman Islands, and to new and evolving regulatory measures under applicable law. Our efforts to comply with new and changing laws and regulations have resulted in and are likely to continue to result in, increased general and administrative expenses and a diversion of management time and attention from revenue-generating activities to compliance activities.

Moreover, because these laws, regulations and standards are subject to varying interpretations, their application in practice may evolve over time as new guidance becomes available. This evolution may result in continuing uncertainty regarding compliance matters and additional costs necessitated by ongoing revisions to our disclosure and governance practices. If we fail to address and comply with these regulations and any subsequent changes, we may be subject to penalty and our business may be harmed.

Risks Related to Our Corporate Structure

If the PRC government finds that the agreements that establish the structure for operating some of our operations in China do not comply with PRC regulations relating to the relevant industries, or if these regulations or the interpretation of existing regulations change in the future, we could be subject to severe penalties or be forced to relinquish our interests in those operations.

We are a Cayman Islands exempted company and our PRC subsidiaries are considered foreign-invested enterprises. In May 2015, Niu Technologies Group Limited established a wholly owned subsidiary in China, Beijing Niudian Information Technology Co., Ltd., our WFOE. In May 2015, we obtained control over Beijing Niudian, through our WFOE by entering into a series of contractual arrangements with Beijing Niudian, our VIE, and its shareholders.

We entered into a series of contractual arrangements with our VIE and its shareholders, which enable us to (i) exercise effective control over our VIE, (ii) receive substantially all of the economic benefits of our VIE, and (iii) have an exclusive option to or designate any third party to purchase all or part of the equity interests and assets in our VIE to the extent permitted by PRC law. As a result of these contractual arrangements, we have control over and are the primary beneficiary of our VIE and hence consolidate its financial results and its subsidiaries into our consolidated financial statements under U.S. GAAP. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—C. Organizational Structure” for further details.

In the opinion of our PRC legal counsel, (i) the ownership structures of our VIE in China and our WFOE are not in violation of applicable PRC laws and regulations currently in effect; and (ii) the contractual arrangements between our WFOE, our VIE and its shareholders governed by PRC law are valid, binding and enforceable, and will not result in any violation of applicable PRC laws and regulations currently in effect. However, our PRC legal counsel has also advised us that there are substantial uncertainties regarding the interpretation and application of current and future PRC laws, regulations and rules. Accordingly, the PRC regulatory authorities may take a view that is contrary to the opinion of our PRC legal counsel. It is uncertain whether any new PRC laws or regulations relating to variable interest entity structures will be adopted or, if adopted, what they would provide. If we or our VIE are found to be in violation of any existing or future PRC laws or regulations, or fail to obtain or maintain any of the required permits or approvals, the relevant PRC regulatory authorities would have broad discretion to take action in dealing with such violations or failures, including:

- revoking the business license and/or operating licenses of such entities;
- discontinuing or placing restrictions or onerous conditions on our operations;
- imposing fines, confiscating the income from our VIE, or imposing other requirements with which we or our VIE may not be able to comply;
- requiring us to restructure our ownership structure or operations, including terminating the contractual arrangements with our VIE and deregistering the equity pledges of our VIE, which in turn would affect our ability to consolidate, derive economic interests from, or exert effective control over our VIE; or
- restricting or prohibiting our use of the proceeds of our initial public offering to finance our business and operations in China.

The imposition of any of these penalties would result in a material and adverse effect on our ability to conduct our business. In addition, it is unclear what impact the PRC government actions would have on us and on our ability to consolidate the financial results of our VIE in our consolidated financial statements, if the PRC government authorities were to find our legal structure and contractual arrangements to be in violation of PRC laws and regulations. If the imposition of any of these government actions causes us to lose our right to direct the activities of our VIE or our right to receive the economic benefits and residual returns from our VIE and we are not able to restructure our ownership structure and operations in a satisfactory manner, we would no longer be able to consolidate the financial results of our VIE in our consolidated financial statements. Either of these results, or any other significant penalties that might be imposed on us in this event, would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Uncertainties exist with respect to the interpretation and implementation of the newly enacted Foreign Investment Law of the PRC and how it may impact the viability of our current corporate structure, corporate governance and business operations.

On March 15, 2019, the National People’s Congress adopted the Foreign Investment Law of the PRC, or the FIL, which became effective on January 1, 2020 and replaced the Wholly Foreign-Invested Enterprise Law of the PRC, the Sino-Foreign Cooperative Joint Venture Enterprise Law of the PRC and the Sino-Foreign Equity Joint Venture Enterprise Law of the PRC, together with their implementation rules and ancillary regulations. On December 31, 2019, the State Council published the Implementation Rules of the Foreign Investment Law, or the FIL Implementation Rules, which took effect on January 1, 2020.

The FIL embodies an expected PRC regulatory trend to rationalize its foreign investment regulatory regime in line with prevailing international practice and the legislative efforts to unify the corporate legal requirements for both foreign and domestic investments. However, since it is relatively new, uncertainties still exist in relation to its interpretation and implementation. For example, the FIL removes all references to the terms of “de facto control” or “contractual control” as defined in the draft published in 2015 by the Ministry of Commerce, or the MOFCOM, and adds a catch-all clause to the definition of “foreign investment” so that foreign investment, by its definition, includes “investments made by foreign investors in China through other means defined by other laws or administrative regulations or provisions promulgated by the State Council” without further elaboration on the meaning of “other means.” The FIL Implementation Rules also remain silent on contractual arrangements. It leaves leeway for the future legislations promulgated by the State Council to provide for contractual arrangements as a form of foreign investment. It is therefore uncertain whether our corporate structure will be seen as violating the foreign investment rules as we are currently leverage the contractual arrangement to operate certain businesses in which foreign investors are prohibited from or restricted to investing.

In addition, the FIL grants national treatment to foreign invested entities, except for those foreign invested entities that operate in industries deemed to be either “restricted” or “prohibited” in the “negative list”. The current Special Administrative Measures for Market Access of Foreign Investment (Negative List) (2020 Edition) was issued by the National Development and Reform Commission, or the NDRC, and the MOFCOM on June 23, 2020 and took effective on July 23, 2020. Furthermore, on December 19, 2020, the NDRC and the MOFCOM jointly issued the Measures for Security Review of Foreign Investment, effective on January 18, 2021, which provides detailed guidance regarding security review of foreign investment that has a potential impact on national security. However, there remain a number of unclear issues under the Measures, including but not limited to its view towards contractual arrangements. As the Measures was only recently issued, there are very few interpretations, implementation guidance or precedents to follow in practice. If future legislations prescribed by the State Council mandate further actions to be taken by companies with respect to existing contractual arrangement, we may face substantial uncertainties as to whether we can complete such actions in a timely manner, or at all. Failure to take timely and appropriate measures to comply with any of these or similar regulatory compliance requirements could materially and adversely affect our current corporate structure, corporate governance and business operations.

We rely on contractual arrangements with our VIE and its shareholders for a large portion of our business operations, which may not be as effective as direct ownership in providing operational control.

Our VIE contributed substantially all of our consolidated total revenues in 2018, 2019 and 2020. We have relied and expect to continue to rely on contractual arrangements with our VIE and its shareholders to conduct our business. These contractual arrangements may not be as effective as direct ownership in providing us with control over our VIE. For example, our VIE and its shareholders could breach their contractual arrangements with us by, among other things, failing to conduct their operations in an acceptable manner or taking other actions that are detrimental to our interests. The shareholders of our VIE have pledged all of their equity interests in our VIE to our WFOE pursuant to the equity pledge agreement under the contractual arrangements. An equity pledge agreement becomes effective between the parties upon execution. However, according to the PRC Property Rights Law, an equity pledge is not perfected as a security property right unless it is registered with the relevant office of the administration for industry and commerce. We are still in the process of registering the equity pledges relating to our VIE. Prior to the completion of the registration, we may not be able to successfully enforce the equity pledges against any third parties who have acquired property right interests in good faith in the equity interests in the VIE.

If we had direct ownership of our VIE, we would be able to exercise our rights as a shareholder to effect changes in the board of directors of our VIE, which in turn could implement changes, subject to any applicable fiduciary obligations, at the management and operational level. However, under the current contractual arrangements, we rely on the performance by our VIE and its shareholders of their obligations under the contracts to exercise control over our VIE. However, the shareholders of our VIE may not act in the best interests of our company or may not perform their obligations under these contracts. Such risks exist throughout the period in which we intend to operate certain portions of our business through the contractual arrangements with our VIE. If any disputes relating to these contracts remains unresolved, we will have to enforce our rights under these contracts through the operations of PRC law and arbitration, litigation and other legal proceedings and therefore will be subject to uncertainties in the PRC legal system. See “—Any failure by our VIE or its shareholders to perform their obligations under our contractual arrangements with them would have a material and adverse effect on our business.” Therefore, our contractual arrangements with our VIE may not be as effective in ensuring our control over the relevant portion of our business operations as direct ownership would be.

We may lose the ability to use and enjoy assets held by our VIE and its subsidiaries that are important to our business if our VIE and its subsidiaries declare bankruptcy or become subject to a dissolution or liquidation proceeding.

Our VIE and its subsidiaries hold assets that are important to our operations, and they contributed substantially all of our consolidated total revenues in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Under our contractual arrangements, the shareholders of our VIE may not voluntarily liquidate our VIE or approve it to sell, transfer, mortgage or dispose of its assets or legal or beneficial interests exceeding certain threshold in the business in any manner without our prior consent. However, in the event that the shareholders breach this obligation and voluntarily liquidate our VIE, or our VIE declares bankruptcy, or all or part of its assets become subject to liens or rights of third-party creditors, we may be unable to continue some or all of our operations, which would materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. Furthermore, if our VIE or its subsidiaries undergo a voluntary or involuntary liquidation proceeding, their shareholders or unrelated third-party creditors may claim rights to some or all of its assets, hindering our ability to operate our business, which could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Any failure by our VIE or its shareholders to perform their obligations under our contractual arrangements with them would have a material and adverse effect on our business.

We refer to the shareholders of our VIE as its nominee shareholders because although they remain the holders of equity interests on record in each of our VIE, pursuant to the terms of the relevant power of attorney, each of such shareholders has irrevocably authorized the Company to exercise his, her or its rights as a shareholder of our VIE. However, if our VIE or its shareholders fail to perform their respective obligations under the contractual arrangements, we may have to incur substantial costs and expend additional resources to enforce such arrangements. We may also have to rely on legal remedies under PRC law, including seeking specific performance or injunctive relief, and claiming damages, which may not be enforceable under PRC law. For example, if the shareholders of our VIE refuse to transfer their equity interest in our VIE to us or our designee if we exercise the purchase option pursuant to these contractual arrangements, or if they otherwise act in bad faith toward us, then we may have to take legal actions to compel them to perform their contractual obligations.

All of the agreements under our contractual arrangements are governed by PRC law and provide for the resolution of disputes through arbitration in China. Accordingly, these contracts would be interpreted in accordance with PRC law and any disputes would be resolved in accordance with PRC legal procedures. The legal system in the PRC is not as developed as in some other jurisdictions, such as the United States. As a result, uncertainties in the PRC legal system could limit our ability to enforce these contractual arrangements. See “—Risks Relating to Doing Business in China—Uncertainties in the interpretation and enforcement of PRC laws and regulations could limit the legal protections available to you and us.” Meanwhile, there are very few precedents and little formal guidance as to how contractual arrangements in the context of a VIE should be interpreted or enforced under PRC law. There remain significant uncertainties regarding the ultimate outcome of such arbitration should legal action becomes necessary. In addition, under PRC law, rulings by arbitrators are final, parties cannot appeal the arbitration results in courts, and if the losing parties fail to carry out the arbitration awards within a prescribed time limit, the prevailing parties may only enforce the arbitration awards in PRC courts through arbitration award recognition proceedings, which would require additional expenses and delay. In the event we are unable to enforce these contractual arrangements, or if we suffer significant delays or other obstacles in the process of enforcing these contractual arrangements, we may not be able to exert effective control over our VIE, and our ability to conduct our business may be negatively affected.

The shareholders of our VIE may have potential conflicts of interest with us, which may materially and adversely affect our business and financial condition.

Currently, Token Yilin Hu, Yi'nan Li, Yuqin Zhang and Changlong Sheng each hold 89.74%, 5.00%, 2.63% and 2.63% of the equity interest in our VIE, respectively. The shareholders of our VIE may have potential conflicts of interest with us. These shareholders may breach, or cause our VIE to breach, or refuse to renew, the existing contractual arrangements we have with them and our VIE, which would have a material and adverse effect on our ability to effectively control our VIE and receive economic benefits from them. For example, the shareholders may be able to cause our agreements with our VIE to be performed in a manner adverse to us by, among other things, failing to remit payments due under the contractual arrangements to us on a timely basis. We cannot assure you that when conflicts of interest arise any or all of these shareholders will act in the best interests of our company or such conflicts will be resolved in our favor.

Currently, we do not have any arrangements to address potential conflicts of interest between these shareholders and our company, except that we could exercise our purchase option under the second amended and restated exclusive option agreements with these shareholders to request them to transfer all of their equity interests in the VIE to a PRC entity or individual designated by us, to the extent permitted by PRC law. For individuals who are also our directors and officers, we rely on them to abide by the laws of the Cayman Islands, which provide that directors and officers owe a fiduciary duty to the company that requires them to act in good faith and in what they believe to be the best interests of the company and not to use their position for personal gains. The shareholders of our VIE have executed powers of attorney to appoint the Company to vote on their behalf and exercise voting rights as shareholders of our VIE. If we cannot resolve any conflict of interest or dispute between us and the shareholders of our VIE, we would have to rely on legal proceedings, which could result in disruption of our business and subject us to substantial uncertainty as to the outcome of any such legal proceedings.

The shareholders of our VIE may be involved in personal disputes with third parties or other incidents that may have an adverse effect on their respective equity interests in our VIE and the validity or enforceability of our contractual arrangements with its shareholders. For example, in the event that any of the shareholders of our VIE divorces his or her spouse, the spouse may claim that the equity interest of our VIE held by such shareholder is part of their community property and should be divided between such shareholder and his or her spouse. If such claim is supported by the court, the relevant equity interest may be obtained by the shareholder's spouse or another third party who is not subject to obligations under our contractual arrangements, which could result in a loss of the effective control over our VIE by us. Similarly, if any of the equity interests of our VIE is inherited by a third party with whom the current contractual arrangements are not binding, we could lose our control over our VIE or have to maintain such control by incurring unpredictable costs, which could cause significant disruption to our business and operations and harm our financial condition and results of operations.

Although under our current contractual arrangements, (i) the spouse of each of the shareholders of our VIE has executed a spousal consent letter, under which the spouse agrees that he or she will not raise any claims against the equity interest, and will take every action to ensure the performance of the contractual arrangements, and (ii) it is expressly provided that the rights and obligations under the contractual agreements shall be equally effective and binding on the heirs and successors of the parties thereto, and our VIE shall not assign or delegate its rights and obligations under the contractual agreements to third parties without our prior consent, we cannot assure you that these undertakings and arrangements will be complied with or effectively enforced. In the case any of them is breached or becomes unenforceable and leads to legal proceedings, it could disrupt our business, distract our management's attention and subject us to substantial uncertainties as to the outcome of any such legal proceedings.

Contractual arrangements in relation to our VIE may be subject to scrutiny by the PRC tax authorities and they may determine that we or our VIE owes additional taxes, which could negatively affect our financial condition and the value of your investment.

Under applicable PRC laws and regulations, arrangements and transactions among related parties may be subject to audit or challenge by the PRC tax authorities. We could face material and adverse tax consequences if the PRC tax authorities determine that the VIE contractual arrangements were not entered into on an arm's length basis in such a way as to result in an impermissible reduction in taxes under applicable PRC laws, rules and regulations, and adjust the income of our VIE in the form of a transfer pricing adjustment. A transfer pricing adjustment could, among other things, result in a reduction of expense deductions recorded by our VIE for PRC tax purposes, which could increase our tax expenses. In addition, the PRC tax authorities may impose late payment fees and other penalties on our VIE for the adjusted but unpaid taxes according to the applicable regulations. Our financial position could be materially and adversely affected if our VIE's tax liabilities increase or if it is required to pay late payment fees and other penalties.

If the chops of our PRC subsidiaries and our VIE are not kept safely, are stolen or are used by unauthorized persons or for unauthorized purposes, the corporate governance of these entities could be severely and adversely compromised.

In China, a company chop or seal serves as the legal representation of the company towards third parties even when unaccompanied by a signature. Each legally registered company in China is required to maintain a company chop, which must be registered with the local Public Security Bureau. In addition to this mandatory company chop, companies may have several other chops which can be used for specific purposes. The chops of our PRC subsidiaries and VIE are generally held securely by personnel designated or approved by us in accordance with our internal control procedures. To the extent those chops are not kept safely, are stolen or are used by unauthorized persons or for unauthorized purposes, the corporate governance of these entities could be severely and adversely compromised and those corporate entities may be bound to abide by the terms of any documents so chopped, even if they were chopped by an individual who lacked the requisite power and authority to do so. In addition, if the chops are misused by unauthorized persons, we could experience disruption to our normal business operations. We may have to take corporate or legal action, which could involve significant time and resources to resolve while distracting management from our operations.

Risks Related to Doing Business in China

Changes in China's economic, political or social conditions or government policies could have a material and adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

Substantially all of our revenues are expected to be derived in China in the near future and most of our operations, including all of our manufacturing, is conducted in China. Accordingly, our results of operations, financial condition and prospects are influenced by economic, political and legal developments in China. China's economy differs from the economies of most developed countries in many respects, including with respect to the amount of government involvement, level of development, growth rate, control of foreign exchange and allocation of resources. The PRC government exercises significant control over China's economic growth through strategically allocating resources, controlling the payment of foreign currency-denominated obligations, setting monetary policy and providing preferential treatment to particular industries or companies. While the PRC economy has experienced significant growth over the past decades, that growth has been uneven across different regions and between economic sectors and may not continue, as evidenced by the slowing of the growth of the Chinese economy since 2012. The growth rate of the Chinese economy has gradually slowed since 2010, and the Chinese economy is still under the adverse impact of COVID-19. Any adverse changes in economic conditions in China, in the policies of the Chinese government or in the laws and regulations in China could have a material adverse effect on the overall economic growth of China. Such developments could adversely affect our business and operating results, leading to reduction in demand for our products and services and adversely affect our competitive position.

Uncertainties in the interpretation and enforcement of PRC laws and regulations could limit the legal protections available to you and us.

The PRC legal system is a civil law system based on written statutes. Unlike the common law system, prior court decisions may be cited for reference but have limited precedential value.

Our PRC subsidiaries are foreign-invested enterprises and are subject to laws and regulations applicable to foreign-invested enterprises as well as various Chinese laws and regulations generally applicable to companies incorporated in China. However, since these laws and regulations are relatively new and the PRC legal system continues to rapidly evolve, the interpretations of many laws, regulations and rules are not always uniform and enforcement of these laws, regulations and rules involves uncertainties.

From time to time, we may have to resort to administrative and court proceedings to enforce our legal rights. However, since PRC administrative and court authorities have significant discretion in interpreting and implementing statutory and contractual terms, it may be more difficult to evaluate the outcome of administrative and court proceedings and the level of protection we enjoy than in more developed legal systems. Furthermore, the PRC legal system is based in part on government policies and internal rules, some of which are not published on a timely basis or at all, and which may have a retroactive effect. As a result, we may not be aware of our violation of any of these policies and rules until sometime after the violation. Such uncertainties, including uncertainty over the scope and effect of our contractual, property (including intellectual property) and procedural rights, and any failure to respond to changes in the regulatory environment in China could materially and adversely affect our business and impede our ability to continue our operations.

We may be adversely affected by the complexity, uncertainties and changes in PRC regulation on internet-related businesses and companies.

We design, manufacture and sell smart e-scooters. Certain aspects of our business operations may be deemed as provision of value-added telecommunication services, which is subject to regulation by the PRC government. For example, the PRC government imposes foreign ownership restriction and the licensing and permit requirements for companies in the internet industry. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation—Regulations Relating to Foreign Investment” and “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation—Regulations Relating to Value-Added Telecommunication Services.” These laws and regulations are relatively new and evolving, and their interpretation and enforcement involve significant uncertainties. As a result, in certain circumstances it may be difficult to determine what actions or omissions may be deemed to be in violation of applicable laws and regulations.

In addition, our mobile app is also regulated by the Administrative Provisions on Mobile Internet Applications Information Services, or the App Provisions, promulgated by the Cyberspace Administration of China, effective on August 1, 2016. According to the App Provisions, the providers of mobile apps shall not create, copy, publish or distribute information and content that is prohibited by laws and regulations. However, we cannot assure that all the information or content displayed on, retrieved from or linked to our mobile app complies with the requirements of the App Provisions at all times. If our mobile app were found to be violating the App Provisions, we may be subject to administrative penalties, including warning, service suspension or removal of our mobile app from the relevant mobile app store, which may materially and adversely affect our business and operating results.

The interpretation and application of existing PRC laws, regulations and policies and possible new laws, regulations or policies relating to the internet industry have created substantial uncertainties regarding the legality of existing and future foreign investments in, and the businesses and activities of, internet businesses in China, including our business. We cannot assure you that we have obtained all the permits or licenses required for conducting our business in China or will be able to maintain or renew our existing licenses or obtain new ones.

We may rely on dividends and other distributions on equity paid by our PRC subsidiaries to fund any cash and financing requirements we may have, and any limitation on the ability of our PRC subsidiaries to make payments to us could have a material and adverse effect on our ability to conduct our business.

We are a holding company, and we may rely on dividends and other distributions on equity paid by our PRC subsidiaries for our cash and financing requirements, including the funds necessary to pay dividends and other cash distributions to our shareholders and service any debt we may incur. Current PRC regulations permit our PRC subsidiaries to pay dividends to us only out of their accumulated after-tax profits upon satisfaction of relevant statutory conditions and procedures, if any, determined in accordance with Chinese accounting standards and regulations. In addition, each of our PRC subsidiaries is required to set aside at least 10% of its accumulated profits each year, if any, to fund certain reserve funds until the total amount set aside reaches 50% of its registered capital. For a detailed discussion of applicable PRC regulations governing distribution of dividends, see “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation—Regulations Relating to Dividend Distribution.” Additionally, if our PRC subsidiaries incur debt on their own behalf in the future, the instruments governing their debt may restrict their ability to pay dividends or make other distributions to us. Furthermore, the PRC tax authorities may require our WFOE to adjust its taxable income under the contractual arrangements it currently has in place with our variable interest entity in a manner that would materially and adversely affect its ability to pay dividends and other distributions to us. See “—Risks Relating to Our Corporate Structure—Contractual arrangements in relation to our VIE may be subject to scrutiny by the PRC tax authorities and they may determine that we or our VIE owes additional taxes, which could negatively affect our financial condition and the value of your investment.”

Any limitation on the ability of our PRC subsidiaries to pay dividends or make other distributions to us could materially and adversely limit our ability to grow, make investments or acquisitions that could be beneficial to our business, pay dividends, or otherwise fund and conduct our business. See “—If we are classified as a PRC resident enterprise for PRC income tax purposes, such classification could result in unfavorable tax consequences to us and our non-PRC shareholders or ADS holders.”

Failure to make adequate contributions to various employee benefit plans as required by PRC regulations may subject us to penalties.

Companies operating in China are required to participate in various government-sponsored employee benefit plans, including certain social insurance, housing funds and other welfare-oriented payment obligations, and contribute to the plans in amounts equal to certain percentages of salaries, including bonuses and allowances, of our employees up to a maximum amount specified by the local government from time to time at locations where we operate our businesses. The requirement of employee benefit plans has not been implemented consistently by the local governments in China given the different levels of economic development in different locations. We have previously received payment notices from the relevant government authorities for inadequate contribution to employee benefit plans, and we have made the payments and penalty. We may be required to make up the contributions for these plans as well as to pay late fees and fines. If we are subject to late fees or fines in relation to the underpaid employee benefits, our financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected. Going forward, we will comply with the PRC regulations and distribute the outstanding employee benefit payment accordingly.

Increases in labor costs and enforcement of stricter labor laws and regulations in the PRC may adversely affect our business and our profitability.

China's overall economy and the average wage in China have increased in recent years and are expected to continue to grow. The average wage level for our employees has also increased in recent years. We expect that our labor costs, including wages and employee benefits, will continue to increase. Unless we are able to pass on these increased labor costs to those who pay for our services, our profitability and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected.

In addition, we have been subject to stricter regulatory requirements in terms of entering into labor contracts with our employees and paying various statutory employee benefits, including pensions, housing fund, medical insurance, work-related injury insurance, unemployment insurance and maternity insurance to designated government agencies for the benefit of our employees. Pursuant to the PRC Labor Contract Law and its implementation rules, employers are subject to stricter requirements in terms of signing labor contracts, minimum wages, paying remuneration, determining the term of employee's probation and unilaterally terminating labor contracts. In the event that we decide to terminate some of our employees or otherwise change our employment or labor practices, the PRC Labor Contract Law and its implementation rules may limit our ability to effect those changes in a desirable or cost-effective manner, which could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

In October 2010, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress promulgated the PRC Social Insurance Law, effective on July 1, 2011 and amended on December 29, 2018. On April 3, 1999, the State Council promulgated the Regulations on the Administration of Housing Funds, which was amended on March 24, 2002 and March 24, 2019. Companies registered and operating in China are required under the Social Insurance Law and the Regulations on the Administration of Housing Funds to apply for social insurance registration and housing fund deposit registration within 30 days of their establishment and to pay for their employees different social insurance including pension insurance, medical insurance, work-related injury insurance, unemployment insurance and maternity insurance to the extent required by law. We could be subject to orders by the competent labor authorities for rectification and failure to comply with the orders may further subject us to administrative fines.

As the interpretation and implementation of labor-related laws and regulations are still evolving, we cannot assure you that our employment practices do not and will not violate labor-related laws and regulations in China, which may subject us to labor disputes or government investigations. We cannot assure you that we have complied or will be able to comply with all labor-related law and regulations including those relating to obligations to make social insurance payments and contribute to the housing provident funds. If we are deemed to have violated relevant labor laws and regulations, we could be required to provide additional compensation to our employees and our business, financial condition and results of operations will be adversely affected.

Fluctuations in exchange rates could have a material and adverse effect on our results of operations and the value of your investment.

Our operations are subject to risks arising from fluctuations in exchange rates with reference to countries in which we operate and to which we sell our products. We sell our products to various countries, and therefore, our revenues have significant exposure to the relative movements of currencies of those countries. Any significant appreciation or depreciation of Renminbi may materially and adversely affect our revenues, earnings and financial position, and the value of, and any dividends payable on, our ADSs in U.S. dollars. For example, to the extent that we need to convert U.S. dollars we receive into Renminbi to make capital contributions or pay our operating expenses, appreciation of Renminbi against the U.S. dollar would have an adverse effect on the RMB amount we would receive from the conversion. Conversely, a significant depreciation of Renminbi against the U.S. dollar may significantly reduce the U.S. dollar equivalent of our earnings, which in turn could adversely affect the price of our ADSs.

The conversion of Renminbi into foreign currencies is based on rates set by the People's Bank of China. The value of Renminbi against foreign currencies is affected by changes in China's political and economic conditions and by China's foreign exchange policies, among other things. We cannot assure you that Renminbi will not appreciate or depreciate significantly in value against foreign currencies in the future.

Very limited hedging options are available in China to reduce our exposure to exchange rate fluctuations. To date, we have not entered into any hedging transactions in an effort to reduce our exposure to foreign currency exchange risk. While we may decide to enter into hedging transactions in the future, the availability and effectiveness of these hedges may be limited and we may not be able to adequately hedge our exposure or at all. In addition, our currency exchange losses may be magnified by PRC exchange control regulations that restrict our ability to convert Renminbi into foreign currency. As a result, fluctuations in exchange rates may have a material adverse effect on your investment.

It may be difficult for overseas regulators to conduct investigation or collect evidence within China.

Shareholder claims or regulatory investigation that are common in the United States generally are difficult to pursue as a matter of law or practicality in China. For example, in China, there are significant legal and other obstacles to providing information needed for regulatory investigations or litigation initiated outside China. Although the authorities in China may establish a regulatory cooperation mechanism with the securities regulatory authorities of another country or region to implement cross-border supervision and administration, such cooperation with the securities regulatory authorities in the United States may not be efficient in the absence of mutual and practical cooperation mechanism. Furthermore, according to Article 177 of the PRC Securities Law, or Article 177, which became effective in March 2020, no overseas securities regulator is allowed to directly conduct investigation or evidence collection activities within the territory of the PRC. While detailed interpretation of or implementation rules under Article 177 have yet to be promulgated, the inability for an overseas securities regulator to directly conduct investigation or evidence collection activities within China may further increase difficulties faced by you in protecting your interests.

PRC regulation of loans to and direct investment in PRC entities by offshore holding companies and governmental control of currency conversion may delay or prevent us from using the proceeds of our offshore offerings to make loans to or make additional capital contributions to our PRC subsidiaries, which could materially and adversely affect our liquidity and our ability to fund and expand our business.

Under PRC laws and regulations, we are permitted to utilize the proceeds from our initial public offering to fund our PRC subsidiaries by making loans to or additional capital contributions to our PRC subsidiaries, subject to applicable government registration, statutory limitations on amount and approval requirements. The amount of capital contributions that we may make to the WFOE is RMB220.0 million, without obtaining approvals from SAFE or other government authorities. Additionally, the WFOE may increase its registered capital to receive additional capital contributions from us and currently there is no statutory limit to increasing its registered capital, subject to satisfaction of applicable government registration and filing requirements. Pursuant to relevant PRC regulations, we may provide loans to the WFOE up to the larger amount of (i) the balance between the registered total investment amount and registered capital of the WFOE, or (ii) twice the amount of the net assets of the WFOE calculated in accordance with PRC GAAP, and we may provide loans to the VIE up to twice the amount of the net assets of the VIE calculated in accordance with PRC GAAP, each subject to satisfaction of applicable government registration or approval requirements. For any amount of loans that we may extend to the WFOE or our VIE, such loans must be registered with the local counterpart of SAFE. Medium- or long-term loans extended by the Company to our VIE must also be approved by the NDRC. For more details, see “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation—Regulations Relating to Foreign Exchange—Regulations on Foreign Currency Exchange.” These PRC laws and regulations may significantly limit our ability to use Renminbi converted from the net proceeds of our initial public offering to fund the establishment of new entities in China by our PRC subsidiaries, to invest in or acquire any other PRC companies through our PRC subsidiaries, or to establish new variable interest entities in China. Moreover, we cannot assure you that we will be able to complete the necessary registrations or obtain the necessary government approvals on a timely basis, if at all, with respect to future loans to our PRC subsidiaries or future capital contributions by us to our PRC subsidiaries. If we fail to complete such registrations or obtain such approvals, our ability to use the proceeds we received or expect to receive from our offshore offerings and to capitalize or otherwise fund our PRC operations may be negatively affected, which could materially and adversely affect our liquidity and our ability to fund and expand our business.

On December 26, 2017, the NDRC issued the Management Rules for Overseas Investment by Enterprises, or the NDRC Order 11. On January 31, 2018, the Catalog on Overseas Investment in Sensitive Industries (2018 Edition), or the Sensitive Industries List, was promulgated. “Overseas investment” as defined in the NDRC Order 11 refers to the investment activities conducted by an enterprise located in the territory of China either directly or through an overseas enterprise under its control by making investment with assets and equities or providing financing or guarantee in order to obtain overseas ownership, control, management rights and other related interests. Overseas investment by a Chinese individual through overseas enterprises under his/her control is also subject to the NDRC Order 11. According to the NDRC Order 11, (i) direct overseas investment by Chinese enterprises or indirect overseas investment by Chinese enterprises or individuals in sensitive industries or sensitive countries and regions requires prior approval by the NDRC; (ii) direct overseas investment by Chinese enterprises in non-sensitive industries and non-sensitive countries and regions requires prior filing with the NDRC; and (iii) indirect overseas investment of over US\$300 million by Chinese enterprises or individuals in non-sensitive industries and non-sensitive countries and regions requires reporting with the NDRC. Uncertainties remain with respect to the application of the NDRC Order 11. We are not sure if we were to use a portion of the proceeds raised from our initial public offering to fund investments in and acquisitions of complementary business and assets outside of China, such use of U.S. dollars funds held outside of China would be subject to the NDRC Order 11. There are very few interpretations, implementation guidance or precedents regarding NDRC Order 11 to follow in practice. We will continue to monitor any new rules, interpretation and guidance promulgated by the NDRC and communicate with the NDRC and its local branches to seek their opinions, when necessary. If it turns out that the NDRC Order 11 applies to our use of proceeds from the offering mentioned above and we fail to obtain the approval, complete the filing or report our overseas investment using the offering proceeds, as the case may be, in a timely manner as provided under the NDRC Order 11, we may be forced to suspend or cease our investment, or be subject to penalties or other liabilities, which may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and prospects.

Governmental control of currency conversion may limit our ability to utilize our revenues effectively and affect the value of your investment.

The PRC government imposes controls on the convertibility of Renminbi into foreign currencies and, in certain cases, the remittance of currency out of China. Under existing PRC foreign exchange regulations, payments of current account items, such as profit distributions and trade and service-related foreign exchange transactions, can be made in foreign currencies without prior approval from the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, or SAFE, by complying with certain procedural requirements. However, approval from or registration with appropriate governmental authorities is required where Renminbi is to be converted into foreign currency and remitted out of China to pay capital expenses such as the repayment of loans denominated in foreign currencies. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation—Regulations Relating to Foreign Exchange—Regulations on Foreign Currency Exchange.”

Since 2016, the PRC government has tightened its foreign exchange policies again and stepped up scrutiny of major outbound capital movement. More restrictions and a substantial vetting process have been put in place by SAFE to regulate cross-border transactions falling under the capital account. The PRC government may also restrict access in the future to foreign currencies for current account transactions, at its discretion. We receive substantially all of our revenues in RMB. If the foreign exchange control system prevents us from obtaining sufficient foreign currencies to satisfy our foreign currency demands, we may not be able to pay dividends in foreign currencies to our shareholders, including holders of the ADSs.

PRC regulations relating to offshore investment activities by PRC residents may limit our PRC subsidiaries’ ability to increase their registered capital or distribute profits to us or otherwise expose us or our PRC resident beneficial owners to liability and penalties under PRC law.

SAFE requires PRC residents or entities to register with SAFE or its local branch in connection with their establishment or control of an offshore entity established for the purpose of overseas investment or financing. In addition, such PRC residents or entities must update their SAFE registrations when the offshore special purpose vehicle undergoes certain material events. According to the Notice on Further Simplifying and Improving Policies for the Foreign Exchange Administration of Direct Investment released on February 13, 2015 by the SAFE, local banks will examine and handle foreign exchange registration for overseas direct investment, including the initial foreign exchange registration and amendment registration, under SAFE Circular 37 from June 1, 2015. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation—Regulations Relating to Foreign Exchange—Regulations on Foreign Currency Exchange.”

If our shareholders who are PRC residents or entities do not complete their registration with the local SAFE branches, our PRC subsidiaries may be prohibited from distributing their profits and any proceeds from any reduction in capital, share transfer or liquidation to us, and we may be restricted in our ability to contribute additional capital to our PRC subsidiaries. Moreover, failure to comply with SAFE registration requirements could result in liability under PRC laws for evasion of applicable foreign exchange restrictions. Mr. Yi’nan Li, Mr. Token Yilin Hu and Ms. Yuqin Zhang who directly or indirectly hold shares in our Cayman Islands holding company and who are known to us as being PRC residents have completed the initial foreign exchange registrations and have updated their registrations required in connection with our corporate restructuring.

However, we may not be informed of the identities of all the PRC residents or entities holding direct or indirect interests in our company, nor can we compel our beneficial owners to comply with SAFE registration requirements. As a result, we cannot assure you that all of our shareholders or beneficial owners who are PRC residents or entities have complied with, and will in the future make or obtain any applicable registrations or approvals required by, SAFE regulations. Failure by such shareholders or beneficial owners to comply with SAFE regulations, or failure by us to amend the foreign exchange registrations of our PRC subsidiaries, could subject us to fines or legal sanctions, restrict our overseas or cross-border investment activities, limit our PRC subsidiaries’ ability to make distributions or pay dividends to us or affect our ownership structure, which could adversely affect our business and prospects.

China’s M&A Rules and certain other PRC regulations establish complex procedures for certain acquisitions of PRC companies by foreign investors, which could make it more difficult for us to pursue growth through acquisitions in China.

A number of PRC laws and regulations have established procedures and requirements that could make merger and acquisition activities in China by foreign investors more time consuming and complex. In addition to the Anti-monopoly Law itself, these include the Regulations on Mergers and Acquisitions of Domestic Enterprises by Foreign Investors, or the M&A Rules, adopted by six PRC regulatory agencies in 2006, which was amended in 2009, and the Rules of the Ministry of Commerce on Implementation of Security Review System of Mergers and Acquisitions of Domestic Enterprises by Foreign Investors, or the Security Review Rules, promulgated in 2011. These laws and regulations impose requirements in some instances that MOFCOM be notified in advance of any change-of-control transaction in which a foreign investor takes control of a PRC domestic enterprise. In addition, the Anti-Monopoly Law requires that MOFCOM be notified in advance of any concentration of undertaking if certain thresholds are triggered. Moreover, the Security Review Rules specify that mergers and acquisitions by foreign investors that raise “national defense and security” concerns and mergers and acquisitions through which foreign investors may acquire de facto control over domestic enterprises that raise “national security” concerns are subject to strict review by MOFCOM, and prohibit any attempt to bypass a security review, including by structuring the transaction through a proxy or contractual control arrangement. In the future, we may grow our business by acquiring complementary businesses. Complying with the requirements of the relevant regulations to complete such transactions could be time consuming, and any required approval processes, including approval from MOFCOM, may delay or inhibit our ability to complete such transactions, which could affect our ability to expand our business or maintain our market share.

Any failure to comply with PRC regulations regarding the registration requirements for employee stock incentive plans may subject the PRC plan participants or us to fines and other legal or administrative sanctions.

Under SAFE regulations, PRC residents who participate in a stock incentive plan in an overseas publicly listed company are required to register with SAFE or its local branches and complete certain other procedures. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation—Regulations Relating to Foreign Exchange—Regulations on Stock Incentive Plans.” We and our PRC resident employees who participate in our share incentive plans will be subject to these regulations when our company becomes publicly listed in the United States. If we or any of these PRC resident employees fail to comply with these regulations, we or such employees may be subject to fines and other legal or administrative sanctions. We also face regulatory uncertainties that could restrict our ability to adopt additional incentive plans for our directors, executive officers and employees under PRC law.

Discontinuation of any of the government subsidies or imposition of any additional taxes and surcharges could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Our PRC subsidiaries have received various financial subsidies from PRC local government authorities. The financial subsidies result from discretionary incentives and policies adopted by PRC local government authorities. Local governments may decide to change or discontinue such financial subsidies at any time. The discontinuation of such financial subsidies or imposition of any additional taxes could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

If we are classified as a PRC resident enterprise for PRC income tax purposes, such classification could result in unfavorable tax consequences to us and our non-PRC shareholders or ADS holders.

Under the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law and its implementation rules, an enterprise established outside of the PRC with a “de facto management body” within the PRC is considered a PRC resident enterprise. The implementation rules define the term “de facto management body” as the body that exercises full and substantial control over and overall management of the business, productions, personnel, accounts and properties of an enterprise. In 2009, the State Administration of Taxation, or the SAT issued a circular, known as Circular 82, which provides certain specific criteria for determining whether the “de facto management body” of a PRC-controlled enterprise that is incorporated offshore is located in China. Although Circular 82 only applies to offshore enterprises controlled by PRC enterprises or PRC enterprise groups, not those controlled by PRC individuals or foreigners like us, the criteria set forth in the circular may reflect the SAT’s general position on how the “de facto management body” test should be applied in determining the tax resident status of all offshore enterprises. According to Circular 82, an offshore incorporated enterprise controlled by a PRC enterprise or a PRC enterprise group will be regarded as a PRC tax resident by virtue of having its “de facto management body” in China and will be subject to PRC enterprise income tax on its global income only if all of the following conditions are met: (i) the primary location of the day-to-day operational management is in the PRC; (ii) decisions relating to the enterprise’s financial and human resource matters are made or are subject to approval by organizations or personnel in the PRC; (iii) the enterprise’s primary assets, accounting books and records, company seals, and board and shareholder resolutions, are located or maintained in the PRC; and (iv) at least 50% of voting board members or senior executives habitually reside in the PRC.

We believe that none of our entities outside of China is a PRC resident enterprise for PRC tax purposes. However, the tax resident status of an enterprise is subject to determination by the PRC tax authorities and uncertainties remain with respect to the interpretation of the term “de facto management body.” If the PRC tax authorities determine that we are a PRC resident enterprise for enterprise income tax purposes, we will be subject to the enterprise income tax on our global income at the rate of 25% and we will be required to comply with PRC enterprise income tax reporting obligations. In addition, gains realized on the sale or other disposition of the ADSs or our Class A ordinary shares may be subject to PRC tax, at a rate of 10% in the case of non-PRC enterprises or 20% in the case of non-PRC individuals (in each case, subject to the provisions of any applicable tax treaty), if such gains are deemed to be from PRC sources. It is unclear whether non-PRC shareholders of our company would be able to claim the benefits of any tax treaties between their country of tax residence and the PRC in the event that we are treated as a PRC resident enterprise. Any such tax may reduce the returns on your investment in the ADSs.

We may not be able to obtain certain benefits under relevant tax treaty on dividends paid by our PRC subsidiaries to us through our Hong Kong subsidiary.

We are a holding company incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands and as such rely on dividends and other distributions on equity from our PRC subsidiaries to satisfy part of our liquidity requirements. Pursuant to the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law, a withholding tax rate of 10% currently applies to dividends paid by a PRC “resident enterprise” to a foreign enterprise investor, unless any such foreign investor’s jurisdiction of incorporation has a tax treaty with China that provides for preferential tax treatment. Pursuant to the Arrangement between the Mainland China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Tax Evasion on Income, or the Double Taxation Avoidance and the Tax Evasion Arrangement, effective from August 21, 2006, such withholding tax rate may be lowered to 5% if a Hong Kong resident enterprise owns no less than 25% of a PRC enterprise. According to the Announcement of the State Administration of Taxation on Issues concerning the “Beneficial Owner” in Tax Treaties, which became effective in April 2018, whether a resident enterprise is a “beneficial owner” that can apply for a low tax rate under tax treaties depends on an overall assessment of several factors, which may bring uncertainties to the applicability of preferential tax treatment under the tax treaties. Furthermore, the Administrative Measures for Non-Resident Taxpayers to Enjoy Treatments under Tax Treaties, which became effective on January 1, 2020, requires non-resident taxpayers (including non-resident enterprises and individuals) to determine whether they are qualified to enjoy the preferential tax treatment under the tax treaties and file relevant report and materials with the tax authorities. Where a non-resident taxpayer self-assesses and concludes that it/he/she satisfies the criteria for claiming preferential tax treatment, it/he/she may enjoy treaty benefits at the time of tax declaration or at the time of withholding through the withholding agent, simultaneously gather and retain the relevant materials for future inspection, and accept follow-up administration by the tax authorities. There are also other conditions for enjoying the reduced withholding tax rate according to other relevant tax rules and regulations. See “Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects—Taxation.” In the future we intend to re-invest all earnings, if any, generated from our PRC subsidiaries for the operation and expansion of our business in China. Should our tax policy change to allow for offshore distribution of our earnings, we would be subject to a significant withholding tax. We cannot assure you that our determination regarding our qualification to enjoy the preferential tax treatment will not be challenged by the relevant tax authority or we will be able to complete the necessary filings with the relevant tax authority and enjoy the preferential withholding tax rate of 5% under the arrangement with respect to dividends to be paid by our PRC subsidiaries to our Hong Kong subsidiary.

We face uncertainty with respect to indirect transfers of equity interests in PRC resident enterprises by their non-PRC holding companies.

In February 2015, SAT issued the Public Notice Regarding Certain Corporate Income Tax Matters on Indirect Transfer of Properties by Non-Resident Enterprises, or SAT Public Notice 7. SAT Public Notice 7 extends its tax jurisdiction to not only indirect transfers but also transactions involving transfer of other taxable assets, through the offshore transfer of a foreign intermediate holding company. In addition, SAT Public Notice 7 provides certain criteria on how to assess reasonable commercial purposes and has introduced safe harbors for internal group restructurings and the purchase and sale of equity through a public securities market. SAT Public Notice 7 also brings challenges to both the foreign transferor and transferee (or other person who is obligated to pay for the transfer) of the taxable assets. Where a non-resident enterprise conducts an “indirect transfer” by transferring the taxable assets indirectly by disposing of the equity interests of an overseas holding company, the non-resident enterprise being the transferor, or the transferee, or the PRC entity which directly owned the taxable assets may report to the relevant tax authority such indirect transfer. Using a “substance over form” principle, the PRC tax authority may disregard the existence of the overseas holding company if it lacks a reasonable commercial purpose and was established for the purpose of reducing, avoiding or deferring PRC tax. As a result, gains derived from such indirect transfer may be subject to PRC enterprise income tax, and the transferee or other person who is obligated to pay for the transfer is obligated to withhold the applicable taxes, currently at a rate of 10% for the transfer of equity interests in a PRC resident enterprise. On October 17, 2017, SAT issued the Announcement of the State Administration of Taxation on Issues Concerning the Withholding of Non-resident Enterprise Income Tax at Source, or SAT Bulletin 37, which came into effect on December 1, 2017 and was amended on June 15, 2018. The SAT Bulletin 37 further clarifies the practice and procedure of the withholding of nonresident enterprise income tax.

We face uncertainties on the reporting and consequences of future private equity financing transactions, share exchanges or other transactions involving the transfer of shares in our company by investors that are non-PRC resident enterprises. The PRC tax authorities may pursue such non-resident enterprises with respect to a filing or the transferees with respect to withholding obligation, and request our PRC subsidiaries to assist in the filing. As a result, we and non-resident enterprises in such transactions may become at risk of being subject to filing obligations or being taxed under SAT Public Notice 7 and SAT Bulletin 37, and may be required to expend valuable resources to comply with them or to establish that we and our non-resident enterprises should not be taxed under these regulations, which may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

If the custodians or authorized users of controlling non-tangible assets of our company, including our corporate chops and seals, fail to fulfill their responsibilities, or misappropriate or misuse these assets, our business and operations could be materially and adversely affected.

Under PRC law, legal documents for corporate transactions are executed using the chops or seal of the signing entity or with the signature of a legal representative whose designation is registered and filed with the relevant branch of the Administration of Industry and Commerce.

Although we usually utilize chops to enter into contracts, the designated legal representatives of each of our PRC subsidiaries, variable interest entity and its subsidiaries have the apparent authority to enter into contracts on behalf of such entities without chops and bind such entities. All designated legal representatives of our PRC subsidiaries, variable interest entity and its subsidiaries are members of our senior management team who have signed employment agreements with us or our PRC subsidiaries, variable interest entity and its subsidiaries under which they agree to abide by various duties they owe to us. In order to maintain the physical security of our chops and chops of our PRC entities, we generally store these items in secured locations accessible only by the authorized personnel in the legal or finance department of each of our subsidiaries, variable interest entity and its subsidiaries. Although we monitor such authorized personnel, there is no assurance such procedures will prevent all instances of abuse or negligence. Accordingly, if any of our authorized personnel misuse or misappropriate our corporate chops or seals, we could encounter difficulties in maintaining control over the relevant entities and experience significant disruption to our operations. If a designated legal representative obtains control of the chops in an effort to obtain control over any of our PRC subsidiaries, variable interest entity or its subsidiaries, we or our PRC subsidiaries, variable interest entity and its subsidiaries would need to pass a new shareholder or board resolution to designate a new legal representative and we would need to take legal action to seek the return of the chops, apply for new chops with the relevant authorities, or otherwise seek legal redress for the violation of the representative's fiduciary duties to us, which could involve significant time and resources and divert management attention away from our regular business. In addition, the affected entity may not be able to recover corporate assets that are sold or transferred out of our control in the event of such a misappropriation if a transferee relies on the apparent authority of the representative and acts in good faith.

Our leased property interest may be defective and our right to lease the properties may be affected by such defects challenged, which could cause significant disruption to our business.

Under PRC law, all lease agreements are required to be registered with the local housing authorities. We presently lease six premises in China, and the landlords of these premises have not completed the registration of their ownership rights or the registration of our leases with the relevant authorities. Failure to complete these required registrations may expose our landlords, lessors and us to potential monetary fines. If these registrations are not obtained in a timely manner or at all, we may be subject to monetary fines or may have to relocate our offices and incur the associated losses.

Our ADSs may be delisted under the Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act if the PCAOB is unable to inspect auditors who are located in China. The delisting of our ADSs, or the threat of their being delisted, may materially and adversely affect the value of your investment. Additionally, the inability of the PCAOB to conduct inspections deprives our investors with the benefits of such inspections.

The Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act, or the HFCA Act, was enacted on December 18, 2020. The HFCA Act states if the SEC determines that we have filed audit reports issued by a registered public accounting firm that has not been subject to inspection by the PCAOB for three consecutive years beginning in 2021, the SEC shall prohibit our shares or ADSs from being traded on a national securities exchange or in the over the counter trading market in the U.S.

Our auditor, the independent registered public accounting firm that issues the audit report included elsewhere in this prospectus, as an auditor of companies that are traded publicly in the United States and a firm registered with the PCAOB, is subject to laws in the United States pursuant to which the PCAOB conducts regular inspections to assess its compliance with the applicable professional standards. Since our auditor is located in China, a jurisdiction where the PCAOB has been unable to conduct inspections without the approval of the Chinese authorities, our auditor is currently not inspected by the PCAOB.

On March 24, 2021, the SEC adopted interim final rules relating to the implementation of certain disclosure and documentation requirements of the HFCA Act. We will be required to comply with these rules if the SEC identifies us as having a “non-inspection” year under a process to be subsequently established by the SEC. The SEC is assessing how to implement other requirements of the HFCA Act, including the listing and trading prohibition requirements described above.

The SEC may propose additional rules or guidance that could impact us if our auditor is not subject to PCAOB inspection. For example, on August 6, 2020, the President’s Working Group on Financial Markets, or the PWG, issued the Report on Protecting United States Investors from Significant Risks from Chinese Companies to the then President of the United States. This report recommended the SEC implement five recommendations to address companies from jurisdictions that do not provide the PCAOB with sufficient access to fulfil its statutory mandate. Some of the concepts of these recommendations were implemented with the enactment of the HFCA Act. However, some of the recommendations were more stringent than the HFCA Act. For example, if a company was not subject to PCAOB inspection, the report recommended that the transition period before a company would be delisted would end on January 1, 2022.

The SEC has announced that the SEC staff is preparing a consolidated proposal for the rules regarding the implementation of the HFCA Act and to address the recommendations in the PWG report. It is unclear when the SEC will complete its rulemaking and when such rules will become effective and what, if any, of the PWG recommendations will be adopted. The implications of this possible regulation in addition the requirements of the HFCA Act are uncertain. Such uncertainty could cause the market price of our ADSs to be materially and adversely affected, and our securities could be delisted or prohibited from being traded “over-the-counter” earlier than would be required by the HFCA Act. If our securities are unable to be listed on another securities exchange by then, such a delisting would substantially impair your ability to sell or purchase our ADSs when you wish to do so, and the risk and uncertainty associated with a potential delisting would have a negative impact on the price of our ADSs.

The PCAOB’s inability to conduct inspections in China prevents it from fully evaluating the audits and quality control procedures of our independent registered public accounting firm. As a result, we and investors in our ordinary shares are deprived of the benefits of such PCAOB inspections. The inability of the PCAOB to conduct inspections of auditors in China makes it more difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of our independent registered public accounting firm’s audit procedures or quality control procedures as compared to auditors outside of China that are subject to the PCAOB inspections, which could cause investors and potential investors in our stock to lose confidence in our audit procedures and reported financial information and the quality of our financial statements.

In May 2013, the PCAOB announced that it had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on Enforcement Cooperation with the CSRC and the PRC Ministry of Finance, which establishes a cooperative framework between the parties for the production and exchange of audit documents relevant to investigations undertaken by the PCAOB in the PRC or by the CSRC or the PRC Ministry of Finance in the United States. The PCAOB continues to be in discussions with the CSRC and the PRC Ministry of Finance to permit joint inspections in the PRC of audit firms that are registered with the PCAOB and audit Chinese companies that trade on U.S. exchanges.

If additional remedial measures are imposed on the “big four” PRC-based accounting firms, including our independent registered public accounting firm, in administrative proceedings brought by the SEC alleging such firms’ failure to meet specific criteria set by the SEC with respect to requests for the production of documents, we could fail to timely file future financial statements in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act.

Starting in 2011, the PRC affiliates of the “big four” accounting firms, including our independent registered public accounting firm, were affected by a conflict between U.S. and PRC law. Specifically, for certain U.S. listed companies operating and audited in mainland China, the SEC and the PCAOB sought to obtain from the PRC-based accounting firms access to their audit work papers and related documents. The firms were, however, advised and directed that under PRC law they could not respond directly to the U.S. regulators on those requests, and that requests by foreign regulators for access to such papers in China had to be channeled through the China Securities Regulatory Commission, or the CSRC.

In late 2012, this impasse led the SEC to commence administrative proceedings under Rule 102(e) of its Rules of Practice and also under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 against the PRC-based accounting firms, including our independent registered public accounting firm. In January 2014, the administrative law judge reached an initial decision to impose penalties on the firms including a temporary suspension of their right to practice before the SEC. The accounting firms filed a petition for review of the initial decision. In February 2015, before a review by the commissioners of the SEC had taken place, the firms reached a settlement with the SEC. Under the settlement, the SEC accepts that future requests by the SEC for the production of documents will normally be made to the CSRC. The firms will receive matching Section 106 requests, and are required to abide by a detailed set of procedures with respect to such requests, which in substance require them to facilitate production via the CSRC. The four-year mark occurred on February 6, 2019. While we cannot predict if the SEC will further challenge the four China-based accounting firms' compliance with U.S. law in connection with U.S. regulatory requests for audit work papers or if the results of such a challenge would result in the SEC imposing penalties such as suspensions. If additional remedial measures are imposed on the Chinese affiliates of the "big four" accounting firms, including our independent registered public accounting firm, we could be unable to timely file future financial statements in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act.

In the event that the SEC restarts the administrative proceedings, depending upon the final outcome, listed companies in the United States with major PRC operations may find it difficult or impossible to retain auditors in respect of their operations in China, which could result in financial statements being determined to not be in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act, including possible delisting. Moreover, any negative news about any such future proceedings against these audit firms may cause investor uncertainty regarding PRC-based, U.S.-listed companies and the market price of ADSs may be adversely affected.

If our independent registered public accounting firm were denied, even temporarily, the ability to practice before the SEC and we were unable to timely find another registered public accounting firm to audit and issue an opinion on our financial statements, our financial statements could be determined not to be in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act. Such a determination could ultimately lead to the delisting of the ADSs from the Nasdaq Global Market or deregistration from the SEC, or both, which would substantially reduce or effectively terminate the trading of the ADSs in the United States.

Risks Related to Our ADSs

The trading price of the ADSs is likely to be volatile, which could result in substantial losses to investors.

The trading price of the ADSs is likely to be volatile and could fluctuate widely due to factors beyond our control. This may happen because of broad market and industry factors, including the performance and fluctuation of the market prices of other companies with business operations located mainly in China that have listed their securities in the United States. The securities of some of these companies, including internet-based companies, have experienced significant volatility since their initial public offerings, including, in some cases, substantial price declines in their trading prices. The trading performances of other Chinese companies' securities after their offerings may affect the attitudes of investors toward Chinese companies listed in the United States in general and consequently may impact the trading performance of the ADSs, regardless of our actual operating performance.

In addition to market and industry factors, the price and trading volume for the ADSs may be highly volatile for factors specific to our own operations, including the following:

- variations in our revenues, earnings and cash flow;
- announcements of new investments, acquisitions, strategic partnerships or joint ventures by us or our competitors;
- announcements of new offerings, solutions and expansions by us or our competitors;
- changes in financial estimates by securities analysts;
- detrimental adverse publicity about us, our services or our industry;
- additions or departures of key personnel;
- release of lockup or other transfer restrictions on our outstanding equity securities or sales of additional equity securities; and
- potential litigation or regulatory investigations.

Any of these factors may result in large and sudden changes in the volume and price at which the ADSs will trade.

In the past, shareholders of public companies have often brought securities class action suits against those companies following periods of instability in the market price of their securities. If we were involved in a class action suit, it could divert a significant amount of our management's attention and other resources from our business and operations and require us to incur significant expenses to defend the suit, which could harm our results of operations. Any such class action suit, whether or not successful, could harm our reputation and restrict our ability to raise capital in the future. In addition, if a claim is successfully made against us, we may be required to pay significant damages, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

If securities or industry analysts do not publish research or publishes inaccurate or unfavorable research about our business, or if they adversely change their recommendations regarding the ADSs, the market price for our ADSs and trading volume could decline.

The trading market for the ADSs will be influenced by research or reports that industry or securities analysts publish about our business. If one or more analysts who cover us downgrade the ADSs or publishes inaccurate or unfavorable research about our business, the market price for the ADSs would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts cease to cover us or fail to regularly publish reports on us, we could lose visibility in the financial markets, which in turn could cause the market price or trading volume for the ADSs to fall.

The sale or availability for sale of substantial amounts of the ADSs could adversely affect their market price.

Sales of substantial amounts of the ADSs in the public market, or the perception that these sales could occur, could adversely affect the market price of the ADSs and could materially impair our ability to raise capital through equity offerings in the future. We cannot predict what effect, if any, market sales of securities held by our significant shareholders or any other shareholder or the availability of these securities for future sale will have on the market price of the ADSs. As of March 31, 2021, we had 152,549,998 ordinary shares issued and outstanding, comprising of (i) 134,567,978 Class A ordinary shares, and (ii) 17,982,020 Class B ordinary shares, among which 79,553,736 Class A ordinary shares are in the form of ADSs, which are freely transferable without restriction or additional registration under the Securities Act. The remaining Class A ordinary shares outstanding and the Class B ordinary shares will be available for sale, subject to volume and other restrictions as applicable under Rules 144 and 701 under the Securities Act. Certain holders of our ordinary shares may cause us to register under the Securities Act the sale of their shares, subject to the applicable lock-up period. Registration of these shares under the Securities Act would result in ADSs representing these shares becoming freely tradable without restriction under the Securities Act immediately upon the effectiveness of the registration. Sales of these registered shares in the form of ADSs in the public market could cause the price of our ADSs to decline.

Our dual-class voting structure will limit your ability to influence corporate matters and could discourage others from pursuing any change of control transactions that holders of our Class A ordinary shares and the ADSs may view as beneficial.

We have a dual-class ordinary share structure. Our ordinary shares are divided into Class A ordinary shares and Class B ordinary shares. Holders of Class A ordinary shares are entitled to one vote per share, while holders of Class B ordinary shares will be entitled to four votes per share. Each Class B ordinary share is convertible into one Class A ordinary share at any time by the holder thereof, while Class A ordinary shares are not convertible into Class B ordinary shares under any circumstances. Upon any direct or indirect sale, transfer, assignment or disposition of Class B ordinary shares by a holder thereof or the direct or indirect transfer or assignment of the voting power attached to such number of Class B ordinary shares through voting proxy or otherwise to any person or entity that is not an affiliate of such holder, such Class B ordinary shares shall be automatically and immediately converted into an equal number of Class A ordinary shares.

All of the 6,615,000 ordinary shares held by ELLY Holdings Limited, an entity wholly owned by Dr. Yan Li, the chairman of our board of directors and our chief executive officer, and the 11,367,020 ordinary shares held by Niu Holding Inc., an entity 85.7% owned by Mr. Token Yilin Hu, our director and vice president, and 14.3% owned by Mr. Carl Chuankai Liu, our vice president, are Class B ordinary shares. Messrs. Yan Li, Token Yilin Hu and Carl Chuankai Liu collectively beneficially own an aggregate of 17,982,020 Class B ordinary shares, which represented 34.8% of our total voting power as of March 31, 2021. Therefore, Messrs. Yan Li, Token Yilin Hu and Carl Chuankai Liu have significant influence over matters requiring shareholders' approval, including election of directors and significant corporate transactions, such as a merger or sale of our company or our assets. This concentration in voting power will limit your ability to influence corporate matters and could discourage others from pursuing any potential merger, takeover or other change of control transactions that holders of our Class A ordinary shares and the ADSs may view as beneficial.

The dual-class structure of our ordinary shares may adversely affect the trading market for the ADSs.

S&P Dow Jones and FTSE Russell have changed their eligibility criteria for inclusion of shares of public companies on certain indices, including the S&P 500, to exclude companies with multiple classes of shares and companies whose public shareholders hold no more than 5% of total voting power from being added to such indices. In addition, several shareholder advisory firms have announced their opposition to the use of multiple class structures. As a result, the dual-class structure of our ordinary shares may prevent the inclusion of the ADSs representing our Class A ordinary shares in such indices and may cause shareholder advisory firms to publish negative commentary about our corporate governance practices or otherwise seek to cause us to change our capital structure. Any such exclusion from indices could result in a less active trading market for the ADSs representing our Class A ordinary shares. Any actions or publications by shareholder advisory firms critical of our corporate governance practices or capital structure could also adversely affect the value of the ADSs.

Because we do not expect to pay dividends in the foreseeable future, you must rely on a price appreciation of the ADSs for a return on your investment.

We currently intend to retain most, if not all, of our available funds and any future earnings to fund the development and growth of our business. As a result, we do not expect to pay any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. Therefore, you should not rely on an investment in the ADSs as a source for any future dividend income.

Our board of directors has discretion as to whether to distribute dividends, subject to certain requirements of Cayman Islands law. In addition, our shareholders may by ordinary resolution declare a dividend, but no dividend may exceed the amount recommended by our directors. Under Cayman Islands law, a Cayman Islands company may pay a dividend out of either profit or share premium account *provided* that in no circumstances may a dividend be paid if this would result in the company being unable to pay its debts as they fall due in the ordinary course of business. Even if our board of directors decides to declare and pay dividends, the timing, amount and form of future dividends, if any, will depend on our future results of operations and cash flow, our capital requirements and surplus, the amount of distributions, if any, received by us from our subsidiaries, our financial condition, contractual restrictions and other factors deemed relevant by our board of directors. Accordingly, the return on your investment in the ADSs will likely depend entirely upon any future price appreciation of our ADSs. There is no guarantee that the ADSs will appreciate in value or even maintain the price at which you purchased the ADSs. You may not realize a return on your investment in the ADSs, and you may even lose your entire investment in the ADSs.

There can be no assurance that we will not be classified as a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes for any taxable year, which could result in adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences to U.S. holders of the ADSs or our Class A ordinary shares.

A non-U.S. corporation will be classified as a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, for any taxable year if either (i) at least 75% of its gross income for such year consists of certain types of "passive" income; or (ii) at least 50% of the value of its assets (generally determined on the basis of a quarterly average) during such year is attributable to assets that produce passive income or are held for the production of passive income. Although the law in this regard is unclear, we intend to treat our VIE (and its subsidiaries) as being owned by us for United States federal income tax purposes, not only because we exercise effective control over the operation of such entity but also because we are entitled to substantially all of its economic benefits, and, as a result, we consolidate its result of operations in our consolidated financial statements. Assuming that we are the owner of our VIE (including its respective subsidiaries, if any) for United States federal income tax purposes, we do not believe we were a PFIC for the taxable year ended December 31, 2020 and we do not presently expect to be a PFIC for the current taxable year or the foreseeable future.

While we do not expect to become a PFIC, because the value of our assets for purposes of the asset test may be determined by reference to the market price of the ADSs, fluctuations in the market price of the ADSs may cause us to become a PFIC for the current or subsequent taxable years. In addition, the composition of our income and assets will also be affected by how, and how quickly, we use our liquid assets. If we determine not to deploy significant amounts of cash for active purposes or if it were determined that we do not own the stock of our VIE for United States federal income tax purposes, our risk of being a PFIC may substantially increase. Because PFIC status is a factual determination made annually after the close of each taxable year, there can be no assurance that we will not be a PFIC for the current taxable year or any future taxable year.

If we are a PFIC in any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder (as defined in “Taxation—United States Federal Income Tax Considerations”) holds the ADSs or our Class A ordinary shares, certain adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences could apply to such U.S. Holder. See “Item 10. Additional Information—E. Taxation—United States Federal Income Tax Considerations—Passive Foreign Investment Company Considerations.”

Our sixth amended and restated memorandum and articles of association contain anti-takeover provisions that could have a material adverse effect on the rights of holders of our Class A ordinary shares and ADSs.

Our sixth amended and restated memorandum and articles of association contain certain provisions to limit the ability of others to acquire control of our company or cause us to engage in change-of-control transactions, including a provision that grants authority to our board of directors to establish and issue from time to time one or more series of preferred shares without action by our shareholders and to determine, with respect to any series of preferred shares, the terms and rights of that series, any or all of which may be greater than the rights associated with our Class A ordinary shares in the form of ADSs. These provisions could have the effect of depriving our shareholders of the opportunity to sell their shares at a premium over the prevailing market price by discouraging third parties from seeking to obtain control of our company in a tender offer or similar transactions.

You may face difficulties in protecting your interests, and your ability to protect your rights through U.S. courts may be limited, because we are incorporated under Cayman Islands law.

We are an exempted company incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands. Our corporate affairs are governed by our sixth amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act (As Revised) of the Cayman Islands and the common law of the Cayman Islands. The rights of shareholders to take action against our directors, actions by our minority shareholders and the fiduciary duties of our directors to us under Cayman Islands law are to a large extent governed by the common law of the Cayman Islands. The common law of the Cayman Islands is derived in part from comparatively limited judicial precedent in the Cayman Islands as well as from the common law of England, the decisions of whose courts are of persuasive authority, but are not binding, on a court in the Cayman Islands. The rights of our shareholders and the fiduciary duties of our directors under Cayman Islands law are not as clearly established as they would be under statutes or judicial precedent in some jurisdictions in the United States. In particular, the Cayman Islands have a less developed body of securities laws than the United States. In addition, Cayman Islands companies may not have standing to initiate a shareholder derivative action in a federal court of the United States.

Shareholders of Cayman Islands exempted companies like us have no general rights under Cayman Islands law to inspect corporate records (other than the memorandum and articles of association and any special resolutions passed by such companies, and the registers of mortgages and charges of such companies) or to obtain copies of lists of shareholders of these companies. Our directors have discretion under our articles of association, to determine whether or not, and under what conditions, our corporate records may be inspected by our shareholders, but our directors are not obliged to make them available to our shareholders. This may make it more difficult for you to obtain the information needed to establish any facts necessary for a shareholder motion or to solicit proxies from other shareholders in connection with a proxy contest.

Certain corporate governance practices in the Cayman Islands, which is our home country, differ significantly from requirements for companies incorporated in other jurisdictions such as the United States. As a result of all of the above, our public shareholders may have more difficulty in protecting their interests in the face of actions taken by our management, members of our board of directors or our controlling shareholders than they would as public shareholders of a company incorporated in the United States.

Certain judgments obtained against us by our shareholders may not be enforceable.

We are a Cayman Islands exempted company and all of our assets are located outside of the United States. All of our current operations are conducted in China. In addition, all of our current directors and officers are nationals and residents of countries other than the United States. Substantially all of the assets of these persons are located outside the United States. As a result, it may be difficult or impossible for you to bring an action against us or against these individuals in the United States in the event that you believe that your rights have been infringed under the U.S. federal securities laws or otherwise. Even if you are successful in bringing an action of this kind, the laws of the Cayman Islands and of China may render you unable to enforce a judgment against our assets or the assets of our directors and officers.

We are an emerging growth company within the meaning of the Securities Act and may take advantage of certain reduced reporting requirements.

We are an “emerging growth company,” as defined in the JOBS Act, and we may take advantage of certain exemptions from requirements applicable to other public companies that are not emerging growth companies including, most significantly, not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 for so long as we are an emerging growth company until the fifth anniversary from the date of our initial listing.

The JOBS Act also provides that an emerging growth company does not need to comply with any new or revised financial accounting standards until such date that a private company is otherwise required to comply with such new or revised accounting standards. As a result, while we are an emerging growth company, we will not be subject to new or revised accounting standards at the same time that they become applicable to other public companies that are not emerging growth companies.

You may experience dilution of your holdings due to inability to participate in rights offerings.

We may, from time to time, distribute rights to our shareholders, including rights to acquire securities. 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 these 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. The depositary may, but is not required to, attempt to sell these undistributed rights to third parties, and may allow the rights to lapse. We may be unable to 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, holders of ADSs may be unable to participate in our rights offerings and may experience dilution of their holdings as a result.

You may be subject to limitations on transfer of your ADSs.

Your ADSs are transferable on the books of the depositary. However, the depositary may close its books at any time or from time to time when it deems expedient in connection with the performance of its duties. The depositary may close its books from time to time for a number of reasons, including in connection with corporate events such as a rights offering, during which time the depositary needs to maintain an exact number of ADS holders on its books for a specified period. The depositary may also close its books in emergencies, and on weekends and public holidays. The depositary may refuse to deliver, transfer or register transfers of the ADSs generally when our share register or the books of the depositary are closed, or at any time if we or the depositary thinks it is 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.

We incur increased costs as a result of being a public company.

As a public company, we incur significant legal, accounting and other expenses that we did not incur as a private company. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as well as rules subsequently implemented by the SEC and Nasdaq, impose various requirements on the corporate governance practices of public companies.

These rules and regulations increase our legal and financial compliance costs and make some corporate activities more time-consuming and costly. After we are no longer an “emerging growth company,” we expect to incur significant expenses and devote substantial management effort toward ensuring compliance with the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the other rules and regulations of the SEC. For example, as a result of becoming a public company, we increased the number of independent directors and adopted policies regarding internal controls and disclosure controls and procedures. We have also incurred additional costs in obtaining director and officer liability insurance. In addition, we will incur additional costs associated with our public company reporting requirements. It may also be more difficult for us to find qualified persons to serve on our board of directors or as executive officers. We regularly evaluate and monitor developments with respect to these rules and regulations, and we cannot predict or estimate with any degree of certainty the amount of additional costs we may incur or the timing of such costs.

We are a foreign private issuer within the meaning of the rules under the Exchange Act, and as such we are exempt from certain provisions applicable to United States domestic public companies.

Because we are a foreign private issuer under the Exchange Act, we are exempt from certain provisions of the securities rules and regulations in the United States that are applicable to U.S. domestic issuers, including:

- the rules under the Exchange Act requiring the filing of quarterly reports on Form 10-Q or current reports on Form 8-K with the SEC;
- the sections of the Exchange Act regulating the solicitation of proxies, consents or authorizations in respect of a security registered under the Exchange Act;
- the sections of the Exchange Act requiring insiders to file public reports of their stock ownership and trading activities and liability for insiders who profit from trades made in a short period of time; and
- the selective disclosure rules by issuers of material nonpublic information under Regulation FD.

We are required to file an annual report on Form 20-F within four months of the end of each fiscal year. In addition, we intend to publish our results on a quarterly basis through press releases, distributed pursuant to the rules and regulations of the SEC. Press releases relating to financial results and material events will also be furnished to the SEC on Form 6-K. However, the information we are required to file with or furnish to the SEC is less extensive and less timely than that required to be filed with the SEC by U.S. domestic issuers. As a result, you may not be afforded the same protections or information that would be made available to you were you investing in a U.S. domestic issuer.

As an exempted company incorporated in the Cayman Islands, we are permitted to adopt certain home country practices in relation to corporate governance matters that differ significantly from the Nasdaq listing standards; these practices may afford less protection to shareholders than they would enjoy if we complied fully with such corporate governance listing standards.

As a Cayman Islands exempted company listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market, we are subject to the Nasdaq listing standards. Rule 5620(a) requires that each company listing common stock or voting preferred stock, and their equivalents, must hold an annual meeting of shareholders no later than one year after the end of the company’s fiscal year-end. However, the Nasdaq Stock Market Rules permit a foreign private issuer like us to follow the corporate governance practices of its home country. We have informed Nasdaq that we will follow home country practice with respect to the annual meeting of shareholders. Our shareholders may be afforded less protection than they would otherwise enjoy under the Nasdaq listing standards applicable to U.S. domestic issuers given our reliance on the home country practice exception.

The voting rights of holders of ADSs are limited by the terms of the deposit agreement, and you may not be able to exercise your right to direct how the Class A ordinary shares which are represented by your ADSs are voted.

Holders of ADSs do not have the same rights as our registered shareholders. As a holder of the ADSs, you will not have any direct right to attend general meetings of our shareholders or to cast any votes at such meetings. You will only be able to exercise the voting rights that are carried by the underlying Class A ordinary shares represented by your ADSs indirectly in accordance with the provisions of the deposit agreement. Under the deposit agreement, you may vote only by giving voting instructions to the depository. Upon receipt of your voting instructions, the depository will try, as far as is practicable, to vote the underlying Class A ordinary shares represented by your ADSs in accordance with your instructions. You will not be able to directly exercise your right to vote with respect to the underlying Class A ordinary shares unless you withdraw the shares and become the registered holder of such shares prior to the record date for the general meeting.

Under our articles of association, the minimum notice period required to convene a general meeting is seven calendar days. When a general meeting is convened, you may not receive sufficient advance notice of the meeting to withdraw the underlying Class A ordinary shares represented by your ADSs and become the registered holder of such shares to allow you to attend the general meeting and to vote directly with respect to any specific matter or resolution to be considered and voted upon at the general meeting. In addition, under our articles of association, for the purposes of determining those shareholders who are entitled to attend and vote at any general meeting, our directors may close our register of members and/or fix in advance a record date for such meeting, and such closure of our register of members or the setting of such a record date may prevent you from withdrawing the underlying Class A ordinary shares represented by your ADSs and becoming the registered holder of such shares prior to the record date, so that you would not be able to attend the general meeting or to vote directly. If we ask for your instructions, the depository will notify you of the upcoming vote and will arrange to deliver voting materials to you. We have agreed to give the depository at least 30 days' prior notice of shareholder meetings. Nevertheless, we cannot assure you that you will receive the voting materials in time to ensure that you can instruct the depository to vote the underlying Class A ordinary shares represented by your ADSs. In addition, the depository and its agents are not responsible for failing to carry out voting instructions or for their manner of carrying out your voting instructions. This means that you may not be able to exercise your right to direct how the underlying Class A ordinary shares represented by your ADSs are voted, and you may have no legal remedy if the underlying Class A ordinary shares represented by your ADSs are not voted as you requested.

We are entitled to amend the deposit agreement and to change the rights of ADS holders under the terms of such agreement, or to terminate the deposit agreement, without the prior consent of the ADS holders.

We are entitled to amend the deposit agreement and to change the rights of the ADS holders under the terms of such agreement, without the prior consent of the ADS holders. We and the depository may agree to amend the deposit agreement in any way we decide is necessary or advantageous to us. Amendments may reflect, among other things, operational changes in the ADS program, legal developments affecting ADSs or changes in the terms of our business relationship with the depository. In the event that the terms of an amendment impose or increase fees or charges (other than in connection with foreign exchange control regulations, and taxes and other governmental charges, delivery and other such expenses) or materially prejudice an existing substantial right of the ADS holders, ADS holders will only receive 30 days' advance notice of the amendment, and no prior consent of the ADS holders is required under the deposit agreement. Furthermore, we may decide to terminate the ADS facility at any time for any reason. For example, terminations may occur when we decide to list our shares on a non-U.S. securities exchange and determine not to continue to sponsor an ADS facility or when we become the subject of a takeover or a going-private transaction. If the ADS facility will terminate, ADS holders will receive at least 30 days' prior notice, but no prior consent is required from them. Under the circumstances that we decide to make an amendment to the deposit agreement that is disadvantageous to ADS holders or terminate the deposit agreement, the ADS holders may choose to sell their ADSs or surrender their ADSs and become direct holders of the underlying common shares, but will have no right to any compensation whatsoever.

ADS holders may not be entitled to a jury trial with respect to claims arising under the deposit agreement, which could result in less favorable outcomes to the plaintiff(s) in any such action.

The deposit agreement governing the ADSs representing our Class A ordinary shares provides that, the federal or state courts in the City of New York have non-exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine claims arising under the deposit agreement and in that regard, to the fullest extent permitted by law, ADS holders waive the right to a jury trial of any claim they may have against us or the depositary arising out of or relating to our Class A ordinary shares, the ADSs or the deposit agreement, including any claim under the U.S. federal securities laws.

If we or the depositary opposed a jury trial demand based on the waiver, the court would determine whether the waiver was enforceable based on the facts and circumstances of that case in accordance with the applicable state and federal law. To our knowledge, the enforceability of a contractual pre-dispute jury trial waiver in connection with claims arising under the federal securities laws has not been finally adjudicated by the United States Supreme Court. However, we believe that a contractual pre-dispute jury trial waiver provision is generally enforceable, including under the laws of the State of New York, which govern the deposit agreement. In determining whether to enforce a contractual pre-dispute jury trial waiver provision, courts will generally consider whether a party knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily waived the right to a jury trial. We believe that this is the case with respect to the deposit agreement and the ADSs. It is advisable that you consult legal counsel regarding the jury waiver provision before investing in the ADSs.

If you or any other holders or beneficial owners of ADSs bring a claim against us or the depositary in connection with matters arising under the deposit agreement or the ADSs, including claims under federal securities laws, you or such other holder or beneficial owner may not be entitled to a jury trial with respect to such claims, which may have the effect of limiting and discouraging lawsuits against us and / or the depositary. If a lawsuit is brought against us and/or the depositary under the deposit agreement, it may be heard only by a judge or justice of the applicable trial court, which would be conducted according to different civil procedures and may result in different outcomes than a trial by jury would have had, including results that could be less favorable to the plaintiff(s) in any such action.

Nevertheless, if this jury trial waiver provision is not enforced, to the extent a court action proceeds, it would proceed under the terms of the deposit agreement with a jury trial. No condition, stipulation or provision of the deposit agreement or ADSs serves as a waiver by any holder or beneficial owner of ADSs or by us or the depositary of compliance with any substantive provision of the U.S. federal securities laws and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

The depositary for the ADSs will give us a discretionary proxy to vote our Class A ordinary shares underlying your ADSs if you do not vote at shareholders' meetings, except in limited circumstances, which could adversely affect your interests.

Under the deposit agreement for the ADSs, if you do not vote, the depositary will give us a discretionary proxy to vote our Class A ordinary shares underlying your ADSs at shareholders' meetings unless:

- we have instructed the depositary that we do not wish a discretionary proxy to be given;
- we have informed the depositary that there is substantial opposition as to a matter to be voted on at the meeting;
- a matter to be voted on at the meeting may have a material adverse impact on shareholders; or
- the voting at the meeting is to be made on a show of hands.

The effect of this discretionary proxy is that if you do not vote at shareholders' meetings, you cannot prevent our ordinary shares underlying your ADSs from being voted, except under the circumstances described above. This may make it more difficult for shareholders to influence the management of our company. Holders of our ordinary shares are not subject to this discretionary proxy.

Item 4. Information on the Company

A. History and Development of the Company

We commenced operations in September 2014 through Beijing Niudian, and launched our NQi-series smart e-scooters in June 2015.

In November 2014, we incorporated Niu Technologies in the Cayman Islands as our offshore holding company to facilitate financing and offshore listing. Shortly following its incorporation, Niu Technologies established a wholly-owned subsidiary in Hong Kong, Niu Technologies Group Limited.

In May 2015, Niu Technologies Group Limited established a wholly-owned subsidiary in China, Niudian Information.

Due to the PRC legal restrictions on foreign ownership in companies that provide value-added telecommunications services in China, we operate our NIU app, our website *www.niu.com* and other related business through Beijing Niudian, a PRC company in which the equity interests are held by PRC citizens. In May 2015, we obtained control over Beijing Niudian and its subsidiaries through Niudian Information by entering into a series of contractual arrangements with Beijing Niudian and its shareholders.

We refer to Niudian Information as our WFOE, and to Beijing Niudian as our VIE in this annual report. Our contractual arrangements with our VIE and its shareholders allow us to (i) exercise effective control over our VIE, (ii) receive substantially all of the economic benefits of our VIE, and (iii) have an exclusive option to purchase or designate any third party to purchase all or part of the equity interests in and assets of our VIE when and to the extent permitted by PRC law.

As a result of our direct ownership in our WFOE and the contractual arrangements with our VIE, we are regarded as the primary beneficiary of our VIE, and we treat our VIE as our consolidated variable interest entity under U.S. GAAP, which generally refers to an entity in which we do not have any equity interests but whose financial results are consolidated into our consolidated financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP because we have a controlling financial interest in, and thus are the primary beneficiary of, that entity. We have consolidated the financial results of our VIE and its subsidiaries in our consolidated financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

On October 19, 2018, the ADSs representing our Class A ordinary shares commenced trading on Nasdaq under the symbol “NIU.” We raised from our initial public offering approximately US\$55.2 million in net proceeds after deducting underwriting commissions and discounts and the offering expenses payable by us.

B. Business Overview

Our Mission

Our mission is to redefine urban mobility and make life better.

Our Vision

Our vision is to become the number one brand for urban mobility, powered by design and technology.

Overview

We have created a new market category—smart electric two-wheeled vehicles—to redefine urban mobility. Before NIU, smart electric two-wheeled vehicles did not exist in China, and two-wheeled vehicles were perceived low-end. We have changed that perception with our smart e-scooters and premium brand “NIU.”

We currently design, manufacture and sell high-performance electric bicycles and motorcycles. We have a streamlined product portfolio consisting of eight series, consisting of four e-scooter series, which are our key products and contributed to the majority of our sales, two urban commuter electric motorcycles, one performance bicycle series, and one kick-scooter series. We have adopted an omnichannel retail model, integrating the offline and online channels, to sell our products and provide services. We sell and service our products through a unique “city partner” system in China, which consisted of 246 city partners with 1,616 franchised stores in over 199 cities in China, and 36 distributors in 46 countries overseas as of December 31, 2020, as well as on our own online store and third-party e-commerce platforms.

Our award-winning products represent style, freedom and technology. Our brand “NIU” has inspired many followers and has enabled us to build a loyal user base. We offer the NIU app as an integral part of the user experience and will continue to develop new functions within the app to enhance user stickiness. NIU fan clubs are established in over 50 cities in China, where fans actively organize NIU scooter-related events. Capitalizing on our premium brand, we have also been able to sell lifestyle accessories, which are well received by customers.

We have adopted a user-centric philosophy to design our products. We collect user feedback and product performance data to develop new products or functionalities to satisfy the unmet demand. All of our products are designed to embody the themes of style, freedom and technology, and share the same design language. Our smart e-scooters have amassed strong international recognition for innovation and design. We have built our smart e-scooters based on our advanced and innovative technologies, including smart technologies, powertrain and battery technologies and automotive inspired functionalities. We integrate cutting-edge technologies from industry leaders and our own technologies into a proprietary system that delivers an excellent user experience and optimal performance. Our smart e-scooters are the first in the industry to provide updates to firmware regularly over-the-air (OTA) to fine-tune the performance, and such OTA function has only been seen in high-end electric cars.

We provide connectivity solutions and value-added services to our users. Our NIU app synchronizes with the smart e-scooters and communicates with our cloud system. Through the app, our users receive real-time information relating to their smart e-scooters. We use the data collected to provide smart maintenance and services, and guide the users on when and how to properly maintain our products to extend their service life and achieve better performance. We also analyze this data to help us improve our products and create new services. In addition, we collect and analyze user behavioral data from our NIU app and our website, from which we derive insights to further engage our customers and strengthen brand loyalty.

During the first quarter of 2021, we sold 149,649 e-scooters worldwide, representing a growth rate of 272.6% on a year-over-year basis. For the first quarter of 2021, the number of e-scooters sold in China market reached 144,654, representing a growth rate of 321.5% on a year-over-year basis, and the number of e-scooters sold in the international markets reached 4,995, representing a 14.5% decrease on a year-over-year basis. These sales volume numbers are based on the delivery from our manufacturing facility, which may vary slightly from the sales volume measured from financial accounting and reporting point of view.

Our Products

We have a streamlined product portfolio consisting of eight series, consisting of four e-scooter series, including NQi, MQi and UQi with smart functions and Gova, two urban commuter electric motorcycles series RQi and TQi, and one performance bicycle series, NIU Aero, and one kick-scooter series. We plan to launch two or more product series or models each year in the near and medium term, aiming to cover the full spectrum of the urban mobility solutions. We will keep introducing upgrades and mid-cycle refreshes to our existing models on an ongoing basis.

NQi Series

Our NQi series smart e-scooters consists of the NQi and NQi-GT models. The NQi series is built to be high-performance, well balanced, and with a minimalistic aesthetic. Its design language is modern and minimalistic. The NQi series is equipped with advanced powertrain consisting of the removable lithium-ion battery pack with our proprietary battery management system, the BOSCH motor or NIU motor, and our proprietary Field Oriented Control, or the FOC, system that controls the electric motors. The NQi series utilizes a state-of-the-art lithium-ion battery pack that achieves extended range with light weight.

MQi Series

Our MQi series smart e-scooters consists of the MQi, MQiS, MQi2, MQi+ and MQi-GT models. The MQi series is a cool and fresh-looking smart e-scooter designed for young urban users. The MQi series is smaller and lighter than the NQi series and carries the NIU design language that puts a modern twist on the classic e-scooter design. The MQi series is designed to be ergonomic, bolstering natural and comfortable sitting posture and intuitive dashboard and switches layout. Compared with the NQi series, the MQi series is lighter and more agile when cruising through urban traffic.

UQi Series

Our UQi series smart e-scooters consists of the UQi, UQiM, UQi+, UQiS and UQi-GT models. The UQi series is smaller and lighter than the NQi-Series and MQi-Series and carries the same NIU design language. The UQi series is designed to be ultra-light and ultra-compact. In addition to the advanced technologies and features found on our NQi and MQi series, such as the Cloud ECU, the UQi Series includes additional comfort and anti-theft features such as keyless ignition.

Gova Series

While our root is deeply planted in the premium smart e-scooter segment, the Gova series is our line of products targeted at the mid-level e-scooter market, representing good value for money and high quality. The design language is differentiated from our main e-scooter lines, such as the H-shaped daytime running light compared with the “Halo” design of our smart e-scooter lines. Unlike NQi, MQi, and UQi series, the Gova series does not have smart functions as standard but instead offer them as options to achieve the compelling price range. The Gova series currently consist of G0, G1, G2, G3 and G5.

In April 2021, we launched F0, F2, F4 and C0 models under the Gova series. The design languages of the new models are differentiated from existing product lines and are designed to serve different customer groups in China.

RQi Series

We introduced the RQi series with the launch of the RQi-GT in January 2020. The RQi-GT is an urban performance electric motorcycle, allowing riders to reach the outer limits of their city at a top speed of 160 kilometers per hour. Drivers can customize the vehicle to suit their daily life and commuting needs by choosing distinct driving modes. The electric motor with a peak output power of 30 kW and the two removeable batteries make RQi the perfect mode of transportation for navigating both urban highways and congested city streets.

TQi Series

We introduced the TQi series with the launch of the TQi-GT in January 2020. The TQi-GT is our first self-balancing electric three-wheeler and supports autonomous driving functionalities. Designed to provide urban commuters with a superior way to enjoy their city, the TQi-GT has a top speed of 80 kilometers per hour and a longer driving range of more than 100 kilometers per single charge. The vehicle’s enhanced performance and updated safety features provide drivers with a revolutionary way to navigate through congested city streets.

Both the RQi-GT and TQi-GT models are mainly developed for the overseas markets, but are postponed for mass production due to the impact of COVID-19. Both models pack advanced technologies and features such as 5G IoT connectivity with enhanced riding data capabilities, a mid-mounted belt drive motor, IoT connected battery packs and high-performance battery cells, Full TFT dashboard displays, Bluetooth connectivity, and Anti-theft and GPS tracking.

NIU Aero Series

Our NIU Aero series consists of professional mountain bicycles and road bicycles, as well as a new model of power assisted electric bicycle, the NIU Aero EUB-01. The mountain and road bicycles share similar design concepts with our smart e-scooters, such as integration of aerodynamics and ergonomics and smart connectivity, and they were launched as part of our lifestyle product portfolio classified in the lifestyle accessories category. Launched in November 2019, the NIU Aero EUB-01 is an energy-efficient urban mobility vehicle that combines the design of our NIU e-scooters and NIU Aero bicycle.

NIU kick-scooter Series

We introduced the NIU kick-scooter series in April 2021. The NIU kick-scooter series consists of kick-scooter and other micro-mobility solutions suitable for shorter riding distance. One kick-scooter model was launched in April and carries the same NIU design language. The launch of the NIU kick-scooter series further enriched our product offerings in micro-mobility.

Accessories and spare parts

In addition to our e-scooters, urban commuter electric motorcycles, and performance bicycle series, we also offer a comprehensive line of NIU-branded accessories and spare parts.

Scooter Accessories. Our scooter accessories include riding gears, such as raincoats, gloves, and knee pads and accessories to be installed on our e-scooters to expand functionalities, such as storage baskets and tail boxes, smart phone holders, backrests and locks.

Lifestyle accessories. Our NIU POWER line of lifestyle accessories includes branding apparel, such as t-shirts, coats, jeans, hats, bags, and jewelry, and souvenirs such as notebook, badges, key chain and mugs. In November 2019, we promoted the new autumn collection of NIU POWER lifestyle apparels including sweaters and hoodies.

Performance Upgrades. Our NIU POWER Performance line of high-performance upgrade components includes upgraded wheels, shock absorbers, and brake calipers, and carbon fiber body panels.

Our NIU App

Our NIU app serves as an integrated platform and supplemental tool to our smart e-scooters. The app includes a suite of functions that primarily focus on the connection with our smart e-scooters as well as other services and value propositions, which includes:

NIU Dashboard

Through communications with the Cloud ECU, multiple sensors, positioning module and communication modules onboard each smart e-scooter, the NIU app presents various key information about the smart e-scooter on the dashboard, including

- scooter status, such as the location of the scooter and anti-theft alerts;
- historical riding data such as past routes and riding statistics; and
- key diagnostics, such as the real-time status of the battery and the battery health score.

The dashboard features a card-based interface to present the most useful and relevant information to the users based on users' preferences, which is both intuitive and has great potential for customization and expandability.

NIU Services

Through the NIU app, users can access a variety of services.

- *Online repair request.* Users can request repair services with one click, after which the app will intelligently recommend the nearest service station for the services.
- *DIY repairs.* The function displays the internal structure of the smart e-scooter and highlight common failures which may occur in various components. Users can directly seek solution through the fault tags.
- *Service station locator.* Users can access comprehensive information about nearby service stations.
- *NIU Cover.* Users can query and activate NIU Cover insurance services within the app.
- *NIU Care.* Users can purchase NIU Care maintenance service and reserve service in offline service stations.
- *NIU Wash.* Users can obtain a free wash coupon on a monthly basis and enjoy the clean service at any NIU stores in China.
- *Smart service.* Users can check the status the smart connection services and can renew the service.
- *Theft reporting.* Users can report theft of the smart e-scooter and battery within the app.

NIU Store

We have established a built-in e-commerce platform in our NIU app, where our users can purchase our e-scooters and NIU-branded accessories.

NIU Social

The social tab is the forum for NIU users to post photos, chat, set up a gathering, and share fun in riding and daily life.

NIU Points

It is a user loyalty program designed to enhance user engagement and activity. The NIU Points are earned through joining special events, purchasing specific accessories, publishing original content, interacting with other users, among others. NIU users can redeem the earned points for exclusive NIU badges, NIU accessories, and coupons.

Our NIU Brand

Our brand represents style, freedom and technology. We design and market our products purposefully to reinforce consumer perception of “NIU” as a premium smart e-scooter brand.

We conduct various marketing and branding activities to establish NIU as a premium brand. For example, during 2020 Singles’ Day shopping festival, we conducted an online campaign to sell a limited edition of smart e-scooter with special painting of a popular anime series. In September 2020, we sponsored an online dance competition show called “Street Dance of China” and featured distinct advertisement to enhance the brand image as a cool lifestyle brand.

Capitalizing on our premium NIU brand, we have also been able to sell lifestyle accessories, such as apparel, which are well received by customers.

NIU Community

We have cultivated a highly dedicated and growing base of NIU fans. Our users are proud owners of NIU smart e-scooters with high engagement. Based on the e-scooter activity data we collected, more than 77% of our users rode their e-scooters on a monthly basis in the twelve months ended December 31, 2020.

We endeavor to build an interactive and dynamic social community to further convey and brand image as a fashionable urban lifestyle. NIU clubs are one of the core components of NIU community, and as of December 31, 2020 there were over 50 of them. Formed and run by the enthusiastic NIU fans, these NIU clubs organize various events, such as new product test drives, riding for good causes, and scooter parades. We support the NIU clubs with products, designs and announcement channels. To further expand the NIU community and increase brand loyalty, we have facilitated our users to create virtual NIU communities via social media, such as WeChat, to bring together our users from all walks of life. We have a dedicated user interaction team, which closely monitors and actively participates in different interest groups such as photography group, accessories group, social responsibility group, etc. and interacts with users online.

In these groups, our users share user-generated content, such as video clips or pictures. To boost the content contribution from our users, our city partners through their distribution network reward them with discounts from local businesses such as restaurants. Owning a NIU scooter thus opens up opportunities for users to participate in more local interest groups and local businesses discounts, leading to a truly better urban life. Our virtual community and NIU clubs create a beneficial network effect for the brand.

Data Analytics—NIU Big Data

We have developed our user and scooter data analytics capabilities, which enable us to collect and analyze massive relevant data to deepen our understanding of the smart e-scooter performance, user behavior and operational insights.

We have accumulated massive amount of data from multiple sources. We currently collect 462 types of data points covering 72 dimensions such as humidity, lighting and temperature, from our Cloud ECU and up to 32 sensors installed on each smart e-scooter. We also collect data from our NIU app, company's websites, e-commerce platforms, as well as through providing repair and maintenance services. As of December 31, 2020, our NIU app had been connected with approximately 1,278,000 smart e-scooters, which had accumulated approximately 7.3 billion kilometers of riding distance of data. We also collect data from our NIU app, company's websites, e-commerce platforms, as well as through providing repair and maintenance services. In particular, we collect the following three types of data to improve our smart e-scooters' performance and customer experience: (i) riding behavior, including, among others, riding speed, average distance, acceleration, use of brakes to improve the battery management system and balance control of our e-scooters, (ii) operational and functional performance of various parts of the smart e-scooter to examine the status of the smart e-scooters and suggest maintenance or repair services, (iii) NIU app user behaviors to fine tune our app functions to improve their experience with our services.

Our cloud system utilizes a robust, multilayer database structure that can handle over a million persistent connections concurrently. Our parallel database servers to support quick multiple queries in a TB level database. Our cloud system monitors the servers and automatically regenerates a new virtual server if any server goes offline. The above features ensure that our smart e-scooters maintain constant, reliable, and responsive connections with our cloud. In addition, our cloud's open API platform allows connection with third parties to support functions such as fleet management and smart e-scooter sharing program.

Our data analytics team leverages our proprietary big data platform and analytical tools, NIU Inspire to analyze the collected data to deepen our understanding of user behavior and product performance and gain operational insights, enabling us to: (i) guide the upgrade of the existing models and development of new ones; (ii) fine tune the firmware in our existing scooters to improve performance, such as the self-adaptive state of charge algorithms for better battery utilization or the FOC controller software for better electric motor efficiency; (iii) achieve more intelligent retail and service shop planning; (iv) generate scooter diagnosis reports and provide smart maintenance suggestions; and (v) conduct accurate targeted marketing.

We collect user-related data after receiving users' consent. Users in Europe have the option to choose whether or not to send the GPS related data to us due to different data privacy regulations in these regions.

After-Sales Services

We offer comprehensive after-sale services including value-added services. Our warranty is complemented by value-added services such as NIU Care and NIU Cover, which can be conveniently ordered through NIU app, service hotline, or at our franchised stores. In addition, we provide various value-added services through our NIU app, including DIY repairs and location of our service centers, and theft reporting. We believe all these services together will create a satisfying user experience throughout the e-scooter life cycle. Through these services, we aim to make ownership "worry free" and allow our users to truly enjoy riding and owning our e-scooters.

Warranty Policy

We provide limited warranty to our users for terms varying from six months to three years, subject to certain conditions, such as normal use. For the electric motor, we provide a 24-month or 30,000-kilometer warranty. For lithium-ion battery packs we provide a 24-month or 20,000-kilometer warranty or a 36-month or 30,000-kilometer warranty.

For other parts of our e-scooters, we provide quality warranty varying from six months to 24 months depending on the parts. We are responsible for replacing or repairing the faulty products during their respective warranty terms. The warranty on certain parts of our e-scooters is covered by our suppliers' back-to-back warranty and thus we are entitled to have the suppliers replace or repair the faulty parts.

NIU Care

Our e-scooters are primarily serviced through our franchised stores and our authorized service centers, which provide repair, maintenance and bodywork services.

We launched our NIU Care program in August 2018 to provide regular after-sales maintenance service to our e-scooters. Our regular maintenance services include scooter exterior check, mechanical structure service, motor system check, electrification service, battery maintenance service, tire pressure check and cleaning services. Based on user's driving behavior and mileage, NIU Care also pushes maintenance reminders via NIU app.

NIU Cover

In November 2015, we launched NIU Cover to facilitate the sale of insurance coverage provided by third-party insurance companies relating to accident injury, loss of scooters and third-party liability.

Technologies

Behind our lineup of smart, efficient and high-performance smart e-scooters are the suite of advanced technologies we have developed or adopted, such as NIU Energy smart power technology, the Cloud ECU, electric motors, FOC, advanced braking systems, driver assistance and system integration, among others.

NIU Energy Smart Power Technology

Our NIU Energy smart power technology, currently in its fourth generation, combines reliable and proven cell components, innovative hardware system design and an intelligent battery management system, or the BMS. We adapted the technology to create a portable, lightweight, safe and reliable battery pack that is suitable for e-scooters. We analyze the riding data from our smart e-scooters to locate and refine the critical point of discharge within the safe range of the battery, develop our proprietary energy efficiency matrix PACK, dynamically calibrate the intelligent BMS chips, optimize the charging dynamic balance algorithms, and integrate our EBS kinetic energy recovery system, motor, and power control unit.

Hardware Component and Design

We use the Lithium-ion battery cells as the building blocks of our battery pack. A matrix of battery cells is connected in parallel to produce a robust battery pack.

Our battery packs incorporate PACK technology, which is adopted by global automakers globally. The PACK technology protects the battery cells from impact and regulates battery temperature, and use pressure, temperature, current, or PTC, technology to compartmentalize each cell, thereby ensuring the integrity of the battery pack.

Our battery packs can be charged either standalone or when installed on the e-scooter, both of which can be through a home wall plug. They use proprietary charging connectors and ports for simultaneous safe charging and BMS data communications. We have also developed our proprietary NIU Flash Charger that effectively doubles the charging speed of our battery pack as compared to regular chargers.

BMS

In addition to robust hardware, our battery packs feature an intelligent battery management system, or BMS. The BMS monitors the voltage, current and temperature of the battery in real-time, and regulates power consumption.

The core of our proprietary BMS is the self-adaptive SoC algorithms that optimizes the balance between performance and battery life and provides accurate range predictions based on the data and analysis of the riding behavior of the users and the discharging characteristics of the battery cells.

Cloud Electronic Control Unit

At the core of each NIU smart e-scooter lies the Cloud Electronic Control Unit, or the Cloud ECU. The Cloud ECU serves as both a control center and communications center for the smart e-scooter. In particular, the Cloud ECU serves a wide range of functions including, among others, scooter control, motion monitoring, positioning, connectivity and data transmission from the smart e-scooter to our cloud server.

Scooter Control. The Cloud ECU serves as the smart e-scooter's master control center, coordinating the smart e-scooter's complex systems. The Cloud ECU controls, among others, the smart e-scooter battery, electric motor, Field Oriented Control system, electronic lock and light systems.

Motion Monitoring. The Cloud ECU monitors various physical aspects of our smart e-scooters with its built-in triaxial gyro sensor. The gyro sensor detects acceleration and changes in rotational motion or orientation. Thus, the Cloud ECU is able to monitor the posture and dynamics of the smart e-scooter in real-time and accordingly adjust the motor's power output, ensuring the smart e-scooter's performance and efficiency.

Positioning. The Cloud ECU integrates three major global satellite geolocation systems: (1) the American Global Positioning System, or the GPS, (2) the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System, or the GLONASS, and (3) the Chinese COMPASS, also known as the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System. Together, these systems constitute the technical backbone of our position-based anti-theft systems as well as functions such as riding map and smart e-scooter sharing, which are capable of detecting unauthorized movements of our smart e-scooters.

Connectivity and Data Transmission. The Cloud ECU facilitates the connectivity of our smart e-scooters, which are able to access the complete spectrum of mobile network standards. Via these mobile networks, the Cloud ECU upload data about a smart e-scooter's position and its condition every 3 to 15 seconds, depending on the smart e-scooter's start up conditions. The transmittance of this data also serves as the foundation of our Assisted Global Positioning System, or the AGPS, that, when coupled with our GPS systems, allows for precise geolocation of our smart e-scooters. In addition, our smart e-scooters are also equipped with dual-mode Bluetooth chips, which allow owners of our smart e-scooters to use their smartphones to directly communicate with our e-scooters. Owners can, among others, query the smart e-scooter's status and change certain settings such as adjusting the sensitivity level of the anti-theft alert.

OTA Updates. Our smart e-scooters are the first in the industry with OTA update capability, which is normally only seen on high-end electric cars. The OTA update is supported by the Cloud ECU and rewriteable firmware of various electronic components. The OTA allows users to effortlessly update the e-scooters to the most recent firmware updates, so the users can benefit from all future performance improvements and feature enhancements on a regular basis.

In addition to constantly improving and upgrading our Cloud ECU, we have developed our own System-on-Chip module, which to our knowledge is the first chip module specially designed and customized for smart urban mobility products. We have applied the C35 System-on-Chip module to the latest V35 version of Cloud ECU to replace the current version of Cloud ECU since August 2019, which provides higher performance and better reliability with lower power consumption and more compact packaging. In addition, the customized chip module will make it more difficult for competitors to replicate our Cloud ECU. In the meantime, we are testing the next generation of IoT data connection technology upgrade based on Narrowband IoT (NB-IoT) technology.

Motors

We purchase motors from various suppliers and we have also designed our NIU motors, which are energy efficient and cost-efficient. We have been constantly increasing the conversion ratio and refining the calibration of the FOC of the motors.

Field Oriented Control

Using big data analytics, we have developed the proprietary FOC system that controls the electric motors. The FOC is the intelligence behind the powertrains of our entire lineup of smart e-scooters, and helps our smart e-scooters strike the balance between performance and power consumption.

The FOC controls the motor in real-time by recognizing riding conditions and continuously adjusting the torque of the motor for optimal performance. The FOC taps into the performance of a vector controller, which is superior to the square-wave controllers common on the market because a vector controller controls the power and torque output of the motor as opposed to simply adjusting the revolutions per minute, achieving a much smoother ride.

Braking System

Our smart e-scooters are equipped with hydraulic disc brakes made from special alloys. The brake discs are slotted to extend the life of the system. The hardware of the brakes is complemented by the Electronic Braking System, or the EBS, which provides for intelligent braking and recycling kinetic energy. Certain of our models also employ the combined braking system, or CBS, which intelligently splits braking force between the front and rear discs to shorten the braking distance at higher speeds.

Driver Assistance

We have developed various driver assistance technologies to enhance the rider experience of our smart e-scooters such as automatic headlight, automatic return indicators, cruise control and smart self-diagnosis systems.

We continue to look for ways to enhance the user experience. We have developed adaptive responses to road conditions, active safety systems, and applied them to our latest version of Cloud ECU. We are currently working on the development of, among others, active safety systems, self-balancing systems and L2 autonomous driving systems. These advanced systems are developed in tandem with the new product series.

System Integration

The NIU systems draw from a diverse range of industries and technologies. For example, we use gyroscope, satellite navigation and mobile communication chipsets that originate from the mobile phone industry; temperature sensors, humidity sensors and communication protocols that originate from the industrial control systems; and cloud and big data technologies that originate from internet industry. These diverse technologies and components operate under diverse conditions, such as different working electrical currents and temperatures. We have developed a system that uses a single master control with multi-channel protocols to ensure that all components in the vehicle can be upgraded to the latest version.

Design and Engineering

We have significant in-house design and engineering capabilities, which cover all areas of scooter engineering from concept to completion.

User-Centric Philosophy

We adopt a user-centric approach in our product design and development. All of our products are designed based on the quantitative data and qualitative feedback we collect from the smart e-scooters and users. We have developed an instant user feedback loop based on our continuous connection with smart e-scooters and proactive interaction with users and achieved an agile product development process. We collect and analyze large amounts of product performance data and user behavioral data generated by the smart e-scooters running on the road and collected from our NIU app and website. We also conduct comprehensive surveys and collect feedback and comments from online virtual communities to understand the drawbacks of existing scooters and aim to develop new products and functionalities to satisfy the user demand. Utilizing the insights gained from the data and feedback collected, we have developed various new products and functionalities, such as cruise control and automatic headlight. We also utilize the data and feedback to provide updates to our firmware regularly over-the-air (OTA) to fine-tune the performance of our smart e-scooters and improve overall user experience.

Our research and development team comprises motorbike enthusiasts with years of motor biking experience. Their enthusiasm, experience and expertise, together with our user-centric product development philosophy, have allowed us to design and deliver high-performance smart e-scooters and made us the pioneer in urban mobility solutions we are today.

Platform-based Engineering System

We have developed a platform-based engineering system. The system is based on the same in-scooter control and data connection systems. Accordingly, we can develop different product lines with the same voltage requirement. As a result, our existing production lines can be easily adapted to new products. For example, our MQi and UQi series, which are all based on the 48V platform, adopt the same battery pack solution, battery management system, and FOC, BOSCH motor and EBS. By doing so, we can shorten our design timeline, accelerate time-to-market and lower manufacturing costs.

Industrial Design

Industrial design plays a crucial role at NIU. Utilizing the power of design and design thinking, the team is able to identify critical pain points from users and then to provide the best solutions to daily urban commute. For example, we chose lithium-ion battery over lead-acid battery because lithium-ion battery is not only more ecofriendly, but also safer, lighter and more compact so that the users can easily bring the batteries home for charging.

Our well-designed product lines speak a distinctive and consistent family design language. Our industrial design philosophy combines minimalist aesthetics with thoughtful functionality. Under that philosophy, we desire to create an exceptional riding experience while maintaining a smart and simple design. For example, the iconic “Halo” headlamp, equipped on all of our smart e-scooters integrates a daytime running light with our LED head lamps, providing an ultra-wide arc of light for improved vision and safety at night. Another example is the MQi Series—a cool and fresh-looking smart e-scooter designed for young urban users. Slim, modern, chic and intuitive are the core design attributes of MQi Series from inside out. We believe a good design should bring people joyful experience. Therefore, the team has done intensive testing and mock-ups for ergonomics study, as a result of which the MQi Series features a comfortable and ergonomic seating posture as well as intuitive and easy-to-use control layout. The hidden shock absorber and the high strength aluminum alloy swing arm not only speak the same minimalistic design language, but also ensure excellent riding experience as well as safety and comfort.

NIU Innovation Lab

Our NIU Innovation Lab hosts our research and development teams of 172 members, which include, among others, our user experience design team, smart electronic research team, powertrain design team and industrial design team.

The Lab focuses on industrial design, structural design, smart electronics research, power electronics research, user data analysis, business intelligence system development and user experience research. The Lab and our research and development team played a crucial role in the creation of the 379 patents we held as of December 31, 2020. We also entered into a definitive Development Collaboration Agreement in March 2019 with one of the world’s leading automobile manufacturers regarding joint development of Micro-mobility solutions, which was carried out by the Lab.

Global R&D and Manufacturing Base

Our new global R&D and manufacturing base commenced operation in December 2019. Located in Changzhou, China, the new facility hosts, among others, our proprietary R&D laboratories for our BMS intelligent battery management system, FOC magnetic field-oriented control system, EBS electronic brake system, Cloud ECU intelligent central controller and NIU Inspire big data analysis system, as well as a quality laboratory for comprehensive and standardized testing of the raw materials and vehicles.

Manufacturing and Fulfillment

We design, manufacture and sell high-performance electric bicycles and motorcycles. We view the manufacturers and suppliers we work with as key partners through our product development process and leverages their industry expertise to ensure that each product that we produce meets our strict quality standards.

Production facility

We keep the majority of the assembly of our electric bicycles and motorcycles in our own production facility, while cooperating with a motorcycle manufacturer with required qualifications to manufacture the certain electric motorcycles models. We operate two manufacturing facilities in Changzhou, China. Our global R&D and manufacturing base includes two phases of construction. Phase I facility commenced operation in December 2019, and covers around 50,000 square meters. Phase I layout includes four semi-automatic assembly lines, a highly efficient double-decker logistics facility, a products showroom, and a dedicated quality control laboratory. The designed production capacity under Phase I is 700,000 units per annum, which increased our total production capacity to over 1,000,000 units per annum. Phase II facility covers around 61,000 square meters and is currently under construction.

Supply Chain Management

We purchase key components from our suppliers, such as batteries, motors, tires, battery chargers and controllers. We strategically select our suppliers to avoid over-concentration, control our cost and maintain a good relationship with our suppliers.

To avoid over-concentration of supply and manage costs and product quality, we generally engage at least two suppliers for each of our key components. For example, we source motors from another supplier in addition to BOSCH, and source battery cells from four suppliers. We select our suppliers based on a variety of criteria, including, among others, production capacity, technological sophistication, quality assurance, professional certification, manpower adequacy, financial position and environmental compliance. In addition, we review the performance of our suppliers quarterly, and make necessary adjustments to our supply chain, including termination of under-performing suppliers. We have been able to maintain good and long-lasting relationships with our suppliers.

We also have strong bargaining power on procuring raw materials, which enables us to effectively defend ourselves against price increases and fluctuations. We diversify our source of each type of raw material from at least two suppliers. Typically, we enter into a supply framework agreement with each of our raw material suppliers, under which our procurement price is generally set as the pre-defined standard cost of the supplier plus a specified mark-up, subject to quarterly or semi-annual renegotiation.

We have been able to effectively manage our inventory level. We formulate holistic plans for our production, warehousing and logistics, by tracking a variety of factors, including, among others, historical sales data, sales forecasts and customization requests. With smooth turnover between production and logistics, we are able to maintain an optimal inventory level, to fulfill our orders and avoid over-stock at the same time. Our inventory turnover days were 33, 37 and 31 for 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively. For the calculation of inventory turnover days, see “Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects—B. Liquidity and Capital Resources—Cash flows and working capital.”

Quality Control

We believe that the quality of our products is crucial to our continued growth. We place great emphasis on quality control, set up dedicated team and implemented stringent monitoring and quality control systems to manage our operations.

Our quality control system starts from procurement. Before entering our production flow, the raw materials must be certified for quality. We also perform quality reexaminations and unannounced inspections on raw materials in the mass production flow. We review the performance of our suppliers based on the defective percentage of their supplies, and adjust the amount of procurement from them accordingly. We typically enter into a quality control agreement with each of our suppliers, under which we may seek remedies against our suppliers, such as damages and rectification, in the event the supplies fall below the quality standard or exceed minimum defective percentage.

Our quality control system covers each stage of our production process. When we establish or adapt an assembly line for a new product or model, we trial-run the assembly line to produce a sample for quality examination. The assembly line can start mass production only if the produced sample is of adequate quality. When the in-progress product moves from one section to another along the assembly line, it must be checked for quality by the responsible assembly specialists in both sections. After completion of assembly, our quality control personnel will perform overall quality inspection and road-test on the products in accordance with relevant protocols. A product may be shipped out of manufacturing facility only after it passes all quality control examinations and is properly documented as such. We also track the acceptance status of our products when they reach our distributors or customers. By logging and breaking down the pass rates along our products in the production process, we are able to identify our quality control weak spots, and improve our operation accordingly.

Our new global R&D and manufacturing base includes a dedicated quality control laboratory equipped with full-automatic and semi-automatic instruments for components testing, and self-developed inspection systems for battery cell quality testing.

We have not experienced any massive product recall, massive refunds or other quality control outbreak since we started to sell e-scooters.

Fulfilment

Leveraging our excellent production and big data capabilities, we are able to achieve fast turnaround time fulfilling orders placements. We ship our products generally 7 to 15 days following placement of order and receipt of payment from our city partners in China. For overseas distributors, it generally takes 30 to 60 days following the receipt of down payment. Orders from *niu.com* or other e-commerce platforms are faster to fulfill, usually within two days.

Through proactive planning, we are able to estimate the distribution of orders in a certain period of time and improve the predictability of our order fulfillment. For example, our franchised stores must timely submit their revolving order plans for the period of the following two weeks and following three months. We incorporate such order plans, in addition to other information, into our holistic planning of production, warehousing and logistics, which in turn helps us achieve fast turnaround to fulfill order placements. Similarly, in a one-year time span, we take into consideration of the capacity constraint of the factories and frontload the productions ahead of the peak sales season.

We have different shipping methods for our finished products depending on the type of the distribution channel: (i) for our offline domestic distribution channels, our city partners and franchised stores are responsible for logistics from the moment products are rolled out of the factory; (ii) for local distributors in overseas markets, we ship our products mainly under FOB terms; and (iii) for online shopping platforms such as our official website and third-party platforms such as JD.com and Tmall, we ship our products through third-party delivery services.

Omnichannel Retail Model

We have established a distinct omnichannel retail model network to sell our products and provide service to our customers. As of December 31, 2020, we sold our products through 1,616 franchised stores in over 199 cities in China and 36 distributors in 46 countries overseas, as well as on our own online store and third-party leading e-commerce platforms. We also leverage our omnichannel retail network to deliver peripheral services such as maintenance and repair, and to collect data for business insights.

Offline Distribution Network

City partners and franchised stores

In China, our offline retail channels consist of city partners and franchised stores. Our unique “city partner” system plays an important role in our offline sales strategy. City partners are our exclusive distributors who either open and operate franchised stores or sign up franchised stores. Leveraging our data analytics and their local knowledge, the city partners select store location and manage the franchised stores. The city partner system allows us to optimize store location selection, manage stores efficiently, and maintain our inventory at a low level.

To become our city partner and run our franchised stores, a potential business partner must meet certain qualifications and possess the prerequisite capabilities specified in the standard franchise agreement, including, among others, adequate and relevant experience, minimum working capital and sound knowledge of local business environment. The stores also have to meet certain requirements that we formulate and adjust from time to time, such as being in a location reasonably accessible and convenient for our targeted users, having adequate square footage, having at least two years of lease term if under leasehold, and having a layout and decorative style that conform to the architectural specifications.

Our city partners and franchised stores are an extension of our brand. Our franchised stores adopt a consistent design and layout and provide consistent shopping experience. We enter into a standard distribution agreement with each of our city partners. Each city partner may only offer such products and services, in the specified region and manner, as provided under its respective distribution agreement. The city partners also have to comply with our internal policies regarding performance review, branding and confidentiality. To ensure orderly allocation of customer resources between the city partners, we maintain a zoning segregation system, under which all the city partners must sell at or above the guidance retail price we set, and may not cross-sell to other regions allocated to other city partners. The city partners purchase the products from us, and are responsible for the logistics, warehousing, and distribution to franchised stores. We do not charge any initial fees or continuing fees to our city partners or franchised stores.

We closely monitor the sales performance, service level and activities within the franchised stores through the store level management system that was implemented in early 2018. We will continue to upgrade such system to collect more store operation data such as consumer traffic flow and traffic flow sources, test drive frequencies and sales conversion rate. We also use data collected by other means to improve the performance of our stores. This information helps us adjust store-specific retailing and marketing strategies, thereby increasing per store sales.

In addition to offering smart e-scooters, our stores also serve as our service stations to provide after-sales services such as inspection, maintenance and repair services. Under our standard franchise agreement with the city partners and franchised stores, if a customer requests a franchised store to repair one of our products within the term of the warranty, we will reimburse the franchised store for all reasonable labor cost incurred from the repair and also provide them with the necessary spare parts. By offering after-sales services, we aim to establish one-stop solution experience for our customers, continue to increase traffic flow to our stores and enhance user loyalty.

The majority of our city partners make full payments upfront for their orders, which helps us improve cash flow management.

Overseas Distribution

We export our products to distributors in 46 countries overseas, with Europe being our largest export market. We manufacture and customize our products based on the requirements of our international customers and we ensure our exported products are in compliance with the standards of the local markets.

For overseas markets, we cooperate with local distributors, who serve as our exclusive distributors in their respective regions. To be eligible for our local distributor in an overseas market, a potential business partner must meet certain qualifications and possess certain prerequisite capabilities, including, among others, preexisting business presence in motorcycles or consumer electronics and comprehensive sales and service network. In addition, our local distributors must share our vision in the promising future of smart and eco-friendly transportation products, and embrace our innovative marketing models.

Typically, we enter into a distribution agreement with each of our local distributors, under which the local distributor will commit to a minimum annual purchase amount from us, for a period of one to three years. Our shipping arrangements with local distributors mainly under FOB terms.

We position smart e-scooters as a fashionable, premium urban transportation in overseas markets. Our distributors sell our products primarily in the following three types of stores in overseas markets:

- branded flagship stores, which are located in the core business areas in major cities, have a space of over 100 square meters, and carry our smart e-scooters exclusively.
- shop-in-shop stores, which are located in downtowns in major cities, where the entire store has a space of over 100 square meters, and have a designated section for our smart e-scooters with a space of over 30 square meters.
- other point of sales, which are licensed to carry our smart e-scooters on a non-exclusive basis.

Scooter Sharing Program. We have supported local operators in certain overseas markets to implement dockless scooter sharing programs powered by our internet-of-things, or IoT, technology. These scooter sharing programs were officially launched in cities across the world, such as New York, Washington DC, San Francisco, Miami, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Madrid, Lyon, Brussels, Milano and Mexico City.

Online Distribution Network

We sell smart e-scooters and accessories online through third-party e-commerce platforms and on our own online store.

We have adopted the online to offline model, seamlessly integrating the online and offline networks to provide a seamless, consistent experience for our customers. These online platforms act as conduits for influencing customers and directing sales to physical stores. Our customers can conveniently place orders online and pick up their scooters at the franchised stores.

We entered into standard cooperation agreements with third-party e-commerce platforms, pursuant to which the e-commerce platforms provide us sales and price settlement services, and charge us commission fees and technical support annual fees. We are responsible for the logistics, customer services and after-sale services for the products sold on these platforms.

Marketing

We focus on promoting awareness of our brand generally and in particular as a lifestyle brand with high-quality smart e-scooters globally. Our brand and our e-scooters are marketed to retail customers through digital and experiential activities as well as through more traditional promotional and advertising activities. We aim to engage in cost-effective marketing activities by taking advantage of social media and to build an online and offline ecosystem of users that will promote awareness of our brand. To a lesser extent, we engage out-of-home advertising, such as through billboard advertising in cities and advertising on buses. Our marketing efforts include the following:

Profile-based online marketing

Leveraging our sophisticated data analytics capabilities, we are able to gain a deep understanding of our target customer profiles, such as demographics and interests. With this knowledge, we precisely direct our marketing efforts through targeted online channels to efficiently reach new customers with matching profiles or existing customers for repeat purchases. We conduct online marketing through channels such as search portals, social media, online video platforms, and e-commerce platforms. We also leverage the key major media popular with our target groups to regularly publish news and updates about our company, such as our product launch events. We conduct joint marketing activities with other brands. We also utilize our official bulletin board system (BBS), the NIU app and our social media accounts to distribute original content to, and interact with, our followers and existing users. Through the right channels, we deliver the right key messages and original contents to achieve effective marketing.

Location-based offline marketing

We conduct offline marketing and advertising through LCD billboard ads, elevators ads, bus ads, product roadshows, exhibitions in music festivals, among others. To achieve higher efficiency on offline marketing, we leverage riding data collected from our smart e-scooters. For example, in each city, we have a heat map showing anonymously where NIU users ride and park our e-scooters, a good indicator of locations of where potential users concentrate. The heat map allows us to select the optimal offline ads locations (such as LCD billboard, or bus routes or residential buildings) to reach our targeted consumer groups, or organize product roadshows in the most relevant venue.

Viral marketing via NIU community

Leveraging our excellent product quality, fashionable brand image and strong customer loyalty, we are able to utilize viral marketing strategies to achieve the word-of-mouth marketing. For example, in July 2020, to promote safe riding, we launched the “No Helmet, No Ride” campaign together with traffic administrative agency across different provinces and cities. In the third quarter of 2020, we kicked off the “Back to Street, This is NIU” campaign, partnering with “Street Dance of China”, a hot online dance competition show. We promoted two featured advertisings in the semi-final and final of the competition show as well as an offline advertising campaign. In March 2020, we launched the NIU Forest campaign to further reinforce our image as a socially responsible brand. Our users posted their mileage and NIU story on social media, such as Douyin and Weibo to obtain the opportunity to claim one pine tree planted in Inner-Mongolia sponsored by NIU. To celebrate our “fourth birthday” in China, we launched a social media campaign called “Not Only a Scooter” in June 2019. We engaged social media influencers and users to publish user generated videos on Douyin. Another example is the “NIU Love Story” marketing campaign to celebrate the Chinese Valentine’s Day in July 2019. We collected stories from our NIU user couples who fell in love because of NIU. We produced a documentary based on all these love stories and hosted a screening party among our highly engaged users.

Event-driven marketing

In addition to our day-to-day marketing operation, we organize event-driven marketing activities, such as new product launches, company key milestone media events and monthly offline marketing events.

New product launches are typically our largest events of the year. Starting in 2015, we have organized product launch events every year, joined by a large group of live audience including our users and partners, with extensive media coverage. In June 2018, we launched our NGT and MQi+ smart e-scooters at Carrousel de Louvre, Paris, with nearly 300 media covering the launch. In August 2018, we launched our UM model in Shanghai during the co-branding event with McLaren GT Customer Racing. In April 2019, we launched our UQi+ and US models and new lifestyle category, NIU AERO Sports Bicycles, in Beijing, and organized a two-day NIU Brand event for our fans. In November 2019, we launched our expanded GT line led by newly designed MQi-GT with upgraded NQi-GT and UQi-GT on the EICMA show in Milan, Italy, and we also released our first power-assisted electric bicycle, NIU Aero EUB-01. Due to the impact of COVID-19, our new product launch was switched to online and we released MQi2, MQiS and G0 in the second quarter of 2020.

We organize product roadshows and marketing events across many cities in China, typically after we announce new products. Users riding distance reached 100 million km in October 2016, and 1 billion km in April 2018. We organized media events for both milestones.

We have participated in festivals or product exhibitions popular among our targeted groups, such as Strawberry Music Festival and Innersect Show. Through participation in such events, we not only interact with our users and enhance our connections with our users, but also reinforce our users’ perception of “NIU” brand as a premium lifestyle brand.

We sponsor and participate in non-profit social activities such as marathons, through which we exemplify green and lifestyle, and it has been positively received by runners and spectators nationwide.

Overseas marketing

We invest in overseas marketing with a view to raise our brand awareness in the international markets. We adopted a dynamic marketing strategy that combines traditional public relations, tactical digital marketing, and strategic retail and event marketing.

We have engaged leading consumer technology public relations firms to assist us in building trust, awareness and thought leadership in the e-mobility space.

Competition

We operate in the lithium-ion battery-powered electric two-wheeled vehicles market, which is a segment of the electric two-wheeled vehicles market. The segment is growing rapidly, and we believe we maintain competitive advantages in a number of areas, including brand, product design and quality, smart features, omnichannel retail model, customer satisfaction, and a loyal customer base.

See “Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Our Business—We may face intense competition in the electric two-wheeled vehicles industry.”

Intellectual Property

Our success depends, at least in part, on our ability to protect our core technology and intellectual property. We rely on a combination of patents, patent applications, trade secrets, including know-how, copyright laws, trademarks, intellectual property licenses and other contractual rights to establish and protect our proprietary rights in our technology. In addition, we enter into confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements with our employees and business partners. The agreements we entered into with our employees also provide that all software, inventions, developments, works of authorship and trade secrets created by them during the course of their employment are our property.

Our intellectual property rights are critical to our business. As of December 31, 2020, we owned 379 patents, 199 registered trademarks and 26 copyrights relating to various aspects of our operations and 2 registered domain names, including *www.niu.com*. Of the 199 registered trademarks, 43 are registered in the PRC and 156 in other countries and regions. As of the same date, we had 202 applications for patents and trademarks pending in the PRC, Europe and other jurisdictions.

Regulations

This section sets forth a summary of the most significant laws, regulations and rules that affect our business activities in the PRC and our shareholders’ rights to receive dividends and other distributions from us.

Regulations on Production of Electric Bicycles

On July 9, 2005, the State Council of the PRC promulgated the Regulation of the PRC on the Administration of Production License for Industrial Products, or the Production License Regulations. On April 21, 2014, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, or the AQSIQ, issued the Measures for the Implementation of the Regulations of the PRC Administration of Production Licenses for Industrial Products, or the Measures. According to the Production License Regulations and the Measures, any enterprise that has not obtained a production license for a product listed in the Announcement of the Product Catalog Implementing the Production Licensing System, or the Production Catalog, which was issued by the AQSIQ on November 20, 2012, must not produce the relevant product. An enterprise must file an application to the provincial administration of quality and technology supervision for the license of producing the products listed in the Production Catalog. Otherwise, relevant authorities can impose fines and other administrative sanctions, and serious violations may result in criminal liabilities. According to the Production Catalog, most of our products are classified as electric bicycles, which are industrial products that fall within the scope of Production License Regulations and Measures. Thus, we have obtained the appropriate production license thereof. On June 24, 2017, the State Council issued the Decision on Adjusting the Catalog for the Administration of Production Permits for Industrial Products and on Trying out the Simplification of Approval Procedures, or the Decision. Pursuant to the Decision, the production license for electric bicycle was canceled and was changed to implement mandatory product certification management. However, on October 11, 2017, AQSIQ announced that the production of the electric bicycles is still under the production licensing system. According to this announcement, the production license regulatory regime is implemented pursuant to the new electric bicycle technical standard, which is the Safety and Technical Specification for Electric Bicycle (GB 17761-2018), or the New Standard, promulgated by the State Administration for Market Regulation and the National Standardization Management Committee on May 15, 2018 and became effective on April 15, 2019. The New Standard replaced the General Technical Requirements for Electric Bicycles (GB 17761-1999), or the Old Standard, which were issued by the Quality and Technology Supervision Bureau on May 28, 1999 and became effective from October 1, 1999. The eleven-month period between the promulgation date and effective date of the New Standard was a transition period. Whereas we have already been granted the certification of the Old Standard and therefore recognized as “the First Batch of Electric Bicycle Manufacturers Meeting the New National Standard” by the Quality Control and Technical Evaluation Control Room of the National Electric Bicycle and Battery Product Quality Supervision and Inspection Center, certain of our models may not qualify under the New Standard and require either re-engineering or reclassification as motorcycles. See “Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Our Business—Our products are subject to safety standards and failure to satisfy such mandated standards would have a material adverse effect on our business and operating results.”

Regulations on Qualification of Production of Electric Motorcycles

Pursuant to the Administration Measures for Access of Motorcycle Manufacturing, or the Motorcycle Manufacturing Measures, issued on November 30, 2002 and the Implementing Rules of the Administration Measures for Access of Motorcycle Manufacturing, or the Motorcycle Manufacturing Rules, issued on December 31, 2002, enterprises must pass the production access examination and obtain the Motorcycle Production Access Certificate before manufacturing motorcycles in the PRC, and if an enterprise conducts a motorcycle manufacturing consignment, both the consignee and the consignor are required to obtain the Motorcycle Production Access Certificate. On January 14, 2010, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, or the MIIT, issued the Circular on Matters Related to Electric Motorcycle Production Enterprises and Product Access Management, or the Circular, which imposes production restrictions on enterprises who currently produce or intend to produce electric motorcycles. Such enterprises must satisfy the MIIT's access requirements and be on the list of the Announcement on Vehicle Manufacturers and Products before continuing or commencing production. On November 27, 2018, the MIIT promulgated the Administration Measures for Access of the Road Motor Vehicle Manufacturing Enterprises and Products, which became effective on June 1, 2019 and replaced the Motorcycle Manufacturing Measures and the Motorcycle Manufacturing Rules. According to the Administration Measures for Access of the Road Motor Vehicle Manufacturing Enterprises and Products, the authorities will continue to implement a classified access administration of enterprises engaged in the manufacturing of road motor vehicles and road motor vehicle products, and road motor vehicle design enterprises are encouraged to cooperate with or consign to licensed road motor vehicle manufacturing enterprises in manufacturing process. We entered into a manufacturing cooperation agreement with a motorcycle manufacturer with required qualifications to manufacture certain models classified as electric motorcycles. Besides, Jiangsu Xiaoni has been listed in the Road Motor Vehicle Manufacturers and Products List (batch 327) issued by MIIT on January 13, 2020 as an enterprise permitted to manufacture motorcycles and we are in the process of obtaining the World Manufacturer Identifier (WMI) and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) See "Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Our Business—Our products are subject to safety standards and failure to satisfy such mandated standards would have a material adverse effect on our business and operating results."

Regulations on Registration of Electric Bicycles

Pursuant to the Road Traffic Safety Law of the PRC (Revised in 2011), a non-motorized vehicle which ought to be lawfully registered shall be deemed street-illegal until it has been registered with the local traffic administrative department. In addition, the categories of such non-motorized vehicles shall be determined by provincial governments in light of their respective actual local situation and shall consist of technical standards in terms of overall weight, braking performance, overall size and reflectors, which all non-motorized vehicles should abide by. We have obtained the production license for electric bicycles according to relevant regulations. We will adjust the technical standards of our e-scooters to be sold at local markets until the technical standards meet local requirements and our e-scooter is listed on the local catalog which indicates the e-scooters on it are permitted to be lawfully registered.

Pursuant to the Circular on Strengthening the Management of Electric Bicycles, jointly promulgated by the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, the AQSIQ, the Ministry of Public Security, or the MPS, and the MIIT on March 18, 2011, any non-compliant vehicle may not be registered as a non-motorized vehicle, which in turn means it shall be deemed street-illegal.

Therefore, some PRC local governments issued restrictive provisions on electric bicycles. Some local governments (such as Beijing, Shanghai, Anhui province, Jiangsu province, Guangxi province, Zhejiang province and Gansu province) implemented a catalog management system requiring (i) restricting and prohibiting sales and/or use of electric two-wheeled vehicles that do not meet the required standards; and/or (ii) end users to register electric two-wheeled vehicles. For example, on October 20, 2013, the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress promulgated the Measures for the Management of Non-motorized Vehicles in Shanghai, which stipulates that any non-motorized vehicle that is sold in Shanghai must be registered with relevant department. Most of our products have obtained sales approval in Beijing, Shanghai, Anhui province, Jiangsu province, Guangxi province, Zhejiang province, Gansu province and other major provinces and cities. In addition, we will cooperate with local governments that require us to obtain approval of sales. On the other hand, several local municipal governments (such as Xiamen, Shenzhen and Dongguan) have promulgated rules and regulations prohibiting the riding of electric bicycles/electric scooters in specific districts, and also restricting the use of registered electric two-wheeled vehicles. Due to the limited number of such districts, which are not our major source of revenue, the regulations of prohibiting and restricting do not have substantial effect on our revenue.

Regulations on Registration of Motorcycles

Pursuant to the Provisions on the Registration of Motor Vehicles of the PRC promulgated on May 27, 2008 and amended on September 12, 2012, the owner of a motor vehicle, including motorcycles, shall apply for registration of such motor vehicle after obtaining the certificate of qualified motor vehicle safety technical inspection from a local motor vehicle safety technical inspection institution. On October 18, 2014, the Circular of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and the Ministry of Public Security on Strengthening the Production and Registration Management of Minibuses and Motorcycles was issued, which reiterates that motorcycles must be registered, and in order to simplify the motorcycle registration procedures in rural areas, motorcycles may gradually be sold with license, and motorcycle sales enterprises may be entrusted to register motorcycles before motorcycles are sold.

In recent years, in order to control the number of motor vehicles on the road, certain local governments have issued restrictions on the issuance of vehicle license plates, but these restrictions generally do not apply to the issuance of license plates for new energy vehicles, which makes it easier for purchasers of new energy vehicles to obtain automobile license plates. For example, pursuant to the Implementation Measures on Encouraging Purchase and Use of New Energy Vehicles in Shanghai, local authorities will issue new automobile license plates to qualified purchasers of new energy vehicles without requiring such qualified purchasers to go through certain license-plate bidding processes and to pay license-plate purchase fees.

Regulations on Production Safety

Pursuant to the Production Safety Law of the PRC, or the Production Safety Law, which took effect on November 1, 2002 and was amended on August 31, 2014, the entities that are engaged in production and business operation activities must implement national industrial standards which guarantee the production safety and comply with production safety requirements provided by the laws, administrative regulations and national or industrial standards. An entity must take effective measures for safety production, maintain safety facilities, examine the safety production procedures, educate and train employees and take any other measures to ensure the safety of its employees and the public. An entity or its relevant persons-in-charge which has failed to perform such safety production liabilities will be required to make amends within a time limit or face administrative penalties. If it fails to amend within the prescribed time limit, the production and business operation entity may be ordered to suspend business for rectification, and serious violations may result in criminal liabilities. Our production behaviors are compliant with the Production Safety Law so far.

Regulations on Product Quality

The Product Quality Law of the PRC, or the Product Quality Law, was adopted on February 22, 1993 and amended on July 8, 2000, August 27, 2009 and December 29, 2018. The Product Quality Law applies to anyone who manufactures or sells any product within the territory of the PRC. It is prohibited from producing or selling counterfeit products in any form, including counterfeit brands, or providing false information about the product manufacturers. Violation of national or industrial standards may result in civil liability and administrative penalties such as compensation, fines, suspension of business and confiscation of illegal income, and serious violations may result in criminal liabilities. We are in compliant with any of provisions of the Product Quality Law.

Under the Application Scope of the First Batch of Products Implementing Mandatory Product Certification Catalogue effective on July 1, 2002, motorcycles and bicycles with gasoline and other engines were within the product catalogue that must apply the compulsory product certification. On July 3, 2009, the Administrative Regulations for Compulsory Product Certification was promulgated, pursuant to which that several specified products must not be delivered, sold, imported or used in other business activities until they complete the compulsory product certification and be labeled with certification mark. According to the Announcement on the Transition Period Arrangement for the Management of Mandatory Product Certification of Motorcycle Crew Helmets, Electric Blankets and Motorcycle Products, promulgated by the AQSIQ and the Certification and Accreditation Administration of the PRC on October 11, 2017, motorcycle and bicycle productions must still be under a license administration. On March 15, 2019, the Opinions of the State Administration for Market Regulation, the MIIT and the Ministry of Public Security on Intensifying Supervision of the Execution of National Standards for Electric Bicycles, or the Opinions, was promulgated. The Opinions provides that the market supervision department shall strengthen the management of CCC certification for electric bicycles, strengthen inspections of certification agencies and manufacture enterprises, and shall only allow vehicles that meet the New Standards and obtained CCC certification flowing into the market. We have obtained CCC certification for all of our current for-sale products, and have submitted CCC certification applications for our new products to be sold in the future. See “Item 3. Key Information— D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Our Business— Our products are subject to safety standards and failure to satisfy such mandated standards would have a material adverse effect on our business and operating results.”

Regulations Relating to Product Recall

The State Administration for Market Regulation issued the Interim Provisions on the Administration of Recall of Consumer Goods on November 21, 2019, which took effective on January 1, 2020. Our products, accordingly, as one kind of customer goods, are subject to the requirements set out thereunder. Pursuant to the Recall Provisions, if a manufacturer is aware of any potential defect in its products, or receive such notice from relevant governmental authorities, it must investigate in a timely manner and report the results of such investigation to the relevant authorities. Where any defect is found during the investigation, the manufacturer must immediately cease to manufacture, sell, or import the relevant products and recall such products. We have not received any such notice from authorities, or initiated, voluntarily or involuntarily, any product recalls in accordance with the Recall Provisions. See “Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Our Business—We may be compelled to undertake product recalls or take other actions, which could adversely affect our brand image and results of operations.”

Regulations Relating to Foreign Trade

Pursuant to the Foreign Trade Law of the PRC, promulgated on May 12, 1994 and amended on April 6, 2004 and November 7, 2016, respectively, and the Measures for the Record Filing and Registration of Foreign Trade Business Operators promulgated by MOFCOM on June 25, 2004, effective on July 1, 2004, and amended on August 18, 2016 and November 30, 2019, respectively, foreign trade operators engaged in the import and export of goods or the import and export of technology must register with MOFCOM or its authorized institution. In addition, if an entity imports or exports goods as consignee or consignor, it shall register with the local customs according to the Administrative Provisions of the Customs of the PRC on the Registration of Customs Declaration Entities, promulgated on March 13, 2014, and amended on December 20, 2017 and May 29, 2018, respectively, came into effect on July 1, 2018. We have registered with authorities pursuant to the applicable provisions.

Regulations Relating to Foreign Investment

Pursuant to the Special Administrative Measures for Market Access of Foreign Investment (Negative List) (2020 Edition), or the 2020 Negative List, jointly issued by the NDRC and the MOFCOM on June 23, 2020 and enforced on July 23, 2020, the foreign investment related to design, manufacture and sale of electricity bicycles does not fall within the category of industries in which foreign investment is restricted or prohibited. The 2020 Negative List enumerates the restricted industries and the prohibited industries in relation to foreign investment, and the industries which do not fall within the 2020 Negative List, shall be administered under the principle of equal treatment to domestic and foreign investment. On March 15, 2019, the Foreign Investment Law of PRC, or the FIL, was issued by the National People’s Congress and took effect on January 1, 2020, which also provides that the industries in which foreign investment is not restricted and prohibited shall be administered under the principle of equal treatment to domestic investment. On December 31, 2019, the State Council published the FIL Implementation Rules, which took effect on January 1, 2020. Furthermore, on December 19, 2020, the NDRC and the MOFCOM jointly issued the Measures for Security Review of Foreign Investment, effective on January 18, 2021, which provides detailed guidance regarding security review of foreign investment that has a potential impact on national security.

Foreign investment in telecommunications companies in the PRC is governed by the Provisions on Administration of Foreign-Invested Telecommunications Enterprises, or the Foreign-Invested Telecommunications Enterprises Provisions, which were promulgated by the State Council on December 11, 2001, and amended on September 10, 2008 and February 6, 2016. The Foreign-Invested Telecommunications Enterprises Provisions prohibits a foreign investor from holding over 50% of the total equity interest in any value-added telecommunications service business in China. We operate our website www.niu.com and our NIU app through Beijing Niudian and sell our e-scooters and peripheral products on the website.

Regulations Relating to Overseas Investment

On December 26, 2017, the NDRC issued the Management Rules for Overseas Investment by Enterprises, or the NDRC Order 11. As defined in the NDRC Order 11, “overseas investment” refers to the investment activities conducted by an enterprise located in the territory of China, either directly or through an offshore enterprise under its control, by making investment with assets and equities or providing financing or a guarantee in order to acquire overseas ownership, control, management rights and other related interests. Furthermore, overseas investment by a Chinese individual through overseas enterprises under his/her control is also subject to the NDRC Order 11. According to the NDRC Order 11, (i) direct overseas investment by Chinese enterprises or indirect overseas investment by Chinese enterprises or individuals in sensitive industries or sensitive countries and regions requires prior approval by the NDRC; (ii) direct overseas investment by Chinese enterprises in non-sensitive industries and non-sensitive countries and regions requires prior filing with the NDRC; and (iii) indirect overseas investment of over US\$300 million by Chinese enterprises or individuals in non-sensitive industries and non-sensitive countries and regions requires reporting with the NDRC. Uncertainties remain with respect to the application of the NDRC Order 11. We are not sure if we were to use a portion of the proceeds raised from our initial public offering to fund investments in and acquisitions of complementary business and assets outside of China, such use of U.S. dollars funds held outside of China would be subject to the NDRC Order 11. There are very few interpretations, implementation guidance or precedents to follow in practice. We will continue to monitor any new rules, interpretation and guidance promulgated by the NDRC and communicate with the NDRC and its local branches to seek their opinions, when necessary.

Regulations Relating to Foreign Debt

On March 1, 2003, the NDRC, Ministry of Finance and SAFE promulgated Interim Provisions on the Management of Foreign Debts, pursuant to which the summation of the accumulated medium-term and long-term debts borrowed by foreign-invested entities and the balance of short-term debts shall not exceed the surplus between the total investment in projects approved by the verifying departments and the registered capital, or the Surplus Limit. Within the range of the Surplus Limit foreign-invested entities may borrow foreign loans at their own will. If the loans exceed the Surplus Limit, the total investment in projects shall be reexamined by the original examination and approval departments. In addition, on January 11, 2017, PBOC promulgated the Notice of the People’s Bank of China on Full-coverage Macro-prudent Management of Cross-border Financing, or PBOC Circular 9, which sets out a upper limit for PRC entities, including foreign-invested entities and domestic-invested entities, regarding their foreign debts, or the Financing Limit. Pursuant to PBOC Circular 9, the Financing Limit for entities shall be calculated based on the following formula: the Financing Limit = net assets * cross-border financing leverage ratio * macro-prudent regulation parameter. As to net assets, entities shall take the net assets value stated in their respective latest audited financial statement in calculation; the cross-border financing leverage ratio for enterprises is two (2); the macro-prudent regulation parameter is one (1). The PBOC Circular 9 does not supersede the Interim Provisions on the Management of Foreign Debts. PBOC Circular 9 stipulates a one-year transitional period, or Transitional Period, from its promulgation date for foreign-invested entities, during which they could choose the calculation method of foreign debt upper limit based on either (i) the Surplus Limit, or (ii) the Financing Limit. After the Transition Period, the method applicable to foreign-invested entities shall be determined by the PBOC and the SAFE separately. On March 11, 2020, the PBOC and the SAFE issued the Notice of Adjusting the Macro-prudent Regulation Parameter for Full-covered Cross-border Financing, which adjusted the macro-prudent regulation parameter as set forth in the Circular 9 from 1 to 1.25. However, although the Transitional Period ended on January 10, 2018, as of December 31, 2020, PBOC or SAFE has not issued any new regulations regarding the application calculation method of foreign debt upper limit for foreign-invested entities. As to domestic-invested entities, they are only subject to the Financing Limit from the date of promulgation of PBOC Circular 9 regardless of the Transitional Period.

Regulations Relating to Internet Information Security and Privacy Protection

Internet information in China is heavily regulated and restricted as a national security issue. The SCNPC enacted the Decisions on Maintaining Internet Security in December 2000, as further amended in August 2009, which impose criminal liabilities on persons or entities that: (i) gain improper entry into a computer or system of strategic importance; (ii) disseminate politically disruptive information; (iii) leak state secrets; (iv) spread false commercial information; or (v) infringe intellectual property rights. The MPS has promulgated measures that prohibit the use of the internet in ways that would result in the leakage of state secrets or dissemination of socially destabilizing content. If an internet information service provider violates these measures, the MPS and the local security bureaus may revoke its operating license and shut down its websites.

Under the Several Provisions on Regulating the Market Order of Internet Information Services issued by the MIIT in December 2011, an internet information service provider may not collect any user's personal information or provide any such information to third parties without that user's consent. It must also expressly inform that user of the method, content and purpose of the collection and processing of such user's personal information and may only collect such information as necessary for the provision of its services. In addition, pursuant to the Decision on Strengthening the Protection of Online Information issued by the SCNPC in December 2012 and the Order for the Protection of Telecommunication and Internet User's Personal Information issued by the MIIT in July 2013, any collection and use of a user's personal information must be subject to the consent of the user, abide by the principles of legality, rationality and necessity and be within the specified purposes, methods and scopes.

In November 2016, the SCNPC promulgated the Network Security Law of the PRC, or the Network Security Law, which took effect on June 1, 2017. Pursuant to the Network Security Law, a network operator, including, without limitation, internet information service providers, must take technical measures and other necessary measures in accordance with the provisions of applicable laws and regulations as well as the compulsory requirements of the national and industrial standards to safeguard the safe and stable operation of networks, effectively respond to network security incidents, prevent illegal and criminal activities and maintain the integrity, confidentiality and availability of network data. Any violation of the provisions and requirements under the Network Security Law may subject an internet service provider to warnings, fines, confiscation of illegal gains, revocation of licenses, cancellation of filings, closedown of websites or even criminal liabilities. On April 27, 2020, the Cyberspace Administration of China, together with other eleven government authorities, jointly released the Cybersecurity Review Measures, which came into effect on 1 June 2020. The Measures require operators of critical information infrastructure to go through cybersecurity review when purchasing any network products and services with a potential impact on national security. Our current data collection and use policy are compliant with the applicable laws, regulations and rules.

In November 2019, the Secretariat of the Cyberspace Administration of China, the General Office of the MIIT, the General Office of the Ministry of Public Security and the State Administration for Market Regulation jointly promulgated the Circular on Issuing the Methods for Identifying Unlawful Collection and Use of Personal Information of Applications ("App(s)"), which defines actions that may be regarded as violating the Network Security Law and other personal information protection related regulations, including, among other things, failure to publicize the rules for collection and use of personal information, failure to expressly state the purpose, manner and scope of collecting and using personal information, collection and use of personal information without consent of users, provision of personal information to others without consent, and failure to provide the function of deleting or correcting personal information as required by law. Furthermore, on October 21, 2020, the SCNPC released a draft Personal Information Protection Law for public comments.

Regulations Relating to Value-Added Telecommunication Services

Pursuant to the Telecommunications Regulations of the PRC, or the Telecommunications Regulations, promulgated by the State Council on September 25, 2000 and amended on July 29, 2014 and February 6, 2016, telecommunication service providers must obtain an operating license prior to the commencement operations. The Telecommunications Regulations categorize telecommunication services into basic telecommunication services and value-added telecommunication services. According to the Catalog of Telecommunications Business, attached to the Telecommunications Regulations, information services provided via fixed network, mobile network and internet fall within value-added telecommunication services.

In July 2017, the MIIT promulgated the Administrative Measures on Telecommunications Business Operating Licenses. Under these regulations, a commercial operator of value-added telecommunication services must first obtain a license for value-added telecommunications business, or ICP License, from the MIIT or its provincial level counterparts. Our consolidated affiliated entity, Beijing Niudian, the main operating entity which sells our products to third-parties, has obtained an ICP License for information service business.

Regulations Relating to Mobile Internet Applications Information Services

In addition to the Telecommunications Regulations and other regulations above, mobile app information service providers are especially regulated by the Administrative Provisions on Mobile Internet Applications Information Services, or the App Provisions, which were promulgated by the Cyberspace Administration of China on June 28, 2016 and became effective on August 1, 2016.

Under the App Provisions, mobile app information service providers are required to obtain relevant qualifications prescribed by laws and regulations, take responsibility for the supervision and administration of mobile app information as required by laws and regulations and implement the information security management responsibilities.

We have implemented the necessary programs in our mobile app, including programs for data collection notification and for preventing data breach, damage and loss, to make sure the collection, protection and preservation of user information are in compliance with the App Provisions in all material aspects. See “Item 3. Key Information— D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Our Business—We retain certain personal information about our users and may be subject to various privacy and consumer protection laws.”

Regulations Relating to Intellectual Property Rights

The PRC has adopted comprehensive legislation governing intellectual property rights, including copyrights, patents, trademarks and domain names.

Regulations on Copyright

Pursuant to the Copyright Law of the PRC revised by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress on February 26, 2010 and came into effect on April 1, 2010, as amended in 2010, copyrights include personal rights such as the right of publication and that of attribution as well as property rights such as the right of production and that of distribution. Reproducing, distributing, performing, projecting, broadcasting or compiling a work or communicating the same to the public via an information network without permission from the owner of the copyright therein, unless otherwise provided in the Copyright Law of the PRC, constitutes an infringement of copyright. The infringer shall, among others, according to the circumstances of the case, undertake to cease the infringement, take remedial action, offer an apology and pay damages. We have registered our copyright on 18 sets of software codes regarding our BMS and other control or management systems.

Regulations on Patent

The Patent Law of the PRC promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress and the Detailed Rules for the Implementation of the Patent Law of the PRC (revised in 2010) promulgated by the State Council provide for patentable inventions, utility models and designs, which must meet three conditions: novelty, inventiveness and practical applicability. The State Intellectual Property Office under the State Council is responsible for examining and approving patent applications. The duration of a patent right is either 10 years or 20 years from the date of application, depending on the type of patent right.

Regulations on Trademark

Pursuant to the Trademark Law of the PRC promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on August 23, 1982 and respectively revised on February 22, 1993, October 27, 2001, August 30, 2013 and April 23, 2019, and the Regulation on the Implementation of the Trademark Law of the PRC (revised in 2014) promulgated by the State Council on August 3, 2002 and revised on April 29, 2014, the right to the exclusive use of a registered trademark is limited to trademarks which have been approved for registration and to goods for which the use of such trademark has been approved. The period of validity of a registered trademark is ten years, counted from the day that the registration is approved. According to this law, using a trademark that is identical to or similar to a registered trademark in connection with the same or similar goods without the authorization of the owner of the registered trademark constitutes an infringement of the exclusive right to use a registered trademark. The infringer shall, in accordance with the regulations, undertake to cease the infringement, remedial action, or pay damages. We have submitted several trademark invalidation applications against certain third-party infringers, which are still under administrative or legal proceedings. See "Item 3. Key Information — D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Our Business—We may need to defend ourselves against patent, trademark or other intellectual property rights infringement claims, which may be time-consuming and would cause us to incur substantial costs."

Regulations on Domain Name

Internet domain name registration and related matters are primarily regulated by the Measures on Administration of Internet Domain Names promulgated by the MIIT on August 24, 2017 and came into effect on November 1, 2017, and the Implementing Rules of China ccTLD Registration issued by China Internet Network Information Center on June 18, 2019. Domain name registrations are handled through domain name service agencies established under the relevant regulations, and the applicants become domain name holders upon successful registration.

Regulations Relating to Employment

Pursuant to the Labor Law of the PRC, the Labor Contract Law of the PRC, or the Labor Contract Law, and the Implementing Regulations of the PRC Labor Contract Law, labor relationships between employers and employees must be executed in written form. Wages may not be lower than the local minimum wage. Employers must establish a system for labor safety and sanitation, strictly abide by state standards and provide relevant education to their employees. Employees are also required to be able to work in safe and sanitary conditions.

According to the Social Insurance Law of the PRC, promulgated by the SCNPC and effective from July 1, 2011 and amended on December 29, 2018, the Regulation of Insurance for Work-Related Injury, the Provisional Measures on Insurance for Maternity of Employees, the Regulation of Unemployment Insurance, and the Interim Regulation on the Collection and Payment of Social Insurance Premiums, an employer is required to contribute social insurance for its employees in the PRC, including basic pension insurance, basic medical insurance, unemployment insurance, maternity insurance and injury insurance. Under the Regulations on the Administration of Housing Funds, promulgated by the State Council on April 3, 1999 and as amended on March 24, 2002 and March 24, 2019, an employer is required to make contributions to a housing fund for its employees. See "Item 3. Key Information— D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Doing Business in China—Increases in labor costs and enforcement of stricter labor laws and regulations in the PRC may adversely affect our business and our profitability."

Regulations Relating to Foreign Exchange

Regulations on Foreign Currency Exchange

The SAFE promulgated the Circular on Issues Relating to the Administration of Foreign Exchange of Offshore Investment and Financing through Special Purpose Vehicles and Round-Tripping Investment by PRC Resident, or SAFE Circular 37, on July 4, 2014, which replaced the former circular commonly known as “SAFE Circular 75”. SAFE Circular 37 requires PRC residents to register with local branches of the SAFE in connection with their direct establishment or indirect control of an offshore entity, for the purpose of offshore investment and financing, with such PRC residents’ legally owned assets or equity interests in domestic enterprises or offshore assets or interests, referred to in SAFE Circular 37 as a “special purpose vehicle”. SAFE Circular 37 further requires amendment to the registration in the event of any significant changes with respect to the special purpose vehicle, such as increase or decrease of capital contributed by PRC residents, share transfer or exchange, merger, division or other material event. In the event that a PRC shareholder holding interests in a special purpose vehicle fails to fulfill the required SAFE registration, the PRC subsidiaries of that special purpose vehicle may be prohibited from making profit distributions to the offshore parent and from carrying out subsequent cross-border foreign exchange activities, and the special purpose vehicle may be restricted in its ability to contribute additional capital into its PRC subsidiaries. Furthermore, failure to comply with the various SAFE registration requirements described above could result in liability under PRC law for evasion of foreign exchange controls.

Regulations on Stock Incentive Plans

In February 2012, SAFE promulgated the Circular on Foreign Exchange Administration of PRC Residents Participating in Share Incentive Plans of Offshore Listed Companies, or the Stock Option Rules, replacing the previous rules issued by SAFE in March 2007. Under the Stock Option Rules and other relevant rules and regulations, PRC residents who participate in a stock incentive plan in an overseas publicly-listed company are required to register with SAFE or its local branches and complete certain other procedures. Participants of a stock incentive plan who are PRC residents must retain a qualified PRC agent, which could be a PRC subsidiary of the overseas publicly-listed company or another qualified institution selected by the PRC subsidiary, to conduct the SAFE registration and other procedures with respect to the stock incentive plan on behalf of its participants. The participants must also retain an overseas entrusted institution to handle matters in connection with their exercise of stock options, the purchase and sale of corresponding stocks or interests and fund transfers. In addition, the PRC agent is required to amend the SAFE registration with respect to the stock incentive plan if there is any material change to the stock incentive plan, the PRC agent or the overseas entrusted institution or other material changes. The PRC agents must, on behalf of the PRC residents who have the right to exercise the employee share options, apply to SAFE or its local branches for an annual quota for the payment of foreign currencies in connection with the PRC residents’ exercise of the employee share options. The foreign exchange proceeds received by PRC residents from the sale of shares under the stock incentive plans granted and dividends distributed by overseas listed companies must be remitted into the bank accounts in the PRC opened by the PRC agents before distribution to such PRC residents. In addition, the Circular of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Issues concerning Foreign Exchange Administration over the Overseas Investment and Financing and Round-trip Investment by Domestic Residents via Special Purpose Vehicles promulgated on July 4, 2014 provides that PRC residents who participate in a share incentive plan of an overseas unlisted special purpose company must register with SAFE or its local branches before exercising such rights.

Regulations Relating to Dividend Distribution

The principal regulations governing distribution of dividends of foreign-invested enterprises include the PRC Company Law, the FIL, and the FIL Implementation Rules. Under these laws and regulations, foreign-invested enterprises in China may pay dividends only out of their accumulated after-tax profits, if any, determined in accordance with PRC accounting standards and regulations. In addition, foreign-invested enterprises in China are required to allocate 10% of their respective after-tax profits as the statutory common reserve when it distributes its after-tax profit for the current fiscal year, if any, to fund certain reserve funds until these reserves have reached 50% of the registered capital of the enterprises.

Regulations Relating to Taxation

Regulations on Enterprise Income Tax

Under the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC, or the EIT Law, which was promulgated on March 16, 2007, amended on February 24, 2017 and December 29, 2018, and its implementing rules, enterprises are classified as resident enterprises and non-resident enterprises. PRC resident enterprises typically pay enterprise income tax at the rate of 25%, while non-PRC resident enterprises without any branches in the PRC pay an enterprise income tax in connection with their income from the PRC at the tax rate of 10%. An enterprise established outside China but with its “de facto management body” located within China is considered a “resident enterprise,” which means that it is treated in a manner similar to a PRC domestic enterprise for enterprise income tax purposes. The implementing rules of the EIT Law define “de facto management body” as a managing body that in practice exercises “substantial and overall management and control over the production and operations, personnel, accounting and properties” of the enterprise.

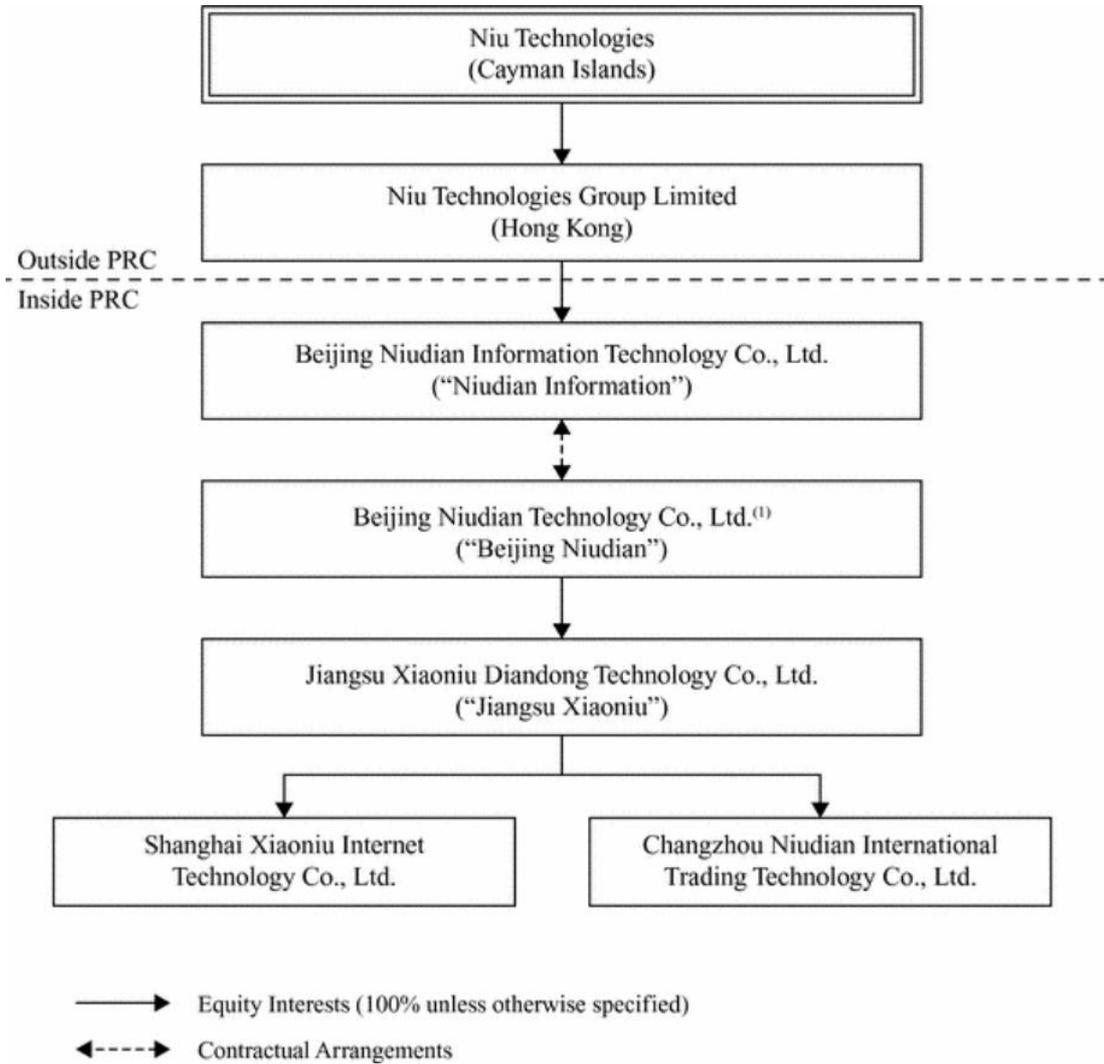
The EIT Law and the implementation rules provide that an income tax rate of 10% will normally be applicable to dividends payable to investors that are “non-resident enterprises,” and gains derived by such investors, which (i) do not have an establishment or place of business in the PRC or (ii) have an establishment or place of business in the PRC, but the relevant income is not effectively connected with the establishment or place of business to the extent that such dividends and gains are derived from sources within the PRC. Such income tax on the dividends may be reduced pursuant to a tax treaty between China and other jurisdictions. Pursuant to the Double Taxation Avoidance and the Tax Evasion Arrangement, and other applicable PRC laws, if a Hong Kong resident enterprise is determined by the competent PRC tax authority to have satisfied the relevant conditions and requirements under the Double Taxation Avoidance Arrangement and other applicable laws, the 10% withholding tax on the dividends the Hong Kong resident enterprise receives from a PRC resident enterprise may be reduced to 5% upon receiving approval from in-charge tax authority. However, based on the Circular on Certain Issues with Respect to the Enforcement of Dividend Provisions in Tax Treaties issued on February 20, 2009 by SAT, if the relevant PRC tax authorities determine, in their discretion, that a company benefits from such reduced income tax rate due to a structure or arrangement that is primarily tax-driven, such PRC tax authorities may adjust the preferential tax treatment. According to Announcement of the State Administration of Taxation on Issues Concerning the Recognition of Beneficial Owners in Entrusted Investments, effective on June 1, 2014, non-residents may be recognized as “beneficial owners” and enjoy the treaty benefits for the income derived from the PRC from certain investments. According to the Announcement of the State Administration of Taxation on Issues concerning the “Beneficial Owner” in Tax Treaties, which became effective in April 2018, a resident enterprise is determined as a “beneficial owner” that can apply for a low tax rate under tax treaties based on an overall assessment of several factors. Furthermore, the Administrative Measures for Non-Resident Taxpayers to Enjoy Treatments under Tax Treaties, which became effective on January 1, 2020, require non-resident enterprises to determine whether they are qualified to enjoy the preferential tax treatment under the tax treaties and file relevant report and materials with the tax authorities. We may be classified as PRC resident tax payers. See “Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Doing Business in China—If we are classified as a PRC resident enterprise for PRC income tax purposes, such classification could result in unfavorable tax consequences to us and our non-PRC shareholders or ADS holders.”

Regulations on Value-Added Tax

Pursuant to the Provisional Regulation of the PRC on Value-Added Tax issued by the State Council, effective on January 1, 1994, which was amended on November 10, 2008, February 6, 2016 and on November 19, 2017, or the Provisional Regulation, and its Implementing Rules, all entities and individuals that are engaged in the sale of goods, the provision of processing, repairs and installation services and the importation of goods in China are required to pay a value-added tax, or VAT. According to the Provisional Regulation, gross proceeds from sales and importation of goods and provision of services are generally subject to a VAT rate of 17% with exceptions for certain categories of goods that are taxed at a VAT rate of 11%. On April 4, 2018, the Circular of the Ministry of Finance and the SAT on Adjusting Value-Added Tax Rates was promulgated, which provides that effective from the date of May 1, 2018, gross proceeds from sales and importation of goods and provision of services are generally subject to a VAT rate of 16%, with exceptions for certain categories of goods that are taxed at a VAT rate of 10%. On March 20, 2019, the Announcement on Relevant Policies for Deepening Value-Added Tax Reform was jointly promulgated by the Ministry of Finance, the SAT and the General Administration of Customs, which further provides that effective from the date of April 1, 2019, the VAT rate of gross proceeds from sales and importation of goods and provision of services shall be adjusted from 16% to 13%, with the VAT rate of certain categories of goods shall be adjusted from 10% to 9%. In addition, under the Provisional Regulation, the input VAT for the purchase of fixed assets is deductible from the output VAT, except for goods or services that are used in non-VAT taxable items, VAT exempted items and welfare activities, or for personal consumption.

C. Organizational Structure

The following diagram illustrates our corporate structure, including our principal subsidiaries, our VIE and its principal subsidiaries, as of the date of this annual report:



- (1) Token Yilin Hu, Yi'nan Li, Yuqin Zhang and Changlong Sheng each holds 89.74%, 5.00%, 2.63% and 2.63% of the equity interest in Beijing Niudian, respectively. All of the shareholders of Beijing Niudian are beneficial owners of the shares of our company. Mr. Token Yilin Hu is also a director and vice president of research and development of our company.

Contractual Arrangements with Our VIE

The following is a summary of the currently effective contractual arrangements relating to Beijing Niudian.

Agreements that provide us with effective control over our VIE

Powers of Attorney. Each of the shareholders of Beijing Niudian has executed a power of attorney to irrevocably authorize our company to act as his or her attorney-in-fact to exercise all of his or her rights as a shareholder of Beijing Niudian, including, but not limited to, the right to convene and attend shareholders' meetings, vote on any resolution that requires a shareholder vote, such as the appointment and removal of directors, supervisors and officers, as well as the sale, transfer and disposal of all or part of the equity interests owned by such shareholder. The powers of attorney will remain effective, as long as the shareholders of Beijing Niudian remain as registered shareholders of Beijing Niudian, unless otherwise instructed by our company.

Second Amended and Restated Equity Pledge Agreement. Pursuant to the second amended and restated equity pledge agreement, dated February 27, 2020, among our WFOE, Beijing Niudian and each of the shareholders of Beijing Niudian, the shareholders of Beijing Niudian have pledged the 100% equity interests in Beijing Niudian to our WFOE to guarantee performance by the shareholders of their obligations under the second amended and restated exclusive option agreement and powers of attorney, as well as the performance by Beijing Niudian of its obligations under the amended and restated exclusive business cooperation agreement and the second amended and restated exclusive option agreement. In the event of a breach by Beijing Niudian or any of its shareholders of contractual obligations under the second amended and restated equity pledge agreement, our WFOE, as pledgee, will have the right to dispose of the pledged equity interests in Beijing Niudian and will have priority in receiving the proceeds from such disposal. The shareholders of Beijing Niudian also undertake that, without the prior written consent of our WFOE, they will not dispose of, create or allow any encumbrance on the pledged equity interests. Beijing Niudian undertakes that, without the prior written consent of our WFOE, it will not assist or allow any encumbrance to be created on the pledged equity interests. In February 2021, we completed the registration of the equity pledge under the second amended and restated equity pledge agreement with the relevant office of the administration for industry and commerce in accordance with the PRC Property Rights Law.

Spousal Consent Letters. The spouses of the shareholders of Beijing Niudian have each signed a spousal consent letter agreeing that the equity interests in Beijing Niudian held by and registered under the name of the respective shareholders will be disposed of pursuant to the VIE Agreements. These spouses agreed not to assert any rights over the equity interest in Beijing Niudian held by their spouses.

Agreements that allow us to receive economic benefits from our VIE

Amended and Restated Exclusive Business Cooperation Agreements. Pursuant to the amended and restated exclusive business cooperation agreement, dated July 20, 2018, between our WFOE and Beijing Niudian, our WFOE has the exclusive right to provide Beijing Niudian with operational supports as well as consulting and technical services required by Beijing Niudian's business. Without our WFOE's prior written consent, Beijing Niudian may not accept any services subject to this agreement from any third party. Beijing Niudian agrees to pay our WFOE a monthly service fee at an amount that is equal to 100% of its net profits or an amount adjusted by our WFOE in its sole discretion for the relevant month, which should be paid within seven business days upon receipt of invoice from our WFOE. Our WFOE has the exclusive ownership of all the intellectual property rights created as a result of the performance of the amended and restated exclusive business cooperation agreement to the extent permitted by applicable PRC law. To guarantee Beijing Niudian's performance of its obligations thereunder, the shareholders of Beijing Niudian shall pledge all of their equity interests in Beijing Niudian to our WFOE pursuant to the second amended and restated equity pledge agreement. The amended and restated exclusive business cooperation agreement will remain effective for a term equal to Beijing Niudian's operating period, unless otherwise terminated by our WFOE in writing or in accordance with applicable PRC law.

In June 2018, our WFOE and Jiangsu Xiaoniu entered into the amended and restated exclusive business cooperation agreement, which contains terms substantially similar to the amended and restated exclusive business cooperation agreement between our WFOE and Beijing Niudian described above.

Agreements that provide us with the option to purchase the equity interests in and assets of our VIE

Second Amended and Restated Exclusive Option Agreements. Pursuant to the second amended and restated exclusive option agreement, dated February 27, 2020, among our company, our WFOE, Beijing Niudian and each of the shareholders of Beijing Niudian has irrevocably granted our company an exclusive option to purchase all or part of his or her equity interests in Beijing Niudian. Our company or our designated person may exercise such options at the price of RMB100 or the lowest price permitted under applicable PRC law. The shareholders of Beijing Niudian undertake that, without our company’s prior written consent, they will not, among other things, (i) create any pledge or encumbrance on their equity interests in Beijing Niudian, (ii) transfer or otherwise dispose of their equity interests in Beijing Niudian, (iii) change Beijing Niudian’s registered capital, (iv) amend Beijing Niudian’s articles of association, (v) dispose of Beijing Niudian’s material assets or enter into any material contract with a value of over RMB100,000 (except in the ordinary course of business), or (vi) merge Beijing Niudian with any other entity. In addition, Beijing Niudian undertakes that, without our company’s prior written consent, it will not, among other things, create any pledge or encumbrance on any of its assets, or transfer or otherwise dispose of its material assets (except in the ordinary course of business). The second amended and restated exclusive option agreement will remain effective until all equity interests in and all the assets of Beijing Niudian have been transferred to our company or our designated person.

In the opinion of DaHui Lawyers, our PRC legal counsel:

- the ownership structures of our VIE in China and our WFOE, are not in violation of applicable PRC laws and regulations currently in effect; and
- the contractual arrangements between our Company, our WFOE, our VIE and its shareholders governed by PRC law are valid, binding and enforceable, and will not result in any violation of applicable PRC laws and regulations currently in effect.

However, our PRC legal counsel has also advised us that there are substantial uncertainties regarding the interpretation and application of current and future PRC laws, regulations and rules. Accordingly, the PRC regulatory authorities may take a view that is contrary to the opinion of our PRC legal counsel. It is uncertain whether any new PRC laws or regulations relating to variable interest entity structures will be adopted or if adopted, what they would provide. If we or any of our VIE are found to be in violation of any existing or future PRC laws or regulations, or fail to obtain or maintain any of the required permits or approvals, the relevant PRC regulatory authorities would have broad discretion to take action in dealing with such violations or failures. We have been further advised by our PRC legal counsel that if the PRC government finds that the agreements in connection with the VIE structure do not comply with PRC laws, we could be subject to severe penalties, including being prohibited from continuing operations. See “Item 3. Key Information — D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Our Corporate Structure—If the PRC government finds that the agreements that establish the structure for operating some of our operations in China do not comply with PRC regulations relating to the relevant industries, or if these regulations or the interpretation of existing regulations change in the future, we could be subject to severe penalties or be forced to relinquish our interests in those operations” and “Item 3. Key Information— D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Doing Business in China—Uncertainties in the interpretation and enforcement of PRC laws and regulations could limit the legal protections available to you and us.”

D. **Property, Plant and Equipment**

Our headquarters is located in Beijing, China, where we lease and occupy our office space with an aggregate floor area of approximately 3,600 square meters. Our Niu Innovation Lab is located in Shanghai, China, where we lease and occupy our office space with an aggregate floor area of approximately 1,100 square meters. Our manufacturing facility and after sales services facilities are in Changzhou, China, where we have both owned and leased facilities with a combined building area of approximately 111,500 square meters. In May 2020, we made prepayment of RMB39.4 million in addition to prepayment of RMB2 million in 2019 to acquire land use rights of a piece of land with total area of 61,148 square meters. In January 2021, we obtained the land use rights certificate. We are in the process of building a new manufacturing facility on this piece of land to expand the production capacity in order to meet the expected increasing demand of our e-scooters. The new facility is expected to be put into trial operation during the second quarter of 2021 and the full construction is expected to complete by the end of 2021. Upon completion, this new facility is expected to have a production capacity of approximately 1 million units per annum. We expect to spend RMB70 million for the construction of the new facility. The expenditure will be financed through our existing cash reserve.

The following table sets forth the location, approximate size and primary use of facilities that we own or we lease:

Our Own Facility			
Location	Approximate Size (Building) in Square Meters	Primary Use	
Changzhou	111,467	Manufacturing and Maintenance Facility	

Location	Approximate Size (Building) in Square Meters	Primary Use	Lease Expiration Date
Beijing	3,615	Office	December 31, 2024
Shanghai	638	Office	September 30, 2021
Shanghai	346	Office	November 14, 2021
Shanghai	159	Office	June 30, 2021
Changzhou	12,000	Manufacturing Facility	December 31, 2024

Item 4A. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects

The following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations is based upon, and should be read in conjunction with, our audited consolidated financial statements and the related notes included in this annual report on Form 20-F. This report contains forward-looking statements. See “Forward-Looking Information.” In evaluating our business, you should carefully consider the information provided under the caption “Item 3. Key Information— D. Risk Factors” in this annual report on Form 20-F. We caution you that our businesses and financial performance are subject to substantial risks and uncertainties.

A. **Operating Results**

Overview

We currently design, manufacture and sell high-performance electric bicycles and motorcycles. We have a streamlined product portfolio consisting of eight series, consisting of four e-scooter series, which are our key products and contributed to the majority of our sales, two urban commuter electric motorcycles, one performance bicycle series, and one kick-scooter series. We have adopted an omnichannel retail model, integrating the offline and online channels, to sell our products and provide services. We sell and service our products through a unique “city partner” system in China, which consisted of 246 city partners with 1,616 franchised stores in over 199 cities in China, and 36 distributors in 46 countries overseas as of December 31, 2020, as well as on our own online store and third-party e-commerce platforms.

Our brand “NIU,” representing style, freedom and technology, has inspired many followers and also enabled us to build a loyal user base. We also offer the NIU app as an integral part of the user experience. Capitalizing on our premium brand, we have also been able to sell lifestyle accessories, which are well received by customers.

We currently generate a majority of our revenues from sales of e-scooters to our distributors offline or to individual consumers online. We also generate revenues by selling accessories and spare parts and providing mobile app and other services.

We have grown rapidly during the recent years. Our revenues were RMB2,444.3 million (US\$374.6 million) in 2020, representing an increase of 17.7% from RMB2,076.3 million in 2019.

Key Factors Affecting Our Results of Operations

Our results of operations and financial condition are affected by the general factors driving China’s electric two-wheeled vehicles industry, including, among others, China’s overall economic growth, the increase in per capita disposable income, the expansion of urbanization, the growth in consumer spending and consumption upgrades, the competitive environment, governmental policies and initiatives towards electric two-wheeled vehicles, as well as the general factors affecting the electric two-wheeled vehicles industry in overseas markets. Unfavorable changes in any of these general industry conditions could negatively affect demand for our products and materially and adversely affect our results of operations.

The COVID-19 outbreak had an adverse impact on our results of operations in the first quarter of 2020. Due to the decreasing demand as a result of the outbreak, our revenues of the first quarter of 2020 saw a decrease of 34.4% year over year. We also incurred fixed costs in operating expenses despite the decrease in sales and level of operations. Beginning in the second quarter of 2020, we experienced recovery and growth in results of operations propelled by the strong recovery in sales in China. See “Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Our Business—Our financial and operating performance may be adversely affected by epidemics or other public health crises.”

While our business is influenced by these general factors, our results of operations are more directly affected by company specific factors, including the following major factors:

- our ability to increase e-scooter sales volume;
- our ability to develop and sell more accessories and spare parts and services;
- our ability to manage our supply chain and manufacturing;
- our ability to enhance our operational efficiency; and
- our ability to expand into international markets.

Our ability to increase e-scooter sales volume

Increase in the e-scooters sales volume is a key driver of our revenue growth. Our revenues increased by 40.5% from RMB1,477.8 million in 2018 to RMB2,076.3 million in 2019, and further by 17.7% to RMB2,444.3 million (US\$374.6 million) in 2020. The number of e-scooters sold increased by 24.1% from 339,585 in 2018 to 421,327 in 2019, and by 42.8% further to 601,652 in 2020. The following table shows the number of e-scooters we sold in the years presented:

	For the Year ended December 31,					
	2018		2019		2020	
	Units	%	Units	%	Units	%
NQi Series	117,289	34.5	116,693	27.7	103,345	17.2
MQi Series	122,233	36.0	75,802	18.0	136,032	22.6
UQi Series	100,063	29.5	206,747	49.1	193,718	32.2
Gova Series	—	—	22,085	5.2	168,537	28.0
NIU Aero Series	—	—	—	—	20	0.0
Total	339,585	100.0	421,327	100.0	601,652	100.0

Our ability to increase e-scooters sales volume depends on our ability to innovate in design and technology and offer e-scooter products that meet the users' demand. Currently our e-scooter lineup consists of four series, including NQi, MQi, UQi and Gova, with multiple models and specifications for each series. We have launched two or more series or models each year since 2018 and plan to continue the practice in the near and medium term, aiming to cover the full spectrum of the urban mobility solutions. Moreover, our ability to increase the sales volume also depends on our ability to continually enhance our brand to attract users and purchases, as well as our ability to successfully execute our omnichannel retail model and expand our sales network both domestically and globally.

Our ability to develop and sell more accessories and spare parts and services

Our results of operations are affected by our ability to develop and sell more accessories and spare parts. Leveraging our strong lifestyle brand, we have been able to generate revenues from selling accessories and spare parts. Revenues generated from selling accessories and spare parts represented 6.2%, 12.2% and 10.6% of our net revenues in 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively. We will continue to enhance our brand and capitalize on our premium brand to develop and sell more accessories to capture more business opportunities.

Our results of operations are also affected by our ability to sell more services. We generate revenue from the NIU app by providing subscription-based mobile app services. Users will need to subscribe for the mobile app service by paying a fee after an initial period of one or two years. Revenues generated from providing services 1.1%, 1.7% and 1.7% of our revenues in 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively. We will continue to further enhance the connectivity and other smart functionalities of our e-scooters and the NIU app and improve the user experience. This not only provides us with additional revenue streams but also improves our gross margin.

Our ability to manage our supply chain and manufacturing

Material and manufacturing costs of our e-scooters have historically accounted for a majority of our cost of revenues. Our future profitability is significantly dependent on our ability to control those costs as a percentage of our revenues, which in turn depends on our ability to effectively manage our supply chain and manufacturing process. Raw materials and components used in the production of our e-scooters are sourced from domestic suppliers as well as international suppliers, and their prices are dependent on various factors in addition to supply and demand. We generally engage multiple suppliers for the key components to minimize the dependency on any single supplier. We will continue to collaborate with our suppliers to manage the cost, capacity and quality of the raw materials and components. As our business grows in scale, we have obtained more bargaining power and hence more favorable terms from suppliers, including pricing terms. Our gross margin improved from 13.4% in 2018 to 23.4% in 2019, and reached 22.9% in 2020 despite the impact from COVID-19, and the cost of revenue reduction contributed to a significant portion of such improvement. Our ability to control cost of products sold also depends on our successful adoption of automatic and intelligent manufacturing equipment and procedures, and effective utilization of our platform-based engineering system, through which designs of new models may be easily adaptable to our existing production lines.

Our ability to enhance our operational efficiency

Our ability to achieve profitability is dependent on our ability to further improve our operational efficiency and reduce the total operating expenses as a percentage of our revenues. Excluding share-based compensation expense, selling and marketing expenses have historically represented the largest portion of our total operating expenses. The advertising and promotion expenses, consisting primarily of online and offline advertisements, are event-driven, and tend to be higher when we launch new products. Excluding advertising and promotions expenses, our selling and marketing expenses as a percentage of our revenues was 5.0%, 5.0% and 4.7% in 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively.

Our ability to lower our selling and marketing expenses as a percentage of revenues depends on our ability to manage our branding and promotion efforts, and improve selling and marketing efficiency. We have adopted an omnichannel retail model, integrating the offline and online channels, to sell our products and provide services. In addition to online channels, we sell and service our products through distribution channels, which consisted of 246 city partners with 1,616 franchised stores in over 199 cities in China and 36 distributors in 46 countries overseas as of December 31, 2020. These distributors promote our brand and market our products and services at their own cost. We will continue to expand and leverage our sales network to enhance our brand and improve sales efficiency. In addition, as our business grows, we expect to achieve greater operating leverage, increase the productivity of our personnel, and obtain more favorable terms from our suppliers.

Our ability to expand to international markets

We have experienced significant growth in our sales in international markets. As of December 31, 2020, we sold our smart e-scooters through 36 distributors in 46 countries overseas. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, 10.8%, 20.9% and 16.6% of our revenues were derived from sales in overseas markets. We believe our global opportunity is significant despite the current adverse impact of COVID on those markets, and we will enter into selected overseas markets that offer identified growth opportunities and favorable government policies. In Europe, we will continue to expand our distribution network, launch new products suitable for local markets, partner with global leading companies to co-brand premium smart e-scooter models, and may seek different business opportunities such as the e-scooter sharing and commercial fleet to drive the growth beyond retail. We will pursue differentiated international strategies for different overseas markets, such as Southeast Asia and India. We believe that our expansion into selected international markets will not only drive our revenue growth but also enhance our brand awareness.

Key Components of Results of Operations

Revenues

We generate revenues from sales of e-scooters, sales of accessories and spare parts, and provision of mobile app and other services. The following table sets forth the break-down of our revenues, in amounts and as percentages of revenues for the years presented:

	For the Year Ended December 31,						
	2018		2019		2020		
	RMB	%	RMB	%	RMB	US\$	
	(in thousands, except for percentage data)						
Revenues:							
E-scooter sales	1,370,522	92.7	1,787,274	86.1	2,143,292	328,474	87.7
Accessories and spare parts sales	91,373	6.2	253,800	12.2	258,929	39,683	10.6
Service revenues	15,886	1.1	35,215	1.7	42,108	6,453	1.7
Total	1,477,781	100.0	2,076,289	100.0	2,444,329	374,610	100.0

We adopted Accounting Standards Codification Topic 606, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (“ASC 606”) on January 1, 2019 and applied ASC 606 using the modified retrospective method for contracts which were not completed at the date of initial adoption. Since the adoption of ASC 606 starting from January 1, 2019, we recognize revenues upon the satisfaction of our performance obligation (upon transfer of control of promised goods or services to customers) in an amount that reflects the consideration to which we expect to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services, excluding amounts collected on behalf of third parties (for example, value added taxes), sales volume rebates provided to qualified distributors based on the volume sold to such distributors in a certain period and sales return estimated based on historical experiences.

E-scooter sales. We generate a majority of our revenues from sales of e-scooters to our distributors offline or directly to individual consumers online.

We have adopted an omnichannel retail model, integrating the offline and online channels, to sell our e-scooters. In China, we have a unique “city partner” system, and sell e-scooters to the city partners. City partners are our distributors, who either open and operate franchised stores or sign up franchised stores, and the franchised stores sell our products and provide services to individual consumers. In overseas markets, we sell to distributors. We generate revenues by selling e-scooters to our city partners in China and overseas distributors at a discount to the retail price. In addition, we incentivize them by providing sales volume rebate. We also sell directly to individual consumers through third-party e-commerce platforms, as well as on our own online store. We treat distributors offline and individual consumers online as our customers.

Accessories and spare parts sales. We sell proprietary accessories and spare parts to be installed on or used with our e-scooters, such as rear storage boxes and front baskets. We also offer NIU-branded accessories and general merchandise, such as decorative car plates, key chains, bicycles and apparel.

Service revenues. Our service revenues primarily relate to our services associated with NIU app, NIU Cover and R&D services to strategic partner.

- *NIU app.* We generate revenues from the NIU app by providing subscription-based mobile app services. The subscription fee for the initial one to two years is included in the retail price of our smart e-scooters, and after the initial period, users will need to pay a fee to renew the subscription.
- *NIU Cover.* We facilitate the sale of insurance policies for our e-scooters to individual customers, which are provided by third-party insurance companies.
- *R&D services.* We collaborate with a strategic partner for a joint R&D project and we earn revenues from the R&D services we provided.

In 2018, 2019 and 2020, we generated 89.2%, 79.1% and 83.4% of our revenues from the PRC, respectively, and the rest from overseas markets.

We expect our revenues will continue to increase in the foreseeable future as we launch more products, expand sales network and retail channels, and further expand our business. While sales of e-scooters will continue to contribute a majority of our revenues, we expect that the revenues generated from selling accessories and spare parts and providing services will increase in absolute amounts in the foreseeable future.

Cost of revenues

Cost of products sold represents a majority of our cost of revenues, and the other components of cost of revenues include write-downs of inventory, logistics costs and warranty costs.

Cost of products sold mainly consists of the cost for purchasing raw materials and components, the labor cost and other costs for manufacturing e-scooters. We purchase raw materials and main components, such as batteries, motors, tires, battery chargers and controllers, from suppliers and assemble e-scooters in our own production facility.

We expect that our cost of revenues will increase in the foreseeable future as we increase our e-scooter and other products sales volume and further expand our business.

Gross margin

Our gross margin is mainly affected by the retail price, product mix change, sales volume rebate and the cost of revenue per e-scooter. The following table shows our gross profit and gross margin for each of the years presented:

	For the Year Ended December 31,							
	2018		2019		2020			
	(in thousands, except for percentage data)							
Gross profit	RMB	198,625	RMB	486,551	RMB	559,149	US\$	85,693
Gross margin		13.4 %		23.4 %		22.9 %		22.9 %

Operating expenses

Our operating expenses consist of selling and marketing expenses, research and development expenses, and general and administrative expenses. The following table sets forth the break-down of our total operating expenses, in amounts and as percentages of total operating expenses for each of the years presented:

	For the Year Ended December 31,					
	2018		2019		2020	
	RMB	%	RMB	%	RMB	US\$
	(in thousands except for percentage data)					
Operating expenses:						
Selling and marketing expenses	150,151	29.2	182,873	55.5	200,761	30,768
Research and development expenses	91,812	17.8	67,187	20.4	105,335	16,143
General and administrative expenses	272,464	53.0	79,616	24.1	104,860	16,070
Total	514,427	100.0	329,676	100.0	410,956	62,982

Selling and marketing expenses. Our selling and marketing expenses primarily consist of advertising and promotion expenses, payroll and related expenses for personnel engaged in selling and marketing activities.

The advertising and promotion expenses, consisting primarily of online and offline advertisements. Our advertising and promotions spending is event-driven, we tend to incur more advertising and promotion expenses when we launch new products.

We expect that our selling and marketing expenses, excluding the advertising and promotion expenses, will continue to increase in absolute amounts in the foreseeable future, as we plan to further expand our sales network and retail channels, and engage in more selling and marketing activities to enhance our brand and attract more purchases from new and existing customers.

Research and development expenses. Our research and development expenses mainly consist of payroll and related costs for employees involved in researching and developing new products and technologies, expenses associated with the use by these functions of our facilities and equipment, such as depreciation and rental expenses, and expenses for outsourced engineering. We expect that our research and development expenses (excluding share-based compensation expenses) will continue to increase in absolute amounts in the foreseeable future, as we continue our innovation in design and technology and further grow our product portfolio.

General and administrative expenses. Our general and administrative expenses mainly consist of payroll and related costs for employees engaging in general corporate functions, professional fees, foreign currency exchange gain (losses) and other general corporate expenses, as well as expenses associated with the use by these functions of facilities and equipment, such as depreciation and rental expenses. We expect that our general and administrative expenses (excluding share-based compensation expenses) will increase in absolute amounts in the foreseeable future, as we hire additional personnel and incur additional expenses related to the anticipated growth of our business and our operation as a public company.

Taxation

Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands currently levies no taxes on individuals or corporations based upon profits, income, gains or appreciation and there is no taxation in the nature of inheritance or estate duty. In addition, the Cayman Islands does not impose withholding tax on dividend payments.

Hong Kong

Our subsidiary incorporated in Hong Kong, Niu Technologies Group Limited, is subject to 16.5% Hong Kong profit tax on its taxable income generated from operations in Hong Kong for the years of assessment 2016/2017 and 2017/2018. Commencing from the year of assessment 2018/2019, the first HK\$2 million of profits earned by Niu Technologies Group Limited is taxed at half the current tax rate (i.e., 8.25%) while the remaining profits continues to be taxed at the existing 16.5% tax rate. Niu Technologies Group Limited is exempted from the Hong Kong income tax on its foreign-derived income. In addition, payments of dividends from Niu Technologies Group Limited to our company are not subject to any withholding tax in Hong Kong. No provision for Hong Kong profits tax was made as we had no estimated assessable profit that was subject to Hong Kong profits tax during 2018, 2019 or 2020.

PRC

Our PRC subsidiaries, the VIE, and VIE's subsidiaries are subject to the PRC Corporate Income Tax Law, or the CIT Law, and are subject to a statutory income tax rate of 25%. Current income tax expense of RMB39,236,745 and deferred income tax benefit of RMB18,150,489 were recognized for the year ended December 31, 2020. Current income tax expense of RMB7,460,535 and deferred income tax expense of RMB753,806 were recognized for the year ended December 31, 2019. Nil current and deferred income tax expense was recognized for the year ended December 31, 2018.

The CIT law also imposes a withholding income tax of 10% on dividends distributed by a foreign investment enterprise, or FIE, to its immediate holding company outside of China, if such immediate holding company is considered as a non-resident enterprise without any establishment or place within China or if the received dividends have no connection with the establishment or place of such immediate holding company within China, unless such immediate holding company's jurisdiction of incorporation has a tax treaty with China that provides for a different withholding arrangement. The Cayman Islands, where Niu Technologies is incorporated, does not have such tax treaty with China. According to the Double Taxation Avoidance and the Tax Evasion Arrangement, dividends paid by an FIE in China to its immediate holding company in Hong Kong will be subject to withholding tax at a rate of no more than 5%, if the immediate holding company owns at least 25% of the equity interest of the FIE and satisfies all other requirements under the tax arrangement and receives approval from the relevant tax authority. We did not record any dividend withholding tax, as our PRC entities have no retained earnings in the periods presented. See "Item 3. Key Information— D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Doing Business in China—We may not be able to obtain certain benefits under relevant tax treaty on dividends paid by our PRC subsidiaries to us through our Hong Kong subsidiary."

The CIT Law also provides that an enterprise established under the laws of a foreign country or region but whose "de facto management body" is located in the PRC be treated as a resident enterprise for PRC tax purposes and consequently be subject to the PRC income tax at the rate of 25% for its global income. The implementing rules of the CIT Law define the location of the "de facto management body" as "the place where the exercising, in substance, of the overall management and control of the production and business operation, personnel, accounting, property, etc., of a non PRC company is located." Based on a review of surrounding facts and circumstances, we do not believe that it is likely that our operations outside the PRC should be considered a resident enterprise for PRC tax purposes. If our holding company in the Cayman Islands or any of our subsidiaries outside of China were deemed to be a "resident enterprise" under the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law, it would be subject to enterprise income tax on its worldwide income at a rate of 25%. See "Item 3. Key Information— D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Doing Business in China—If we are classified as a PRC resident enterprise for PRC income tax purposes, such classification could result in unfavorable tax consequences to us and our non-PRC shareholders or ADS holders."

Results of Operations

The following table sets forth a summary of our consolidated results of operations for the years presented, both in absolute amount and as a percentage of our net revenues for the years presented. Our business has grown rapidly in recent years. Year-to-year comparisons of historical results of operations should not be relied upon as indicative of future performance.

	For the Year Ended December 31,						
	2018		2019		2020		
	RMB	%	RMB	%	RMB	US\$	
	(in thousands, except for percentage data)						
Revenues	1,477,781	100.0	2,076,289	100.0	2,444,329	374,610	100.0
Cost of revenues ⁽¹⁾	(1,279,156)	(86.6)	(1,589,738)	(76.6)	(1,885,180)	(288,917)	(77.1)
Gross profit	198,625	13.4	486,551	23.4	559,149	85,693	22.9
Operating expenses⁽¹⁾							
Selling and marketing expenses	(150,151)	(10.2)	(182,873)	(8.8)	(200,761)	(30,768)	(8.2)
Research and development expenses	(91,812)	(6.2)	(67,187)	(3.2)	(105,335)	(16,143)	(4.3)
General and administrative expenses	(272,464)	(18.4)	(79,616)	(3.8)	(104,860)	(16,070)	(4.3)
Total operating expenses	(514,427)	(34.8)	(329,676)	(15.9)	(410,956)	(62,982)	(16.8)
Government grants	1,396	0.1	29,834	1.4	22,441	3,439	0.9
Operating income (loss)	(314,406)	(21.3)	186,709	9.0	170,634	26,151	7.0
Change in fair value of a convertible loan	(34,500)	(2.3)	—	0.0	—	—	0.0
Interest expenses	(7,722)	(0.5)	(11,397)	(0.5)	(7,381)	(1,131)	(0.3)
Interest income	2,999	0.2	16,899	0.8	8,787	1,347	0.4
Investment income	4,602	0.3	6,088	0.3	17,698	2,712	0.7
Income (loss) before income taxes	(349,027)	(23.6)	198,299	9.6	189,738	29,079	7.8
Income tax expense	—	—	(8,214)	(0.4)	(21,086)	(3,232)	(0.9)
Net income (loss)	(349,027)	(23.6)	190,085	9.2	168,652	25,847	6.9

(1) Share-based compensation expenses are allocated in cost of revenues and operating expenses items as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31,			
	2018	2019	2020	
	RMB	RMB	RMB	US\$
	(in thousands)			
Cost of revenues	247	292	644	99
Selling and marketing expenses	2,125	4,657	9,945	1,524
Research and development expenses	52,864	4,207	10,918	1,673
General and administrative expenses	210,639	10,466	18,102	2,774
Total	265,875	19,622	39,609	6,070

Year Ended December 31, 2020 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2019

Revenues

Our revenues increased by 17.7% from RMB2,076.3 million in 2019 to RMB2,444.3 million (US\$374.6 million) in 2020, which was primarily due to an increase in e-scooter sales volume.

The revenues from e-scooter sales increased by 19.9% from RMB1,787.3 million in 2019 to RMB2,143.3 million (US\$328.5 million) in 2020, which was mainly due to an increase in the sales volume of e-scooters by 42.8% from 421,326 in 2019 to 601,652 in 2020. The increase in the sales volume of e-scooters was driven by the expansion of our sales network in China from 1,050 franchised stores as of December 31, 2019 to 1,616 franchised stores as of December 31, 2020 and an increase in the number of distributors in the overseas markets from 29 as of December 31, 2019 to 36 as of December 31, 2020.

The revenues per e-scooter decreased from RMB4,928.0 in 2019 to RMB4,062.7 in 2020, mainly due to a change in product mix. The respective impact from the change in sales volume of e-scooters and revenues per e-scooter on our revenues in 2020, as compared to 2019, was RMB888.6 million (calculated by assuming the revenues per e-scooter in 2020 was the same as that in 2019) and RMB364.6 million (calculated by assuming the sales volume of e-scooters in 2019 was the same as that in 2020).

The growth of accessories and spare parts sales and service revenues also contributed, to a lesser extent, to the increase in our revenues. The revenues from accessory and spare parts sales increased from RMB253.8 million in 2019 to RMB258.9 million (US\$39.7 million) in 2020, mainly due to an increase in the sales volume of e-scooters in China, with which purchases of accessories and spare parts usually correlate. The service revenues increased from RMB35.2 million in 2019 to RMB42.1 million (US\$6.5 million) in 2020, mainly attributable to the continued growth of our user base.

Cost of revenues

Our cost of revenues increased by 18.6% from RMB1,589.7 million in 2019 to RMB1,885.2 million (US\$288.9 million) in 2020, along with the growth of our business. The increase was primarily attributable to an increase in cost of products from RMB1,513.8 million in 2019 to RMB1,817.1 million (US\$278.5 million) in 2020, which was primarily due to the increase in the sales volume of e-scooters.

The cost per e-scooter, defined as cost of revenues divided by the number of e-scooters sold in a specified period, decreased from RMB3,773.2 in 2019 to RMB3,133.3 in 2020, which was primarily due to a change in product mix.

Gross profit

We generated a gross profit of RMB559.1 million (US\$85.7 million) in 2020, as compared to a gross profit of RMB486.6 million in 2019. Our gross margin slightly decreased from 23.4% in 2019 to 22.9% in 2020, which was primarily due to the change in product mix.

Selling and marketing expenses

Our selling and marketing expenses increased by 9.8% from RMB182.9 million in 2019 to RMB200.8 million (US\$30.8 million) in 2020. The increase was primarily due to an increase of RMB8.6 million in depreciation and amortization, an increase of RMB6.1 million in online platform fee, an increase of RMB4.8 million in staff cost, an increase of RMB5.3 million in share-based compensation, and a decrease of RMB3.2 million in travel expenses. The increase in depreciation and amortization was due to higher depreciation of furniture and decoration expenditures of the franchised stores as a result of the increased number of stores. The increase in online platform fee was due to enhanced online branding and marketing activities. The increase in staff cost and share-based compensation was due to an increase in the number of sales staff and additional share incentive grants. The decrease in travel expenses was due to reduced travel frequency during COVID-19. Excluding advertising and promotion expenses, our selling and marketing expenses as a percentage of our revenues was 4.7% in 2020, as compared to 5.0% in 2019.

Research and development expenses

Our research and development expenses increased by 56.8% from RMB67.2 million in 2019 to RMB105.3 million (US\$16.1 million) in 2020. The increase was mainly attributable to an increase of RMB18.5 million in staff cost, an increase of RMB9.8 million in design expenses, an increase of RMB6.7 million in share-based compensation, and an increase of RMB1.7 million in depreciation and amortization. The increase in staff cost and share-based compensation was mainly due to an increase in the number of staff and additional share incentive grants. The increase of design expenses and depreciation and amortization was due to our efforts to expand our product portfolio. Our research and development expenses as a percentage of our revenues increased from 3.2% in 2019 to 4.3% in 2020.

General and administrative expenses

Our general and administrative expenses increased by 31.7% from RMB79.6 million in 2019 to RMB104.9 million (US\$16.1 million) in 2020. The increase was primarily due to an increase of RMB9.7 million in foreign currency exchange loss, an increase of RMB7.6 million in share-based compensation, an increase of RMB5.0 million in tax and surcharge and an increase of RMB4.0 million in rental expenses. The increase in foreign currency exchange loss was mainly because of the depreciation of US dollar. The increase in share-based compensation expenses was mainly because of additional share incentive grants. The increase in tax and surcharges is mainly due to higher revenues. The increase in rental expenses was mainly due to larger office space. Our general and administrative expenses as a percentage of our revenues increased from 3.8% in 2019 to 4.3% in 2020.

Government grants

Our government grants decreased from RMB29.8 million in 2019 to RMB22.4 million (US\$3.4 million) mainly consisting of various incentives from local government authorities. Those grants were for the purpose of giving immediate financial support from local government authorities with no future related costs or obligations.

Net income

As a result of the foregoing, our net income was RMB168.7 million (US\$25.8 million) in 2020, compared to RMB190.1 million in 2019.

Year Ended December 31, 2019 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2018

Revenues

Our revenues increased by 40.5% from RMB1,477.8 million in 2018 to RMB2,076.3 million in 2019, which was primarily due to the increase in both e-scooter sales volume and revenues per e-scooter.

The revenues from e-scooter sales increased by 30.4% from RMB1,370.5 million in 2018 to RMB1,787.3 million in 2019, which was mainly due to an increase in the sales volume of e-scooters by 24.1% from 339,585 in 2018 to 421,326 in 2019. The increase in the sales volume of e-scooters was driven by the expansion of our sales network in China from 760 franchised stores as of December 31, 2018 to 1,050 franchised stores as of December 31, 2019 and the increase in the number of distributors in the overseas markets from 22 as of December 31, 2018 to 29 as of December 31, 2019.

The revenues per e-scooter increased from RMB4,352 in 2018 to RMB4,928 in 2019, mainly due to a change in product mix. The respective impact from the change in sales volume of e-scooters and revenues per e-scooter on our revenues in 2019, as compared to 2018, was RMB355.7 million (calculated by assuming the revenues per e-scooter in 2019 was the same as that in 2018) and RMB242.7 million (calculated by assuming the sales volume of e-scooters in 2018 was the same as that in 2019).

The growth of accessories and spare parts sales and service revenues also contributed, to a lesser extent, to the increase in our revenues. The revenues from accessory and spare parts sales increased from RMB91.4 million in 2018 to RMB253.8 million in 2019, mainly due to an increase in the sales volume of e-scooters, with which purchases of accessories and spare parts usually correlate, and an increase in the sales of spare parts to overseas sharing operators. The service revenues increased from RMB15.9 million in 2018 to RMB35.2 million in 2019, mainly attributable to the continued growth of our user base and R&D services provided to our strategic partners.

Cost of revenues

Our cost of revenues increased by 24.3% from RMB1,279.2 million in 2018 to RMB1,589.7 million in 2019, along with the growth of our business. The increase was primarily attributable to the increase in cost of products from RMB1,236.0 million in 2018 to RMB1,513.8 million in 2019, which was primarily due to the increase in the sales volume of e-scooters.

The cost per e-scooter, defined as cost of revenues divided by the number of e-scooters sold in a specified period, slightly increased from RMB3,767 in 2018 to RMB3,773 in 2019, as a result of change in product mix.

Gross profit

We generated a gross profit of RMB486.6 million in 2019, as compared to a gross profit of RMB198.6 million in 2018. Our gross margin improved from 13.4% in 2018 to 23.4% in 2019, which was primarily due to the higher retail prices and change in product mix.

Selling and marketing expenses

Our selling and marketing expenses increased by 21.8% from RMB150.1 million in 2018 to RMB182.9 million in 2019. The increase was primarily due to an increase of RMB9.7 million in depreciation and amortization, an increase of RMB6.3 million in product certification fee, an increase of RMB5.5 million in staff cost, and an increase of RMB3.6 million in travel expenses. The increase in depreciation and amortization was due to higher depreciation of furniture and decoration expenditures of the franchised stores as a result of increased number of stores. The increase in product certification fee was due to the new regulations implemented from April 2019 in China. The increase in staff cost and travel expenses were due to an increase in the number of sales staff. Excluding advertising and promotion expenses, our selling and marketing expenses as a percentage of our revenues was 5.0% in 2019, the same as 2018.

Research and development expenses

Our research and development expenses decreased by 26.8% from RMB91.8 million in 2018 to RMB67.2 million in 2019. The decrease was mainly attributable to a decrease of RMB48.7 million in share-based compensation, partially offset by an increase of RMB14.1 million in staff cost and RMB7.8 million in design expenses. The decrease in share-based compensation expenses was mainly due to the higher expenses that arose from the accelerated vesting of certain restricted ordinary shares during 2018 and the transfer of a number of ordinary shares from a shareholder to one of our vice presidents for nil consideration in June 2018. The increase in staff cost was mainly due to an increase in the number of staff. The increase of design expenses was due to our efforts to expand our product portfolio. Our research and development expenses as a percentage of our revenues decreased from 6.2% in 2018 to 3.2% in 2019.

General and administrative expenses

Our general and administrative expenses decreased by 70.8% from RMB272.5 million in 2018 to RMB79.6 million in 2019. The decrease was primarily due to a decrease of RMB200.2 million in share-based compensation and RMB21.8 million loss for the inventories damaged and cost incurred to repair property and equipment in April 2018, partially offset by an increase of RMB12.3 million in staff cost. The decrease in share-based compensation expenses allocated to general and administrative expenses was mainly because of the higher expenses that arose from accelerated vesting of certain restricted ordinary shares during 2018. The increase in staff cost was mainly due to the increased number of staff. Our general and administrative expenses as a percentage of our revenues decreased from 18.4% in 2018 to 3.8% in 2019.

Government grants

Our government grants increased from RMB1.4 million in 2018 to RMB29.8 million mainly consisting of various incentives from local government authorities. Those grants were for the purpose of giving immediate financial support from local government authorities with no future related costs or obligations.

Net income (loss)

As a result of the foregoing, our net income was RMB190.1 million in 2019, compared with a net loss of RMB349.0 million in 2018.

Critical Accounting Policies

We prepare our financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP, which requires us to make judgments, estimates and assumptions. We continually evaluate these estimates and assumptions based on the most recently available information, our own historical experiences and various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Since the use of estimates is an integral component of the financial reporting process, actual results could differ from our expectations as a result of changes in our estimates. Some of our accounting policies require a higher degree of judgment than others in their application and require us to make significant accounting estimates.

The following descriptions of critical accounting policies, judgments and estimates should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and other disclosures included in this annual report. The selection of critical accounting policies, the judgments and other uncertainties affecting application of those policies and the sensitivity of reported results to changes in conditions and assumptions are factors that should be considered when reviewing our financial statements. We believe the following accounting policies involve the most significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our financial statements.

Consolidation of variable interest entity (“VIE”)

We account for entities qualifying as VIE in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Boards, or FASB, Accounting Standards Codification Topic 810, Consolidation, or ASC 810. We operate our online e-commerce platform in the PRC through our VIE, Beijing Niudian, to ensure that our internet operations comply with applicable PRC laws and regulations. Beijing Niudian holds the necessary PRC operating licenses for the online business. Individuals acting as nominee equity holders hold the legal equity interests of Beijing Niudian on our behalf. A series of contractual arrangements were entered into among the Company, Niudian Information, Beijing Niudian, and the nominee equity holders of Beijing Niudian in May 2015 and were subsequently amended in June 2018 and February 2020. As a result of the contractual agreements, which include Powers of Attorney, an Exclusive Business Cooperation Agreement, an Equity Pledge Agreement, an Exclusive Option to Agreement and Spousal Consent Letters, we have the ability to exercise control over Beijing Niudian, direct its activities, receive substantially all of its economic benefits and have an option to purchase all of the equity interests and assets in Beijing Niudian when and to the extent permitted by PRC law at RMB100 or a lowest price. In accordance with ASC 810, we consider that Niu Technologies is the primary beneficiary of Beijing Niudian, and accordingly, Beijing Niudian is our VIE under U.S. GAAP. As such, we consolidate the financial results and position of Beijing Niudian in our consolidated financial statements.

Any changes in PRC laws and regulations that affect our ability to control Beijing Niudian might preclude us from consolidating the entities in the future. We will continually evaluate whether we are the primary beneficiary of our VIE as facts and circumstances change.

Revenue recognition

We generate substantially all of our revenues from sales of electric scooters, accessories and spare parts to our PRC domestic offline distributors and overseas offline distributors or directly to individual customers online. We also generate our revenues from our subscription-based mobile app services, as well as insurance service as an agent.

Periods prior to January 1, 2019

Prior to January 1, 2019, we recognize revenue when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, delivery has occurred and the services have been rendered, the sales price is fixed or determinable, and collection is reasonably assured.

When we sell smart electric scooters to our customers, we also provide advanced mobile app services for free for one to two years (the “free service period”). Customers are able to locate their smart electric scooters, as well as obtain the operating status (e.g. battery status), and claim online repair and maintenance requests for their smart electric scooters, upon their registration of their smart electric scooters on our mobile application. Customers may subscribe to such service after the free service period if they want to continue using aforementioned functions.

We allocate revenue to all deliverables based on their relative selling prices. We use a hierarchy to determine the selling price to be used for allocating revenue to the deliverables: (i) vendor-specific objective evidence (“VSOE”) of fair value, (ii) third-party evidence (“TPE”), and (iii) best estimate of the selling price (“BESP”). We use the standalone selling price (“SSP”) as the fair value of VSOE for mobile application services. The allocated revenue to mobile application services is deferred and recognized over the free service period. The deferred revenue that will be recognized in the next twelve months is classified as current portion, and the remaining balance of deferred revenue is classified as non-current portion.

Revenue from sales of products is recognized when the products are accepted by the domestic offline distributors, overseas offline distributors or individual customers. When we sell our products to distributors for domestic sales in PRC, acceptance of the products by the distributors is evidenced by goods receipt notes signed by the distributors, which is generally at our warehouse. We have no remaining obligations upon the domestic offline distributors’ acceptance of the products. The risks and rewards of ownership of the products are transferred to the domestic offline distributors upon the signing of the goods receipt notes and the domestic offline distributor has no rights to return the products. When we sell our products to distributors for overseas sales, risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to the distributors upon the products are delivered to and accepted by distributors at the named port of shipment. When we sell our products to individual customers through our own online store and third-party e-commerce platform, we are responsible for the delivery to individual customers. Acceptance of the products is evidenced by goods receipt notes signed by individual customers, which represents that the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to individual customers. We offer a 7-day return-and-refund policy to individual customers who purchase products online.

Revenue is recognized net of sales volume rebate, return allowances, and VAT. We provide sales volume rebates to qualified distributors based on the volume sold to such distributors in a certain period. Sales volume rebates are accrued, when the products are sold to distributors. Return allowances, which reduce net revenues, are estimated based on historical experience.

Period commencing January 1, 2019

We adopted ASC Topic 606, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (“ASC 606”) on January 1, 2019. We applied ASC 606 using the modified retrospective method for those contracts, which were not yet completed at the date of initial adoption. Results for reporting periods beginning after January 1, 2019 are presented under the new revenue recognition, while prior periods amounts are not adjusted and continue to be reported in accordance with ASC 605, *Revenue Recognition*.

Since the adoption of ASC 606 starting from January 1, 2019, we recognize revenues upon the satisfaction of our performance obligation (upon transfer of control of promised goods or services to customers) in an amount that reflects the consideration to which we expect to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services, excluding amounts collected on behalf of third parties (for example, value added taxes). For each performance obligation satisfied over time, we recognize revenue over time by measuring the progress toward complete satisfaction of that performance obligation. If a performance obligation is not satisfied over time, it is satisfied at a point in time.

The adoption of new revenue standard did not impact accumulated deficit as of January 1, 2019. We have updated significant accounting policies and relevant disclosures hereinafter.

To achieve that core principle, we perform the five steps defined under Topic 606: (i) identify the contract(s) with a customer, (ii) identify the performance obligations in the contract, (iii) determine the transaction price, (iv) allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract, and (v) recognize revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation. We assess our revenue arrangements against specific criteria in order to determine whether we act as principal or agent. Revenue arrangements with multiple performance obligations are divided into separate distinct goods or services. A performance obligation is considered distinct from other obligations in a contract when it (a) provides a benefit to the customer either on its own or together with other resources that are readily available to the customer and (b) is separately identified in the contract. We allocate the transaction price to each performance obligation based on the relative SSP of the goods or services provided. Revenue is recognized upon the transfer of control of promised goods or services to a customer.

Products

We identify one performance obligation which is to sell products, such as smart electric scooters, accessories and spare parts, to our PRC domestic offline distributors and overseas offline distributors or directly to individual customers online. For all sales of products, we require a signed contract or purchase order, which specifies pricing, quantity and product specifications. Revenue of product sales is recognized on a gross basis upon the satisfaction of its performance obligation, which is to transfer the control of the promised products to customers.

The transfer of control of the products is satisfied at a point in time, which occurs when the products are accepted by the domestic offline distributors, overseas offline distributors or individual customers. When we sell products to our domestic offline distributors for domestic sales, acceptance of the products by the domestic offline distributors is evidenced by goods receipt notes signed by the domestic offline distributors, which is generally at our warehouse. When we sell products to distributors for overseas sales, acceptance of the products by overseas offline distributors is evidenced upon the products are delivered to and accepted by distributors at the named port of shipment. When we sell products to individual customers through its own online store and third-party e-commerce platform, we are responsible for the delivery to individual customers. Acceptance of the products is evidenced by goods receipt notes signed by individual customers.

We provide sales volume rebate to qualified distributors based on the volume sold to such distributors in a certain period and grant online individual customers unconditional right to return the products within 7 days after their acceptance.

Revenues are measured as the amount of consideration we expect to receive in exchange for transferring products to domestic offline distributors, overseas offline distributors or individual customers. Consideration is recorded net of sales volume rebate, sales returns and VAT. Sales returns is estimated based on historical experiences, which were insignificant for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

We utilize delivery service providers to deliver products to overseas offline distributors and individual customers (the “shipping activities”), but the delivery service is not considered as a separate obligation as the shipping activities are performed before the overseas offline distributors and individual customers obtain control of the products. Therefore, shipping activities are not considered a separate promised service to them but rather are activities to fulfill our promise to transfer the products. Outbound shipping charges to overseas offline distributors and individual customers are included as a part of the revenues, and outbound shipping-related costs are recorded as cost of revenues.

Services

When we sell smart electric scooters to our customers, we also provide mobile application services for free for one to two years (the “free service period”). Customers are able to locate their smart electric scooters, as well as obtain the operating status (e.g. battery status), and to claim online repair and maintenance requests of their smart electric scooters, upon their registration of their smart electric scooters on our mobile application. Customers may subscribe to such service after the free service period if they want to continue using aforementioned functions.

Such revenue arrangements are divided into separate distinct performance obligations, including electric scooters and mobile application services. SSP for electric scooters is not directly observable, as we don’t sell the electric scooters without mobile application service for certain free service period. We determine the SSP for electric scooters using the residual approach and subtracting the observable SSP of the mobile application services from the total transaction price.

The allocated revenue to mobile application services of free service period and subscribed mobile application service revenue is deferred and recognized on a straight-line basis over the service period, as we determine that the customer simultaneously receives and consumes benefits provided by us as we perform during the free service period or the subscription period.

Income taxes

Our current income taxes are provided on the basis of net income (loss) for financial reporting purposes, and adjusted for income and expense items which are not assessable or deductible for income tax purposes, in accordance with the regulations of the relevant tax jurisdictions. Our deferred income taxes are provided using the liability method. Under this method, deferred income tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the tax effects of temporary differences and are determined by applying enacted statutory tax rates that will be in effect in the period in which the temporary differences are expected to reverse to the temporary differences between the financial statements' carrying amounts and the tax bases of assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset if there is a legally enforceable right to offset deferred tax liabilities and assets, and they relate to income taxes levied by the same tax authority on the same taxable entity, or on different tax entities, but they intend to settle deferred tax liabilities and assets on a net basis or their deferred tax assets and liabilities will be realized simultaneously.

A valuation allowance is provided to reduce the amount of deferred income tax assets if based on the weight of available evidence, it is more likely than not that some portion, or all, of the deferred income tax assets will not be realized. The effect on deferred income taxes arising from a change in tax rates is recognized in the consolidated statements of comprehensive loss in the period of change.

We apply a "more likely than not" recognition threshold in the evaluation of uncertain tax positions. We recognize the benefit of a tax position in our consolidated financial statements if the tax position is "more likely than not" to prevail based on the facts and technical merits of the position. Tax positions that meet the "more likely than not" recognition threshold are measured at the largest amount of tax benefit that has a greater than fifty percent likelihood of being realized upon settlement. Unrecognized tax benefits may be affected by changes in interpretation of laws, rulings of tax authorities, tax audits, and expiry of statutory limitations. In addition, changes in facts, circumstances and new information may require us to adjust the recognition and measurement estimates with regard to individual tax positions. Accordingly, unrecognized tax benefits are periodically reviewed and re-assessed. Adjustments, if required, are recorded in our consolidated financial statements in the period in which the change that necessitates the adjustments occurs. The ultimate outcome for a particular tax position may not be determined with certainty prior to the conclusion of a tax audit and, in certain circumstances, a tax appeal or litigation process. We record interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits (if any) in interest expenses and general and administrative expenses, respectively.

Share-based compensation

We periodically grant share-based awards, including but not limited to, restricted ordinary shares, restricted share units and share options, to eligible employees and directors.

Share-based awards granted to our employees and directors are measured at the grant date fair value of the awards and are recognized as compensation expense using the straight line method over the requisite service period, which is generally the vesting period. Forfeitures are accounted when they occur.

A change in any of the terms or conditions of share-based awards is accounted for as a modification of the awards. We calculate incremental compensation cost of a modification as the excess of the fair value of the modified awards over the fair value of the original awards immediately before its terms are modified at the modification date. For vested awards, we recognize incremental compensation cost in the period the modification occurs. For awards not being fully vested, we recognize the sum of the incremental compensation cost and the remaining unrecognized compensation cost for the original awards over the remaining requisite service period after modification.

Share-based compensation expenses in relation to our restricted ordinary shares and restricted share units are measured based on the fair value of our ordinary shares at the grant date of the award. Prior to our initial public offering, the fair value was estimated using the income approach and equity allocation method. Estimation of the fair value of our ordinary shares involves significant assumptions that might not be observable in the market, and a number of complex and subjective variables, including the expected share price volatility (approximated by the volatility of comparable companies), discount rate, risk-free interest rate and subjective judgments regarding our projected financial and operating results, our unique business risks, the liquidity of our ordinary shares and our operating history and prospects at the time the grants are made. After our initial public offering, the fair value is the closing prices of our stock traded in the open market as of the grant date. Share-based compensation expenses in relation to the share options are estimated using the Binominal Option Pricing Model. The determination of the fair value of share options is affected by the share price of our ordinary shares as well as the assumptions regarding a number of complex and subjective variables, including the expected share price volatility (estimated based on the historical volatility of our company and comparable peer public companies with a time horizon close to the expected term of our company's options), risk-free interest rate, exercise multiple and expected dividend yield. The fair value of these awards was determined with the assistance from a valuation report prepared by an independent valuation firm using our estimates and assumptions.

Restricted ordinary shares

In May 2015, Mr. Yi'nan Li, Mr. Token Yilin Hu and Ms. Yuqin Zhang and Niu Holding Inc. entered into an arrangement with our other investors, whereby all of their 59,459,020 ordinary shares became restricted and subject to service vesting conditions. The restricted ordinary shares vest equally in four years from the date of imposition of the restriction. The restricted ordinary shares are subject to repurchase by us upon termination of Mr. Yi'nan Li, Mr. Token Yilin Hu and Ms. Yuqin Zhang's service with us. We have the right, at our sole discretion, to repurchase restricted ordinary shares at their par value within 60 days after the termination. The restricted ordinary shares are not transferable prior to being vested. Other than the restriction on transfer and service vesting conditions, Holders of restricted ordinary shares have all other rights and privileges as ordinary shareholders. Compensation cost was measured for the restricted ordinary shares using the estimated fair value of our ordinary shares of US\$0.53 per share at the date of imposition of the restriction in May 2015, and is amortized to consolidated statements of comprehensive loss on a straight line basis over the vesting term of four years.

In February 2016, Ms. Yuqin Zhang resigned and we determined not to repurchase restricted ordinary shares held by Ms. Yuqin Zhang. As such, all restricted ordinary shares held by Ms. Yuqin Zhang vested immediately. Compensation cost was recognized immediately when the service condition was waived.

In January 2016, our shareholders approved a modification of 3,307,500 restricted ordinary shares owned by Mr. Yi'nan Li, through Niu Holding Inc. Such number of restricted ordinary shares vested immediately and became transferable. Unrecognized compensation cost of 3,307,500 shares was recognized upon modification. Mr. Yi'nan Li transferred 3,307,500 ordinary shares to ELLY Holdings Limited, an entity owned by Dr. Yan Li. In January 2016, we also issued 3,307,500 restricted ordinary shares to ELLY Holdings Limited at par value. As a result of these transactions, ELLY Holdings Limited collectively owns 6,615,000 restricted ordinary shares which vest annually in equal instalments over four years from January 2016.

In January 2016, we issued 1,804,000 restricted ordinary shares to Smart Power Group Limited, an entity owned by Mingming Huang, a new member of our Board of Directors. 25% of the restricted ordinary shares vested on May 27, 2016 and the remaining 75% of the restricted ordinary shares vest annually in equal instalments over the next three years.

On June 8, 2018, Mr. Yi'nan Li and Mr. Mingming Huang resigned and we determined not to repurchase 9,798,125 and 451,000 restricted ordinary shares held by Mr. Yi'nan Li and Mr. Mingming Huang, respectively. It represented a modification to accelerate vesting. Compensation cost was recognized immediately upon the modification.

Upon our initial public offering on October 19, 2018, all remaining unvested restricted ordinary shares were vested immediately. Unrecognized compensation cost was recognized immediately.

Compensation expenses recognized for restricted ordinary shares for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2018 are RMB59.2 million and RMB226.2 million, respectively.

Share options

In February 2016, we adopted the 2016 Global Share Incentive Plan, and amended it in March 2018. Under the amended plan, a maximum aggregate number of 5,861,480 ordinary shares may be issued pursuant to all awards granted. Share options are generally granted with 40% vesting on the second anniversary of the grant date and the remaining vesting in three equal annual installments, unless a shorter or longer duration is established at the time of the option grant.

In September 2018, our shareholders and board of directors approved the 2018 Share Incentive Plan to promote the success and enhance the value of our company. Under the 2018 Share Incentive Plan, the maximum aggregate number of ordinary shares available for issuance is 6,733,703 ordinary shares, which shall be increased by a number equal to 1.5% of the total number of ordinary shares issued and outstanding on the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal year, each fiscal year during the term of the 2018 Share Incentive Plan, if determined and approved by the board of directors for the relevant fiscal year. Our board of directors has approved annual increases of 2,230,111, 2,241,253, and 2,285,407 ordinary shares, representing 1.5% of total issued and outstanding shares as of December 31, 2018, 2019, and 2020, respectively, pursuant to the 2018 Share Incentive Plan. Share options and restricted share units are generally granted with 25% vesting on each anniversary of the grant date.

From January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020, our board of directors granted the following options to our employees and directors:

Grant Date	Number of Options	Exercise Price (US\$/Share)	Fair Value of the Options as of the Grant Date (US\$)	Fair Value of the Underlying Ordinary Share as of the Grant Date (US\$)
February 1, 2018	174,500	0.20	1.87	2.05
May 1, 2018	958,196	0.00—0.20	1.87—2.05	2.06
November 1, 2018	83,000	0.20	3.92	4.10
August 1, 2019	4,180,000	3.425	3.05-3.30	3.425

In determining the fair value of our stock options, the binomial option pricing model was applied. The key assumptions used to determine the fair value of the options at the relevant grant dates in 2018 and 2019 were as follows. Changes in these assumptions could significantly affect the fair value of stock options.

Grant Date:	2018	2019
Risk-free rate of return (per annum) ⁽¹⁾	2.78%—3.13 %	1.90 %
Expected volatility ⁽²⁾	49.9%—50.9 %	47.9 %
Expected dividend yield ⁽³⁾	0 %	0 %
Expected exercise multiple ⁽⁴⁾	2.2	2.2—2.8
Expected term (in years) ⁽⁵⁾	10	10

- (1) The risk-free interest rate was estimated based on the yield to maturity of U.S. treasury bonds denominated in U.S. dollar for a term consistent with the expected term of the granted options in effect at the option valuation date.
- (2) The expected volatility was estimated based on the historical volatility of comparable peer public companies with a time horizon close to the expected term of the granted options.
- (3) The expected dividend yield is zero as we have never declared or paid any cash dividends on our shares, and we do not anticipate any dividend payments in the foreseeable future.
- (4) The expected exercise multiple was estimated as the average ratio of the share price to the exercise price as at the time when employees would decide to voluntarily exercise their vested options. As we did not have sufficient information of past employee exercise history, we considered the statistics on exercise patterns of employees compiled by Huddart and Lang in Huddart, S., and M. Lang. 1996. "Employee Stock Option Exercises: An Empirical Analysis." *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, vol. 21, no. 1 (February):5-43, which are widely adopted by valuers as authoritative guidance on expected exercise multiples.
- (5) The expected term is the contract life of the options.

Compensation expenses recognized for share options for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020 were RMB5.7 million, RMB12.0 million and RMB17.7 million (US\$2.7 million), respectively. As of December 31, 2020, RMB35.2 million (US\$5.4 million) of total unrecognized compensation expenses related to share options are expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 2.41 years.

Restricted Share Units

In October 2018, we granted 100,000 restricted share units to five independent directors in aggregate. Restricted share units were granted with 50% vesting on the first anniversary of the grant date and the remaining vesting on the second anniversary.

In February, April, August and December 2019, we granted an aggregate of 1,694,600 restricted share units to our employees. Restricted share units were granted with 25% vesting on each anniversary of the grant date.

In April, October and November of 2020, we granted an aggregate of 2,187,700 restricted share units to our employees. Restricted share units were granted with 25% vesting on each anniversary of the grant date.

Compensation expenses recognized for restricted share units for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020 were RMB0.4 million, RMB7.6 million and RMB21.9 million (US\$3.4 million). As of December 31, 2020, RMB69.1 million (US\$10.6 million) of total unrecognized compensation expenses related to restricted share units are expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 2.85 years.

Fair value of our ordinary shares

Prior to our initial public offering, we were a private company with no quoted market prices for our ordinary shares. We have therefore needed to make estimates of the fair value of our ordinary shares on various dates for the following purposes:

- determining the fair value of our ordinary shares at the date of issuance of convertible instruments as one of the inputs into determining the intrinsic value of the beneficial conversion feature, if any;
- determining the fair value of our ordinary shares at the date of the grant of a share-based compensation award and restricted ordinary shares to our employees as one of the inputs into determining the grant date fair value; and
- determining the fair value of convertible loans issued by us, which is measured at fair value in its entirety with amount of changes in fair value recognized in earnings in consolidated statements of comprehensive loss, at each balance sheet date.

The following table sets forth the fair value of our ordinary shares estimated at different times with the assistance from an independent valuation firm:

Date	Fair Value Per Ordinary Share (US\$)	Discount Rate	DLOM
August 1, 2017	1.01	22 %	18 %
November 1, 2017	1.22	21 %	16 %
December 31, 2017	1.31	21 %	16 %
February 1, 2018	2.05	20 %	13 %
May 1, 2018	2.06	20 %	13 %
June 8, 2018	2.62	18 %	11 %

All the valuations set forth in the above table were performed on retrospective basis. We obtained a retrospective valuation instead of a contemporaneous valuation, because, on the various valuation dates, our financial and limited human resources were principally focused on our business development efforts. This approach is consistent with the guidance prescribed by the AICPA Audit and Accounting Practice Aid, Valuation of Privately-Held-Company Equity Securities Issued as Compensation, or the Practice Aid. Specifically, the “Level B” recommendation in paragraph 16 of the Practice Aid sets forth the preferred types of valuation that should be used.

Valuations of our ordinary shares were determined in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Practice Aid, Valuation of Privately—Held Company Equity Securities Issued as Compensation, and with the assistance of an independent appraisal firm from time to time. The assumptions we use in the valuation model are based on future expectations combined with management judgment, with inputs of numerous objective and subjective factors, to determine the fair value of our ordinary shares, including the following factors:

- our operating and financial performance;
- current business conditions and projections;
- our stage of development;
- the prices, rights, preferences and privileges of our convertible preference shares relative to our ordinary shares;
- the likelihood of achieving a liquidity event for the ordinary shares underlying these share-based awards, such as an initial public offering;
- any adjustment necessary to recognize a lack of marketability for our ordinary shares; and
- the market performance of industry peers.

In order to determine the fair value of our ordinary shares underlying each share-based award grant, we first determined our business enterprise value, or BEV, and then allocated the BEV to each element of our capital structure (convertible loans, convertible preferred shares and ordinary shares) using a hybrid method comprising the probability-weighted expected return method and the option pricing method or monte carol simulation method. In our case, three scenarios were assumed, namely: (i) the liquidation scenario, in which the option pricing method was adopted to allocate the value between convertible preferred shares and ordinary shares, and (ii) the redemption scenario, in which the option pricing method was adopted to allocate the value between convertible preferred shares and ordinary shares, and (iii) the mandatory conversion scenario, in which equity value was allocated to convertible preferred shares and ordinary shares on an as-if converted basis. Increasing probability was assigned to the mandatory conversion scenario in light of preparations for our initial public offering.

In determining the fair value of our ordinary shares, we applied the income approach / discounted cash flow analysis based on our projected cash flow using our best estimate as of the valuation date. The determination of the fair value of our ordinary shares requires complex and subjective judgments to be made regarding our projected financial and operating results, our unique business risks, the liquidity of our shares and our operating history and prospects at the time of valuation.

Discount rates

The discounted cash flow method of the income approach involves applying appropriate discount rates to discount the forecasted future cash flows to the present value. In determining an appropriate discount rate, we have considered the cost of equity and the rate of return expected by venture capitalists.

Cost of equity

We calculated the cost of equity of the business as of the valuation dates using the capital asset pricing model, or CAPM, the most commonly adopted method for estimating the required rate of return for equity. Under CAPM, the cost of equity is determined with consideration of the risk-free rate, systematic risk, equity market premium, size of our company, the scale of our business and our ability to achieve forecasted projections. In deriving the cost of equity, certain publicly traded companies involving similar business were selected for reference as our guideline companies. To reflect the operating environment in China and the general sentiment in the U.S. capital markets towards automobiles, the guideline companies were selected with consideration of the following factors: (i) the guideline companies should provide similar products, and (ii) the guideline companies should either have their principal operations in the Asia Pacific region, as we mainly operate in China, or are publicly listed companies in the United States, since we listed our shares in the United States.

Discount for lack of marketability, or DLOM

We also applied a discount for lack of marketability, or DLOM, ranging from 16% to 23%, to reflect the fact that there is no ready market for shares in a closely-held company like ours. When determining the DLOM, the Finnerty option pricing model was used. Under this option-pricing method, the cost of the put option, which can hedge the price change before the privately held shares can be sold, was considered as a basis to determine the DLOM. This option pricing method was used because it takes into account certain company-specific factors, including the timing of the expected initial public offering and the volatility of the share price of the guideline companies engaged in the same industry.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

We discuss recently adopted and issued accounting standards in Note 2, “Summary of Significant Accounting Policies—Recent Accounting Pronouncements” of the notes to our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report.

B. Liquidity and Capital Resources

Cash flows and working capital

We had net cash provided by operating activities of RMB8.6 million, RMB178.7 million and RMB465.6 million (US\$71.4 million) in 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively.

Our primary sources of liquidity have been cash provided by operating activities and financing activities. As of December 31, 2020, we had RMB395.5 million (US\$60.6 million) in cash and restricted cash, of which approximately 9.2% were held in Renminbi and the remainder was mainly held in U.S. dollars.

In October 2018, we raised from our initial public offering approximately US\$55.2 million in net proceeds after deducting underwriting commissions and discounts and the offering expenses payable by us.

After considering all facts available to us as of the date of this annual report, including the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, we believe our cash on hand will be sufficient to meet our current and anticipated needs for general corporate purposes for at least the next 12 months. We may, however, need additional cash resources in the future if we experience changes in business conditions or other developments. We may also need additional cash resources in the future if we find and wish to pursue opportunities for investment, acquisition, capital expenditure or similar actions. If we determine that our cash requirements exceed the amount of cash we have on hand, we may seek to issue equity or equity linked securities or obtain debt financing. The issuance and sale of additional equity would result in further dilution to our shareholders. The incurrence of indebtedness would result in increased fixed obligations and could result in operating covenants that would restrict our operations. We cannot assure you that financing will be available in amounts or on terms acceptable to us, if at all.

Our accounts receivable represent primarily accounts receivable from the distributors that purchased our e-scooters and accessories and spare parts. As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, our accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts, were RMB115.2 million and RMB101.3 million (US\$15.5 million), respectively. Our accounts receivable turnover days increased from 8 days in 2018 to 15 days in 2019, and further to 16 days in 2020 mainly due to our change of credit policies for Chinese distributors where selected qualified distributors enjoy credit terms. A vast majority of the distributors make full payments upfront for their orders. Accounts receivable turnover days for a given period are equal to average balances of accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts, at the beginning and the end of the period divided by revenues during the period and multiplied by the number of days during the period.

Our accounts payable represent primarily accounts payable to suppliers from whom we purchased raw materials and components for our products. As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, our accounts payable were RMB259.0 million and RMB395.8 million (US\$60.7 million), respectively. The increase was primarily due to higher amount of procurement from suppliers as a result of the growth of our business. Our accounts payable turnover days increased from 53 days in 2018 to 58 days in 2019 and further to 63 days in 2020, which was primarily due to the change in our supplier mix and longer payment terms from selected suppliers. Accounts payable turnover days for a given period are equal to average accounts payable balances at the beginning and the end of the period divided by total cost of revenues during the period and multiplied by the number of days during the period.

Our advances from customers represent primarily the pre-paid sales price from the distributors that purchased our e-scooters and accessories and spare parts. As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, our advances from customers were RMB7.5 million and RMB40.1 million (US\$6.1 million), respectively. Our advances from customer turnover days decreased from 9 days in 2018 to 2.5 days in 2019 and increased to 3.5 days in 2020. The changes in our advances from customers and the turnover days were primarily due to the fluctuations in pre-sales orders received from distributors. Advance from customers turnover days for a given period are equal to average advances from customers balances at the beginning and the end of the period divided by revenues during the period and multiplied by the number of days during the period.

Our inventories primarily include our raw materials, work in progress and finished goods for our e-scooters and accessories and spare parts. As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, our inventories were RMB178.6 million and RMB142.2 million (US\$21.8 million), respectively. The decrease was primarily due to higher efficiency in fulfillment and operation. Our inventory turnover days increased from 33 days in 2018 to 37 days in 2019 and decreased to 31 days in 2020, which was primarily due to the fluctuations in fulfillment and sales order forecast. Inventory turnover days for a given period are equal to average of the balances of inventories, at the beginning and the end of the period divided by cost of revenues during the period and multiplied by the number of days during the period.

We have the following short-term bank borrowings:

- In December 2015 and March 2016, respectively, Jiangsu Xiaoniu entered into two line-of-credit agreements with East West Bank that provide revolving credit facility, in aggregate, for up to RMB100.0 million, each with a one-year term. The interest rate of the drawn down funds was at 2.8% per annum. To collateralize these lines of credits, our group deposited US\$16.0 million in aggregate with East West Bank. The line-of-credit agreements were subsequently amended several times to (i) extend the maturity date to April 15, 2020 and (ii) modify the interest rate. In April 2020, the loan was fully repaid.
- In November 2017, Jiangsu Xiaoniu entered into a facility agreement with SPD Silicon Valley Bank that provides credit facility of up to RMB60.0 million with a one-year term. The interest rate of the loan is at standard rate published by People's Bank of China. To collateralize this credit facility, we deposited US\$10.0 million with SPD Silicon Valley Bank. The facility agreement was subsequently amended several times and in June 2020, Jiangsu Xiaoniu entered into an amendment agreement to (i) extend the maturity date, which is currently June 11, 2021, (ii) change the credit facility to RMB160.0 million, (iii) change the collateral to deposit US Dollar in equivalent to RMB176 million at the time of drawdown. As of December 31, 2020, the outstanding balance under this facility was RMB160.0 million bearing interest at 3.85% per annum.
- In January 2019, Beijing Niudian obtained a one-year short-term bank borrowing of RMB28.5 million with interest rate of 5.32% per annum from Bank of Ningbo. Niudian Information provided guarantee for this borrowing by a restricted cash of RMB30 million. In January 2020, the loan was fully repaid.
- In December 2019, Jiangsu Xiaoniu obtained a one-year short-term bank borrowing of RMB 20.0 million, which bears interest at a rate of 4.5675% per annum, from Bank of China, which are jointly guaranteed by Beijing Niudian Technology Co., Ltd. and Changzhou Niudian International Trading Technology Co., Ltd. In July 2020, the loan was fully repaid. In July 2020, Jiangsu Xiaoniu obtained a new one-year short-term bank borrowing of RMB 20.0 million, which bears interest at a rate of 3.85% per annum, from Bank of China. As of December 31, 2020, the outstanding balance of this loan was RMB20.0 million.

In December 2016, we entered into a convertible loan purchase agreement with and issued convertible notes to certain existing shareholders for a bridge loan in the aggregate principal amount of US\$16.8 million, or 2016 Convertible Loans. The loanholders had the option to convert all or part of the outstanding principal into our preferred shares upon our Series B round financing prior to our initial public offering, subject to certain conditions. The interest rate of 2016 Convertible Loans is 5% per annum, subject to certain conditions. The 2016 convertible loans were converted to 10,119,329 Series A-3 Preferred Shares at the price of US\$1.66 per share on March 26, 2018.

Although we consolidate the results of our VIE, we only have access to the assets or earnings of our VIE through our contractual arrangements with our VIE and its shareholders. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—C. Organizational Structure” For restrictions and limitations on liquidity and capital resources as a result of our corporate structure, see “—Holding Company Structure.”

A substantial majority of our revenues have been, and we expect they are likely to continue to be, in the form of Renminbi. Under existing PRC foreign exchange regulations, payments of current account items, including profit distributions, interest payments and trade and service-related foreign exchange transactions, can be made in foreign currencies without prior SAFE approval as long as certain routine procedural requirements are fulfilled. Therefore, our PRC subsidiaries are allowed to pay dividends in foreign currencies to us without prior SAFE approval by following certain routine procedural requirements. However, current PRC regulations permit our PRC subsidiaries to pay dividends to us only out of its accumulated profits, if any, determined in accordance with Chinese accounting standards and regulations. Our PRC subsidiaries are required to set aside at least 10% of its after-tax profits after making up previous years’ accumulated losses each year, if any, to fund certain reserve funds until the total amount set aside reaches 50% of its registered capital. These reserves are not distributable as cash dividends. Historically, our PRC subsidiaries have not paid dividends to us. Furthermore, capital account transactions, which include foreign direct investment and loans, must be approved by and/or registered with SAFE, its local branches and certain local banks.

As a Cayman Islands exempted company and offshore holding company, we are permitted under PRC laws and regulations to provide funding to our PRC subsidiaries only through loans or capital contributions, subject to the approval of government authorities and limits on the amount of capital contributions and loans. This may delay us from using the proceeds from our initial public offering to make loans or capital contributions to our PRC subsidiaries. We expect to invest substantially all of the proceeds from our initial public offering into our PRC operations for general corporate purposes within the business scopes of our PRC subsidiaries and our VIE. See “Item 3. Key Information— D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Doing Business in China—PRC regulation of loans to and direct investment in PRC entities by offshore holding companies and governmental control of currency conversion may delay or prevent us from using the proceeds of our offshore offerings to make loans to or make additional capital contributions to our PRC subsidiaries, which could materially and adversely affect our liquidity and our ability to fund and expand our business.”

The following table sets forth the movements of our cash flows for the years presented:

	For the Year Ended December 31,			
	2018 RMB	2019 RMB	2020 RMB	US\$
	(in thousands)			
Selected Consolidated Cash Flow Data:				
Net cash provided by operating activities	8,569	178,680	465,599	71,356
Net cash used in investing activities	(103,590)	(467,889)	(535,232)	(82,028)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	555,383	35,282	(13,164)	(2,017)
Effect of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash and restricted cash	6,076	7,206	(23,332)	(3,576)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and restricted cash	466,438	(246,721)	(106,129)	(16,265)
Cash and restricted cash at the beginning of the year	281,885	748,323	501,602	76,874
Cash and restricted cash at the end of the year	748,323	501,602	395,473	60,609

Operating activities

Net cash provided by operating activities in 2020 was RMB465.6 million (US\$71.4 million). This amount was primarily attributable to net income of RMB168.7 million (US\$25.8 million), adjusted for certain non-cash expenses, principally depreciation and amortization expenses of RMB50.2 million (US\$7.7 million) and share-based compensation expenses of RMB39.6 million (US\$6.1 million), and changes in certain working capital accounts that affected operating cash flow, primarily (i) a RMB136.8 million (US\$21.0 million) increase in accounts payable, (ii) a RMB30.6 million (US\$4.7 million) decrease in inventories and (iii) a RMB32.7 million (US\$5.0 million) increase in advance from customers. The increase in accounts payable was primarily due to the growth of our business and operation. The increase in advance from customers was mainly due to the fluctuations in pre-sale orders received from distributors. The decrease in inventories is primarily due to higher efficiency and faster fulfillment.

Net cash provided by operating activities in 2019 was RMB178.7 million. This amount was primarily attributable to net income of RMB190.1 million, adjusted for certain non-cash expenses, principally depreciation and amortization expenses of RMB32.4 million and share-based compensation expenses of RMB19.6 million, write-down of inventories of RMB10.5 million and changes in certain working capital accounts that affected operating cash flow, primarily (i) a RMB63.9 million increase in accounts receivable and (ii) a RMB46.7 increase in inventories, partially offset by (iii) a RMB25.7 million increase in accrued expenses and other current liabilities and (iv) a RMB20.4 million increase in deferred revenue. The increases in accounts receivable, inventories and deferred revenue were primarily due to the growth of our business and operation. The increase in accrued expenses and other current liabilities was primarily due to the increase in provision for warranty as a result of the growth of accumulated number of e-scooters sold that were still within the warranty period, the increase in sales volume rebates as a result of the growth of sales through distributors, other taxes payable, employee options payable and accrued marketing expenses.

Net cash provided by operating activities in 2018 was RMB8.6 million. This amount was primarily attributable to net loss of RMB349.0 million, adjusted for certain non-cash expenses, principally share-based compensation expenses of RMB265.9 million and a loss of RMB34.5 million associated with change in fair value of a convertible loan, and changes in certain working capital accounts that affected operating cash flow, primarily (i) a RMB124.7 million increase in accounts payable and (ii) a RMB55.6 increase in accrued expenses and other current liabilities, partially offset by (iii) a RMB72.4 million increase in inventories and (iv) a RMB42.8 million increase in accounts receivable. The increase in accounts payable was primarily due to the change in our supplier mix, longer payment terms from selected suppliers and the larger amount of procurement from suppliers. The increase in accrued expenses and other current liabilities was primarily due to the increase in sales volume rebates as a result of the growth of sales through distributors, the increase in provision for warranty as a result of the growth of accumulated number of e-scooters sold that were still within the warranty period, and accrued professional fees and marketing expenses. The increases in inventories and accounts receivable were primarily due to the growth of our business and operation.

Investing activities

Net cash used in investing activities in 2020 was RMB535.2 million (US\$82.0 million), consisting primarily of cash paid for purchases of term deposits, short-term investments, land use right, and property, plant and equipment, partially offset by cash received from sale of short-term investments and withdrawal from term deposits.

Net cash used in investing activities in 2019 was RMB467.9 million, consisting primarily of cash paid for purchases of term deposits, short-term investments and property, plant and equipment, partially offset by cash received from sale of short-term investments and withdrawal from term deposits.

Net cash used in investing activities in 2018 was RMB103.6 million, consisting primarily of cash paid for purchases of property, plant and equipment, intangible assets, term deposits and short-term investments, partially offset by cash received from sale of short-term investments and withdrawal from term deposits.

Financing activities

Net cash used in financing activities in 2020 was RMB13.2 million (US\$2.0 million), consisting primarily of repayments of short-term bank borrowings, partially offset by the proceeds from exercise of employee stock option.

Net cash provided by financing activities in 2019 was RMB35.3 million, consisting primarily of proceeds from short-term bank borrowings, partially offset by repayments for short-term bank borrowings.

Net cash provided by financing activities in 2018 was RMB555.4 million, consisting primarily of proceeds from issuance of Series B redeemable convertible preferred shares and proceeds from our initial public offering, partially offset by cash paid for repurchase of ordinary shares.

Capital Expenditures

We made capital expenditures of RMB53.2 million, RMB141.0 million and RMB151.6 million (US\$23.2 million) in 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively. Capital expenditures represent cash paid for purchase of property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and land use right. We will continue to make such capital expenditures to support the expected growth of our business.

Holding Company Structure

Our Company, Niu Technologies, is a holding company with no material operations of its own. We conduct our operations primarily through our WFOE and VIE. As a result, Niu Technologies' ability to pay dividends depends upon dividends paid by our WFOE.

If our WFOE or any newly formed PRC subsidiaries incur debt on their own behalf in the future, the instruments governing their debt may restrict their ability to pay dividends to us. In addition, our WFOE is permitted to pay dividends to us only out of its retained earnings, if any, as determined in accordance with PRC accounting standards and regulations. Under PRC law, each of our WFOE and our VIE is required to set aside at least 10% of its after-tax profits each year, if any, to fund certain statutory reserve funds until such reserve funds reach 50% of its registered capital. In addition, our WFOE may allocate a portion of its after-tax profits based on PRC accounting standards to enterprise expansion funds and staff bonus and welfare funds at its discretion, and our VIE may allocate a portion of their after-tax profits based on PRC accounting standards to a discretionary surplus fund at its discretion. The statutory reserve funds and the discretionary funds are not distributable as cash dividends. Remittance of dividends by a wholly foreign-owned company out of China is subject to examination by the banks designated by SAFE. As of December 31, 2020, as our WFOE, Beijing Niudian, Shanghai Xiaoniu Internet Technology Co., Ltd. and Changzhou Niudian International Trading Technology Co., Ltd. are in an accumulated loss position, no statutory reserve was appropriated. Our WFOE has not paid dividends and will not be able to pay dividends until it generates accumulated profits and meets the requirements for statutory reserve funds.

C. Research and Development

See "Item 4. Information On the Company—B. Business Overview—NIU Innovation Lab" and "—Intellectual Property."

D. Trend Information

Other than as disclosed elsewhere in this annual report, we are not aware of any trends, uncertainties, demands, commitments or events for the year ended December 31, 2020 that are reasonably likely to have a material and adverse effect on our net revenues, income, profitability, liquidity or capital resources, or that would cause the disclosed financial information to be not necessarily indicative of future results of operations or financial conditions.

E. Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

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

F. Tabular Disclosure of Contractual Obligations

The following table sets forth our contractual obligations as of December 31, 2020:

	Payment Due by Period				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1 - 3 years	3 - 5 years	More than 5 years
Operating lease	45,987	11,173	20,628	13,511	675
Capital commitment	43,057	36,499	5,865	594	99

Our capital commitments are primarily related to the construction project of a building in Changzhou, China.

Except for those disclosed above, we did not have any significant capital or other commitments, long-term obligations, or guarantees as of December 31, 2020.

G. Safe Harbor

See “Forward-Looking Information” on page 1 of this annual report.

Item 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees**A. Directors and Senior Management**

The following table sets forth information regarding our directors and executive officers as of the date of this annual report.

<u>Directors and Executive Officers</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Position/Title</u>
Yan Li	42	Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer
Token Yilin Hu	36	Director and Vice President of Research and Development
Changqing Ye	50	Independent Director
Mei-Wei Cheng	71	Independent Director
Julian Juul Wolhardt	47	Independent Director
John Jinshu Zhang	61	Independent Director
Carl Chuankai Liu	54	Vice President of Design
Hardy Peng Zhang	41	Chief Financial Officer

Dr. Yan Li has served as the chairman of our board of directors since March 2018, our chief executive officer since December 2017 and our chief operating officer since January 2016. Prior to joining our company in 2016, Dr. Li was a principal at KKR Capstone Limited from 2009 to 2015 and he oversaw KKR Capstone Limited’s portfolio operation in China, including Qingdao Haier Group, a home appliance manufacturer listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange, China Modern Dairy, a milk producer listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, China Cord Blood Corporation, a provider of cord blood banking services in China listed on the New York Stock Exchange and United Envirotech, an environmental engineering and consulting solutions provider listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange. Dr. Li was awarded the Operational Excellence Award by Private Equity International in 2012. Prior to KKR Capstone Limited, Dr. Li worked for McKinsey & Company from 2008 to 2009, where he advised various companies in high-tech, industrial goods and retail sectors. Prior to McKinsey, Dr. Li worked as a senior research engineer at Qualcomm Inc. in San Diego, CA from 2006 to 2008, focusing on the development of 3G and 4G communications technology. Dr. Li holds three patents on 3G communications. Dr. Li received a bachelor’s degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 2001 and a Ph.D. from Stanford University in 2005, both in electronics and electrical engineering.

Mr. Token Yilin Hu has served as our director and our vice president of research and development since our inception. Mr. Hu has over 15 years of experience in design spanning a variety of products and industries, such as consumer electronics, fashion, autos and smart hardware. Mr. Hu co-founded UTLAB in November 2011, whose use of high-tech materials in the aerospace and auto sectors to create ultimate wearing experience in America and Europe. Prior to UTLAB, Mr. Hu was with Frog Design, a globally renowned design firm, from March 2009 to October 2011, where he led a team of designers to help multinational clients create innovative products and experiences. Prior to that, Mr. Hu worked at Microsoft China from March 2008 to January 2009.

Mr. Changqing Ye has served as our director since October 2018. He currently also serves as an independent director of Baozun Inc., a company listed on Nasdaq, Luzhou City Commercial Bank Co., Ltd., a company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Ascentage Pharma Group International, a company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Jinxin Fertility Group Limited, a company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, and Hygeia Healthcare Holdings Limited, a company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. From February 2011 to December 2015, Mr. Ye served as an investment committee member and then group chief financial officer and managing director of CITIC PE Group. Prior to that, Mr. Ye worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers’ China and UK offices from July 1992 to January 2011. Mr. Ye received his bachelor’s degree in journalism from Huazhong University of Science and Technology in China in 1992 and an MBA from Warwick University in 1999. Mr. Ye is a certified public accountant in China.

Mr. Mei-Wei Cheng has served as our director since October 2018. Mr. Cheng currently serves as a director of LEAR Corporation, and serves as non-executive chairman of the board of directors of HCP Packaging and INTERPLEX Holdings, both portfolio companies of Baring Private Equity Asia. Mr. Cheng served as a member of the audit committee and finance committee of the board of directors of Seagate Technology, a company listed on Nasdaq, from 2013 to 2018. From 2010 to 2014, Mr. Cheng served as board member and audit committee member of Diebold Nixdorf, a company listed on NYSE. From February 2015 to January 2017, Mr. Cheng served as the chairman of the board of directors of Pactera Technology International Ltd., a portfolio company of Blackstone Group. From July 2010 to April 2014, Mr. Cheng was the chief executive officer of Siemens Northeast Asia and president and chief executive officer of Siemens China. Prior to joining Siemens, Mr. Cheng served as the chairman and chief executive officer of Ford Motor (China) Ltd. and as a corporate vice president of Ford Motor Company from 1998 to 2008 and as the executive chairman at Ford Motor Company (China) Ltd. and as a group vice president of Ford Motor Company from 2009 to 2010. Prior to joining Ford, Mr. Cheng held several executive positions at General Electric Corporation and AT&T. Mr. Cheng received a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering/operations research from Cornell University in 1972 and an MBA from Rutgers University in 1999.

Mr. Julian Juul Wolhardt has served as our director since October 2018. He currently also serves as a non-executive director of China Modern Dairy Holdings Ltd, a company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, an independent non-executive director of China Mengniu Dairy Company Limited, a company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, and director of Fujian Sunner Development Co., Ltd., a company listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange. Mr. Wolhardt is currently chief executive officer of DCP Advisors Limited and a member of the investment committee of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. From August 2006 to December 2016, Mr. Wolhardt was a partner focused on Greater China at KKR Asia Limited. Prior to joining KKR Asia Limited, Mr. Wolhardt served as executive director at Morgan Stanley Private Equity Asia from 1998 to 2006. Mr. Wolhardt was an analyst at Lazard Freres & Co from 1996 to 1997 and worked at Coopers & Lybrand from 1995 to 1996. Mr. Wolhardt received his bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) in 1995. Mr. Wolhardt is a certified public accountant and certified management accountant in the US.

Mr. John Jinshu Zhang has served as our director since October 2018. Mr. Zhang is currently a partner of Dentons LLP, where he focuses on cross-border mergers and acquisitions and dispute resolution. From October 2000 to November 2014, Mr. Zhang was a partner at Edwards Wildman LLP, Reed Smith LLP, and Greenberg Traurig, LLP successively. Mr. Zhang worked as an associate of Jones Day LLP and Graham & James, LLP from November 1993 to November 1999. Mr. Zhang received his bachelor's degree in literature from Peking University in 1982, master's degree in Asian studies from University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1989, master's degree in intellectual history from University of California, Los Angeles in 1990 and Juris doctor degree from University of California, Berkeley in 1993.

Mr. Carl Chuankai Liu has served as our vice president of design since June 2016. Mr. Liu is a highly experienced and accomplished designer. Prior to joining our company, Mr. Liu created his own brand "Carlliu" and served as design director at Designworks, a global creative consultancy owned by BMW, from December 2014 to April 2016. Prior to joining Designworks, Mr. Liu served as the general manager of Idea Dao Design from July 2009 to October 2014, and the creative manager for The Walt Disney Company in China from January 2007 to March 2009. From 1996 to 2006, Mr. Liu was a director with many corporations and design firms, including Intel, Motorola, Sync 2 Design and Astro Studios. Mr. Liu's signature designs include Compaq iPAQ PDA, Nike running watch Triax 300 and Triax 50, which have won several international awards, such as G-Mark, iF, IDSA and I.D, and sold over a million.

Mr. Hardy Peng Zhang has served as our chief financial officer since April 2018. Prior to joining our company, Mr. Zhang was an executive vice president of Bain Capital, a global private equity firm, from 2015 to 2018, where he was responsible for Bain Capital's portfolio operation in Asia in relation to strategic planning, financial control, IPO, M&A and financing activities. Prior to joining Bain Capital, Mr. Zhang was the chief financial officer of HOAU Group from 2013 to 2015. Prior to that, Mr. Zhang was a consultant at Boston Consulting Group's China Office from 2012 to 2013. Before joining Boston Consulting Group, Mr. Zhang worked at A.P. Moller-Maersk Group as a finance executive from 2002 to 2011. Mr. Zhang received his bachelor's degree in economics and finance from the Peking University in 2002 and an MBA from INSEAD in 2012.

B. Compensation

In 2020, we paid an aggregate of approximately RMB4.7 million (US\$0.7 million) in cash to our executive officers, and approximately RMB1.1 million (US\$175 thousand) in cash to our non-executive directors. We have not set aside or accrued any amount to provide pension, retirement or other similar benefits to our directors and executive officers.

Share Incentive Plans

In January 2016, our shareholders and board of directors approved the 2016 Global Share Incentive Plan to attract and retain the best available personnel, provide additional incentives to employees, directors and consultants, and promote the success of our business. In March 2018, we amended the 2016 Global Share Incentive Plan, or the Amended and Restated 2016 Plan, so that the maximum aggregate number of ordinary shares that may be issued under the Amended and Restated 2016 Plan is 5,861,480 ordinary shares. As of December 31, 2020, options to purchase 2,759,824 ordinary shares and 465,066 restricted share units had been granted and were outstanding, excluding options or restricted share units that were forfeited or canceled after the relevant grant dates.

In September 2018, our shareholders and board of directors approved the 2018 Share Incentive Plan to promote the success and enhance the value of our company, which became effective immediately prior to the completion of our initial public offering. Under the 2018 Share Incentive Plan, or the 2018 Plan, the maximum aggregate number of ordinary shares available for issuance is 6,733,703 ordinary shares, which shall be increased by a number equal to 1.5% of the total number of ordinary shares issued and outstanding on the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal year, each fiscal year during the term of the 2018 Plan commencing with the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019, if determined and approved by the board of directors for the relevant fiscal year. Our board of directors has approved annual increases of 2,230,111, 2,241,253, and 2,285,407 ordinary shares, representing 1.5% of total issued and outstanding shares as of December 31, 2018, 2019, and 2020, respectively, pursuant to the 2018 Share Incentive Plan. As of December 31, 2020, options to purchase 3,232,500 ordinary shares and 3,183,856 restricted share units had been granted and were outstanding, excluding options or restricted share units that were forfeited or canceled after the relevant grant dates.

The following paragraphs describe the principal terms of the Amended and Restated 2016 Plan and 2018 Plan:

Type of Awards. The Amended and Restated 2016 plan permits the awards of options, restricted share units, restricted shares, share appreciation rights, dividend equivalents and share payments. The 2018 plan permits the awards of options, restricted shares, restricted share units or other types of awards approved by the board of directors or a committee of one or more members of the board of directors.

Plan Administration. Our board of directors or a committee appointed by the board of directors will administer the plan. The committee or the board of directors, as applicable, will determine the participants to receive awards, the type and number of awards to be granted to each participant, and the terms and conditions of each grant. Our board of directors or a committee of one or more members of the board of directors will administer the plan. The committee or the board of directors, as applicable, will determine the participants to receive awards, the type and number of awards to be granted to each participant, and the terms and conditions of each grant.

Award Agreement. Awards granted under the plan are evidenced by an award agreement that sets forth the terms, conditions and limitations for each award, which may include the term of the award, the provisions applicable in the event that the grantee's employment or service terminates, and our authority to unilaterally or bilaterally amend, modify, suspend, cancel or rescind the award.

Eligibility. We may grant awards to our employees, consultants and directors.

Vesting Schedule. In general, the plan administrator determines the vesting schedule, which is specified in the relevant award agreement.

Exercise of Options. The plan administrator determines the exercise price for each award, which is stated in the relevant award agreement. Options that are vested and exercisable will terminate if they are not exercised prior to the time as the plan administrator determines at the time of grant. However, the maximum exercisable term is ten years from the date of grant.

Transfer Restrictions. Awards may not be transferred in any manner by the participant other than in accordance with the exceptions provided in the plan or the relevant award agreement or otherwise determined by the plan administrator, such as transfers by will or the laws of descent and distribution.

Termination and Amendment of the Plan. Unless terminated earlier, the plan has a term of ten years. Our board of directors has the authority to terminate, amend, suspend or modify the plan in accordance with our articles of association. However, without the prior written consent of the participant, no such action may adversely affect in any material way any award previously granted pursuant to the plan.

[Table of Contents](#)

The following table summarizes, as of December 31, 2020, the options granted and outstanding under the Amended and Restated 2016 Plan and Amended and Restated 2018 Plan to our directors and executive officers and our other employees, excluding options that were forfeited or canceled after the relevant grant dates.

Name	Ordinary Shares Underlying Options	Exercise Price (US\$/Share)	Date of Grant	Date of Expiration
Yan Li	*	3.425	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2029
Token Yilin Hu	*	3.425	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2029
Carl Chuankai Liu	*	3.425	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2029
Hardy Peng Zhang	*	0.0 and 3.425	May 1, 2018 and August 1, 2019	April 30, 2028 and July 31, 2029
Other employees	3,329,724	0.2 and 3.425	February 1, 2016~ November 1, 2018	January 31, 2026~ October 30, 2028

* Less than 1% of our total ordinary shares outstanding as of December 31, 2020.

The following table summarizes, as of December 31, 2020, the restricted share units granted and outstanding under the Amended and Restated 2016 Plan and the Amended and Restated 2018 Plan to our directors and executive officers and our other employees, excluding restricted share units that were forfeited or canceled after the relevant grant dates.

Name	Ordinary Shares Underlying Restricted Share Units	Date of Grant	Date of Expiration
Changqing Ye	*	October 19, 2018	October 18, 2028
	*	October 19, 2020	October 18, 2030
Mei-Wei Cheng	*	October 19, 2018	October 18, 2028
	*	October 19, 2020	October 18, 2030
Julian Juul Wolhardt	*	October 19, 2018	October 18, 2028
	*	October 19, 2020	October 18, 2030
John Jinshu Zhang	*	October 19, 2018	October 18, 2028
	*	October 19, 2020	October 18, 2030
Yan Li	*	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2029
Token Yilin Hu	*	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2029
Carl Chuankai Liu	*	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2029
Hardy Peng Zhang	*	February 1, 2019 and August 1, 2019	January 31, 2029 and July 31, 2029
Other employees	2,777,922	February 1, 2019 ~ December 1, 2019	January 31, 2029 ~ November 30, 2029

* Less than 1% of our total ordinary shares outstanding as of December 31, 2020.

C. Board Practices

Board of Directors

Our board of directors consists of six directors. A director is not required to hold any shares in our company by way of qualification. A director who is in any way, whether directly or indirectly, interested in a contract or transaction or proposed contract or transaction with our company is required to declare the nature of his interest at a meeting of our directors. Subject to the Nasdaq Global Market rules and disqualification by the chairman of the relevant board meeting, a director may vote in respect of any contract or transaction or proposed contract or transaction notwithstanding that he may be interested therein, and if he does so his vote shall be counted and he shall be counted in the quorum at any meeting of our directors at which any such contract or transaction or proposed contract or transaction is considered. Our directors may exercise all the powers of our company to raise or borrow money and to mortgage or charge its undertaking, property and assets (present and future) and uncalled capital or any part thereof, to issue debentures, debenture stock, bonds and other securities, whether outright or as collateral security for any debt, liability or obligation of our company or of any third party. None of our non-executive directors has a service contract with us that provides for benefits upon termination of service.

Committees of the Board of Directors

We have established three committees under the board of directors: an audit committee, a compensation committee and a nominating and corporate governance committee. We have adopted a charter for each of the three committees. Each committee's members and functions are described below.

Audit Committee. Our audit committee consists of Mr. Changqing Ye, Mr. John Jinshu Zhang and Mr. Mei-Wei Cheng. Mr. Changqing Ye is the chairman of our audit committee. We have determined that Mr. Changqing Ye, Mr. John Jinshu Zhang and Mr. Mei-Wei Cheng satisfy the "independence" requirements of Rule 5605 of the Nasdaq Stock Market Rules and Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act. We have determined that Mr. Changqing Ye qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert." The audit committee oversees our accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of the financial statements of our company. The audit committee is responsible for, among other things:

- appointing the independent auditors and pre-approving all auditing and non-auditing services permitted to be performed by the independent auditors;
- reviewing with the independent auditors any audit problems or difficulties and management's response;
- discussing the annual audited financial statements with management and the independent auditors;
- reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of our accounting and internal control policies and procedures and any steps taken to monitor and control major financial risk exposures;
- reviewing and approving all proposed related party transactions;
- meeting separately and periodically with management and the independent auditors; and
- monitoring compliance with our code of business conduct and ethics, including reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of our procedures to ensure proper compliance.

Compensation Committee. Our compensation committee consists of Mr. John Jinshu Zhang and Mr. Julian Juul Wolhardt. Mr. John Jinshu Zhang is the chairman of our compensation committee. We have determined that Mr. John Jinshu Zhang and Mr. Julian Juul Wolhardt satisfy the "independence" requirements of Rule 5605 of the Nasdaq Stock Market Rules. The compensation committee assists the board in reviewing and approving the compensation structure, including all forms of compensation, relating to our directors and executive officers. Our chief executive officer may not be present at any committee meeting during which his compensation is deliberated. The compensation committee is responsible for, among other things:

- reviewing and approving, or recommending to the board for its approval, the compensation for our chief executive officer and other executive officers;
- reviewing and recommending to the board for determination with respect to the compensation of our non-employee directors;
- reviewing periodically and approving any incentive compensation or equity plans, programs or similar arrangements; and
- selecting compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser only after taking into consideration all factors relevant to that person's independence from management.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Our nominating and corporate governance committee consists of Mr. John Jinshu Zhang, Mr. Changqing Ye and Mr. Mei-Wei Cheng. Mr. John Jinshu Zhang is the chairperson of our nominating and corporate governance committee. We have determined that Mr. John Jinshu Zhang, Mr. Changqing Ye and Mr. Mei-Wei Cheng satisfy the "independence" requirements of Rule 5605 of the Nasdaq Stock Market Rules. The nominating and corporate governance committee assists the board of directors in selecting individuals qualified to become our directors and in determining the composition of the board and its committees. The nominating and corporate governance committee will be responsible for, among other things:

- selecting and recommending to the board nominees for election by the shareholders or appointment by the board;
- reviewing annually with the board the current composition of the board with regards to characteristics such as independence, knowledge, skills, experience and diversity;
- making recommendations on the frequency and structure of board meetings and monitoring the functioning of the committees of the board; and
- advising the board periodically with regards to significant developments in the law and practice of corporate governance as well as our compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and making recommendations to the board on all matters of corporate governance and on any remedial action to be taken.

Duties of Directors

Under Cayman Islands law, our directors owe fiduciary duties to our company, including a duty of loyalty, a duty to act honestly and a duty to act in what they consider in good faith to be in our best interests. Our directors must also exercise their powers only for a proper purpose. Our directors also have a duty to exercise skills they actually possess and such care and diligence that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances. It was previously considered that a director need not exhibit in the performance of his duties a greater degree of skill than may reasonably be expected from a person of his knowledge and experience. However, English and Commonwealth Courts have moved toward an objective standard with regard to the required skill and care and these authorities are likely to be followed in the Cayman Islands. In fulfilling their duty of care to us, our directors must ensure compliance with our sixth amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, as amended and restated from time to time, and the class rights vested thereunder in the holders of the shares. In certain limited exceptional circumstances, a shareholder may have the right to seek damages in our name if a duty owed by our directors is breached.

Our board of directors has all the powers necessary for managing, and for directing and supervising, our business affairs. The functions and powers of our board of directors include, among others:

- convening shareholders' annual and extraordinary general meetings and reporting its work to shareholders at such meetings;
- declaring dividends and distributions;
- appointing officers and determining the term of office of the officers;
- exercising the borrowing powers of our company and mortgaging the property of our company; and
- approving the transfer of shares in our company, including the registration of such shares in our share register.

Terms of Directors and Officers

Our directors may be elected by an ordinary resolution of our shareholders. Alternatively, our board of directors may, by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of the directors present and voting at a board meeting appoint any person as a director to fill a casual vacancy on our board or as an addition to the existing board. Our directors are not automatically subject to a term of office and hold office until such time as they are removed from office by an ordinary resolution of our shareholders. In addition, a director will cease to be a director if he (i) becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors; (ii) dies or is found to be or becomes of unsound mind; (iii) resigns his office by notice in writing; (iv) without special leave of absence from our board, is absent from meetings of our board for three consecutive meetings and our board resolves that his office be vacated; or (v) is removed from office pursuant to any other provision of our articles of association.

Our officers are appointed by and serve at the discretion of the board of directors, and may be removed by our board of directors.

Employment Agreements and Indemnification Agreements

We have entered into employment agreements with each of our executive officers. Under these agreements, each of our executive officers is employed for a specified time period. We may terminate employment for cause, at any time, for certain acts of the executive officer, such as continued failure to satisfactorily perform, willful misconduct or gross negligence in the performance of agreed duties, conviction or entry of a guilty or nolo contendere plea of any felony or any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, or dishonest act that results in material to our detriment or material of the employment agreement. We may also terminate an executive officer's employment without cause upon 60-day advance written notice. In such case of termination by us, we will provide severance payments to the executive officer as may be agreed between the executive officer and us. The executive officer may resign at any time with a 60-day advance written notice.

Each executive officer has agreed to hold, both during and after the termination or expiry of his or her employment agreement, in strict confidence and not to use, except as required in the performance of his or her duties in connection with the employment or pursuant to applicable law, any of our confidential information or trade secrets, any confidential information or trade secrets of our clients or prospective clients, or the confidential or proprietary information of any third party received by us and for which we have confidential obligations. The executive officers have also agreed to disclose in confidence to us all inventions, designs and trade secrets which they conceive, develop or reduce to practice during the executive officer's employment with us and to assign all right, title and interest in them to us, and assist us in obtaining and enforcing patents, copyrights and other legal rights for these inventions, designs and trade secrets.

In addition, each executive officer has agreed to be bound by non-competition and non-solicitation restrictions during the term of his or her employment and typically for one year following the last date of employment. Specifically, each executive officer has agreed not to (i) solicit from any customer doing business with us during the effective term of the employment agreement business of the same or of a similar nature to our business; (ii) solicit from any of our known potential customer business of the same or of a similar nature to that which has been the subject of our known written or oral bid, offer or proposal, or of substantial preparation with a view to making such a bid, proposal or offer; (iii) solicit the employment or services of, or hire or engage, any person who is known to be employed or engaged by us; or (iv) otherwise interfere with our business or accounts, including, but not limited to, with respect to any relationship or agreement between any vendor or supplier and us.

We have also entered into indemnification agreements with each of our directors and executive officers. Under these agreements, we agree to indemnify our directors and executive officers against certain liabilities and expenses incurred by such persons in connection with claims made by reason of their being a director or officer of our company.

D. Employees

As of December 31, 2020, we had 623 full-time employees. We had a total of 413 employees as of December 31, 2018 and 521 employees as of December 31, 2019. The following table sets forth the numbers of our employees categorized by function as of December 31, 2020.

Function	Number	% of Total Employees
Sales and marketing	244	39.2
Research and Development	172	27.6
Supply chain management and general administration	207	33.2
Total number of employees	623	100.0

A substantial majority of the personnel in our manufacturing facility, mainly the personnel working on the assembly and production lines, are outsourced from third parties, and are not our employees.

Our success depends on our ability to attract, retain and motivate qualified employees that share our values and vision. We offer employees competitive salaries, which are potentially adjusted twice a year based on the employee's performance. We believe that we maintain a good working relationship with our employees.

Under PRC regulations, we are required to participate in and make contributions to housing funds and various employee social security plans that are organized by applicable local municipal and provincial governments, including pension, medical, work-related injury and unemployment benefit plans. See "Item 3. Key Information— D. —Risks Relating to Doing Business in China—Failure to make adequate contributions to various employee benefit plans as required by PRC regulations may subject us to penalties."

E. Share Ownership

Except as specifically noted, the following table sets forth information with respect to the beneficial ownership of our ordinary shares as of March 31, 2021 by:

- each of our directors and executive officers; and
- each of our principal shareholders who beneficially own more than 5% of our total outstanding shares on an as-converted basis.

The calculations in the table below are based on 152,549,998 ordinary shares, consisting of 134,567,978 Class A ordinary shares and 17,982,020 Class B ordinary shares, as of March 31, 2021.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. In computing the number of shares beneficially owned by a person and the percentage ownership of that person, we have included shares that the person has the right to acquire within 60 days, including through the exercise of any option, warrant or other right or the conversion of any other security. These shares, however, are not included in the computation of the percentage ownership of any other person.

	Ordinary Shares Beneficially Owned		% of total ordinary shares	% of aggregate voting power ^{***}
	Class A ordinary shares	Class B ordinary shares		
Directors and Executive Officers^{**}:				
Yan Li ⁽¹⁾	*	6,615,000	4.3 %	12.8 %
Token Yilin Hu ⁽²⁾	—	9,647,020	6.3 %	18.7 %
Changqing Ye	*	—	*	*
Mei-Wei Cheng	*	—	*	*
Julian Juul Wolhardt	*	—	*	*
John Jinshu Zhang	*	—	*	*
Carl Chuankai Liu ⁽³⁾	—	1,720,000	1.1 %	3.3 %
Hardy Peng Zhang	*	—	*	*
All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group	307,686	17,982,020	12.0 %	35.0 %
Principal Shareholders:				
Glory Achievement Fund Limited ⁽⁴⁾	51,414,235	—	33.7 %	24.9 %
Niu Holding Inc. ⁽⁵⁾	—	11,367,020	7.5 %	22.0 %

* Less than 1% of our total ordinary shares outstanding as of March 31, 2021.

** The business address of Messrs. Yan Li, Token Yilin Hu, Carl Chuankai Liu, and Hardy Peng Zhang is No.1 Building, No. 195 Huilongguan East Road, Changping District, Beijing 102208, People's Republic of China. The business address of Mr. Changqing Ye is Flat B, 36/F, Tower 6, Harbour Green, 8 Shum Mong Road, Tai KokTsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong. The business address of Mr. Mei-Wei Cheng is 1202 Building 10, Green Court, 777 Biyun Road, Pudong, Shanghai, 201206, People's Republic of China. The business address of Mr. Julian Juul Wolhardt is 21F, York House, The Landmark, 15 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong. The business address of Mr. John Jinshu Zhang is 601 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500, Los Angeles, California 90017, the United States of America.

*** For each person or group included in this column, percentage of total voting power represents voting power based on both Class A and Class B ordinary shares held by such person or group with respect to all outstanding shares of our Class A and Class B ordinary shares as a single class. Each holder of our Class A ordinary shares is entitled to one vote per share. Each holder of our Class B ordinary shares is entitled to four votes per share. Our Class B ordinary shares are convertible at any time by the holder into Class A ordinary shares on a one-for-one basis.

(1) Represents 6,615,000 Class B ordinary shares held by ELLY Holdings Limited, a BVI business company. ELLY Holdings Limited is wholly owned by Dr. Yan Li. The registered address of ELLY Holdings Limited is Vistra Corporate Services Centre, Wickhams Cay II, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands VG1110.

- (2) Represents 9,647,020 Class B ordinary shares out of the 11,367,020 Class B ordinary shares held by Niu Holding Inc., a BVI business company, which is 85.7% owned by LUCK GENIE HOLDINGS LIMITED, a BVI business company, and 14.3% owned by WEALTH ERUPT HOLDINGS LIMITED, a BVI business company. LUCK GENIE HOLDINGS LIMITED is wholly owned by Legend Champ Investment Limited, a BVI business company. Legend Champ Investment Limited is wholly owned by Token Who Cares Trust. The settlor and beneficiary of Token Who Cares Trust is Mr. Token Yilin Hu, our director and vice president. WEALTH ERUPT HOLDINGS LIMITED is beneficially owned by Mr. Carl Chuankai Liu, our vice president. According to the arrangement between two shareholders of Niu Holding Inc., Mr. Token Yilin Hu beneficially owned 9,647,020 Class B ordinary shares out of the 11,367,020 ordinary shares held by Niu Holding Inc., and Mr. Carl Chuankai Liu beneficially owned the remaining Class B ordinary shares out of those held by Niu Holding Inc. The registered address of Niu Holding Inc. is Vistra Corporate Services Centre, Wickhams Cay II, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands VG1110.
- (3) Represents 1,720,000 Class B ordinary shares out of the 11,367,020 Class B ordinary shares held by Niu Holding Inc., a BVI business company, which is 85.7% owned by LUCK GENIE HOLDINGS LIMITED, a BVI business company, and 14.3% owned by WEALTH ERUPT HOLDINGS LIMITED, a BVI business company. LUCK GENIE HOLDINGS LIMITED is wholly owned by Legend Champ Investment Limited, a BVI business company. Legend Champ Investment Limited is wholly owned by Token Who Cares Trust. The settlor and beneficiary of Token Who Cares Trust is Mr. Token Yilin Hu, our director and vice president. WEALTH ERUPT HOLDINGS LIMITED is beneficially owned by Mr. Carl Chuankai Liu, our vice president. According to the arrangement between two shareholders of Niu Holding Inc., Mr. Token Yilin Hu beneficially owned 9,647,020 Class B ordinary shares out of the 11,367,020 ordinary shares held by Niu Holding Inc., and Mr. Carl Chuankai Liu beneficially owned the remaining Class B ordinary shares out of those held by Niu Holding Inc. The registered address of Niu Holding Inc. is Vistra Corporate Services Centre, Wickhams Cay II, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands VG1110.
- (4) Represents 51,414,235 Class A ordinary shares held by Glory Achievement Fund Limited, a Cayman Islands company, and its affiliated parties. Glory Achievement Fund Limited is ultimately and wholly held by a trust, which has Mr. Yi'nan Li as the beneficiary and is administered by an independent trustee and initially by three individual protectors unrelated to Mr. Yi'nan Li. The registered address of Glory Achievement Fund Limited is P.O. Box 2075, George Town, Grand Cayman KY1-1105, Cayman Islands.
- (5) Represents 11,367,020 Class B ordinary shares held by Niu Holding Inc., a BVI business company, which is 85.7% owned by LUCK GENIE HOLDINGS LIMITED, a BVI business company, and 14.3% owned by WEALTH ERUPT HOLDINGS LIMITED, a BVI business company. LUCK GENIE HOLDINGS LIMITED is wholly owned by Legend Champ Investment Limited, a BVI business company. Legend Champ Investment Limited is wholly owned by Token Who Cares Trust. The settlor and beneficiary of Token Who Cares Trust is Mr. Token Yilin Hu, our director and vice president. WEALTH ERUPT HOLDINGS LIMITED is beneficially owned by Mr. Carl Chuankai Liu, our vice president. The registered address of Niu Holding Inc. is Vistra Corporate Services Centre, Wickhams Cay II, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands VG1110.

To our knowledge, as of March 31, 2021, a total of 79,553,738 Class A ordinary shares were held by three record holders in the United States, representing approximately 52.1% of our total outstanding shares on an as-converted basis. One of the record holders is Citibank, N.A., the depository of our ADS program. None of our outstanding Class B ordinary shares were held by record holders in the United States as of March 31, 2021. The number of beneficial owners of our ADSs in the United States is likely to be much larger than the number of record holders of our ordinary shares in the United States.

Our ordinary shares are divided into Class A ordinary shares and Class B ordinary shares. Holders of Class A ordinary shares are entitled to one vote per share, while holders of Class B ordinary shares are entitled to four votes per share. Holders of Class A and Class B ordinary shares vote together as one class on all matters subject to a shareholders' vote. Each Class B ordinary share is convertible into one Class A ordinary share at any time by the holder thereof, while Class A ordinary shares are not convertible into Class B ordinary shares under any circumstance. See "Item 10.B. Additional Information—Memorandum and Articles of Association" for a more detailed description of our Class A ordinary shares and Class B ordinary shares.

We are not aware of any arrangement that may, at a subsequent date, result in a change of control of our company.

Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions

A. Major Shareholders

Please refer to “Item 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees— E. Share Ownership.”

B. Related Party Transactions

Contractual Arrangements with Our VIE and Its Shareholders

See “Item 4. Information on the Company—C. Organizational Structure—Contractual Arrangements with Our VIE.”

Shareholders Agreement

We entered into our fourth amended and restated shareholders agreement on August 22, 2018 with our shareholders, which consist of holders of ordinary shares and preferred shares. The shareholders agreement provides for certain shareholders’ rights, including right of participation, right of first refusal and co-sale rights, and contains provisions governing the board of directors and other corporate governance matters. The special rights, as well as the corporate governance provisions, have automatically terminated upon the completion of our initial public offering.

Registration Rights

We have granted certain registration rights to our shareholders. Set forth below is a description of the registration rights granted under the shareholders agreement.

Demand Registration Rights. Holders of at least 10% of the registrable securities (including preferred shares and ordinary shares issued upon conversion of preferred shares) then outstanding have the right to demand that we file a registration statement of all registrable securities that the holders request to be registered and included in such registration by written notice. Other than required by the underwriter(s) in connection with our initial public offering, at least fifty percent (50%) of the registrable securities requested by the holders to be included in such underwriting and registration shall be so included. We have the right to defer filing of a registration statement for a period of not more than 90 days after the receipt of the request of the initiating holders if we furnish to the holders requesting registration a certificate signed by our president or chief executive officer stating that in the good faith judgment of our board of directors, it would be materially detrimental to us and our shareholders for such registration statement to be filed at such time. However, we cannot exercise the deferral right more than once in any twelve-month period. We are obligated to effect no more than three demand registrations, other than demand registration to be effected pursuant to registration statement on Form F-3, for which an unlimited number of demand registrations shall be permitted.

Piggyback Registration Rights. If we propose to file a registration statement for a public offering of our securities, we must offer shareholders an opportunity to include in the registration all or any part of the registrable securities held by such holders. If the managing underwriters of any underwritten offering determine in good faith that marketing factors require a limitation of the number of shares to be underwritten, and the number of shares that may be included in the registration and the underwriting shall be allocated (i) first, to us, (ii) second, to each holder requesting inclusion of its registrable securities in such registration statement on a pro rata basis based on the total number of registrable securities then held by each such holder, (iii) third, to holders of other securities of us.

Form F-3 Registration Rights. Our shareholders may request us in writing to file an unlimited number of registration statements on Form F-3. We shall effect the registration of the securities on Form F-3 as soon as practicable, except in certain circumstances.

Expenses of Registration. We will bear all registration expenses, other than underwriting discounts and selling commissions.

Termination of Registration Rights. Our shareholders’ registration rights will terminate upon the earlier of (i) the fifth anniversary of the completion of our initial public offering, (ii) as to any shareholder when the shareholder together with its affiliates can sell all of its shares subject to registration rights in reliance on Rule 144 promulgated under the Securities Act without transfer restrictions, and (iii) the consummation of a liquidation event.

Transactions with Our Shareholders

In February 2018, Jiangsu Xiaoniu obtained from Bank of China a one-year short-term bank borrowing of RMB20.0 million, which bears interest at a rate of 4.5675% per annum. Mr. Yi’nan Li and Mr. Changlong Sheng, each a beneficial owner of our company and a shareholder of our VIE, together with our VIE and certain subsidiaries, provided joint liability guarantees for the loan. The loan was fully repaid in December 2018. On February 8, 2018, Jiangsu Xiaoniu obtained from Bank of China a new one-year short-term bank borrowing of RMB20.0 million, which bears interest at a rate of 4.5675% per annum. The guarantees for this loan are the same as for the previous loan in February 2018. In December 2019, the loan was fully repaid.

Employment Agreements and Indemnification Agreements

See “Item 6—Directors, Senior Management and Employees—B. Compensation”

Share Incentive Plans

See “Item 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees—B. Compensation”

Private Placements

Ordinary Shares

On March 26, 2018, we repurchased 432,000 ordinary shares from Niu Holding Inc. for an aggregate consideration of US\$665,000. Such shares were cancelled immediately upon repurchase.

Preferred Shares

On March 26, 2018, we issued 5,137,859 Series B preferred shares to Plum Angel Investment Co., Ltd., GGV Capital V L.P., GGV Capital V Entrepreneurs Fund L.P., GGV Capital Select L.P., Future Capital Discovery Fund I, L.P., IDG China Venture Capital Fund IV L.P., IDG China IV Investors L.P. and Phoenix Wealth Investment (Holdings) Limited for an aggregate consideration of approximately US\$25.5 million.

On March 26, 2018, as a result of conversion of 2016 Convertible Loans, we issued 10,119,329 Series A-3 preferred shares to Glory Achievement Fund Limited, Plum Angel Investment Co., Ltd., GGV Capital V L.P., GGV Capital V Entrepreneurs Fund L.P., Future Capital Discovery Fund I, L.P. and Hyperfinite Galaxy Holding Limited.

Share Options and Restricted Shares Grants

Please refer to “Item 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees— B. Compensation.”

C. Interests of Experts and Counsel

Not applicable.

Item 8. Financial Information

A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information

We have appended consolidated financial statements filed as part of this annual report.

Legal Proceedings

We are currently not a party to any material legal or administrative proceedings. We may from time to time be subject to various legal or administrative claims and proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. Litigation or any other legal or administrative proceeding, regardless of the outcome, is likely to result in substantial cost and diversion of our resources, including our management's time and attention.

Dividend Policy

Our board of directors has discretion on whether to distribute dividends, subject to certain requirements of Cayman Islands law. In addition, our shareholders may by ordinary resolution declare a dividend, but no dividend may exceed the amount recommended by our board of directors. In either case, all dividends are subject to certain restrictions under Cayman Islands law, namely that our company may only pay dividends out of profits or share premium, and always that in no circumstances may a dividend be paid if this would result in our company being unable to pay its debts as they fall due in the ordinary course of business. Even if we decide to pay dividends, the form, frequency and amount will depend upon our future operations and earnings, capital requirements and surplus, general financial condition, contractual restrictions and other factors that the board of directors may deem relevant.

We do not have any present plan to pay any cash dividends on our ordinary shares in the foreseeable future. We currently intend to retain most, if not all, of our available funds and any future earnings to operate and expand our business.

We are a holding company incorporated in the Cayman Islands. We may rely on dividends from our subsidiaries in China for our cash requirements, including any payment of dividends to our shareholders. PRC regulations may restrict the ability of our PRC subsidiaries to pay dividends to us. See "Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview —Regulation—Regulations Relating to Dividend Distribution."

If we pay any dividends on our ordinary shares, we will pay those dividends which are payable in respect of the Class A ordinary shares underlying the ADSs to the depository, as the registered holder of such Class A ordinary shares, and the depository then will pay such amounts to the ADS holders in proportion to the Class A ordinary shares underlying the ADSs held by such ADS holders, subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, including the fees and expenses payable thereunder. Cash dividends on our ordinary shares, if any, will be paid in U.S. dollars.

B. Significant Changes

Except as disclosed elsewhere in this annual report, we have not experienced any significant changes since the date of our audited consolidated financial statements included in this annual report.

Item 9. The Offer and Listing

A. Offering and Listing Details

Our ADSs, each representing two Class A ordinary shares, have been listed on The Nasdaq Global Market since October 19, 2018 under the symbol "NIU".

B. Plan of Distribution

Not applicable.

C. Markets

The ADSs have been listed on Nasdaq since October 19, 2018 under the symbol "NIU"

D. Selling Shareholders

Not applicable.

E. Dilution

Not applicable.

F. Expenses of the Issue

Not applicable.

Item 10. Additional Information

A. Share Capital

Not applicable.

B. Memorandum and Articles of Association

The following are summaries of material provisions of our current (sixth amended and restated) memorandum and articles of association, as well as the Companies Act (As Revised) insofar as they relate to the material terms of our ordinary shares. The information set forth in Exhibits 2.5 and 2.6 to this Annual Report on Form 20-F is incorporated herein by reference.

Registered Office and Objects

Our registered office in the Cayman Islands is located at the offices of Maples Corporate Services Limited at PO Box 309, Ugland House, Grand Cayman, KY1-1104, Cayman Islands. The objects for which our company is established are unrestricted and we have the full power and authority to carry out any object not prohibited by the laws of the Cayman Islands.

Board of Directors

See “Item 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees— C. Board Practices—Board of Directors.”

Ordinary Shares

Ordinary Shares. Our ordinary shares are divided into Class A ordinary shares and Class B ordinary shares. Holders of our Class A ordinary shares and Class B ordinary shares will have the same rights except for voting and conversion rights. Each Class A ordinary share shall entitle the holder thereof to one vote on all matters subject to vote at our general meetings, and each Class B ordinary share shall entitle the holder thereof to four votes on all matters subject to vote at our general meetings. Our ordinary shares are issued in registered form and are issued when registered in our register of members. We may not issue shares to bearer. Our shareholders who are non-residents of the Cayman Islands may freely hold and vote their shares.

Conversion. Each Class B ordinary share is convertible into one Class A ordinary share at any time by the holder thereof. Class A ordinary shares are not convertible into Class B ordinary shares under any circumstances. Any number of Class B ordinary shares held by a holder thereof will be automatically and immediately converted into an equal number of Class A ordinary shares upon the occurrence of (i) any direct or indirect sale, transfer, assignment or disposition of such number of Class B ordinary shares by the holder thereof or the direct or indirect transfer or assignment of the voting power attached to such number of Class B ordinary shares through voting proxy or otherwise to any person that is not an affiliate of such holder or (ii) the direct or indirect sale, transfer, assignment or disposition of a majority of the issued and outstanding voting securities of, or the direct or indirect transfer or assignment of the voting power attached to such voting securities through voting proxy or otherwise, or the direct or indirect sale, transfer, assignment or disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of, a holder of Class B ordinary shares that is an entity to any person that is not an affiliate of such holder.

Dividends. Our directors may from time to time declare dividends (including interim dividends) and other distributions on our shares in issue and authorize payment of the same out of the funds of our company lawfully available therefor. In addition, our shareholders may declare dividends by ordinary resolution, but no dividend shall exceed the amount recommended by our directors. Our memorandum and articles of association provide that dividends may be declared and paid out of the funds of our Company lawfully available therefor. Under the laws of the Cayman Islands, our company may pay a dividend out of either profits or share premium account; provided that in no circumstances may a dividend be paid if this would result in our company being unable to pay its debts as they fall due in the ordinary course of business.

Voting Rights. Holders of our Class A ordinary shares and our Class B ordinary shares shall, at all times, vote together as one class on all matters submitted to a vote by our shareholders at any general meeting of our company. Each Class A ordinary share shall be entitled to one vote, and each Class B ordinary share shall be entitled to four votes, on all matters subject to a vote at general meetings of our company. Voting at any meeting of shareholders is by show of hands unless a poll (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands) is demanded. A poll may be demanded by the chairman of such meeting or any one shareholder holding not less than 10% of the votes attaching to the shares present in person or by proxy.

An ordinary resolution to be passed at a meeting by the shareholders requires the affirmative vote of a simple majority of the votes attaching to the ordinary shares cast at a meeting, while a special resolution requires the affirmative vote of no less than two-thirds of the votes cast attaching to the issued and outstanding ordinary shares at a meeting. A special resolution will be required for important matters such as a change of name or making changes to our memorandum and articles of association. Our shareholders may, among other things, divide or combine their shares by ordinary resolution.

General Meetings of Shareholders. As a Cayman Islands exempted company, we are not obliged by the Companies Act to call shareholders' annual general meetings. Our memorandum and articles of association provide that we may (but are not obliged to) in each year hold a general meeting as our annual general meeting in which case we shall specify the meeting as such in the notices calling it, and the annual general meeting shall be held at such time and place as may be determined by our directors.

Shareholders' general meetings may be convened by the chairman of our board of directors or by our directors (acting by a resolution of our board). Advance notice of at least seven calendar days is required for the convening of our annual general shareholders' meeting (if any) and any other general meeting of our shareholders. A quorum required for any general meeting of shareholders consists of, at the time when the meeting proceeds to business, one or more of our shareholders holding shares which carry in aggregate (or representing by proxy) not less than one-third of all votes attaching to all of our shares in issue and entitled to vote at such general meeting.

The Companies Act provides shareholders with only limited rights to requisition a general meeting, and does not provide shareholders with any right to put any proposal before a general meeting. However, these rights may be provided in a company's articles of association. Our memorandum and articles of association provide that upon the requisition of any one or more of our shareholders holding shares which carry in aggregate not less than one-third of all votes attaching to all issued and outstanding shares of our company entitled to vote at general meetings, our board will convene an extraordinary general meeting and put the resolutions so requisitioned to a vote at such meeting. However, our memorandum and articles of association do not provide our shareholders with any right to put any proposals before annual general meetings or extraordinary general meetings not called by such shareholders.

Transfer of Ordinary Shares. Subject to the restrictions set out below, any of our shareholders may transfer all or any of his or her ordinary shares by an instrument of transfer in the usual or common form or any other form approved by our board of directors.

Our board of directors may, in its absolute discretion, decline to register any transfer of any ordinary share which is not fully paid up or on which we have a lien. Our board of directors may also decline to register any transfer of any ordinary share unless:

- the instrument of transfer is lodged with us, accompanied by the certificate for the ordinary shares to which it relates and such other evidence as our board of directors may reasonably require to show the right of the transferor to make the transfer;
- the instrument of transfer is in respect of only one class of ordinary shares;
- the instrument of transfer is properly stamped, if required;
- in the case of a transfer to joint holders, the number of joint holders to whom the ordinary share is to be transferred does not exceed four; and
- a fee of such maximum sum as the Nasdaq Global Market may determine to be payable or such lesser sum as our directors may from time to time require is paid to us in respect thereof.

If our directors refuse to register a transfer they shall, within three months after the date on which the instrument of transfer was lodged, send to each of the transferor and the transferee notice of such refusal.

The registration of transfers may, on ten calendar days' notice being given by advertisement in such one or more newspapers, by electronic means or by any other means in accordance with the rules of the Nasdaq Global Market be suspended and the register closed at such times and for such periods as our board of directors may from time to time determine; provided, however, that the registration of transfers shall not be suspended nor the register closed for more than 30 days in any year as our board may determine.

Liquidation. On the winding up of our company, if the assets available for distribution amongst our shareholders shall be more than sufficient to repay the whole of the share capital at the commencement of the winding up, the surplus shall be distributed amongst our shareholders in proportion to the par value of the shares held by them at the commencement of the winding up, subject to a deduction from those shares in respect of which there are monies due, of all monies payable to our company for unpaid calls or otherwise. If our assets available for distribution are insufficient to repay all of the paid-up capital, such the assets will be distributed so that, as nearly as may be, the losses are borne by our shareholders in proportion to the par value of the shares held by them.

Calls on Shares and Forfeiture of Shares. Our board of directors may from time to time make calls upon shareholders for any amounts unpaid on their shares in a notice served to such shareholders at least 14 days prior to the specified time and place of payment. The shares that have been called upon and remain unpaid are subject to forfeiture.

Redemption, Repurchase and Surrender of Shares. We may issue shares on terms that such shares are subject to redemption, at our option or at the option of the holders of these shares, on such terms and in such manner as may be determined, before the issue of such shares, by our board of directors or by our shareholders by special resolution. Our company may also repurchase any of our shares on such terms and in such manner as have been approved by our board of directors or by an ordinary resolution of our shareholders. Under the Companies Act, the redemption or repurchase of any share may be paid out of our Company's profits or out of the proceeds of a new issue of shares made for the purpose of such redemption or repurchase, or out of capital (including share premium account and capital redemption reserve) if our company can, immediately following such payment, pay its debts as they fall due in the ordinary course of business. In addition, under the Companies Act no such share may be redeemed or repurchased (a) unless it is fully paid up, (b) if such redemption or repurchase would result in there being no shares outstanding or (c) if the company has commenced liquidation. In addition, our company may accept the surrender of any fully paid share for no consideration.

Variations of Rights of Shares. Whenever the capital of our company is divided into different classes the rights attached to any such class may, subject to any rights or restrictions for the time being attached to any class, only be materially adversely varied with the consent in writing of the holders of all of the issued shares of that class or with the sanction of an ordinary resolution passed at a separate meeting of the holders of the shares of that class. The rights conferred upon the holders of the shares of any class issued with preferred or other rights shall not, subject to any rights or restrictions for the time being attached to the shares of that class, be deemed to be materially adversely varied by the creation, allotment or issue of further shares ranking *pari passu* with or subsequent to them or the redemption or purchase of any shares of any class by our company. The rights of the holders of shares shall not be deemed to be materially adversely varied by the creation or issue of shares with preferred or other rights including, without limitation, the creation of shares with enhanced or weighted voting rights.

Issuance of Additional Shares. Our memorandum of association authorizes our board of directors to issue additional ordinary shares from time to time as our board of directors shall determine, to the extent of available authorized but unissued shares.

Our memorandum of association also authorizes our board of directors to establish from time to time one or more series of preference shares and to determine, with respect to any series of preference shares, the terms and rights of that series, including:

- the designation of the series;
- the number of shares of the series;
- the dividend rights, dividend rates, conversion rights, voting rights; and
- the rights and terms of redemption and liquidation preferences.

Our board of directors may issue preference shares without action by our shareholders to the extent authorized but unissued. Issuance of these shares may dilute the voting power of holders of ordinary shares.

Inspection of Books and Records. Holders of our ordinary shares will have no general right under Cayman Islands law to inspect or obtain copies of our list of shareholders or our corporate records. However, we intend to provide our shareholders with annual audited financial statements.

Anti-Takeover Provisions. Some provisions of our memorandum and articles of association may discourage, delay or prevent a change of control of our company or management that shareholders may consider favorable, including provisions that:

- authorize our board of directors to issue preference shares in one or more series and to designate the price, rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of such preference shares without any further vote or action by our shareholders; and
- limit the ability of shareholders to requisition and convene general meetings of shareholders.

However, under Cayman Islands law, our directors may only exercise the rights and powers granted to them under our memorandum and articles of association for a proper purpose and for what they believe in good faith to be in the best interests of our company.

Exempted Company. We are an exempted company with limited liability under the Companies Act. The Companies Act distinguishes between ordinary resident companies and exempted companies. Any company that is registered in the Cayman Islands but conducts business mainly outside of the Cayman Islands may apply to be registered as an exempted company. The requirements for an exempted company are essentially the same as for an ordinary company except that an exempted company:

- does not have to file an annual return of its shareholders with the Registrar of Companies;
- is not required to open its register of members for inspection;
- does not have to hold an annual general meeting;
- may issue negotiable or bearer shares or shares with no par value;
- may obtain an undertaking against the imposition of any future taxation (such undertakings are usually given for 20 years in the first instance);
- may register by way of continuation in another jurisdiction and be deregistered in the Cayman Islands;
- may register as a limited duration company; and
- may register as a segregated portfolio company.

“Limited liability” means that the liability of each shareholder is limited to the amount unpaid by the shareholder on the shares of the company (except in exceptional circumstances, such as involving fraud, the establishment of an agency relationship or an illegal or improper purpose or other circumstances in which a court may be prepared to pierce or lift the corporate veil).

C. Material Contracts

We have not entered into any material contracts other than in the ordinary course of business and other than those described in “Item 4. Information on the Company,” “Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions—B. Related Party Transactions,” or elsewhere in this annual report on Form 20-F.

D. Exchange Controls

See “Item 4.B. Information on the Company—Business Overview—Regulations—Regulations Relating to Foreign Exchange.”

E. Taxation

The following summary of the material Cayman Islands, PRC and U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the ADSs or ordinary shares is based upon laws and relevant interpretations thereof in effect as of the date of this registration statement, all of which are subject to change. This summary does not deal with all possible tax consequences relating to an investment in the ADSs or ordinary shares, such as the tax consequences under U.S. state and local tax laws or under the tax laws of jurisdictions other than the Cayman Islands, the People’s Republic of China and the United States.

Cayman Islands Taxation

The Cayman Islands currently levies no taxes on individuals or corporations based upon profits, income, gains or appreciation and there is no taxation in the nature of inheritance tax or estate duty. There are no other taxes likely to be material to us levied by the government of the Cayman Islands except for stamp duties which may be applicable on instruments executed in, or, after execution, brought within the jurisdiction of the Cayman Islands. The Cayman Islands is not party to any double tax treaties that are applicable to any payments made to or by our company. There are no exchange control regulations or currency restrictions in the Cayman Islands.

Payments of dividends and capital in respect of our ordinary shares and ADSs will not be subject to taxation in the Cayman Islands and no withholding will be required on the payment of a dividend or capital to any holder of our ordinary shares or the ADSs, nor will gains derived from the disposal of our ordinary shares or the ADSs be subject to Cayman Islands income or corporation tax.

No stamp duty is payable in respect of the issue of the shares or on an instrument of transfer in respect of a share.

People’s Republic of China Taxation

Under the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law and its implementation rules, an enterprise established outside of the PRC with a “de facto management body” within the PRC is considered a resident enterprise and will be subject to the enterprise income tax at the rate of 25% on its global income. The implementation rules define the term “de facto management body” as the body that exercises full and substantial control over and overall management of the business, production, personnel, accounts and properties of an enterprise. In April 2009, the State Administration of Taxation issued a circular, known as Circular 82, which provides certain specific criteria for determining whether the “de facto management body” of a PRC-controlled enterprise that is incorporated offshore is located in China. Although this circular only applies to offshore enterprises controlled by PRC enterprises or PRC enterprise groups, not those controlled by PRC individuals or foreigners, the criteria set forth in the circular may reflect the State Administration of Taxation’s general position on how the “de facto management body” test should be applied in determining the tax resident status of all offshore enterprises. According to Circular 82, an offshore incorporated enterprise controlled by a PRC enterprise or a PRC enterprise group will be regarded as a PRC tax resident by virtue of having its “de facto management body” in China only if all of the following conditions are met: (i) the primary location of the day-to-day operational management is in the PRC; (ii) decisions relating to the enterprise’s financial and human resource matters are made or are subject to approval by organizations or personnel in the PRC; (iii) the enterprise’s primary assets, accounting books and records, company seals and board and shareholder resolutions are located or maintained in the PRC; and (iv) at least 50% of voting board members or senior executives habitually reside in the PRC.

We believe that Niu Technologies is not a PRC resident enterprise for PRC tax purposes. Niu Technologies is not controlled by a PRC enterprise or PRC enterprise group and we do not believe that Niu Technologies meets all of the conditions above. Niu Technologies is a company incorporated outside the PRC. As a holding company, its key assets are its ownership interests in its subsidiaries, and its key assets are located, and its records (including the resolutions of its board of directors and the resolutions of its shareholders) are maintained, outside the PRC. For the same reasons, we believe our other entities outside of China are not PRC resident enterprises either. However, the tax resident status of an enterprise is subject to determination by the PRC tax authorities and uncertainties remain with respect to the interpretation of the term “de facto management body.” There can be no assurance that the PRC government will ultimately take a view that is consistent with us.

If the PRC tax authorities determine that Niu Technologies is a PRC resident enterprise for enterprise income tax purposes, we may be required to withhold a 10% withholding tax from dividends we pay to our shareholders that are non-resident enterprises, including the holders of the ADSs. In addition, non-resident enterprise shareholders (including the ADS holders) may be subject to a 10% PRC tax on gains realized on the sale or other disposition of ADSs or ordinary shares, if such income is treated as sourced from within the PRC. It is unclear whether our non-PRC individual shareholders (including the ADS holders) would be subject to any PRC tax on dividends or gains obtained by such non-PRC individual shareholders in the event we are determined to be a PRC resident enterprise. If any PRC tax were to apply to such dividends or gains, it would generally apply at a rate of 20% unless a reduced rate is available under an applicable tax treaty. It is also unclear whether non-PRC shareholders of Niu Technologies would be able to claim the benefits of any tax treaties between their country of tax residence and the PRC in the event that Niu Technologies is treated as a PRC resident enterprise.

Provided that our Cayman Islands holding company, Niu Technologies, is not deemed to be a PRC resident enterprise, holders of the ADSs and ordinary shares who are not PRC residents will not be subject to PRC income tax on dividends distributed by us or gains realized from the sale or other disposition of our shares or ADSs. However, under SAT Public Notice 7 and SAT Bulletin 37, where a non-resident enterprise conducts an “indirect transfer” by transferring taxable assets, including, in particular, equity interests in a PRC resident enterprise, indirectly by disposing of the equity interests of an overseas holding company, the non-resident enterprise, being the transferor, or the transferee or the PRC entity which directly owned such taxable assets may report to the relevant tax authority such indirect transfer. Using a “substance over form” principle, the PRC tax authority may disregard the existence of the overseas holding company if it lacks a reasonable commercial purpose and was established for the purpose of reducing, avoiding or deferring PRC tax. As a result, gains derived from such indirect transfer may be subject to PRC enterprise income tax, and the transferee or other person who is obligated to pay for the transfer is obligated to withhold the applicable taxes, currently at a rate of 10% for the transfer of equity interests in a PRC resident enterprise. We and our non-PRC resident investors may be at risk of being required to file a return and being taxed under SAT Public Notice 7 and SAT Bulletin 37, and we may be required to expend valuable resources to comply with SAT Public Notice 7 and SAT Bulletin 37, or to establish that we should not be taxed under these circulars. See “Item 3. Key Information— D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Doing Business in China—We face uncertainty with respect to indirect transfers of equity interests in PRC resident enterprises by their non-PRC holding companies.”

United States Federal Income Tax Considerations

The following discussion is a summary of U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to the ownership and disposition of the ADSs or ordinary shares by a U.S. Holder (as defined below) that holds the ADSs or ordinary shares as “capital assets”(generally, property held for investment) under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code. This discussion is based upon existing U.S. federal tax law, which is subject to differing interpretations or change, possibly with retroactive effect. There can be no assurance that the IRS or a court will not take a contrary position. This discussion, moreover, does not address the U.S. federal estate, gift, Medicare and alternative minimum tax considerations, any withholding or information reporting requirements, including pursuant to sections 1471 through 1474 of the Code, or any state, local and non-U.S. tax considerations, relating to the ownership or disposition of the ADSs or ordinary shares. The following summary does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be important to particular investors in light of their individual circumstances or to persons in special tax situations such as:

- banks and other financial institutions;
- insurance companies;
- pension plans;
- cooperatives;
- regulated investment companies;
- real estate investment trusts;
- broker-dealers;
- traders that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting;
- certain former U.S. citizens or long-term residents;
- tax-exempt entities (including private foundations);
- holders who acquire their ADSs or ordinary shares pursuant to any employee share option or otherwise as compensation;
- investors that will hold their ADSs or ordinary shares as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion, constructive sale or other integrated transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- investors that have a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar;
- persons that actually or constructively own 10% or more of our stock (by vote or value); or
- partnerships or other entities taxable as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes, or persons holding the ADSs or ordinary shares through such entities.

all of whom may be subject to tax rules that differ significantly from those discussed below.

Each U.S. Holder is urged to consult its tax advisor regarding the application of U.S. federal taxation to its particular circumstances, and the state, local, non-U.S. and other tax considerations of the ownership and disposition of the ADSs or ordinary shares.

General

For purposes of this discussion, a “U.S. Holder” is a beneficial owner of the ADSs or ordinary shares that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created in or organized under the law of the United States or any state thereof or the District of Columbia;
- an estate the income of which is includible in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes regardless of its source; or
- a trust (A) the administration of which is subject to the primary supervision of a U.S. court and which has one or more U.S. persons who have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (B) that has otherwise validly elected to be treated as a U.S. person under the Code.

If a partnership (or other entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) is a beneficial owner of the ADSs or ordinary shares, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partnerships holding the ADSs or ordinary shares and their partners are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding an investment in the ADSs or ordinary shares.

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, a U.S. Holder of ADSs will generally be treated as the beneficial owner of the underlying shares represented by the ADSs. The remainder of this discussion assumes that a U.S. Holder of the ADSs will be treated in this manner. Accordingly, deposits or withdrawals of ordinary shares for ADSs will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Considerations

A non-U.S. corporation, such as our company, will be classified as a PFIC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes for any taxable year, if either (i) 75% or more of its gross income for such year consists of certain types of “passive” income or (ii) 50% or more of the value of its assets (generally determined on the basis of a quarterly average) during such year is attributable to assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income. For this purpose, cash and assets readily convertible into cash are categorized as a passive asset and the company’s goodwill and other unbooked intangibles are taken into account. Passive income generally includes, among other things, dividends, interest, rents, royalties and gains from the disposition of passive assets. We will be treated as owning a proportionate share of the assets and earning a proportionate share of the income of any other corporation in which we own, directly or indirectly, 25% or more (by value) of the stock.

Although the law in this regard is not entirely clear, we treat our VIE and its subsidiaries as being owned by us for U.S. federal income tax purposes because we control its management decisions and are entitled to substantially all of the economic benefits associated with it. As a result, we consolidate its result of operations in our consolidated U.S. GAAP financial statements. If it were determined, however, that we are not the owner of our VIE for U.S. federal income tax purposes, we may be treated as a PFIC for the current taxable year and any subsequent taxable year.

Assuming that we are the owner of our VIE and its subsidiaries for U.S. federal income tax purposes, we do not believe we were a PFIC for the taxable year ended December 31, 2020 and we do not expect to be a PFIC for the current taxable year or the foreseeable future. However, no assurance can be given in this regard because the determination of whether we are or will become a PFIC is a factual determination made annually that will depend, in part, upon the composition of our income and assets. Fluctuations in the market price of the ADSs may cause us to be or become a PFIC for the current or future taxable years because the value of our assets for purposes of the asset test, including the value of our goodwill and unbooked intangibles, may be determined by reference to the market price of the ADSs from time to time (which may be volatile). The composition of our income and assets may also be affected by how, and how quickly, we use our liquid assets. Under circumstances where our revenue from activities that produce passive income significantly increases relative to our revenue from activities that produce non-passive income, or where we determine not to deploy significant amounts of cash for active purposes, our risk of becoming classified as a PFIC may substantially increase.

If we are a PFIC for any year during which a U.S. Holder holds the ADSs or ordinary shares, we generally will continue to be treated as a PFIC for all succeeding years during which such U.S. Holder holds the ADSs or ordinary shares.

The discussion below under “—Dividends” and “—Sale or Other Disposition” is written on the basis that we will not be or become classified as a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The U.S. federal income tax rules that apply generally if we are treated as a PFIC are discussed below under “—Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules.”

Dividends

Any cash distributions paid on the ADSs or ordinary shares (including the amount of any PRC tax withheld) out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles, will generally be includible in the gross income of a U.S. Holder as dividend income on the day actually or constructively received by the U.S. Holder, in the case of ordinary shares, or by the depositary, in the case of ADSs. Because we do not intend to determine our earnings and profits on the basis of U.S. federal income tax principles, any distribution we pay will generally be treated as a “dividend” for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Dividends received on the ADSs or ordinary shares will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction allowed to corporations in respect of dividends received from U.S. corporations.

Individuals and other non-corporate U.S. Holders will be subject to tax at the lower capital gain tax rate applicable to “qualified dividend income”; *provided* that certain conditions are satisfied, including that (i) the ADSs or ordinary shares on which the dividends are paid are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States, or, in the event that we are deemed to be a PRC resident enterprise under the PRC tax law, we are eligible for the benefit of the United States-PRC income tax treaty (the “Treaty”), (ii) we are neither a PFIC nor treated as such with respect to a U.S. Holder (as discussed below) for the taxable year in which the dividend is paid and the preceding taxable year, and (iii) certain holding period requirements are met. Our ADSs are considered to be readily tradable on the Nasdaq Global Market, which is an established securities market in the United States. There can be no assurance that the ADSs will continue to be considered readily tradable on an established securities market in later years. Because the ordinary shares will not be listed on a U.S. exchange, we do not believe that dividends received with respect to ordinary shares that are not represented by ADSs will be treated as qualified dividends. U.S. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the availability of the lower rate for dividends paid with respect to the ADSs or ordinary shares.

In the event that we are deemed to be a PRC resident enterprise under the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law (see “—People’s Republic of China Taxation”), we may be eligible for the benefits of the Treaty. If we are eligible for such benefits, dividends we pay on our ordinary shares, regardless of whether such shares are represented by the ADSs, and regardless of whether the ADSs are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States, would be eligible for the reduced rates of taxation described in the preceding paragraph.

For U.S. foreign tax credit purposes, dividends paid on the ADSs or ordinary shares generally will be treated as income from foreign sources and generally will constitute passive category income. In the event that we are deemed to be a PRC resident enterprise under the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law, a U.S. Holder may be subject to PRC withholding taxes on dividends paid on the ADSs or ordinary shares (see “—People’s Republic of China Taxation”). Depending on the U.S. Holder’s particular facts and circumstances and subject to a number of complex conditions and limitations, PRC withholding taxes on dividends that are non-refundable under the Treaty may be treated as foreign taxes eligible for credit against a U.S. Holder’s U.S. federal income tax liability. A U.S. Holder who does not elect to claim a foreign tax credit for foreign tax withheld may instead claim a deduction for U.S. federal income tax purposes, in respect of such withholding, but only for a year in which such holder elects to do so for all creditable foreign income taxes. The rules governing the foreign tax credit are complex and U.S. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under their particular circumstances.

Sale or Other Disposition

A U.S. Holder will generally recognize gain or loss upon the sale or other disposition of ADSs or ordinary shares in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized upon the disposition and the holder’s adjusted tax basis in such ADSs or ordinary shares. The gain or loss will generally be capital gain or loss. Any capital gain or loss will be long term if the ADSs or ordinary shares have been held for more than one year. The deductibility of a capital loss may be subject to limitations. Any such gain or loss that the U.S. Holder recognizes will generally be treated as U.S. source income or loss for foreign tax credit limitation purposes, which will generally limit the availability of foreign tax credits. However, in the event we are deemed to be a PRC resident enterprise under the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law, we may be eligible for the benefits of the Treaty. In such event, if PRC tax were to be imposed on any gain from the disposition of the ADSs or ordinary shares, a U.S. Holder that is eligible for the benefits of the Treaty may elect to treat such gain as PRC source income. If a U.S. Holder is not eligible for the benefits of the Treaty or fails to make the election to treat any gain as foreign source, then such U.S. Holder may not be able to use the foreign tax credit arising from any PRC tax imposed on the disposition of the ADSs or ordinary shares unless such credit can be applied (subject to applicable limitations) against United States federal income tax due on other income derived from foreign sources in the same income category (generally, the passive category). Each U.S. Holder is advised to consult its tax advisor regarding the tax consequences if a foreign tax is imposed on a disposition of the ADSs or ordinary shares, including the availability of the foreign tax credit under its particular circumstances.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules

If we are classified as a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder holds the ADSs or ordinary shares, and unless the U.S. Holder makes a mark-to-market election (as described below), the U.S. Holder will generally be subject to special tax rules on (i) any excess distribution that we make to the U.S. Holder (which generally means any distribution paid during a taxable year to a U.S. Holder that is greater than 125 percent of the average annual distributions paid in the three preceding taxable years or, if shorter, the U.S. Holder's holding period for the ADSs or ordinary shares), and (ii) any gain realized on the sale or other disposition including, under certain circumstances, a pledge, of ADSs or ordinary shares. Under the PFIC rules:

- the excess distribution or gain will be allocated ratably over the U.S. Holder's holding period for the ADSs or ordinary shares;
- the amount allocated to the current taxable year and any taxable years in the U.S. Holder's holding period prior to the first taxable year in which we are classified as a PFIC (each, a "pre-PFIC year") will be taxable as ordinary income; and
- the amount allocated to each prior taxable year, other than a pre-PFIC year, will be subject to tax at the highest tax rate in effect for individuals or corporations, as appropriate, for that year, increased by an additional tax equal to the interest on the resulting tax deemed deferred with respect to each such taxable year.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder holds the ADSs or ordinary shares, and any of our subsidiaries, our VIE or any of the subsidiaries of our VIE entity is also a PFIC, such U.S. Holder would be treated as owning a proportionate amount (by value) of the shares of the lower-tier PFIC for purposes of the application of these rules. U.S. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the application of the PFIC rules to any of our subsidiaries, our VIE or any of the subsidiaries of our VIE.

As an alternative to the foregoing rules, a U.S. Holder of "marketable stock" (as defined below) in a PFIC may make a mark-to-market election with respect to such stock. If a U.S. Holder makes this election with respect to the ADSs, the holder will generally (i) include as ordinary income for each taxable year that we are a PFIC the excess, if any, of the fair market value of ADSs held at the end of the taxable year over the adjusted tax basis of such ADSs and (ii) deduct as an ordinary loss the excess, if any, of the adjusted tax basis of the ADSs over the fair market value of such ADSs held at the end of the taxable year, but such deduction will only be allowed to the extent of the amount previously included in income as a result of the mark-to-market election. The U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the ADSs would be adjusted to reflect any income or loss resulting from the mark-to-market election. If a U.S. Holder makes a mark-to-market election in respect of the ADSs and we cease to be classified as a PFIC, the holder will not be required to take into account the gain or loss described above during any period that we are not classified as a PFIC. If a U.S. Holder makes a mark-to-market election, any gain such U.S. Holder recognizes upon the sale or other disposition of the ADSs in a year when we are a PFIC will be treated as ordinary income and any loss will be treated as ordinary loss, but such loss will only be treated as ordinary loss to the extent of the net amount previously included in income as a result of the mark-to-market election.

The mark-to-market election is available only for "marketable stock," which is stock that is traded in other than *de minimis* quantities on at least 15 days during each calendar quarter ("regularly traded") on a qualified exchange or other market, as defined in applicable United States Treasury regulations. Our ADSs are listed on the Nasdaq Global Market, which is an established securities market in the United States. Consequently, if our ADSs continue to be listed on the Nasdaq Global Market and are regularly traded, we expect that the mark-to-market election would be available to a U.S. Holder that holds our ADSs were we to be or become a PFIC. Our ADSs are expected to qualify as being regularly traded, but no assurance may be given in this regard.

Because a mark-to-market election cannot technically be made for any lower-tier PFICs that we may own, a U.S. Holder may continue to be subject to the PFIC rules with respect to such U.S. Holder's indirect interest in any investments held by us that are treated as an equity interest in a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

We do not intend to provide information necessary for U.S. Holders to make qualified electing fund elections which, if available, would result in tax treatment different from (and generally less adverse than) the general tax treatment for PFICs described above.

If a U.S. Holder owns the ADSs or ordinary shares during any taxable year that we are a PFIC, the holder must generally file an annual IRS Form 8621. You should consult your tax advisor regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of the ADSs or ordinary shares if we are or become a PFIC.

F. Dividends and Paying Agents

Not applicable.

G. Statement by Experts

Not applicable.

H. Documents on Display

We previously filed with the SEC our registration statement on Form F-1 (Registration No. 333-227497), as amended, including the prospectus contained therein, to register the issuance and sale of our ordinary shares represented by ADSs in relation to our initial public offering. We have also filed with the SEC the registration statement on Form F-6 (Registration No. 333-227702) to register the ADSs.

We are subject to periodic reporting and other informational requirements of the Exchange Act as applicable to foreign private issuers, and are required to file reports and other information with the SEC. Specifically, we are required to file annually an annual report on Form 20-F within four months after the end of each fiscal year, which is December 31. All information filed with the SEC can be obtained over the internet at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. As a foreign private issuer, we are exempt from the rules under the Exchange Act prescribing the furnishing and content of quarterly reports and proxy statements, and officers, directors and principal shareholders are exempt from the reporting and short-swing profit recovery provisions contained in Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

We will furnish the Citibank, N.A., the depository of the ADSs, with our annual reports, which will include a review of operations and annual audited consolidated financial statements prepared in conformity with U.S. GAAP, and all notices of shareholders' meetings and other reports and communications that are made generally available to our shareholders. The depository will make such notices, reports and communications available to holders of ADSs and, upon our request, will mail to all record holders of ADSs the information contained in any notice of a shareholders' meeting received by the depository from us.

In accordance with NASDAQ Stock Market Rule 5250(d), we will post this annual report on Form 20-F on our website at <http://ir.niu.com>. In addition, we will provide hardcopies of our annual report free of charge to shareholders and ADS holders upon request.

I. Subsidiary Information

Not applicable.

Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

Our exposure to interest rate risk primarily relates to the interest expenses on our short term bank borrowings. Our short term bank borrowing bears interests at fixed rates. We have not been exposed to, nor do we anticipate being exposed to, material risks due to changes in market interest rates. However, our future interest expenses may exceed expectations due to changes in market interest rates. If we were to renew these short term bank borrowings, we might be subject to interest rate risk.

Foreign Exchange Risk

A substantial majority of all of our revenues and expenses are denominated in Renminbi. We do not believe that we currently have any significant direct foreign exchange risk and have not used any derivative financial instruments to hedge exposure to such risk. Although our exposure to foreign exchange risks should be limited in general, the value of your investment in the ADSs will be affected by the exchange rate between U.S. dollar and Renminbi because the value of our business is effectively denominated in RMB, while the ADSs will be traded in U.S. dollars. In addition, as our business and operation expand in European and other overseas markets, we are exposed to increased foreign exchange risks for U.S. dollar and other currencies.

Substantially all of our revenues and expenses are denominated in RMB. The value of the Renminbi against the U.S. dollar and other currencies is affected by changes in China’s political and economic conditions and by China’s foreign exchange policies, among other things. After the PRC government changed its policy of pegging the value of RMB to the U.S. dollar in 2005, the RMB has fluctuated against the U.S. dollar, at times significantly and unpredictably. It is difficult to predict how market forces or PRC or U.S. government policy may impact the exchange rate between the Renminbi and the U.S. dollar in the future.

To the extent that we need to convert U.S. dollars into Renminbi for our operations, appreciation of the Renminbi against the U.S. dollar would have an adverse effect on the RMB amount we receive from the conversion. Conversely, if we decide to convert Renminbi into U.S. dollars for the purpose of making payments for dividends on our Class A ordinary shares or the ADSs or for other business purposes, appreciation of the U.S. dollar against the Renminbi would have a negative effect on the U.S. dollar amounts available to us.

Any significant depreciation of the Renminbi may materially and adversely affect our revenues, earnings and financial position as reported in U.S. dollars. To the extent that we need to convert U.S. dollars we received from our initial public offering into Renminbi for our operations, appreciation of the Renminbi against the U.S. dollar would have an adverse effect on the RMB amount we would receive from the conversion. Conversely, if we decide to convert our RMB amounts into U.S. dollars for the purpose of making payments for dividends on our ordinary shares or ADSs or for other business purposes, appreciation of the U.S. dollar against the Renminbi would have a negative effect on the U.S. dollar amount available to us.

Inflation

Since our inception, inflation in China has not materially affected our results of operations. According to the National Bureau of Statistics of China, the year-over-year percent changes in the consumer price index for December 2018, December 2019 and December 2020 were increases of 2.1%, 2.9% and 2.5%, respectively. Although we have not been materially affected by inflation, we may be affected if China experiences higher rates of inflation in the future.

Item 12. Description of Securities Other than Equity Securities

A. Debt Securities

Not applicable.

B. Warrants and Rights

Not applicable.

C. Other Securities

Not applicable.

D. American Depositary Shares

Fees and Charges Our ADS holders May Have to Pay

Citibank, N.A. acts as the depository bank for the American Depositary Shares. Citibank’s depository offices are located at 388 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10013. American Depositary Shares are frequently referred to as “ADSs” and represent ownership interests in securities that are on deposit with the depository bank. ADSs may be represented by certificates that are commonly known as “American Depositary Receipts” or “ADRs.” The depository bank typically appoints a custodian to safekeep the securities on deposit. In this case, the custodian is Citibank, N.A.—Hong Kong, located at 9/F, Citi Tower, One Bay East, 83 Hoi Bun Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

An ADS holder will be required to pay the following fees under the terms of the deposit agreement:

Service	Fees
· Issuance of ADSs (e.g., an issuance of ADS upon a deposit of Class A ordinary shares, upon a change in the ADS(s)-to Class A ordinary share(s) ratio, or for any other reason), excluding ADS issuances as a result of distributions of Class A ordinary shares	Up to U.S. 5¢ per ADS issued
· Cancellation of ADSs (e.g., a cancellation of ADSs for delivery of deposited property, upon a change in the ADS(s)-to Class A ordinary share(s) ratio, or for any other reason)	Up to U.S. 5¢ per ADS cancelled
· Distribution of cash dividends or other cash distributions (e.g., upon a sale of rights and other entitlements)	Up to U.S. 5¢ per ADS held
· Distribution of ADSs pursuant to (i) stock dividends or other free stock distributions, or (ii) exercise of rights to purchase additional ADSs	Up to U.S. 5¢ per ADS held
· Distribution of securities other than ADSs or rights to purchase additional ADSs (e.g., upon a spin-off)	Up to U.S. 5¢ per ADS held
· ADS Services	Up to U.S. 5¢ per ADS held on the applicable record date(s) established by the depositary bank

An ADS holder will also be responsible to pay certain charges such as:

- taxes (including applicable interest and penalties) and other governmental charges;
- the registration fees as may from time to time be in effect for the registration of Class A ordinary shares on the share register and applicable to transfers of Class A ordinary shares to or from the name of the custodian, the depositary bank or any nominees upon the making of deposits and withdrawals, respectively;
- certain cable, telex and facsimile transmission and delivery expenses;
- the expenses and charges incurred by the depositary bank in the conversion of foreign currency;
- the fees and expenses incurred by the depositary bank in connection with compliance with exchange control regulations and other regulatory requirements applicable to Class A ordinary shares, ADSs and ADRs; and
- the fees and expenses incurred by the depositary bank, the custodian, or any nominee in connection with the servicing or delivery of deposited property.

ADS fees and charges for (i) the issuance of ADSs, and (ii) the cancellation of ADSs are charged to the person for whom the ADSs are issued (in the case of ADS issuances) and to the person for whom ADSs are cancelled (in the case of ADS cancellations). In the case of ADSs issued by the depositary bank into DTC, the ADS issuance and cancellation fees and charges may be deducted from distributions made through DTC, and may be charged to the DTC participant(s) receiving the ADSs being issued or the DTC participant(s) holding the ADSs being cancelled, as the case may be, on behalf of the beneficial owner(s) and will be charged by the DTC participant(s) to the account of the applicable beneficial owner(s) in accordance with the procedures and practices of the DTC participants as in effect at the time. ADS fees and charges in respect of distributions and the ADS service fee are charged to the holders as of the applicable ADS record date. In the case of distributions of cash, the amount of the applicable ADS fees and charges is deducted from the funds being distributed. In the case of (i) distributions other than cash and (ii) the ADS service fee, holders as of the ADS record date will be invoiced for the amount of the ADS fees and charges and such ADS fees and charges may be deducted from distributions made to holders of ADSs. For ADSs held through DTC, the ADS fees and charges for distributions other than cash and the ADS service fee may be deducted from distributions made through DTC, and may be charged to the DTC participants in accordance with the procedures and practices prescribed by DTC and the DTC participants in turn charge the amount of such ADS fees and charges to the beneficial owners for whom they hold ADSs.

In the event of refusal to pay the depositary bank fees, the depositary bank may, under the terms of the deposit agreement, refuse the requested service until payment is received or may set off the amount of the depositary bank fees from any distribution to be made to the ADS holder. Certain depositary fees and charges (such as the ADS services fee) may become payable shortly after the closing of the ADS offering. Note that the fees and charges an ADS holder may be required to pay may vary over time and may be changed by us and by the depositary bank. An ADS holder will receive prior notice of such changes.

Fees and Other Payments Made by the Depositary to Us

The depositary bank may reimburse us for certain expenses incurred by us in respect of the ADR program, by making available a portion of the ADS fees charged in respect of the ADR program or otherwise, upon such terms and conditions as we and the depositary bank agree from time to time. In 2020, we received approximately US\$0.55 million as reimbursement from the depositary.

PART II

Item 13. Defaults, Dividend Arrearages and Delinquencies

None.

Item 14. Material Modifications to the Rights of Security Holders and Use of Proceeds

See “Item 10. Additional Information—B. Memorandum and Articles of Association—Ordinary Shares” for a description of the rights of securities holders, which remain unchanged.

Use of Proceeds

The following “Use of Proceeds” information relates to the registration statement on Form F-1, as amended (File Number 333-227497) in relation to our initial public offering of 7,000,000 ADSs representing 14,000,000 of our Class A ordinary shares, at an initial offering price of \$9.00 per ADS. Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC and Citigroup Global Markets Inc. were the representatives of the underwriters.

The total expenses incurred for our company’s account in connection with our initial public offering was approximately US\$7.8 million including underwriting commissions and discounts and the offering expenses. None of the transaction expenses included payments to directors or officers of our company or their associates, persons owning more than 10% or more of our equity securities or our affiliates. None of the net proceeds from the initial public offering were paid, directly or indirectly, to any of our directors or officers or their associates, persons owning 10% or more of our equity securities or our affiliates.

As a result of our initial public offering, we raised total net proceeds of approximately US\$55.2 million after deducting underwriting commissions and discounts and the offering expenses. For the period from October 18, 2018, the date that the F-1 registration statement was declared effective by the SEC, to the date of this annual report, we used the net proceeds from our IPO as follows:

- US\$20.1 million for upgrade and expansion of manufacturing facilities;
- US\$11.1 million for distribution network expansion; and
- US\$23.8 million for research and development.

We intend to use the remaining net proceeds from our initial public offering, as disclosed in our registration statement on Form F-1, for upgrade and expansion of manufacturing facilities, research and development, distribution network expansion and general corporate purposes.

Item 15. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our management, with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, has performed an evaluation of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this report, as required by Rule 13a-15(b) under the Exchange Act.

Based upon that evaluation, our management has concluded that, as of December 31, 2020, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective in ensuring that the information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file and furnish under the Exchange Act was recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the SEC’s rules and forms, and that the information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Management’s Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of our assets, (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that our receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of our management and directors, and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of our assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements. As required by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and related rules as promulgated by the SEC, our management assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020 using criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (“COSO”).

Based on this assessment, our management, with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2020.

This annual report does not include an attestation report of our independent registered public accounting firm regarding internal control over financial reporting as we qualify as an “emerging growth company” under section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and are therefore exempt from the attestation requirement.

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

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Other than the implementation and refinement of the controls necessary to remediate the previous year’s material weakness, there were no changes in our internal controls over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by this annual report on Form 20-F that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Item 16A. Audit Committee Financial Expert

Our board of directors has determined that Mr. Changqing Ye, an independent director (under the standards set forth in Nasdaq Stock Market Rule 5605 and Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act) and chairman of our audit committee, is an audit committee financial expert.

Item 16B. Code of Ethics

Our board of directors adopted a code of business conduct and ethics that applies to our directors, officers, employees and advisors in September 2018. We have posted a copy of our code of business conduct and ethics on our website at <http://ir.niu.com>.

Item 16C. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

The following table sets forth the aggregate fees by categories specified below in connection with certain professional services rendered by KPMG Huazhen LLP, our principal external auditors, for the periods indicated.

	2019		2020	
Audit fees ⁽¹⁾	US\$	782,960	US\$	861,488
Tax fees ⁽²⁾		—	US\$	13,042

(1) “Audit fees” in 2020 represent the aggregate fees billed or payable for professional services rendered by our principal auditors for the audit of our annual financial statements and assistance with and review of documents filed with the SEC.

(2) “Tax fees” mean the aggregate fees billed for services rendered by independent registered public accounting firm for tax compliance services.

The policy of our audit committee or our board of directors is to pre-approve all audit and non-audit services provided by KPMG Huazhen LLP, including as described above.

Item 16D. Exemptions from the Listing Standards for Audit Committees

Not applicable.

Item 16E. Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers

None.

Item 16F. Change in Registrant’s Certifying Accountant

Not applicable.

Item 16G. Corporate Governance

As a Cayman Islands exempted company listed on Nasdaq, we are subject to the Nasdaq corporate governance listing standards. Rule 5620(a) requires that each company listing common stock or voting preferred stock, and their equivalents, must hold an annual meeting of shareholders no later than one year after the end of the company’s fiscal year-end. However, Nasdaq rules permit a foreign private issuer like us to follow the corporate governance practices of its home country. Certain corporate governance practices in the Cayman Islands, which is our home country, differ significantly from requirements for companies incorporated in other jurisdictions such as the United States. We have informed Nasdaq that we will follow home country practice with respect to the annual meeting of shareholders. Our shareholders may be afforded less protection than they would otherwise enjoy under the Nasdaq listing standards applicable to U.S. domestic issuers given our reliance on the home country practice exception. See “Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors—Risks Related to the American Depositary Shares—We are a foreign private issuer within the meaning of the rules under the Exchange Act, and as such we are exempt from certain provisions applicable to U.S. domestic public companies.”

Item 16H. Mine Safety Disclosure

Not applicable.

PART III

Item 17. Financial Statements

We have elected to provide financial statements pursuant to Item 18.

Item 18. Financial Statements

The consolidated financial statements of Niu Technologies, its subsidiaries and its consolidated affiliated entities are included at the end of this annual report.

Item 19. Exhibits

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description of Document</u>
1.1	Sixth Amended and Restated Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Registrant, effective October 23, 2018 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Registrant's registration statement on Form F-1 (file no. 333-227497), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 2018)
2.1	Registrant's Specimen American Depositary Receipt (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of the Registrant's registration statement on Form F-1 (file no. 333-227497), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 2018)
2.2	Registrant's Specimen Certificate for Ordinary Shares (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the Registrant's registration statement on Form F-1 (file no. 333-227497), as amended, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 9, 2018)
2.3	Deposit Agreement dated October 18, 2018 among the Registrant, the depository and holder of the American Depositary Receipts (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-8 (file no. 333-229190), as amended, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 11, 2019)
2.4	Fourth Amended and Restated Shareholders Agreement between the Registrant and other parties thereto dated August 22, 2018 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 of the Registrant's registration statement on Form F-1 (file no. 333-227497), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 2018)
2.5	Description of American Depositary Shares of the Registrant (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 2.5 to the annual report on Form 20-F filed by the Registrant with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 24, 2020)
2.6	Description of Ordinary Shares of the Registrant (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 2.6 to the annual report on Form 20-F filed by the Registrant with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 24, 2020)
4.1	Amended and Restated 2016 Global Share Incentive Plan of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (file no. 333-227497) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 2018)
4.2	2018 Share Incentive Plan of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (file no. 333-227497) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 2018)
4.3	Form of Employment Agreement between the Registrant and its executive officers (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Registrant's registration statement on Form F-1 (file no. 333-227497), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 2018)

Table of Contents

- 4.4 [Form of Indemnification Agreement between the Registrant and its directors and executive officers \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Registrant's registration statement on Form F-1 \(file no. 333-227497\), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 2018\)](#)
- 4.5 [English translation of the Powers of Attorney among the Registrant's WFOE, Beijing Niudian and shareholders of Beijing Niudian \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.5 of the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 20-F filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 24, 2020\)](#)
- 4.6 [English translation of the Second Amended and Restated Equity Pledge Agreement among the Registrant's WFOE, Beijing Niudian and shareholders of Beijing Niudian dated February 27, 2020 \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.6 of the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 20-F filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 24, 2020\)](#)
- 4.7 [English translation of the Amended and Restated Exclusive Business Cooperation Agreement among the Registrant's WFOE, Beijing Niudian and shareholders of Beijing Niudian dated July 20, 2018 \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 of the Registrant's registration statement on Form F-1 \(file no. 333-227497\), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 2018\)](#)
- 4.8 [English translation of the Second Amended and Restated Exclusive Option Agreement among the Registrant's WFOE, Beijing Niudian and shareholders of Beijing Niudian dated February 27, 2020 \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.8 of the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 20-F filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 24, 2020\)](#)
- 4.9 [Motor Purchase and Sales Contract between Bosch \(Ningbo\) E-scooter Motor Co., Ltd. and Jiangsu Xiaoniu Electric Technology Co., Ltd. dated March 21, 2017 \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.12 of the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 \(file no. 333-227497\) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 2018\)](#)
- 4.10 [Manufacturing Cooperation Agreement Between Jiangsu Xiaoniu Diandong Technology Co., Ltd. and Changzhou Shangqi Motorcycle Co., Ltd. dated December 1, 2018 \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.13 of the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 20-F \(file no. 001-38696\) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 25, 2019\)](#)
- 4.11 [Development Collaboration Agreement Between the Registrant and Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft dated March 15, 2019 \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.14 of the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 20-F \(file no. 001-38696\) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 25, 2019\)](#)
- 8.1* [List of Principal Subsidiaries and Consolidated Affiliated Entities](#)
- 11.1 [Code of Business Conduct and Ethics \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 of the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 \(file no. 333-227497\) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 2018\)](#)
- 12.1* [Certification by Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002](#)
- 12.2* [Certification by Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002](#)
- 13.1** [Certification by Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002](#)
- 13.2** [Certification by Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002](#)
- 15.1* [Consent of KPMG Huazhen LLP](#)
- 15.2* [Consent of DaHui Lawyers](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

101.INS*	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document
104*	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

* Filed herewith

** Furnished herewith

SIGNATURES

The registrant hereby certifies that it meets all of the requirements for filing its annual report on Form 20-F and that it has duly caused and authorized the undersigned to sign this annual report on its behalf.

Niu Technologies

By: /s/ YAN LI

Name: Yan Li

Title: Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief
Executive Officer

Date: April 9, 2021

NIU TECHNOLOGIES

INDEX TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CONTENTS	PAGE(S)
REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM	F-2
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2020	F-3
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS) FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018, 2019 AND 2020	F-5
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018, 2019 AND 2020	F-6
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018, 2019 AND 2020	F-7
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	F-8

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Shareholders and Board of Directors
Niu Technologies:

Opinion on the Consolidated Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Niu Technologies and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, the related consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss), changes in shareholders' equity (deficit), and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes (collectively, the consolidated financial statements). In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2020, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company has changed its method of accounting for revenue recognition as of January 1, 2019 due to the adoption of Accounting Standards Codification Topic 606, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

Basis for Opinion

These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits, we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting 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.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ KPMG Huazhen LLP

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2018.

Beijing, China
April 9, 2021

NIU TECHNOLOGIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	Note	As of December 31,		
		2019	2020	
		RMB	RMB	US\$ (Note 2(d))
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash	2(f)	279,945,942	227,004,137	34,789,906
Term deposits		174,404,554	130,498,000	19,999,693
Restricted cash	2(h)	221,656,071	168,469,077	25,819,016
Short-term investments	3	310,439,321	745,608,877	114,269,560
Accounts receivable, net	4	115,228,700	101,320,063	15,527,979
Inventories	5	178,633,299	142,166,179	21,787,920
Prepayments and other current assets	6	30,982,131	32,832,088	5,031,738
Total current assets		<u>1,311,290,018</u>	<u>1,547,898,421</u>	<u>237,225,812</u>
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment, net	7	150,891,344	199,045,061	30,504,990
Intangible assets, net	8	7,779,749	5,607,101	859,326
Land use rights, net	9	34,355,936	48,835,120	7,484,310
Deferred income tax assets	19(b)	—	14,593,376	2,236,533
Other non-current assets	10	6,522,561	30,830,304	4,724,951
Total non-current assets		<u>199,549,590</u>	<u>298,910,962</u>	<u>45,810,110</u>
Total assets		<u>1,510,839,608</u>	<u>1,846,809,383</u>	<u>283,035,922</u>
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Short-term bank borrowings (including short-term bank borrowings of VIE without recourse to the Company of RMB217,394,132 and RMB180,000,000 as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, respectively)	11	217,394,132	180,000,000	27,586,207
Accounts payable (including accounts payable of VIE without recourse to the Company of RMB258,988,264 and RMB395,826,435 as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, respectively)		258,988,264	395,826,435	60,663,055
Income taxes payable (including income taxes payable of VIE without recourse to the Company of RMB3,013,805 and RMB14,355,462 as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, respectively)		3,013,805	14,555,094	2,230,666
Advances from customers (including advances from customers of VIE without recourse to the Company of RMB7,478,309 and RMB38,817,881 as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, respectively)	2(r)	7,478,309	40,062,189	6,139,799
Deferred revenue-current (including deferred revenue-current of VIE without recourse to the Company of RMB31,105,700 and RMB21,155,634 as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, respectively)	2(r)	31,105,700	21,155,634	3,242,243
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities (including accrued expenses and other current liabilities of VIE without recourse to the Company of RMB164,442,316 and RMB160,532,008 as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, respectively)	13	175,533,397	171,657,604	26,307,679
Total current liabilities		<u>693,513,607</u>	<u>823,256,956</u>	<u>126,169,649</u>

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

	Note	As of December 31,		
		2019	2020	
Non-current liabilities				
Deferred revenue non-current (including deferred revenue non-current of VIE without recourse to the Company of RMB2,171,033 and RMB4,176,458 as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, respectively)	2(r)	2,171,033	4,176,458	640,070
Deferred income tax liabilities (including deferred income tax liabilities of VIE without recourse to the Company of RMB1,265,780 and RMB1,109,479 as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, respectively)	19(b)	1,265,780	1,109,479	170,035
Other non-current liabilities (including other non-current liabilities of VIE without recourse to the Company of RMB22,358,968 and RMB24,892,246 as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, respectively)	14	22,358,968	24,892,246	3,814,905
Total non-current liabilities		25,795,781	30,178,183	4,625,010
Total liabilities		719,309,388	853,435,139	130,794,659
Commitments and contingencies	22			
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY:				
Class A Ordinary Shares (US\$0.0001 par value, 4,900,000,000 shares authorized as of December 31, 2019 and 2020; 130,174,878 and 134,378,432 shares issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2019 and 2020)	16	84,494	87,300	13,379
Class B Ordinary Shares (US\$0.0001 par value, 50,000,000 shares authorized as of December 31, 2019 and 2020; 19,242,020 and 17,982,020 shares issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2019 and 2020)	16	11,977	11,202	1,717
Additional paid-in capital		1,738,102,741	1,801,940,071	276,159,398
Accumulated other comprehensive loss		(12,368,224)	(43,016,027)	(6,592,495)
Accumulated deficit		(934,300,768)	(765,648,302)	(117,340,736)
Total shareholders' equity		791,530,220	993,374,244	152,241,263
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity		1,510,839,608	1,846,809,383	283,035,922

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

NIU TECHNOLOGIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

	Note	For the Year Ended December 31,			
		2018	2019	2020	
		RMB	RMB	RMB	US\$ (Note 2(d))
Revenues	21	1,477,781,304	2,076,289,101	2,444,328,764	374,609,772
Cost of revenues		(1,279,155,847)	(1,589,738,548)	(1,885,180,256)	(288,916,514)
Gross profit		198,625,457	486,550,553	559,148,508	85,693,258
Operating expenses:					
Selling and marketing expenses		(150,150,872)	(182,872,514)	(200,761,383)	(30,768,028)
Research and development expenses		(91,811,892)	(67,187,348)	(105,335,357)	(16,143,350)
General and administrative expenses		(272,464,481)	(79,615,561)	(104,858,814)	(16,070,316)
Total operating expenses		(514,427,245)	(329,675,423)	(410,955,554)	(62,981,694)
Government grants		1,395,200	29,833,770	22,441,492	3,439,309
Operating income (loss)		(314,406,588)	186,708,900	170,634,446	26,150,873
Changes in fair value of a convertible loan	18	(34,499,858)	—	—	—
Interest expenses		(7,721,675)	(11,396,998)	(7,380,833)	(1,131,162)
Interest income		2,998,796	16,898,785	8,787,309	1,346,714
Investment income		4,601,849	6,088,425	17,697,800	2,712,307
Income (loss) before income taxes		(349,027,476)	198,299,112	189,738,722	29,078,732
Income tax expense	19	—	(8,214,341)	(21,086,256)	(3,231,610)
Net income (loss)		(349,027,476)	190,084,771	168,652,466	25,847,122
Other comprehensive income (loss)					
Foreign currency translation adjustment, net of nil income taxes		(28,436,867)	8,882,775	(30,137,470)	(4,618,769)
Unrealized gain on available for sale securities, net income taxes of nil, RMB2,034,081 and RMB4,254,339 for the year 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively		4,655,556	6,102,242	12,763,017	1,956,018
Less: reclassification adjustment for gain on available for sale securities realized in net income, net income taxes of nil, RMB1,522,106 and RMB4,424,450 for the year 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively		(4,601,849)	(4,566,319)	(13,273,350)	(2,034,230)
Comprehensive income (loss)		(377,410,636)	200,503,469	138,004,663	21,150,141
Net income (loss) per ordinary share					
—Basic	20	(5.30)	1.28	1.12	0.17
—Diluted	20	(5.30)	1.24	1.07	0.16
Weighted average number of ordinary shares and ordinary shares equivalents outstanding used in computing net income (loss) per ordinary share					
—Basic	20	65,834,876	149,025,166	150,897,412	150,897,412
—Diluted	20	65,834,876	153,248,188	157,835,868	157,835,868

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

NIU TECHNOLOGIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY (DEFICIT)
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018, 2019 AND 2020

	Ordinary shares		Series Seed convertible preferred shares		Additional paid-in capital	Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	Accumulated deficit	Total shareholders' equity (deficit)
	Shares	RMB	Shares	RMB				
Balance as of January 1, 2018	64,570,520	39,948	30,000,000	18,436	440,265,896	5,596,238	(771,155,994)	(325,235,476)
Net loss	—	—	—	—	—	—	(349,027,476)	(349,027,476)
Repurchase and retirement of ordinary shares	(432,000)	(266)	—	—	—	—	(4,202,069)	(4,202,335)
Issuance of ordinary shares upon initial public offering ("IPO"), net of offering costs	14,000,000	9,714	—	—	383,308,578	—	—	383,318,292
Conversion of Series Seed Preferred Shares into ordinary shares	30,000,000	18,436	(30,000,000)	(18,436)	—	—	—	—
Conversion of Series A Preferred Shares into ordinary shares	35,397,679	24,562	—	—	451,100,862	—	—	451,125,424
Conversion of Series B Preferred Shares into ordinary shares	5,137,859	3,565	—	—	176,933,285	—	—	176,936,850
Foreign currency translation adjustment, net of nil income taxes	—	—	—	—	—	(28,436,867)	—	(28,436,867)
Unrealized holding gains on available-for-sale security, net of nil income taxes	—	—	—	—	—	4,655,556	—	4,655,556
Reclassification adjustment for gains on available-for-sale securities realized in net income, net of nil income taxes	—	—	—	—	—	(4,601,849)	—	(4,601,849)
Share-based compensation	—	—	—	—	265,874,927	—	—	265,874,927
Balance as of December 31, 2018	148,674,058	95,959	—	—	1,717,483,548	(22,786,922)	(1,124,385,539)	570,407,046
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	—	190,084,771	190,084,771
Foreign currency translation adjustment, net of nil income taxes	—	—	—	—	—	8,882,775	—	8,882,775
Unrealized holding gains on available-for-sale security, net of RMB2,034,081 income taxes	—	—	—	—	—	6,102,242	—	6,102,242
Reclassification adjustment for gains on available-for-sale securities realized in net income, net of RMB1,522,106 income taxes	—	—	—	—	—	(4,566,319)	—	(4,566,319)
Share-based compensation	—	—	—	—	19,622,779	—	—	19,622,779
Exercise of share-based awards	742,840	512	—	—	996,414	—	—	996,926
Balance as of December 31, 2019	149,416,898	96,471	—	—	1,738,102,741	(12,368,224)	(934,300,768)	791,530,220
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	—	168,652,466	168,652,466
Foreign currency translation adjustment, net of nil income taxes	—	—	—	—	—	(30,137,470)	—	(30,137,470)
Unrealized holding gains on available-for-sale security, net of RMB4,254,339 income taxes	—	—	—	—	—	12,763,017	—	12,763,017
Reclassification adjustment for gains on available-for-sale securities realized in net income, net of RMB4,424,450 income taxes	—	—	—	—	—	(13,273,350)	—	(13,273,350)
Share-based compensation	—	—	—	—	39,608,915	—	—	39,608,915
Exercise of share-based awards	2,943,554	2,031	—	—	24,228,415	—	—	24,230,446
Balance as of December 31, 2020	152,360,452	98,502	—	—	1,801,940,071	(43,016,027)	(765,648,302)	993,374,244
Balance as of December 31, 2020—US\$ (Note 2(d))	—	15,096	—	—	276,159,398	(6,592,495)	(117,340,736)	152,241,263

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

NIU TECHNOLOGIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	For the Year Ended December 31,			
	2018	2019	2020	
	RMB	RMB	RMB	US\$ (Note 2(d))
Operating activities:				
Net income (loss)	(349,027,476)	190,084,771	168,652,466	25,847,121
<i>Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities</i>				
Allowance (reversals) to bad debt expense	(1,215,464)	3,060,389	505,912	77,534
Share-based compensation	265,874,927	19,622,779	39,608,915	6,070,332
Change in fair value of a convertible loan	34,499,858	—	—	—
Depreciation and amortization	18,881,376	32,428,391	50,239,037	7,699,469
Investment income	(4,601,849)	(6,088,425)	(17,697,800)	(2,712,307)
Unrealized foreign exchange loss (gain)	108,528	(706,712)	3,358,752	514,751
Deferred income tax expense (benefit)	—	753,806	(18,150,489)	(2,781,685)
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	227,720	46,679	17,160	2,630
Write-down of inventories	18,254,406	10,491,137	5,809,583	890,358
<i>Changes in operating assets and liabilities:</i>				
Accounts receivable	(42,827,269)	(63,864,244)	13,402,725	2,054,057
Inventories	(72,410,646)	(46,739,327)	30,565,820	4,684,417
Prepayments and other current assets	(19,570,371)	(3,943,720)	1,080,721	165,628
Other non-current assets	(130,199)	(2,419,398)	(391,736)	(60,036)
Accounts payable	124,728,425	9,321,752	136,838,756	20,971,457
Advances from customers	(27,997,528)	(13,027,552)	32,655,527	5,004,678
Deferred revenue	2,903,070	20,375,602	(7,944,641)	(1,217,570)
Other non-current liabilities	5,231,091	532,460	5,846,549	896,023
Income taxes payable	—	3,013,805	11,541,289	1,768,780
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	55,640,518	25,738,242	9,660,165	1,480,487
Net cash provided by operating activities	8,569,117	178,680,435	465,598,711	71,356,124
Investing activities:				
Cash paid for purchase of property, plant and equipment	(32,017,882)	(114,234,236)	(111,745,878)	(17,125,805)
Payments for land use rights	(12,329,652)	(24,762,190)	(39,749,734)	(6,091,913)
Purchase of intangible assets	(8,941,893)	(2,017,645)	(86,358)	(13,235)
Purchase of term deposits	(95,540,873)	(172,397,059)	(411,324,241)	(63,038,198)
Cash received from redemption of term deposits	75,638,800	27,583,462	445,826,800	68,325,946
Cash paid for purchase of short-term investments	(1,308,000,000)	(1,808,463,130)	(2,726,500,000)	(417,854,406)
Cash received from sale of short-term investments	1,277,601,849	1,626,401,557	2,308,347,800	353,769,778
Net cash used in investing activities	(103,589,651)	(467,889,241)	(535,231,611)	(82,027,833)
Financing activities:				
Proceeds from issuance of Class A ordinary shares upon IPO, net of underwriting commissions and discounts of RMB30,599,667	406,538,433	—	—	—
Payment of issuance cost of Class A ordinary shares in connection with IPO	(20,089,502)	(3,130,639)	—	—
Issuance of Series B redeemable convertible preferred shares	161,392,196	—	—	—
Cash received from exercise of employee stock options	—	996,926	24,230,446	3,713,478
Cash paid for repurchase of ordinary shares	(4,202,335)	—	—	—
Proceeds from short-term bank borrowings	199,978,003	266,280,240	180,000,000	27,586,207
Repayment for short-term bank borrowings	(188,234,207)	(228,864,111)	(217,394,132)	(33,317,108)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	555,382,588	35,282,416	(13,163,686)	(2,017,423)
Effect of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash and restricted cash	6,074,726	7,206,098	(23,332,213)	(3,575,818)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and restricted cash	466,436,780	(246,720,292)	(106,128,799)	(16,264,950)
Cash and restricted cash at the beginning of the year	281,885,525	748,322,305	501,602,013	76,873,872
Cash and restricted cash at the end of the year	748,322,305	501,602,013	395,473,214	60,608,922
Supplemental information				
Interest paid	7,656,695	9,705,406	8,937,637	1,369,753
Income tax paid	—	4,446,731	27,695,456	4,244,514
Payable for issuance cost of Class A ordinary shares in connection with IPO	(3,130,639)	—	—	—
Payable for the construction of building	—	22,982,521	6,313,746	967,624

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

1. DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Organization and principal activities

Niu Technologies (“the Company”), through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, consolidated variable interest entity (“VIE”) and VIE’s subsidiaries (collectively referred to as “the Group”), is principally engaged in designing, manufacturing and selling of electric scooters and its accessories under the brand name of “NIU”. The Group’s principal operations and geographic markets are mainly in the People’s Republic of China (“PRC”).

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the Company, its wholly-owned subsidiaries, consolidated VIE and VIE’s subsidiaries.

The VIE arrangements

The Group operates its online business in the PRC through Beijing Niudian Technologies Co., Ltd. (“Beijing Niudian”, or the “VIE”), a limited liability company established under the laws of the PRC on September 18, 2014. Beijing Niudian holds the necessary PRC operating licenses for the online business. The equity interests of Beijing Niudian are legally held by individuals who act as nominee equity holders of the VIE on behalf of Beijing Niudian Information Technology Co., Ltd. (“Niudian Information”), the Company’s wholly owned subsidiary. A series of contractual agreements, including Powers of Attorney, Exclusive Business Cooperation Agreement, Equity Pledge Agreement, Exclusive Option Agreement and Spousal Consent Letters (collectively, the “VIE Agreements”), were entered among the Company, Niudian Information, Beijing Niudian and its nominee equity holders on May 27, 2015 and were subsequently amended to include registration of the Equity Pledge Agreement with the relevant registration authority on June 11, 2018, amended when an equity holder transferred certain equity interests to another equity holder on July 20, 2018.

The contractual agreements were further amended on February 27, 2020 when two equity holders transferred certain equity interests to another equity holder.

Pursuant to the VIE Agreements, the Company is able to exercise effective control over, bears the risks of, enjoys substantially all of the economic benefits of the VIE, and has an exclusive option to purchase all or part of the equity interests in the VIE when and to the extent permitted by PRC law at the lowest price possible. The Company’s management concluded that Beijing Niudian is a VIE and the Company is its primary beneficiary. As such, the consolidated financial statements of the VIE are included in the consolidated financial statements of the Company.

The principal terms of the VIE Agreements are further described below.

1) Powers of Attorney

The Company and each of the equity holders of Beijing Niudian entered into Powers of Attorney. Pursuant to the Powers of Attorney, the equity holders of Beijing Niudian irrevocably appointed the Company as their attorney-in-fact to exercise all equity holder rights, including, but not limited to, convening and attending in the equity holders’ meeting, appointing or removing directors, executive officers and senior management, disposing of all or part of the equity holder’s interests in Beijing Niudian, casting equity holder’s vote on matters requiring equity holders’ approval and doing all other acts in the capacity of equity holder as permitted by Beijing Niudian’s Memorandum and Articles of Association. In addition, the Company has a right to assign its rights and benefits under the Powers of Attorney to any other parties without an advance notice to the equity holders of Beijing Niudian. The Powers of Attorney shall continue in force and be irrevocable as long as the equity holders of Beijing Niudian remain as the equity holders of Beijing Niudian.

2) *Exclusive Business Cooperation Agreement*

Niudian Information and Beijing Niudian entered into an Exclusive Business Cooperation Agreement, whereby Niudian Information is appointed as the exclusive service provider for the provision of business support, technology and consulting services to Beijing Niudian. Unless a written consent is given by Niudian Information, Beijing Niudian is not allowed to engage a third party to provide such services, while Niudian Information is able to designate another party to render such services to Beijing Niudian. Beijing Niudian shall pay Niudian Information on a monthly basis a service fee, which shall equal to 100% of the monthly net profits of Beijing Niudian, and Niudian Information has the sole discretion to adjust the basis of calculation of the service fee amount according to service provided to Beijing Niudian. Niudian Information owns the exclusive intellectual property rights, whether created by Niudian Information or Beijing Niudian, as a result of the performance of the Exclusive Business Cooperation Agreement unless terminated in writing by Niudian Information. The Exclusive Business Cooperation Agreement will be in effect until September 17, 2044 which represents the end of operation term of Beijing Niudian.

3) *Equity Pledge Agreement*

An Equity Pledge Agreement was entered into by and among Niudian Information, Beijing Niudian and equity holders of Beijing Niudian. To guarantee payment from Beijing Niudian, including but not limited to the service fee pursuant to the Exclusive Business Cooperation Agreement, and the performance of Beijing Niudian and the nominee equity holders' obligations under the contractual arrangements including the Exclusive Business Cooperation Agreement, Exclusive Option Agreement and Powers of Attorney, the equity holders of Beijing Niudian pledged their respective equity in Niudian Information under the Equity Pledge Agreement to Niudian Information as collateral. In the event Beijing Niudian fails to pay Niudian Information its service fee, Niudian Information will have the right to sell the pledged equity and apply the proceeds received to pay any outstanding service fees due by Beijing Niudian to Niudian Information. The equity holders of Beijing Niudian agree that, during the term of the Equity Pledge Agreement, they will not dispose of the pledged equity or create or allow any encumbrance on the pledged equity, and they also agree that Niudian Information's rights relating to the equity pledges shall not be prejudiced by any legal actions of the equity holders of Beijing Niudian, their successors or their designees. The equity pledges have been registered with the relevant registration authority and became effective and enforceable since registration. The Equity Pledge Agreement may only be terminated upon the fulfillment of all contractual obligations under the Exclusive Business Cooperation Agreement, Exclusive Option Agreement and Powers of Attorney. During the term of the Equity Pledge Agreement, Niudian Information is entitled to receive dividends attributable to the pledged Beijing Niudian equity.

4) *Exclusive Option Agreement*

Each of the equity holders of Beijing Niudian entered into an Exclusive Option Agreement with the Company, Niudian Information, and Beijing Niudian, pursuant to which the equity holders of Beijing Niudian granted the Company, and Niudian Information or other person upon the designation by the Company, an irrevocable and exclusive option to purchase, at its discretion and to the extent permitted under the PRC law, all or part of the equity holders' interests in Beijing Niudian at RMB100 or the lowest price that the PRC law permits at the time unless a valuation of the equity is required by the PRC law. The equity holders of Beijing Niudian commit that without the prior written consent of the Company, the equity holders of Beijing Niudian will not, among other things, (i) create any pledge or encumbrance on their equity interests in Beijing Niudian, (ii) transfer or otherwise dispose of their equity interests in Beijing Niudian, (iii) change Beijing Niudian's registered capital, (iv) amend Beijing Niudian's articles of association, (v) dispose of Beijing Niudian's material assets or enter into any material contract with a value of over RMB100,000 (except in the ordinary course of business), or (vi) merge Beijing Niudian with any other entity. In addition, Beijing Niudian undertakes that, without the Company's prior written consent, it will not, among other things, create any pledge or encumbrance on any of its assets, or transfer or otherwise dispose of its material assets (except in the ordinary course of business). Beijing Niudian and its equity holders shall appoint those individuals recommended by the Company as directors of Beijing Niudian. Beijing Niudian shall provide operating and financial information to the Company at the request of the Company and ensure the continuance of the business. The Exclusive Option Agreement will remain effective until all equity interests in Beijing Niudian held by its equity holders are transferred or assigned to the Company or its designee. Beijing Niudian and its equity holders shall not have any right to terminate the Exclusive Option Agreement.

5) *Spousal Consent Letters*

The spouses of each of nominee equity holders signed Spousal Consent Letters to consent that the equity interests in Beijing Niudian held by and registered in the name of the respective nominee equity holders will be disposed of pursuant to the VIE Agreements. These spouses agreed not to assert any rights over the equity interest in Beijing Niudian held by their spouses. In addition, in the event that the spouses obtain any equity interests in Beijing Niudian held by their spouses for any reason, they agreed to be bound by the VIE Agreements.

Risks in relation to the VIE structure

In the opinion of the Company's management, the VIE Agreements have resulted in the Company having the power to direct activities that most significantly impact the VIE, including appointing key management, setting up operating policies, exerting financial controls and transferring profit or assets out of the VIE at its discretion. The Company considers that it has the right to receive all the benefits and assets of the VIE. As the VIE was established as a limited liability company under the PRC law, its creditors do not have recourse to the general credit of the Company for the liabilities of the VIE, and the Company does not have the obligation to assume the liabilities of the VIE.

The Company has determined that the VIE Agreements are in compliance with PRC laws and are legally enforceable. However, uncertainties in the PRC legal system could limit the Company's ability to enforce the VIE Agreements; and if the equity holders of the VIE were to reduce their interest in the Company, their interests may diverge from that of the Company and that may potentially increase the risk that they would seek to act contrary to the contractual terms.

The Company's ability to control the VIE also depends on the rights provided to the Company under the Powers of Attorney to vote on all matters requiring equity holders' approval in the respective VIE. As noted above, the Company believes these Powers of Attorney are legally enforceable but yet they may not be as effective as direct equity ownership. In addition, if the corporate structure of the Group or the contractual arrangements between the Company, Niudian Information, the VIE and its respective equity holders were found to be in violation of any existing PRC laws and regulations, the relevant PRC regulatory authorities could:

- revoke the business license and/or operating licenses of such entities;
- discontinue or place restrictions or onerous conditions on the Group's operations;
- impose fines, confiscate the income from our VIE, or impose other requirements with which the Group may not be able to comply;
- require the Group to restructure its ownership structure or operations, including terminating the contractual arrangements with the VIE and deregistering the equity pledges of the VIE, which in turn would affect the Company's ability to consolidate, derive economic interests from, or exert effective control over the VIE; or
- restrict or prohibit our use of the proceeds of this offering to finance our business and operations in China.

The imposition of any of the above restrictions or actions may result in a material and adverse effect on the Group's ability to conduct its business. In addition, if the imposition of any of these restrictions causes the Company to lose the right to direct the activities of the VIE or the right to receive its economic benefits, the Company would no longer be able to consolidate the VIE. The Company's management believes that the likelihood to lose the Company's current ownership structure or the contractual arrangements with the VIE is remote based on the current facts and circumstances.

There is no VIE in which the Company has a variable interest but is not the primary beneficiary. Currently there is no contractual arrangement that could require the Company to provide additional financial support to the VIE.

[Table of Contents](#)

The following consolidated assets and liabilities information of the Group's VIE as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, and consolidated revenues, net income (loss) and cash flow information for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020, have been included in the accompanying consolidated financial statements. All intercompany transactions and balances with the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries have been eliminated upon consolidation.

	As of December 31,	
	2019 RMB	2020 RMB
Cash	93,548,349	105,849,594
Short-term investments	310,439,321	696,596,203
Accounts receivable, net	115,228,700	101,320,063
Inventories	178,476,473	140,603,108
Prepayments and other current assets	18,613,814	29,433,890
Amounts due from inter-companies	4,303,778	5,729,053
Total current assets	720,610,435	1,079,531,911
Property, plant and equipment, net	148,937,701	195,808,280
Intangible assets, net	1,962,530	1,747,615
Land use rights, net	34,355,936	48,835,120
Deferred income tax assets	—	14,593,376
Other non-current assets	5,961,241	30,830,304
Total assets	911,827,843	1,371,346,606
Short-term bank borrowings	217,394,132	180,000,000
Accounts payable	258,988,264	395,826,435
Amounts due to inter-companies	306,137,760	420,647,145
Income taxes payable	3,013,805	14,355,462
Advances from customers	7,478,309	38,817,881
Deferred revenue—current	31,105,700	21,155,634
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	164,442,316	160,532,008
Total current liabilities	988,560,286	1,231,334,565
Deferred revenue non-current	2,171,033	4,176,458
Deferred income tax liabilities	1,265,780	1,109,479
Other non-current liabilities	22,358,968	24,892,246
Total liabilities	1,014,356,067	1,261,512,748

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2018 RMB	2019 RMB	2020 RMB
Revenues	1,477,593,628	2,115,501,618	2,500,023,611
Net income (loss)	(294,156,973)	196,473,033	175,070,451
Net cash provided by operating activities	14,379,166	284,907,333	570,195,979
Net cash used in investing activities	(74,333,070)	(319,696,832)	(518,734,956)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	78,199,492	37,416,129	(37,394,132)
Effect of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash	684,791	198,466	(1,765,646)
Net increase in cash	18,930,379	2,825,096	12,301,245
Cash at the beginning of the year	71,792,874	90,723,253	93,548,349
Cash at the end of the year	90,723,253	93,548,349	105,849,594

The unrecognized revenue-producing assets that are held by the VIE primarily consist of ICP License, Production License for National Industrial Products, trademarks, patents, know-how and customer relationships. None of the assets of the VIE can be used only to settle obligations of VIE. None of the assets of the VIE has been pledged or collateralized. The creditors of the VIE do not have recourse to the general credit of the Company or its consolidated subsidiaries.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of presentation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements of the Group have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”).

(b) Principles of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements of the Group have been prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the Company, its subsidiaries, the VIE for which the Company or its subsidiary is the primary beneficiary, and the VIE’s subsidiaries.

Subsidiaries are those entities in which the Company, directly or indirectly, controls more than one half of the voting power or has the power to govern the financial and operating policies, to appoint or remove the majority of the members of the board of directors, or to cast a majority of votes at the meeting of directors. A VIE is an entity in which the Company, or its subsidiary, through contractual arrangements, exercises effective control over the activities that most impact the economic performance, bears the risks of, and enjoys the rewards normally associated with ownership of the entity, and therefore the Company or its subsidiary is the primary beneficiary of the entity.

All intercompany transactions and balances among the Company, its subsidiaries, the VIE and the VIE’s subsidiaries have been eliminated upon consolidation.

(c) Use of estimates

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, related disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date, and the reported revenues and expenses during the reported period in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Significant accounting estimates include, but not limited to, the stand-alone selling price (“SSP”) of distinct performance obligations, the allowance for doubtful accounts receivable, write downs for excess and obsolete inventories, depreciable lives of property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and land use rights, the realization of deferred income tax assets, future warranty expenses, the fair value of share-based compensation awards and convertible loans, and the fair value of the ordinary shares to determine the existence of beneficial conversion feature of the convertible redeemable preferred shares prior to IPO. Changes in facts and circumstances may result in revised estimates. Actual results could differ from those estimates, and as such, differences may be material to the consolidated financial statements.

(d) Convenience translation

Translations of balances in the consolidated financial statements from RMB into US\$ as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020 are solely for the convenience of the readers and were calculated at the rate of US\$1.00=RMB6.5250, representing the noon buying rate in The City of New York for cable transfers of RMB as certified for customs purposes by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on December 31, 2020. No representation is made that the RMB amounts could have been, or could be, converted, realized or settled into US\$ at that rate on December 31, 2020, or at any other rate. The US\$ convenience translation is not required under U.S. GAAP and all US\$convenience translation amounts in the accompanying consolidated financial statements are unaudited.

(e) Commitments and contingencies

In the normal course of business, the Group is subject to loss contingencies, such as legal proceedings and claims arising out of its business, that cover a wide range of matters, including, among others, government investigations, shareholder lawsuits, and non-income tax matters. An accrual for a loss contingency is recognized when it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount of loss can be reasonably estimated. If a potential material loss contingency is not probable but is reasonably possible, or is probable but cannot be estimated, then the nature of the contingent liability, together with an estimate of the range of possible loss if determinable and material, is disclosed.

(f) Cash

Cash consist of cash on hand, cash at bank and term deposits, which have original maturities of three months or less and are readily convertible to known amounts of cash. Cash at bank and term deposits are deposited in financial institutions at the following locations:

	As of December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Financial institutions in the mainland of the PRC		
—Denominated in EUR	—	754
—Denominated in RMB	90,078,714	35,981,659
—Denominated in USD	178,359,872	165,010,781
Total cash balances held at mainland PRC financial institutions	268,438,586	200,993,194
Financial institutions in the United States		
—Denominated in USD	3,523,116	5,727,377
Total cash balances held at United States financial institutions	3,523,116	5,727,377
Financial institutions in the Hong Kong S.A.R.		
—Denominated in HKD	—	431,735
—Denominated in USD	6,015,191	18,963,059
Total cash balances held at Hong Kong S.A.R. financial institutions	6,015,191	19,394,794
Financial institutions in Indonesia		
—Denominated in IDR	—	2,646
—Denominated in USD	1,765,448	468,408
Total cash balances held at Indonesia financial institutions	1,765,448	471,054
Total cash balances held at financial institutions	279,742,341	226,586,419

(g) Term deposits

Term deposits represent deposits placed with bank with original maturities of more than three months but less than one year. The Group's term deposits are denominated in USD and are deposited at a financial institution in the mainland of the PRC.

(h) Restricted cash

Restricted cash is an amount of cash deposited with banks in conjunction with borrowings from banks. Restriction on the use of such cash and the interest earned thereon is imposed by the banks and remains effective throughout the terms of the bank borrowings. Restricted cash is classified as current asset on the Company's consolidated balance sheets, as all the balance are expected to be released to cash within the next 12 months from December 31, 2020. The Group's restricted cash are denominated in RMB and USD and are deposited at financial institutions in the mainland of the PRC.

The following table provides a reconciliation of cash and restricted cash reported within the consolidated balance sheets that sum to the total of the same such amounts shown in the consolidated statements of cash flows.

	As of December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Cash	279,945,942	227,004,137
Restricted cash	221,656,071	168,469,077
Total cash and restricted cash	501,602,013	395,473,214

(i) Short-term investments

The Group's short-term investments represent the Group's investments in financial products managed by financial institutions in the PRC which are redeemable at the option of the Group on any working day or have the original maturities of less than twelve months, which are classified as available-for-sale securities. Short-term investments are reported at fair value, with unrealized holding gains or losses, net of the related tax effect, excluded from earnings and recorded as a separate component of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) until realized. Realized gains or losses from the sale of short-term investments are determined on a specific identification basis and are recorded as investment income when earned.

(j) Inventories

Inventories, consisting of raw materials, work in progress and finished goods, are stated at the lower of cost or net realizable value. The cost of inventory is determined using the weighted average cost method. Cost of work-in-process and finished goods comprise direct materials, direct production costs and an allocation of production overheads based on normal operating capacity. The Group takes ownership, risks and rewards of the products purchased. Inventory is written down for damaged and slow-moving goods, which is dependent upon factors such as historical and forecasted consumer demand. When appropriate, write downs to inventory are recorded to write down the cost of inventories to their net realizable value.

(k) Property, plant and equipment, net

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any recorded impairment.

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Building	50 years
Machinery and equipment	3 - 10 years
Furniture	3 - 5 years
Leasehold improvements	3 years
Office and electronic equipment	2 - 5 years
Motor vehicles	4 years

Depreciation on property, plant and equipment is calculated on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets.

Depreciation of property, plant and equipment attributable to manufacturing activities is capitalized as part of inventories, and recognized as cost of revenues when the inventory is sold.

When items are retired or otherwise disposed of, income is charged or credited for the difference between net book value and the proceeds received thereon. Ordinary maintenance and repairs are charged to expense as incurred, and replacements and betterments are capitalized and amortized over the remaining useful life.

(l) Intangible assets

Intangible assets acquired separately are measured on initial recognition at cost. Following initial recognition, intangible assets with finite lives are carried at cost less any accumulated amortization and any accumulated impairment losses.

Intangible assets with finite lives are amortized over the useful economic life on straight-line basis and assessed for impairment whenever there is an indication that the intangible assets may be impaired.

(m) Land use rights, net

Land use rights are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization and any accumulated impairment losses. Amortization is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives, which is 50 years and represents the shorter of the estimated usage years or the terms of the land use rights certificate.

(n) Impairment of long-lived assets

Long-lived assets such as property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and land use rights with finite lives are evaluated for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset may not be fully recoverable or that the useful life is shorter than the Group had originally estimated. When these events occur, the Group evaluates the impairment for the long-lived assets by comparing the carrying value of the assets with an estimate of future undiscounted cash flows expected to be generated from the use of the assets and their eventual disposition. If the sum of the expected future undiscounted cash flows is less than the carrying value of the assets, the Group recognizes an impairment loss based on the excess of the carrying value of the assets over the fair value of the assets. No impairment of long-lived assets was recognized for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

(o) Value added taxes

The Company's PRC subsidiaries are subject to value added tax ("VAT"). Revenues from sales of products are generally subject to VAT at the rate of 17% prior to May 1, 2018, which was adjusted to 16% after May 1, 2018, then to 13% after April 1, 2019. Revenues from services are generally subject to VAT at the rate of 6%. VAT are subsequently paid to PRC tax authorities after netting input VAT on purchases and VAT export rebates. The excess of output VAT over input VAT and VAT export rebates is reflected in Accrued expenses and other current liabilities, and the excess of input VAT and VAT export rebates over output VAT is reflected in Prepayments and other current assets in the consolidated balance sheets.

(p) Fair value measurements

Fair value represents the price that would be received from selling an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As such, fair value is a market-based measurement that should be determined based on assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or a liability.

Accounting guidance defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. Accounting guidance establishes a three-level fair value hierarchy and requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. A financial instrument's categorization within the fair value hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The three levels of inputs are:

- Level 1—Observable inputs that reflect quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.
- Level 2—Include other inputs that are directly or indirectly observable in the marketplace.
- Level 3—Unobservable inputs which are supported by little or no market activity.

Accounting guidance also describes three main approaches to measuring the fair value of assets and liabilities: (1) market approach; (2) income approach and (3) cost approach. The market approach uses prices and other relevant information generated from market transactions involving identical or comparable assets or liabilities. The income approach uses valuation techniques to convert future amounts to a single present value amount. The measurement is based on the value indicated by current market expectations about those future amounts. The cost approach is based on the amount that would currently be required to replace an asset.

Financial assets and liabilities of the Group primarily consist of cash, term deposits, restricted cash, short-term investments, accounts receivable, short term bank borrowings, convertible loan and accounts payable. The Group measures short-term investments and convertible loan at fair value on a recurring basis. Short-term investments include financial products issued by financial institutions, which are valued based on prices per unit quoted by issuers. They are categorized in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy. Convertible loan being recognized in its entirety at fair value were measured at fair value using unobservable inputs, and were categorized in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, the carrying values of other financial instruments approximated to their fair values due to the short term maturity of these instruments.

The Group's non-financial assets, such as land use rights, intangible assets and property, plant and equipment, would be measured at fair value only if they were determined to be impaired.

(q) Revenue recognition

The Group generates substantially all of its revenues from sales of electric scooters, accessories and spare parts to the Group's PRC domestic offline distributors and overseas offline distributors or directly to individual customers online. The Group also generates its revenues from its subscription-based mobile application services, as well as insurance service as an agent.

Periods prior to January 1, 2019

Prior to January 1, 2019, the Group recognizes revenue when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, delivery has occurred and the services have been rendered, the sales price is fixed or determinable, and collection is reasonably assured.

When the Group sells its smart electric scooters to its customers, it also provides mobile application services for free for one to two years (the "free service period"). Customers are able to locate their smart electric scooters, as well as obtain the operating status (e.g. battery status), and claim online repair and maintenance requests of their smart electric scooters, upon their registration of their smart electric scooters on the Group's mobile application. Customers may subscribe to such service after the free service period if they want to continue using aforementioned functions.

The Group allocates revenue to all deliverables based on their relative selling prices. The Group uses a hierarchy to determine the selling price to be used for allocating revenue to the deliverables: (i) vendor-specific objective evidence ("VSOE") of fair value, (ii) third-party evidence ("TPE"), and (iii) best estimate of the selling price ("BESP"). The Group uses the SSP as the fair value of VSOE for advanced mobile application services. The allocated revenue to mobile application services is deferred and recognized over the free service period. The deferred revenue that will be recognized in the next twelve months is classified as current portion, and the remaining balance of deferred revenue is classified as non-current portion.

Revenue from sales of products is recognized when the products is accepted by the domestic offline distributors, overseas offline distributors or individual customers. When the Group sells its products to its domestic offline distributors for domestic sales in PRC, acceptance of the products by the domestic offline distributors is evidenced by goods receipt notes signed by the domestic offline distributors, which is generally at the Group’s warehouse. The Group has no remaining obligations upon the domestic offline distributors acceptance of the products. The risks and rewards of ownership of the products is transferred to the domestic offline distributors upon the signing of the goods receipt notes and the domestic offline distributors have no rights to return the products. When the Group sells its products to distributors for oversea sales, risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to the distributors upon the products are delivered to and accepted by distributors at the named port of shipment. When the Group sells its products to individual customers through its own online store and third-party e-commerce platform, the Group is responsible for the delivery to individual customers. Acceptance of the products is evidenced by goods receipt notes signed by individual customers, which represents the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to individual customers. The Group offers 7-day return-and-refund policy to individual customers who purchase products online.

Revenue is recognized net of sales volume rebate, return allowances and VAT. The Group provides sales volume rebate to qualified distributors based on the volume sold by such distributors in a certain period. Sales volume rebates are accrued, when the products are sold to distributors. Return allowances, which reduce net revenues, are estimated based on historical experiences.

The Group also sells insurance plan for electric scooters (“NIU Cover”) to individual customers at their option. The insurance is provided by third party insurance companies. The Group earns the service fee on net basis. The Group recognizes revenue when the insurance agreement is signed, since the Group bears no further obligation upon the agreements are entered into between individual customers and insurance providers.

For some sales, the Group collects cash before delivery. Cash collected before product delivery is recognized as advances from customers.

Period commencing January 1, 2019

The Group adopted Accounting Standards Codification Topic 606, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (“ASC 606”) on January 1, 2019. The Group applied ASC 606 using the modified retrospective method for contracts which were not completed at the date of initial adoption. Results for reporting periods beginning after January 1, 2019 are presented under the new revenue recognition, while prior periods amounts are not adjusted and continue to be reported in accordance with ASC 605, Revenue Recognition.

Since the adoption of ASC 606 starting from January 1, 2019, the Group recognizes revenues upon the satisfaction of its performance obligation (upon transfer of control of promised goods or services to customers) in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Group expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services, excluding amounts collected on behalf of third parties (for example, value added taxes). For each performance obligation satisfied over time, the Group recognizes revenue over time by measuring the progress toward complete satisfaction of that performance obligation. If the Group does not satisfy a performance obligation over time, the performance obligation is satisfied at a point in time.

The adoption of new revenue standard did not impact accumulated deficit as of January 1, 2019. The Group has updated significant accounting policies and relevant disclosures hereinafter.

To achieve that core principle, the Group applies the five steps defined under Topic 606: (i) identify the contract(s) with a customer, (ii) identify the performance obligations in the contract, (iii) determine the transaction price, (iv) allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract, and (v) recognize revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation. The Group assesses its revenue arrangements against specific criteria in order to determine if it is acting as principal or agent. Revenue arrangements with multiple performance obligations are divided into separate distinct goods or services. A performance obligation is considered distinct from other obligations in a contract when it (a) provides a benefit to the customer either on its own or together with other resources that are readily available to the customer and (b) is separately identified in the contract. The Group allocates the transaction price to each performance obligation based on the relative SSP of the goods or services provided. Revenue is recognized upon the transfer of control of promised goods or services to a customer.

Products

The Group identified one performance obligation which is to sell products, such as electric scooters, accessories and spare parts, to the Group's PRC domestic offline distributors and overseas offline distributors or directly to individual customers online. For all sales of products, the Group requires a signed contract or purchase order, which specifies pricing, quantity and product specifications. Revenue of product sales is recognized on a gross basis upon the satisfaction of its performance obligation, which is to transfer the control of the promised products to customers.

The transfer of control of the products is satisfied at a point in time, which occurs when the products are accepted by the domestic offline distributors, overseas offline distributors or individual customers. When the Group sells its products to its domestic offline distributors for domestic sales in PRC, acceptance of the products by the domestic offline distributors is evidenced by goods receipt notes signed by the domestic offline distributors, which is generally at the Group's warehouse. When the Group sells its products to distributors for overseas sales, acceptance of the products by overseas offline distributors is evidenced upon the products are delivered to and accepted by distributors at the named port of shipment. When the Group sells its products to individual customers through its own online store and third-party e-commerce platform, the Group is responsible for the delivery to individual customers. Acceptance of the products is evidenced by goods receipt notes signed by individual customers.

The Group provides sales volume rebate to qualified distributors based on the volume sold to such distributors in a certain period and grants online individual customers unconditional right to return the products within 7 days after their acceptance.

Revenues are measured as the amount of consideration the Group expects to receive in exchange for transferring products to domestic offline distributors, overseas offline distributors or individual customers. Consideration is recorded net of sales volume rebate, sales returns and VAT. Sales returns is estimated based on historical experiences, which were insignificant for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The Group utilizes delivery service providers to deliver products to overseas offline distributors and individual customers ("shipping activities"), but the delivery service is not considered as a separate obligation as the shipping activities are performed before the overseas offline distributors and individual customers obtain control of the products. Therefore, shipping activities are not considered a separate promised service to them but rather are activities to fulfill the Group's promise to transfer the products. Outbound shipping charges to overseas offline distributors and individual customers are included as a part of the revenues, and outbound shipping-related costs are recorded as cost of revenues. Shipping costs incurred for sales of products and recognized as cost of revenues were RMB16,752,785, RMB31,912,258 and RMB43,743,258 for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively.

For some sales, the Group collects cash before delivery. Cash collected before product delivery is recognized as advances from customers.

Service

When the Group sells its smart electric scooters to its customers, it also provides mobile application services for free for one to two years (the “free service period”). Customers are able to locate their smart electric scooters, as well as obtain the operating status (e.g. battery status), and claim online repair and maintenance requests of their smart electric scooters, upon their registration of their smart electric scooters on the Group’s mobile application. Customers may subscribe to such service after the free service period if they want to continue using aforementioned functions.

Such revenue arrangements are divided into separate distinct performance obligations, including electric scooters and mobile application services. SSP for electric scooters is not directly observable, as the Group does not sell the electric scooters without mobile application service for certain free service period. The Group determines the SSP for electric scooters using the residual approach and subtracting the observable SSP of the mobile application services from the total transaction price.

The allocated revenue to mobile application services of free service period and subscribed mobile application service revenue is deferred and recognized on a straight-line basis over the service period, as the Group determines that the customer simultaneously receives and consumes benefits provided by the Group as the Group performs during the free service period or the subscription period.

The Group entered into an agreement with a customer in 2019 and provides design, testing and producing prototype of a product for the customer. The Group identifies each deliverable specified in the agreement as a distinct performance obligation at contract inception. The Group determines the SSP for each performance obligation in the agreement using the expected cost plus a margin approach and allocates the transaction price to each distinct performance obligation based on the relative estimated SSP of each performance obligation. The Group recognizes revenue for each performance obligation when the specified deliverable is accepted by the customer.

The deferred revenue that will be recognized in the next twelve months is classified as current portion, and the remaining balance of deferred revenue is classified as non-current portion.

The Group also sells insurance plan for electric scooters (“NIU Cover”) to individual customers at their option. The insurance is provided by third party insurance companies. The Group determines that it acts as an agent for the NIU Cover service because it does not obtain control of the service before the service is transferred to the customers. The Group recognizes revenue on net basis when the insurance agreement is entered into between individual customers and insurance providers.

Remaining performance obligations

The remaining performance obligation disclosure provides the aggregate amount of the transaction price yet to be recognized as of the end of the reporting period and an explanation as to when the Group expects to recognize these amounts in revenue. Additionally, as a practical expedient, the Group does not disclose the remaining performance obligations of contracts that have an original duration of one year or less.

As of December 31, 2020, the aggregate amount of the transaction price allocated to remaining performance obligations that are unsatisfied or partially unsatisfied was RMB65,394,281. Given the profile of contract terms, RMB61,217,823 of the remaining performance obligation is expected to be recognized as revenue within the next 12 months and RMB4,176,458 is expected to be recognized as revenue between next 12 to 24 months.

(r) Contract Balances

Timing of revenue recognition may differ from the timing of invoicing to customers. Accounts receivable are recorded at the invoiced amount and do not bear interest. Amounts collected on trade accounts receivable are included in net cash provided by operating activities in the consolidated statements of cash flows. Management considers the following factors when determining the collectability of specific accounts: historical experience, credit worthiness of the clients, aging of the receivables and other specific circumstances related to the accounts. An allowance for doubtful accounts is made and recorded into general and administrative expenses based on aging of accounts receivable and on any specifically identified accounts receivable that may become uncollectible. Accounts receivable which are deemed to be uncollectible are charged off against the allowance after all means of collection have been exhausted and the potential for recovery is considered remote. There is a time lag between when the Group estimates a portion of or the entire account balances to be uncollectible and when a write off of the account balances is taken. The Group does not have any off-balance sheet credit exposure related to its customers.

A contract liability is recognized when the Group has an obligation to transfer products or services to a customer for which the Group has received consideration from the customer, or for which an amount of consideration is due from the customer. Contract liabilities are included in advances from customers and deferred revenue on the consolidated balance sheets.

Changes in the Group's contract liabilities (advances from customers and deferred revenue) are presented in the following table for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2020:

Contract liabilities as of January 1, 2019 prior to adoption of ASC 606	33,406,992
Reclassification of VAT payable to Accrued expenses and other liabilities as of January 1, 2019 as a result of adoption of ASC 606	(2,348,375)
Cash received in advance, excluding VAT	1,967,468,291
Revenue recognized from opening balance of contract liabilities	(30,823,816)
Revenue recognized from contract liabilities arising during 2019	(1,926,948,050)
Contract liabilities as of December 31, 2019	40,755,042
Cash received in advance, excluding VAT	2,364,340,559
Revenue recognized from opening balance of contract liabilities	(38,584,009)
Revenue recognized from contract liabilities arising during 2020	(2,301,117,311)
Contract liabilities as of December 31, 2020	65,394,281

(s) Warranties

The Group provides for the estimated costs of warranties at the time when revenue is recognized. The specific terms and conditions of those warranties vary among different parts of electric scooters. Factors that affect the Group's warranty obligation include product defect rates and costs of repair or replacement. These factors are estimates that may change based on new information that becomes available each period. The portion of the warranty reserve expected to be incurred within the next 12 months is included within accrued expenses and other current liabilities while the remaining balance is included within other non-current liabilities on the consolidated balance sheets.

(t) Cost of Revenues

Cost of revenues mainly consists of the cost of products sold, write-downs of inventories, logistics costs and warranty costs.

(u) Selling and Marketing Expenses

Selling and marketing expenses mainly consist of advertising costs, promotion expenses and payroll and related expenses for personnel engaged in selling and marketing activities. Advertising expenses, which consist primarily of online and offline advertisements, are expensed when the services are received. The advertising expenses were RMB76,791,991, RMB79,533,394 and RMB86,763,367 for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively.

(v) General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses mainly consist of payroll and related costs for employees involved in general corporate functions, professional fees, foreign currency exchange gain (losses) and other general corporate expenses, as well as expenses associated with the use by these functions of facilities and equipment, such as rental and depreciation expenses.

(w) Research and Development Expenses

Research and development expenses mainly consist of payroll and related costs for employees involved in researching and developing new products and technologies, and outsourced design expenses as well as expenses associated with the use by these functions of facilities and equipment, such as rental and depreciation expenses. Research and development expenses are expensed as incurred.

(x) Government Grants

Government grant is recognized when there is reasonable assurance that the Group will comply with the conditions attached to it and the grant will be received. Government grant for the purpose of giving immediate financial support to the Group with no future related costs or obligation is recognized in the Group's consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss) when the grant becomes receivable.

(y) Share-based Compensation

The Company periodically grants share-based awards, including but not limited to, restricted ordinary shares, restricted share units and share options to eligible employees and directors.

Share-based awards granted to employees and directors are measured at the grant date fair value of the awards, and are recognized as compensation expense using the straight-line method over the requisite service period, which is generally the vesting period. Forfeitures are accounted when they occur.

A change in any of the terms or conditions of share-based awards is accounted for as a modification of the awards. The Group calculates incremental compensation cost of a modification as the excess of the fair value of the modified awards over the fair value of the original awards immediately before its terms are modified at the modification date. For vested awards, the Group recognizes incremental compensation cost in the period the modification occurs. For awards not being fully vested, the Group recognizes the sum of the incremental compensation cost and the remaining unrecognized compensation cost for the original awards over the remaining requisite service period after modification.

Share-based compensation in relation to the restricted ordinary shares and restricted share units is measured based on the fair value of the Company's ordinary shares at the grant date of the award. Prior to the IPO, the fair value was estimated using the income approach and equity allocation method. Estimation of the fair value of the Company's ordinary shares involves significant assumptions that might not be observable in the market, and a number of complex and subjective variables, including the expected share price volatility (approximated by the volatility of comparable companies), discount rate, risk-free interest rate and subjective judgments regarding the Company's projected financial and operating results, its unique business risks, the liquidity of its ordinary shares and its operating history and prospects at the time the grants are made. After the IPO, the fair value is the closing prices of the Company's stock traded in the open market as of the grant date. Share-based compensation in relation to the share options is estimated using the Binominal Option Pricing Model. The determination of the fair value of share options is affected by the share price of the Company's ordinary shares as well as the assumptions regarding a number of complex and subjective variables, including the expected share price volatility (estimated based on the historical volatility of the Company and comparable peer public companies with a time horizon close to the expected term of the Company's options), risk-free interest rate, exercise multiple and expected dividend yield. The fair value of these awards was determined with the assistance from a valuation report prepared by an independent valuation firm using management's estimates and assumptions.

(z) Employee Benefits

The Company's subsidiaries and the VIE and VIE's subsidiaries in PRC participate in a government mandated, multiemployer, defined contribution plan, pursuant to which certain retirement, medical, housing and other welfare benefits are provided to employees. PRC labor laws require the entities incorporated in China to pay to the local labor bureau a monthly contribution calculated at a stated contribution rate on the monthly basic compensation of qualified employees. The Group has no further commitments beyond its monthly contribution. Employee social benefits included as cost of products and expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss) amounted to RMB15,544,106, RMB20,729,717 and RMB13,248,094 for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively.

(aa) Income Taxes

Current income taxes are provided on the basis of net income (loss) for financial reporting purposes, and adjusted for income and expense items which are not assessable or deductible for income tax purposes, in accordance with the regulations of the relevant tax jurisdictions. Deferred income taxes are provided using the liability method. Under this method, deferred income tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the tax effects of temporary differences and are determined by applying enacted statutory tax rates that will be in effect in the period in which the temporary differences are expected to reverse to the temporary differences between the financial statements' carrying amounts and the tax bases of assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset if there is a legally enforceable right to offset deferred tax liabilities and assets, and they relate to income taxes levied by the same tax authority on the same taxable entity, or on different tax entities, but they intend to settle deferred tax liabilities and assets on a net basis or their deferred tax assets and liabilities will be realized simultaneously.

A valuation allowance is provided to reduce the amount of deferred income tax assets if based on the weight of available evidence, it is more-likely-than-not that some portion, or all, of the deferred income tax assets will not be realized. The effect on deferred income taxes arising from a change in tax rates is recognized in the consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss) in the period of change.

The Group applies a “more likely than not” recognition threshold in the evaluation of uncertain tax positions. The Group recognizes the benefit of a tax position in its consolidated financial statements if the tax position is “more likely than not” to prevail based on the facts and technical merits of the position. Tax positions that meet the “more likely than not” recognition threshold are measured at the largest amount of tax benefit that has a greater than fifty percent likelihood of being realized upon settlement. Unrecognized tax benefits may be affected by changes in interpretation of laws, rulings of tax authorities, tax audits, and expiry of statutory limitations. In addition, changes in facts, circumstances and new information may require the Group to adjust the recognition and measurement estimates with regard to individual tax positions. Accordingly, unrecognized tax benefits are periodically reviewed and re-assessed. Adjustments, if required, are recorded in the Group’s consolidated financial statements in the period in which the change that necessitates the adjustments occur. The ultimate outcome for a particular tax position may not be determined with certainty prior to the conclusion of a tax audit and, in certain circumstances, a tax appeal or litigation process. The Group records interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits (if any) in interest expenses and general and administrative expenses, respectively. As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, the Group did not have any significant unrecognized uncertain tax positions.

(bb) Operating leases

The Group leases premises for offices and production lines under non-cancellable operating leases. Leases with escalated rent provisions are recognized on a straight-line basis commencing with the beginning of the lease term.

(cc) Foreign currency translation and foreign currency risks

The Company’s reporting currency is Renminbi (“RMB”). The functional currency of the Company and its subsidiary incorporated at Hong Kong S.A.R. are the United States dollars (“US\$”). The functional currency of the Company’s subsidiary incorporated in Indonesia is Indonesia Rupiah (“IDR”).

The functional currency of the Company’s PRC subsidiaries, VIE and VIE’s subsidiaries is RMB.

Transactions denominated in currencies other than the functional currency are remeasured into the functional currency at the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in a foreign currency are remeasured into the functional currency using the applicable exchange rate at the balance sheet date. The resulted exchange differences are recorded as foreign currency exchange gain or losses in the consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss).

The financial statements of the Company, its subsidiaries incorporated at Hong Kong S.A.R. and Indonesia are translated from the functional currency into RMB. Assets and liabilities are translated into RMB using the applicable exchange rates at the balance sheet date. Equity accounts other than earnings (deficit) generated in the current period are translated into RMB using the appropriate historical rates. Revenues, expenses, gains and losses are translated into RMB using the average exchange rates for the relevant period. The resulted foreign currency translation adjustments are recorded as a component of other comprehensive income (loss) in the consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss), and the accumulated foreign currency translation adjustments are recorded as a component of accumulated other comprehensive loss in the consolidated statements of changes in shareholders’ equity (deficit) .

The RMB is not a freely convertible currency. The PRC State Administration for Foreign Exchange, under the authority of the PRC government, controls the conversion of RMB to foreign currencies. The value of the RMB is subject to changes of central government policies and international economic and political developments affecting supply and demand in the China foreign exchange trading system market.

(dd) Concentration and risk

Concentration of customers and suppliers

No customers individually represent greater than 10% of total revenues of the Group for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Suppliers from whom individually represent greater than 10% of total purchases of the Group for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020, are as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31,					
	2018		2019		2020	
	RMB	%	RMB	%	RMB	%
Supplier A	193,555,999	15 %	225,527,597	15 %	*	*
Supplier B	150,385,652	12 %	173,723,118	11 %	*	*

Customers accounting for 10% or more of accounts receivable, net are as follows:

	As of December 31,			
	2019		2020	
	RMB	%	RMB	%
Customer Y	*	*	30,309,591	30 %
Customer Z	46,263,295	40 %	*	*

Customers accounting for 10% or more of advances from customers are as follows:

	As of December 31,			
	2019		2020	
	RMB	%	RMB	%
Customer X	1,090,262	15 %	*	*
Customer W	767,993	10 %	*	*
Customer Z	*	*	20,876,460	52 %

Suppliers accounting for 10% or more of accounts payable are as follows:

	As of December 31,			
	2019		2020	
	RMB	%	RMB	%
Supplier A	26,134,706	10 %	*	*

* The amount was less than 10% of total balance.

Concentration of credit risk

Financial instruments that potentially expose the Group to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash, term deposits, restricted cash, short-term investments and accounts receivable, net.

The Group's investment policy requires cash, term deposits, restricted cash and short-term investments to be placed with high-quality financial institutions and to limit the amount of credit risk from any one issuer. The Group regularly evaluates the credit standing of the counterparties or financial institutions.

The Group conducts credit evaluations on its customers prior to delivery of goods or services. The assessment of customer creditworthiness is primarily based on historical collection records, research of publicly available information and customer on-site visits by senior management. Based on this analysis, the Group determines what credit terms, if any, to offer to each customer individually. If the assessment indicates a likelihood of collection risk, the Company will not deliver the services or sell the products to the customer or require the customer to pay cash, post letters of credit to secure payment or to make significant down payments.

Interest rate risk

The Group's short-term bank borrowing bears interests at fixed rates. If the Group were to renew these loans, the Group might be subject to interest rate risk.

(ee) Earnings (Loss) per Share

Basic earnings (loss) per share is computed by dividing net income (loss) attributable to holders of ordinary shares, considering the accretions to redemption value of the preferred shares (if any), by the weighted average number of ordinary shares or ordinary share equivalents outstanding during the year using the two-class method. Vested share options, which are exercisable for nominal consideration, and vested restricted share units are included in the calculation of the weighted-average number of shares of ordinary shares as ordinary share equivalents. Under the two-class method, any net income is allocated between ordinary shares and other participating securities based on their participating rights. A net loss is not allocated to participating securities when the participating securities does not have contractual obligation to share losses.

The Company's preferred shares and restricted ordinary shares are participating securities. The preferred shares are participating securities as they participate in undistributed earnings on an as-if-converted basis and the restricted ordinary shares are participating securities as the holders of the restricted ordinary shares have a non-forfeitable right to receive dividends with all ordinary shares. Neither the preferred shares nor the restricted ordinary shares have a contractual obligation to fund or otherwise absorb the Group's losses. Accordingly, any undistributed net income is allocated on a pro rata basis to ordinary shares, preferred shares and restricted ordinary shares; whereas any undistributed net loss is allocated to ordinary shares only.

Restricted ordinary shares were excluded from the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding because the restricted ordinary shareholders must return the restricted ordinary shares to the Company, if the specified condition are not met.

Diluted earnings (loss) per share is calculated by dividing net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders, as adjusted for the accretion and allocation of net income related to the preferred shares, if any, by the weighted average number of ordinary shares used in calculating basic net earnings (loss) per ordinary share and dilutive ordinary equivalent shares outstanding during the period. Ordinary equivalent shares consist of shares issuable upon the conversion of the preferred shares and convertible loan using the if-converted method, restricted ordinary shares and ordinary shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding share option with the exception of vested share options with nominal exercise consideration and unvested restricted share units (using the treasury stock method). Ordinary equivalent shares are calculated based on the most advantageous conversion rate or exercise price from the standpoint of the security holder. Ordinary equivalent shares are not included in the denominator of the diluted earnings per share calculation when inclusion of such shares would be anti-dilutive.

(ff) Segment Reporting

The Company's chief operating decision maker has been identified as the Chief Executive Officer, who reviews consolidated results when making decisions about allocating resources and assessing performance of the Group. For the purpose of internal reporting and management's operation review, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and management personnel do not segregate the Group's business by product. All products and services are viewed as in one and the only operating segment.

(gg) Statutory Reserves

In accordance with the PRC Company Laws, the Group's PRC subsidiaries, VIE and VIE's subsidiaries must make appropriations from their after-tax profits as determined under the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the PRC ("PRC GAAP") to non-distributable reserve funds including statutory surplus fund and discretionary surplus fund. The appropriation to the statutory surplus fund must be 10% of the after-tax profits as determined under PRC GAAP. Appropriation is not required if the statutory surplus fund has reached 50% of the registered capital of the PRC companies. Appropriation to the discretionary surplus fund is made at the discretion of the PRC companies.

The statutory surplus fund and discretionary surplus fund are restricted for use. They may only be applied to offset losses or increase the registered capital of the respective companies. These reserves are not allowed to be transferred to the Company by way of cash dividends, loans or advances, nor can they be distributed except for liquidation.

For the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020, the Group's PRC subsidiaries made appropriations to the statutory reserves of nil, RMB3,316,650 and RMB22,208,130, respectively.

(hh) Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In February 2016, the FASB established Topic 842, Leases, by issuing ASU No. 2016-02, which requires lessees to recognize leases on-balance sheet and disclose key information about leasing arrangements. Topic 842 was subsequently amended by ASU No. 2018-01, Land Easement Practical Expedient for Transition to Topic 842, ASU No. 2018-10, Codification Improvements to Topic 842, Leases, ASU No. 2018-11, Targeted Improvements, ASU No. 2019-01, Leases (Topic 842): Codification Improvements, and ASU No. 2019-10, Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326), Derivatives and Hedging (Topic 815), and Leases (Topic 842), Effective Dates. The new standard establishes a right-of-use model (ROU) that requires a lessee to recognize a ROU asset and lease liability on the balance sheet for all leases with a term longer than 12 months. Leases will be classified as finance or operating, with classification affecting the pattern and classification of expense recognition in the income statement. The new standard is effective for public business entities for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2018, and interim periods therein. For all other entities, the standard is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2020, and interim periods within fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2021. Early adoption is permitted. A modified retrospective transition approach is required, applying the new standard to all leases existing at the date of initial application. In June 2020, the FASB issued ASU No. 2020-05, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606) and Leases (Topic 842): Effective Dates for Certain Entities, which further defers the effective date for certain entities. Early application continues to be allowed. As a result, the ASU is now effective for EGCs for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2021, and interim periods within fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2022. The Group will early adopt the new standard on January 1, 2021 and plan to use the effective date as the date of initial application. Consequently, financial information will not be updated and the disclosures required under the new standard will not be provided for dates and periods before January 1, 2021. The new standard provides a number of optional practical expedients in transition. The Group plans to elect the 'package of practical expedients', which permits the Group not to reassess under the new standard its prior conclusions about lease identification, lease classification and initial direct costs.

The Group currently anticipates that the adoption of the new standard will result in the recognition of right-of-use assets and lease liabilities of approximately RMB81.3 million and RMB31.3 million, respectively, at January 1, 2021, consisting primarily of land use rights and operating leases relating to real estate. The Group does not expect any material impact on net assets, the consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss) and the consolidated statements of cash flows as a result of adopting the new standard. The aforementioned estimates related to the adoption of the new lease accounting standard are based on the Group's assessment and best estimates to date.

In June 2018, the FASB issued ASU No. 2018-07, Compensation—Stock Compensation (Topic 718), which simplifies the accounting for share-based payments granted to nonemployees for goods and services. Under the ASU, most of the guidance on such payments to nonemployees would be aligned with the requirements for share-based payments granted to employees. For public entities, this standard will be effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, including interim periods within those fiscal years. For all other entities, this standard is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2019, and interim periods within annual periods beginning after December 15, 2020. Early adoption is permitted, but no earlier than an entity's adoption date of Topic 606. The Group adopted the new standard on January 1, 2020, which had no material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

In August 2018, the FASB issued ASU No. 2018-13, Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Disclosure Framework—Changes to the Disclosure Requirements for Fair Value Measurement. ASU 2018-13 modifies certain disclosure requirements on fair value measurements, including (i) clarifying narrative disclosure regarding measurement uncertainty from the use of unobservable inputs, if those inputs reasonably could have been different as of the reporting date, (ii) adding certain quantitative disclosures, including (a) changes in unrealized gains and losses for the period included in other comprehensive income for recurring Level 3 fair value measurements held at the end of the reporting period and (b) the range and weighted average of significant unobservable inputs used to develop Level 3 fair value measurements, and (iii) removing certain fair value measurement disclosure requirements, including (a) the amount of and reasons for transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy, (b) the policy for timing of transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy and (c) the valuation processes for Level 3 fair value measurements. The amendments in ASU 2018-13 are effective for all entities for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2019. The Company is permitted to early adopt any removed or modified disclosures and delay adoption of the additional disclosures until their effective date. The Group adopted the new standard on January 1, 2020, which had no material impact on the consolidated financial statements and related disclosures.

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-13, Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments (Topic 326), which significantly changes the way entities recognize impairment of many financial assets by requiring immediate recognition of estimated credit losses expected to occur over their remaining life, instead of when incurred. In November 2018, the FASB issued ASU No. 2018-19, Codification Improvements to Topic 326, Financial Instruments—Credit Losses, which amends Subtopic 326-20 (created by ASU No. 2016-13) to explicitly state that operating lease receivables are not in the scope of Subtopic 326-20. Additionally, in April 2019, the FASB issued ASU No. 2019-04, Codification Improvements to Topic 326, Financial Instruments—Credit Losses, Topic 815, Derivatives and Hedging, and Topic 825, Financial Instruments, in May 2019, the FASB issued ASU No. 2019-05, Financial Instruments—Credit Losses (Topic 326): Targeted Transition Relief, and in November 2019, the FASB issued ASU No. 2019-10, Financial Instruments—Credit Losses (Topic 326), Derivatives and Hedging (Topic 815), and Leases (Topic 842): Effective Dates, and ASU No. 2019-11, Codification Improvements to Topic 326, Financial Instruments—Credit Losses, to provide further clarifications on certain aspects of ASU No. 2016-13 and to extend the nonpublic entity effective date of ASU No. 2016-13. The changes (as amended) are effective for the Group for annual and interim periods in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2022. While the Group expects its allowance for credit losses to increase upon adoption of ASU No. 2016-13, the Group does not expect the adoption of ASU No. 2016-13 to have a material effect on its consolidated financial statements.

3. SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS

Short-term investments consisted of the following:

	As of December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Aggregate cost basis	308,150,000	744,000,000
Gross unrealized holding gain	2,289,321	1,608,877
Aggregate fair value	310,439,321	745,608,877

The Group's short-term investments represent wealth management products issued by commercial banks in the PRC which are redeemed upon demand of the Group. The wealth management products are invested in debt securities issued by the PRC government, corporate debt securities, bank deposits, central bank bills and other securities issued by other financial institutions. As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, there were no gross unrealized holding losses.

4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLES, NET

Accounts receivables, net consisted of the following:

	As of December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Accounts receivable	118,517,235	104,627,444
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(3,288,535)	(3,307,381)
Accounts receivable, net	115,228,700	101,320,063

The movement of the allowance for doubtful accounts is as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB
Balance at the beginning of the year	1,956,245	228,146	3,288,535
Additions (reversals) charged to bad debt expense	(1,215,464)	3,060,389	505,912
Write-off of bad debt allowance	(512,635)	—	(487,066)
Balance at the end of the year	228,146	3,288,535	3,307,381

5. INVENTORIES

Inventories consisted of the following:

	As of December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Raw materials	151,975,367	109,383,340
Works in progress	1,481,938	57,688
Finished goods	25,175,994	32,725,151
Inventories	178,633,299	142,166,179

On April 5, 2018, there was a fire accident incurred at the warehouse in the Group's rented plant facility in Jiangsu Province of PRC. RMB18,254,406 inventories damage loss was recognized in general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2018. In addition, write-downs of inventories from the carrying amount to its estimated net realizable value amounted to nil, RMB10,491,137, RMB5,809,583 were made for the year ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020, and were recorded as cost of revenues.

6. PREPAYMENTS AND OTHER CURRENT ASSETS

Prepayments and other current assets consisted of the following:

	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Advances to suppliers	11,124,716	14,434,384
Deductible input VAT and VAT rebates receivable	8,678,443	9,756,854
Staff advances	514,328	568,553
Interest receivable	5,369,826	2,325,318
Other*	5,294,818	5,746,979
Prepayments and other current assets	30,982,131	32,832,088

* Other mainly include deposits receivable and prepaid income tax.

7. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, NET

Property, plant and equipment consisted of the following:

	As of December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Machinery and equipment	47,307,840	74,774,435
Furniture	76,258,884	114,908,548
Office and electronic equipment	16,909,504	39,607,366
Leasehold improvement	4,081,766	7,556,301
Motor vehicles	1,173,634	1,548,368
Building and building improvements	64,887,245	67,701,045
Property, plant and equipment	210,618,873	306,096,063
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(59,727,529)	(107,051,002)
Property, plant and equipment, net	150,891,344	199,045,061

Depreciation expense on property, plant and equipment was allocated to the following expense items:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB
Cost of revenues	4,638,662	6,109,583	11,942,414
General and administrative expenses	2,261,620	3,403,502	5,237,258
Selling and marketing expenses	9,438,501	19,025,624	27,665,201
Research and development expenses	470,204	962,414	2,695,347
Total depreciation expense	16,808,987	29,501,123	47,540,220

8. INTANGIBLE ASSETS, NET

Intangible assets consisted of the following:

RMB	Amortization period	As of December 31, 2019		
		Gross carrying amount	Accumulated amortization	Net carrying amount
Trademarks	5-10 years	8,911,271	(3,193,738)	5,717,533
Domain name	5-10 years	3,821,474	(3,517,748)	303,726
License	10 years	1,943,396	(184,906)	1,758,490
Total		14,676,141	(6,896,392)	7,779,749

RMB	Amortization period	As of December 31, 2020		
		Gross carrying amount	Accumulated amortization	Net carrying amount
Trademarks	5-10 years	8,434,457	(4,644,020)	3,790,437
Domain name	5-10 years	3,799,642	(3,547,129)	252,513
License	10 years	1,943,396	(379,245)	1,564,151
Total		14,177,495	(8,570,394)	5,607,101

Amortization expense on intangible assets was allocated to the following expense items:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB
Cost of revenues	—	184,906	194,340
General and administrative expenses	2,072,389	2,336,803	1,783,927
Total amortization expense	<u>2,072,389</u>	<u>2,521,709</u>	<u>1,978,267</u>

As of December 31, 2020, estimated amortization expense of the existing intangible assets for each of the next five years is RMB1,985,999, RMB1,985,999, RMB550,803, RMB263,764 and RMB263,764.

9. LAND USE RIGHTS, NET

Land use rights, net consisted of the following:

	As of December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Gross carrying amount	34,761,487	49,961,221
Less: Accumulated amortization	(405,551)	(1,126,101)
Land use rights, net	<u>34,355,936</u>	<u>48,835,120</u>

Amortization expense on land use rights was allocated to the following expense items:

	For the Year Ended December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Cost of revenues	—	317,562
General and administrative expenses	405,551	402,988
Total amortization expense	<u>405,551</u>	<u>720,550</u>

10. OTHER NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Other non-current assets consisted of the following:

	As of December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Prepayments for land use right	—	26,550,000
Other*	6,522,561	4,280,304
Other non-current assets	<u>6,522,561</u>	<u>30,830,304</u>

* Other mainly include deposits and prepayments for equipment.

11. SHORT-TERM BANK BORROWINGS

	As of December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
East West Bank loan	48,910,799	—
Bank of China loan	20,000,000	20,000,000
SPD Silicon Valley Bank loan	120,000,000	160,000,000
Bank of Ningbo loan	28,483,333	—
Short-term bank borrowings	217,394,132	180,000,000

In December 2015 and March 2016, Jiangsu Xiaoniu Diandong Technology Co., Ltd. (“Jiangsu Xiaoniu”), a subsidiary of Beijing Niudian, entered into two line-of-credit agreements with East West Bank that provided a one-year term revolving credit facility up to RMB100,000,000, in aggregate with interest rate of 2.8% per annum. All drawdowns were due within one year from the drawdown date. To collateralize these lines of credits, the Company and Niu Technologies Group Limited, a subsidiary of the Company incorporated in Hong Kong S.A.R., made deposits of US\$16,000,000 (equivalent to RMB103,674,877) in aggregate at East West Bank. The Group can apply for withdrawing the restricted cash when borrowing drawdowns are repaid. As of December 31, 2018, the line-of-credit agreements were subsequently amended several times, related to (i) increase the interest rate to 4.75% per annum and (ii) extend the maturity date to April 15, 2020. In October and November 2019, RMB35,930,480 and RMB52,933,631 of the loans were repaid, respectively, and the relative restricted cash was released. In November 2019, Jiangsu Xiaoniu applied a new drawdown of RMB37,796,907 with an interest rate of 4.2% per annum. On April 15, 2020, Jiangsu Xiaoniu repaid all the loans and the restricted cash was released accordingly. As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, total outstanding balances of these loans were RMB48,910,799 and nil, respectively. Total outstanding balances of restricted cash were equivalent to RMB56,525,358 and nil, respectively.

In August 2017, Jiangsu Xiaoniu entered into a short-term bank borrowing agreement with Bank of China (the “2017 BOC Loan”) that provides a six-month RMB10,000,000 loan bearing interest at 4.5675% per annum. Mr. Yi’nan Li, the founder and a board member of the Company until June 8, 2018, Mr. Changlong Sheng, a shareholder of the Company, Beijing Niudian and its subsidiary Shanghai Niudian Trading Co., Ltd., and Jiangsu Xiaoniu’s subsidiary Changzhou Niudian International Trading Co., Ltd. (“Changzhou Niudian”) provided joint liability guaranties for the loan. On February 5, 2018, Jiangsu Xiaoniu fully repaid the 2017 BOC Loan. On February 8, 2018, Jiangsu Xiaoniu obtained a new one-year short-term bank borrowing of RMB20,000,000, which bears interest rate at 4.5675% per annum, from Bank of China (the “2018 BOC Loan”). The guaranties for this loan are as same as the 2017 BOC Loan. The loan was fully repaid by Jiangsu Xiaoniu in December 2018. In December 2018, Jiangsu Xiaoniu obtained a new one-year short-term bank borrowing of RMB20,000,000, which bears interest at a rate of 4.5675% per annum, from Bank of China (the “2019 BOC Loan”). The guaranties for this loan are the same as for the previous loan in February 2018. The 2019 BOC Loan was fully repaid by Jiangsu Xiaoniu in December 2019. On December 12, 2019, Jiangsu Xiaoniu obtained a new one-year short-term bank borrowing of RMB20,000,000, which bears interest at a rate of 4.5675% per annum, from Bank of China. Beijing Niudian and Changzhou Niudian provided joint liability guaranties for the loan. On July 20, 2020, the loan was fully repaid and Jiangsu Xiaoniu obtained a new one-year short-term bank borrowing of RMB20,000,000, which bears interest at a rate of 3.85% per annum, from Bank of China. As of December 31, 2020, the outstanding balance of the loan was RMB20,000,000.

In November 2017, Jiangsu Xiaoniu entered into a line-of-credit agreement with SPD Silicon Valley Bank that provides a one-year term credit facility of up to RMB60,000,000. The interest rate of the loan was at standard rate published by People’s Bank of China. To collateralize this line of credit, the Company made deposits of US\$10,000,000 (equivalent to RMB66,288,600) at the bank which remained restricted until February 7, 2019. In November 2018, the line-of-credit agreement was amended to extend the maturity date to March 15, 2019. In March 2019, the maturity date of the line-of-credit agreement was extended to June 12, 2019, as well as the corresponding restricted cash. On June 12, 2019, Jiangsu Xiaoniu repaid the loan and the restricted cash was released.

On June 12, 2019, Jiangsu Xiaoniu, Beijing Niudian and Changzhou Niudian jointly entered into a facility agreement with SPD Silicon Valley Bank that provided a credit facility of up to RMB120,000,000 with tenor period of twelve months. The interest rate for each drawdown was at base interest rate of People's Bank of China. On June 12, 2019, Jiangsu Xiaoniu and Changzhou Niudian obtained loans from SPD Silicon Valley Bank in amounts of RMB60,000,000 and RMB60,000,000, respectively. The Company provided cash security with US dollar deposit equivalent to RMB132,000,000 at the bank. In June 2020, Jiangsu Xiaoniu entered into an amendment agreement to (i) change the facility amount up to RMB160,000,000 and (ii) change the cash security to equivalent amount of RMB176,000,000 at the time of drawdown. In June 2020, Jiangsu Xiaoniu and Changzhou Niudian fully repaid the loans and the restricted cash was released. In June 2020, Jiangsu Xiaoniu and Changzhou Niudian obtained new loans from SPD Silicon Valley Bank under the amendment agreement in amounts of RMB80,000,000 and RMB80,000,000, respectively. The Company provided cash security with US dollar deposit equivalent to RMB176,000,000 at the bank in June 2020. As of December 31, 2020, the balance of the drawdown under this facility was RMB160,000,000. As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, total outstanding balances of these loans were RMB120,000,000 and RMB160,000,000, respectively. Total outstanding balances of restricted cash were equivalent to RMB135,130,713 and RMB168,469,077, respectively.

On January 23, 2019, Beijing Niudian entered into an agreement with Bank of Ningbo who provided a one-year short-term bank borrowing of RMB28,483,333 bearing interest at 5.32% per annum. To collateralize this borrowing, Niudian Information deposited RMB30,000,000 in Bank of Ningbo as collateral. As of December 31, 2019, outstanding balances of the borrowing and the restricted cash were RMB28,483,333 and RMB30,000,000, respectively. On January 22, 2020, Beijing Niudian repaid the borrowing and the restricted cash was released.

12. CONVERTIBLE LOAN

On December 16, 2016, the Company entered a convertible loan agreement (the "2016 Convertible Loan") with Glory Achievement Fund Limited, GGV Capital V L.P., GGV Capital V Entrepreneurs Fund L.P., Hyperfinite Galaxy Holding Limited, Plum Angel Investment Co., Ltd., and Future Capital Discovery Fund I, L.P. (collectively "2016 Convertible Loan Holders") to obtain a loan of US\$16,827,000 (equivalent to RMB115,808,672) in aggregate with one-year term.

2016 Convertible Loan Holders were entitled to an option to convert all or part of the outstanding principal of the 2016 Convertible Loan to the Company's preferred shares upon next round of financing. The interest rate of 2016 convertible loan was 5% per annum provided that no interest should be accrued on the outstanding principal amount, if the entire or any portion of the principal amount was converted to the Company's preferred shares. The conversion price should be the per share price based on valuation of the Company at 80% of lower of US\$260,400,000 or the pre-money valuation in the next round financing. If the conversion price was based on a valuation equal to 80% of US\$260,400,000, the 2016 convertible loan should be converted to Series A-3 Preferred Shares. If the conversion price was based on a valuation lower than 80% of US\$260,400,000, the 2016 Convertible Loan should be converted to preferred shares with the same terms and the same rights and obligation as the preferred shares any new investors might have in the next round of financing.

As the conversion price was not determinable at the issuance date, there was no noncontingent beneficial conversion feature. As such, the 2016 Convertible Loan was not in whole or in part classified as a component of equity. The Company elected to measure the 2016 Convertible Loan in its entirety at fair value with amount of changes in fair value recognized in earnings in consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss).

The Company adopted a scenario-weighted average method to estimate the fair value of the convertible loan as of December 31, 2017 and the conversion date based on the probability of each scenario and pay-off of convertible loan under each scenario. The scenarios included different timing of next round financing and corresponding conversion price of the convertible loan.

The 2016 Convertible Loan was converted to 10,119,329 Series A-3 Preferred Shares at the price of US\$1.66 per share on March 26, 2018 (Note 15).

13. ACCRUED EXPENSES AND OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES

	As of December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Accrued payroll and social insurance	30,780,693	27,837,103
Warranty—current	41,809,564	40,252,099
Employee options payable	3,596,236	24,051,579
Sales rebate	40,344,717	15,799,815
Construction payable	18,765,855	5,410,352
Refundable payment—current	16,293,035	33,031,044
Other taxes payable	10,273,637	15,717,177
Interest payable	2,010,366	453,562
Other*	11,659,294	9,104,873
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	175,533,397	171,657,604

* Other mainly include accrued marketing expenses and rental expenses payable.

The Group provides limited warranty to its end customers for terms varying from six months to three years, subject to certain conditions, such as normal use. For the electric motor, the Group provides a 24-month or 30,000-kilometer warranty. For lithium-ion battery packs, the Group provides 24-month or 20,000-kilometer warranty or a 36-month or 30,000-kilometer warranty, depending on the model.

For other parts of the Group's electric-scooters, the Group provides quality warranty varying from six months to 24 months depending on the parts. The Group is responsible for replacing or repairing the faulty products during their respective warranty terms.

The Group provides for the estimated costs of warranties at the time revenue is recognized. Factors that affect the Group's warranty obligation include product defect rates and costs of repair or replacement.

Movement of provision for warranty is as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
Accrued warranty—beginning of year	30,648,678	48,872,284	59,951,866
Accrual for warranties issued during the year	29,346,974	40,271,444	35,197,541
Warranty claims paid	(7,923,760)	(22,132,194)	(18,590,107)
Pre-existing warranty expired	(3,199,608)	(7,059,668)	(17,363,404)
Accrued warranty—end of year	48,872,284	59,951,866	59,195,896

14. OTHER NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

Other non-current liabilities consisted of the following:

	As of December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Warranty—non-current	18,142,302	18,943,797
Refundable payment received from franchised stores—non-current	—	5,045,054
Deposits for construction of building—non-current	4,216,666	903,395
Other non-current liabilities	22,358,968	24,892,246

15. REDEEMABLE CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SHARES

On March 5, 2015, the Company issued convertible loan of US\$3.9 million to GGV Capital V L.P., GGV Capital V Entrepreneurs Fund L.P., IDG China Venture Capital Fund IV L.P., and IDG China IV Investors L.P. in aggregate (the "2015 Convertible Loan"), which carried nil interest and was due by September 5, 2015. On May 27, 2015, the Company issued 16,666,667 Series A-1 Preferred Shares at US\$1.20 per share, of which 3,250,000 Series A-1 Preferred Shares were issued upon conversion the 2015 Convertible Loan. The total proceeds from the issuance of Series A-1 Preferred Shares was US\$16,100,000 (equivalent to RMB101,208,371).

On May 27, 2015, the Company issued 3,608,247 Series A-2 redeemable convertible preferred shares ("Series A-2 Preferred Shares") at US\$1.66 per share. The total proceeds from the issuance of Series A-2 Preferred Shares was US\$6,000,000 (equivalent to RMB36,720,422).

On January 29, 2016, the Company issued 5,003,436 Series A-3 Preferred Shares at US\$2.08 per share. The total proceeds from the issuance of Series A-3 Preferred Shares was US\$10,400,000 (equivalent to RMB67,883,227).

On March 26, 2018, the holders of 2016 Convertible Loan converted the entire outstanding principal of the 2016 Convertible Loan of US\$16,827,000 to 10,119,329 Series A-3 Preferred Shares at the conversion price of US\$1.66 per share. The carrying amount of 2016 Convertible Loan of RMB181,112,874 as of March 26, 2018 was recorded as the initial amount reported in Series A-3 Preferred Shares.

On March 26, 2018, the Company issued 5,137,859 Series B redeemable convertible preferred shares ("Series B Preferred Shares") at the price of US\$4.96 per share to Plum Angel Investment Co., Ltd., GGV Capital V L.P., GGV Capital V Entrepreneurs Fund L.P., GGV Capital Select L.P., Phoenix Wealth Investment (Holdings) Limited, Future Capital Discovery Fund I, L.P., IDG China Venture Capital Fund IV L.P. and IDG China IV Investors L.P. in aggregate. The total proceeds from the issuance of Series B Preferred Shares was US\$25,500,000 (equivalent to RMB161,392,196).

The Company classified Series A-1 Preferred Shares, Series A-2 Preferred Shares, Series A-3 Preferred Shares (collectively "Series A Preferred Shares"), and Series B Preferred Shares as mezzanine equity in the consolidated balance sheets since they were contingently redeemable at the option of the holders after a specified time period.

The Company evaluated the embedded conversion option in the Series A Preferred Shares and Series B Preferred Shares to determine if the embedded conversion option require bifurcation and accounting for as a derivative. The Company concluded the embedded conversion option did not need to be bifurcated pursuant to ASC 815 Derivatives and Hedging. The Company also determined that there was no beneficial conversion feature attributable to the Series A Preferred Shares and Series B Preferred Shares because the initial effective conversion prices of these shares were higher than the fair value of the Company's ordinary shares at the relevant commitment dates. The fair value of the Company's ordinary shares on the commitment date was estimated by management with the assistance of an independent valuation firm. The Company also determined there was no other embedded features to be separated from Series A Preferred Shares or Series B Preferred Shares.

The rights, preferences and privileges of the redeemable convertible preferred shares were as follows:

Redemption Rights

The redemption date of Series A Preferred Shares was at any time:

- (i) after the fifth-year anniversary of May 27, 2015, subject to the applicable laws of the Cayman Islands; or
- (ii) any holder of any other class of shares elects to exercise its redemption right.

The redemption date of Series B Preferred Shares was at any time:

- (i) after the fifth-year anniversary of March 26, 2018, subject to the applicable laws of the Cayman Islands; or
- (ii) any holder of any other class of shares elects to exercise its redemption right.

The Company should redeem, up to all of the outstanding Series A Preferred Shares and Series B Preferred Shares out of funds legally available therefor including capital in accordance with the agreement, provided, however, that no Series A redemption price should be paid until the Series B redemption price with respect to the Series B Preferred Shares requested to be redeemed was paid.

The redemption price for Series A Preferred Shares or Series B Preferred Shares, should be the sum of their issue price, all accrued dividends, and any declared but unpaid dividends thereon up to the date of redemption.

Conversion Rights

Each redeemable convertible preferred share was convertible, at the option of the holder, at any time after the issuance date according to a conversion ratio, subject to adjustments for dilution, including but not limited to stock splits, stock dividends and certain other events. Each redeemable convertible preferred share was convertible into a number of ordinary shares determined by dividing the applicable original issuance price by the conversion price. The conversion price of each redeemable convertible preferred share was the same as its original issuance price and no adjustments to conversion price have occurred. As of December 31, 2017, each redeemable convertible preferred share was convertible into one ordinary share.

Each Series A Preferred Share should automatically be converted into Ordinary Shares at a 1-to-1 initial conversion ratio immediately upon the closing of a Qualified Initial Public Offering (“Qualified IPO”), and approved by the holders of more than two-thirds of the Series A Preferred Shares. Each Series B Preferred Share should automatically be converted into Ordinary Shares at a 1-to-1 initial conversion ratio immediately upon the closing of a Qualified IPO, and approved by the holders of more than half of the Series B Preferred Shares.

A “Qualified IPO” was defined as the closing of a firm commitment underwritten public offering of the Ordinary Shares (or depositary receipts or depositary shares therefor) in the United States pursuant to an effective registration statement under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with an offering price per share (net of underwriting commissions and expenses) that reflected the valuation of the Company immediately prior to such offering of at least US\$1,000,000,000 and that resulted in gross proceeds to the Company of at least US\$100,000,000, or in a public offering of the Ordinary Shares in the Hong Kong S.A.R. or any other jurisdiction which resulted in the Ordinary Shares trading publicly on a recognized international securities exchange so long as the offering price per share (net of underwriting commissions and expenses) satisfied the foregoing pre-offering valuation and gross proceeds requirements, in each case, unless such requirements were waived by the holders of more than two-thirds of the Series A Preferred Shares.

Voting Rights

Each redeemable convertible preferred share should be entitled to that number of votes corresponding to the number of ordinary shares on an as-converted basis. Redeemable convertible preferred share should vote separately as a class with respect to certain specified matters. Otherwise, the holders of redeemable convertible preferred shares, convertible preferred shares and ordinary shares should vote together as a single class.

Dividend Rights

Prior to the issuance of Series B Preferred Shares in March 2018, each holder of Series A Preferred Shares should be entitled to receive dividends payable only when, as and if declared by the majority of the Board, out of any assets at the time legally available therefor, in preference and priority to any declaration or payment of any dividends on Ordinary Shares, Series Seed convertible preferred shares (“Series Seed Preferred Shares”) or any other class or series of shares issued by the Company, and should participate in any subsequent distribution among the Ordinary Shares, Series Seed Preferred Shares and all other classes or series of shares issued by the Company pro rata based on the number of Ordinary Shares held by such holder of Series A Preferred Shares (calculated on an as-converted basis).

Upon the issuance of Series B Preferred Shares and amendment and restatement of Memorandum of Association thereupon in March 2018, each holder of a Series A Preferred Share should be entitled to receive dividends payable only when, as and if declared by the majority of the Board, out of any assets at the time legally available therefor, in preference and priority to any declaration or payment of any dividends on Ordinary Shares, Series Seed Preferred Shares, or any other class or series of shares issued by the Company (other than Series B Preferred Shares), and should participate in any subsequent distribution among the Ordinary Shares, Series Seed Preferred Shares and all other classes or series of shares issued by the Company pro rata based on the number of Ordinary Shares held by such holder of Series A Preferred Shares (calculated on an as-converted basis).

Liquidation Preferences

Prior to the issuance of Series B Preferred Shares in March 2018, in the event of any liquidation including deemed liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, holders of the Series A Preferred Shares should be entitled to receive a per share amount equal to 150% of the original preferred share issue price of the respective series of preferred shares, as adjusted for share dividends, share splits, combinations, recapitalizations or similar events, plus all accrued and declared but unpaid dividends thereon, in the following sequence: Series A Preferred Shares and Series Seed Preferred Shares. After such liquidation amounts have been paid in full, any remaining funds or assets of the Company legally available for distribution to shareholders should be distributed on a pro rata, pari passu basis among the holders of the then outstanding preferred shares (on an as-converted basis), together with the holders of the then outstanding ordinary shares.

Upon the issuance of Series B Preferred Shares and amendment and restatement of Memorandum of Association thereupon in March 2018, in the event of any liquidation including deemed liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, holders of the Series A and Series B Preferred Shares should be entitled to receive a per share amount equal to 150% of the original preferred share issue price of the respective series of preferred shares, as adjusted for share dividends, share splits, combinations, recapitalizations or similar events, plus all accrued and declared but unpaid dividends thereon, in the following sequence: Series B Preferred Shares, Series A Preferred Shares and Series Seed Preferred Shares. After such liquidation amounts had been paid in full, any remaining funds or assets of the Company legally available for distribution to shareholders should be distributed on a pro rata, pari passu basis among the holders of the then outstanding preferred shares (on an as-converted basis), together with the holders of the then outstanding ordinary shares.

With approval from the holders of Series A Preferred Shares and Series B Preferred Shares and waiver of the Qualified IPO from the holders of Series A Preferred Shares, all of the redeemable convertible preferred shares were converted to Class A ordinary shares immediately prior to the completion of the Company’s initial public offering on October 19, 2018.

The Company’s redeemable convertible preferred shares activities consisted of the following:

RMB	Series A-1 Preferred Shares Carrying amount	Series A-2 Preferred Shares Carrying amount	Series A-3 Preferred Shares Carrying amount	Series B Preferred Shares Carrying amount	Total
Balance as of January 1, 2018	130,684,003	39,205,192	67,955,320	—	237,844,515
Issuance of preferred shares	—	—	181,112,874	161,392,196	342,505,070
Foreign currency translation adjustment	8,090,000	2,427,000	21,651,035	15,544,654	47,712,689
Conversion to Ordinary Shares	(138,774,003)	(41,632,192)	(270,719,229)	(176,936,850)	(628,062,274)
Balance as of December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020	—	—	—	—	—

16. ORDINARY SHARES AND SERIES SEED PREFERRED SHARES

Ordinary Shares

The Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association authorizes the Company to issue 444,721,650 ordinary shares of US\$0.0001 par value as of January 1, 2018.

On March 26, 2018, the Company repurchased 432,000 ordinary shares from Niu Holding Inc. beneficially owned by Mr. Token Yilin Hu at total consideration of US\$665,000 (equivalent to RMB4,202,335). Such shares were cancelled immediately upon repurchase.

In October 2018, the Company completed its initial public offering ("the IPO") of 14,000,000 newly issued Class A ordinary shares, at a public offering price of US\$4.5 per share. The net proceeds after deducting underwriting commissions and discounts were US\$58,590,000 (equivalent to RMB406,538,433).

Immediately prior to the completion of the IPO, the Company's authorized share capital was increased to US\$500,000 divided into 5,000,000,000 shares comprising of (i) 4,900,000,000 Class A ordinary shares with a par value of US\$0.0001 each, (ii) 50,000,000 Class B ordinary shares with a par value of US\$0.0001 each and (iii) 50,000,000 shares with a par value of US\$0.0001 each of such class or classes (however designated) as the board of directors may determine in accordance with the Company's post-offering Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Immediately prior to the completion of the IPO, all outstanding preferred shares, including (i) 30,000,000 Series Seed Preferred Shares with a par value of US\$0.0001 each, (ii) 16,666,667 of Series A-1 Preferred Shares with a par value of US\$0.0001 each, (iii) 3,608,247 of Series A-2 Preferred Shares with a par value of US\$0.0001 each, (iv) 15,122,765 Series A-3 Preferred Shares with a par value of US\$0.0001 each, and (v) 5,137,859 of Series B Preferred Shares with a par value of US\$0.0001 each, were converted into Class A ordinary shares on a one-for-one bases. All outstanding ordinary shares were re-designated and re-classified as Class A ordinary shares on a one-for-one basis, except that 6,615,000 ordinary shares held by ELLY Holdings Limited and 14,027,020 ordinary shares held by Niu Holding Inc. were re-classified and re-designated as Class B ordinary shares on a one-for-one basis.

Holders of Class A ordinary shares and Class B ordinary shares have the same rights except for voting and conversion rights. Each Class A ordinary share entitles the holder to one vote on all matters subject to vote at general meetings of the Company, and each Class B ordinary share entitles the holder to four votes on all matters subject to vote at general meetings of the Company. Class A ordinary shares are not convertible into Class B ordinary shares under any circumstances.

On September 5, 2019, a Class B ordinary shareholder converted 1,400,000 Class B ordinary shares to Class A ordinary shares.

On August 18, 2020, a Class B ordinary shareholder converted 1,260,000 Class B ordinary shares to Class A ordinary shares.

As of December 31, 2020, there were 134,378,432 and 17,982,020 Class A and Class B ordinary shares outstanding, respectively.

Series Seed Preferred Shares

The Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association authorizes the Company to issue 30,000,000 Series Seed Preferred Shares of US\$0.0001 par value as of January 1, 2018.

Series Seed Preferred Shares were not redeemable and were convertible to ordinary shares at a one-for-one initial conversion ratio at the option of the holder at any time after the date of issuance. The liquidation preference of Series Seed Preferred Shares was preferable to ordinary shares but subordinated to redeemable convertible preferred shares as disclosed in Note 15. Voting rights and dividend rights of Series Seed Preferred Shares were as same as ordinary shares.

Immediately prior to the completion of the IPO, all outstanding Series Seed Preferred Shares were converted into Class A ordinary shares on one-for-one bases.

17. SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION

Restricted ordinary shares

In May 2015, Mr. Yi'nan Li, Mr. Token Yilin Hu, Ms. Yuqin Zhang and Niu Holding Inc. entered into an arrangement with other investors of the Company, whereby all of their 59,459,020 ordinary shares became restricted and subject to service vesting conditions. The restricted ordinary shares vested equally in four years from the date of imposition of the restriction, which was accelerated in the event of the Company's IPO. The restricted ordinary shares were subject to repurchase by the Company upon termination of Mr. Yi'nan Li, Mr. Token Yilin Hu and Ms. Yuqin Zhang's service with the Group. The Company had the right, at its sole discretion, to repurchase restricted ordinary shares at its par value within 60 days after the termination. The restricted ordinary shares were not transferable prior to be vested. Other than the restriction on transfer and service vesting conditions, restricted ordinary shareholders had all other rights and privileges as ordinary shareholders. Compensation cost was measured for the restricted ordinary shares using the estimated fair value of the Company's ordinary shares of US\$0.53 per share at the date of imposition of the restriction in May 2015, and was amortized to consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss) on a straight-line basis over the vesting term of four years.

In February 2016, Ms. Yuqin Zhang resigned from the Group and the Company determined not to repurchase restricted ordinary shares held by Ms. Yuqin Zhang. As such, all restricted ordinary shares held by Ms. Yuqin Zhang vested immediately, compensation cost of RMB7,574,133 was recognized immediately when the service condition was waived.

On January 7, 2016, the shareholders of the Company approved a modification of 3,307,500 restricted ordinary shares owned Mr. Yi'nan Li, through Niu Holding Inc.. Such number of restricted ordinary shares vested immediately and became transferable. Unrecognized compensation cost of RMB9,803,035 of 3,307,500 shares was recognized upon modification. Mr. Yi'nan Li transferred 3,307,500 ordinary shares to ELLY Holdings Limited, an entity owned by Dr. Yan Li, the new Chief Operating Officer of the Company who became the Chief Executive Officer of the Company in December 2017. On January 7, 2016, the Company also issued 3,307,500 restricted ordinary shares to ELLY Holdings Limited at par value. As a result of these transactions, ELLY Holdings Limited collectively owned 6,615,000 restricted ordinary shares which vested annually in equal instalments over four years from January 7, 2016.

On January 7, 2016, the Company also issued 1,804,000 restricted ordinary shares to Smart Power Group Limited, an entity owned by Mingming Huang, a new member of Board of Directors of the Company. 25% of the restricted ordinary shares vested on May 27, 2016 and the remaining 75% of the restricted ordinary shares vested annually in equal instalments over the next three years.

On June 8, 2018, Mr. Yi'nan Li and Mr. Mingming Huang resigned from the Company and the Company determined not to repurchase 9,798,125 and 451,000 restricted ordinary shares held by Mr. Yi'nan Li and Mr. Mingming Huang, respectively. It represented a modification to accelerate vesting. Compensation cost of RMB173,156,580 was recognized immediately as general and administrative expenses upon the modification.

On October 19, 2018, the remaining restricted ordinary shares of Mr. Token Yilin Hu and Dr. Yan Li were vested immediately upon the Company's initial public offering. Compensation cost of RMB8,935,076 and RMB10,535,229 was immediately recognized as research and development expenses and general and administrative expenses, respectively.

The total fair value of shares vested during the year ended December 31, 2018 was RMB264,075,922. Total compensation expenses recognized for restricted ordinary shares for the year ended December 31, 2018 was allocated to the following expense items:

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2018
	RMB
Research and development expenses	18,371,203
General and administrative expenses	207,871,076
Total restricted ordinary shares compensation expense	226,242,279

Transfer of ordinary shares

On June 8, 2018, Mr. Token Yilin Hu transferred 2,000,000 ordinary shares beneficially owned through Niu Holdings Inc. to Mr. Carl Chuankai Liu, the vice president of design of the Company at nil consideration. The Company accounted for such transfer as share-based compensation as the ordinary shares were granted to Mr. Carl Chuankai Liu as compensation for his services provided to the Group. As there was no service condition, RMB33,537,572 share-based compensation expenses were recognized in research and development expenses immediately upon transfer.

Share options and restricted share units

a) 2016 Global Incentive Plan

In January 2016, the Company's Shareholders and Board of Directors approved 2016 Global Share Incentive Plan and amended it in March 2018 (the "Amended 2016 Plan"). Under the Amended 2016 Plan, a maximum aggregate number of 5,861,480 ordinary shares may be issued pursuant to all awards granted. Share options or restricted share units expire 10 years from the grant date.

As of December 31, 2020, the Company has granted under the 2016 Plan, excluding those were canceled or expired after the relevant grant dates: (i) 4,460,894 share options with exercise price of US\$0.20 per share and vesting schedule of 40% vesting on the second anniversary of the grant date and the remaining vesting in three equal annual installments; (ii) 705,196 share options with exercise price of nil and vesting in four equal annual installments; (iii) 100,000 restricted share units and vesting in two equal annual installments; and (iv) 427,250 restricted share units with vesting in four equal annual installments.

b) 2018 Share Incentive Plan

In September 2018, the Company's Shareholders and Board of Directors approved the 2018 Share Incentive Plan (the "2018 Plan"). Under the 2018 Plan, the maximum aggregate number of ordinary shares available for issuance is 6,733,703 ordinary shares, which shall be increased by a number equal to 1.5% of the total number of ordinary shares issued and outstanding on the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal year, each fiscal year during the term of the 2018 Plan, if determined and approved by the board of directors for the relevant fiscal year. In November 2019, the board of directors approved an increase by 2,230,111 ordinary shares, representing 1.5% of total issued and outstanding shares at the end of 2018 pursuant to the 2018 Share Incentive Plan.

As of December 31, 2020, the Company has granted under the 2018 Plan: (i) 4,180,000 share options with exercise price of US\$3.425 and vesting in four equal annual installments; and (ii) 3,454,300 restricted share units with vesting in four equal annual installments.

A summary of the share options activities under the Amended 2016 Plan and the 2018 Plan for the year ended December 31, 2020 is presented below:

	Number of share	Weighted average exercise price US\$	Weighted remaining contractual years	Aggregate intrinsic value US\$
Outstanding at January 1, 2020	8,682,356	1.74		
Granted	—	—		
Exercised	(2,610,926)	1.34		
Forfeited	(79,106)	0.20		
Outstanding at December 31, 2020	5,992,324	1.93	7.32	72,489,587
Exercisable as of December 31, 2020	2,032,930	0.35	5.58	27,790,820

The fair value of the options granted is estimated on the grant dates using the binomial option pricing model with the following key assumptions used:

<u>Grant Date:</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Risk-free rate of return (per annum)	2.78% - 3.13%	1.90%
Volatility	49.9% - 50.9%	47.9%
Expected dividend yield	0%	0%
Exercise multiple	2.2	2.2-2.8
Fair value of underlying ordinary share	US\$2.05 - US\$4.10	US\$3.425
Expected term (in years)	10	10

The expected volatility was estimated based on the historical volatility of the Company and comparable peer public companies with a time horizon close to the expected term of the Company's options. The risk-free interest rate was estimated based on the yield to maturity of U.S. treasury bonds denominated in USD for a term consistent with the expected term of the Company's options in effect at the option valuation date. The expected exercise multiple was estimated as the average ratio of the stock price to the exercise price of when employees would decide to voluntarily exercise their vested options. As the Company did not have sufficient information of past employee exercise history, it has considered the statistics on exercise patterns of employees compiled by Huddart and Lang in Huddart, S., and M. Lang. 1996. "Employee Stock Option Exercises: An Empirical Analysis." Journal of Accounting and Economics, vol. 21, no. 1 (February):5-43, which are widely adopted by valuers as authoritative guidance on expected exercise multiples. Expected dividend yield is zero as the Company has never declared or paid any cash dividends on its shares, and the Company does not anticipate any dividend payments in the foreseeable future. Expected term is the contract life of the option.

The weighted average grant date fair value of the share options granted for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2019 was US\$2.11 and US\$1.62, respectively. Compensation costs recognized for share options for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020 were allocated to the following expense items:

	For the Year Ended		
	December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB
Cost of revenues	246,947	255,679	171,501
Selling and marketing expenses	2,124,728	2,471,725	3,012,857
Research and development expenses	955,538	3,060,263	4,895,748
General and administrative expenses	2,392,740	6,232,590	9,614,592
Total share options compensation expense	5,719,953	12,020,257	17,694,698

As of December 31, 2020, RMB35,165,131 of total unrecognized compensation expense related to share options is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 2.41 years.

A summary of the restricted share units activities for the year ended December 31, 2020 is presented below:

	Number of shares	Weighted average grant date fair value
		US\$
Unvested as of January 1, 2020	1,744,600	3.64
Granted	2,187,700	3.81
Vested	(473,650)	3.70
Forfeited	(750)	3.89
Unvested as of December 31, 2020	3,457,900	3.74

Compensation costs recognized for restricted share units for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020 were allocated to the following expense items:

	For the Year Ended		
	December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB
Cost of revenues	—	36,332	472,182
Selling and marketing expenses	—	2,185,586	6,932,616
Research and development expenses	—	1,146,846	6,021,889
General and administrative expenses	375,123	4,233,758	8,487,530
Total restricted share units compensation expense	375,123	7,602,522	21,914,217

As of December 31, 2020, RMB69,051,032 of total unrecognized compensation expense related to restricted share units is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 2.85 years.

Total share-based compensation expenses recognized for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020 were allocated to the following expense items:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB
Cost of revenues	246,947	292,011	643,683
Selling and marketing expenses	2,124,728	4,657,311	9,945,473
Research and development expenses	52,864,313	4,207,109	10,917,637
General and administrative expenses	210,638,939	10,466,348	18,102,122
Total share-based compensation expense	265,874,927	19,622,779	39,608,915

18. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT

The following tables present the fair value hierarchy for those assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, respectively:

RMB	December 31, 2020			Total Fair Value
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
Assets				
Short-term investments (Note 3)	—	745,608,877	—	745,608,877

RMB	December 31, 2019			Total Fair Value
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
Assets				
Short-term investments (Note 3)	—	310,439,321	—	310,439,321

The table below reflects the reconciliation from the opening balances to the closing balances for a convertible loan, a recurring fair value measurement categorized as Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy, for the year ended December 31, 2018:

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2018
Convertible loan-beginning of year	151,557,796
Change in fair value	34,499,858
Conversion to Series A-3 Preferred Shares	(181,112,874)
Foreign currency translation adjustment	(4,944,780)
Convertible loan-end of year	—

19. INCOME TAX

a) *Income tax*

Cayman Islands

Under the current laws of the Cayman Islands, the Company is not subject to tax on income or capital gain. Additionally, the Cayman Islands does not impose a withholding tax on payments of dividends to shareholders.

No stamp duty is payable in respect of the issue of the shares or on an instrument of transfer in respect of a share.

Indonesia

Under the current laws of the Republic of Indonesia, the Company's subsidiaries in Indonesia are subject to 25% income tax on its taxable income generated from operations in Indonesia.

Hong Kong

Under the Hong Kong tax laws, subsidiaries in Hong Kong are subject to the Hong Kong profits tax rate at 16.5% and they are exempted from income tax on their foreign-derived income and there are no withholding taxes in Hong Kong on remittance of dividends. A two-tiered profits tax rates regime was introduced in 2018 where the first HK\$2 million of assessable profits earned by a company will be taxed at half of the current tax rate (8.25%) whilst the remaining profits will continue to be taxed at 16.5%. There is an anti-fragmentation measure where each group will have to nominate only one company in the group to benefit from the progressive rates. The Company did not make any provisions for Hong Kong profit tax as there were no assessable profits derived from or earned in Hong Kong for any of the periods presented.

PRC

The Group's PRC subsidiaries, the VIE, and VIE's subsidiaries are subject to the PRC Corporate Income Tax Law ("CIT Law") and are taxed at the statutory income tax rate of 25%, unless otherwise specified.

The CIT Law also provides that an enterprise established under the laws of a foreign country or region but whose "de facto management body" is located in the PRC be treated as a resident enterprise for PRC tax purposes and consequently be subject to the PRC income tax at the rate of 25% for its global income. The Implementing Rules of the CIT Law define the location of the "de facto management body" as "the place where the exercising, in substance, of the overall management and control of the production and business operation, personnel, accounting, property, etc., of a non-PRC company is located." Based on a review of surrounding facts and circumstances, the Group does not believe that it is likely that its operations outside the PRC should be considered a resident enterprise for PRC tax purposes.

The components of income (loss) before income taxes are as follows:

	For the Year Ended		
	December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB
Cayman	(34,397,077)	6,633,761	(1,356,797)
Indonesia	—	(11,705)	(1,124,698)
Hong Kong S.A.R.	(4,507,360)	(3,820,485)	(7,773,553)
PRC, excluding Hong Kong S.A.R.	(310,123,039)	195,497,541	199,993,770
Total	(349,027,476)	198,299,112	189,738,722

Income tax expense consists of the following:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB
Current income tax expense	—	7,460,535	39,236,745
Deferred income tax expense (benefit)	—	753,806	(18,150,489)
Total	—	8,214,341	21,086,256

Withholding tax on undistributed dividends

The CIT law also imposes a withholding income tax of 10% on dividends distributed by a foreign investment enterprise (“FIE”) to its immediate holding company outside of China, if such immediate holding company is considered as a non-resident enterprise without any establishment or place within China or if the received dividends have no connection with the establishment or place of such immediate holding company within China, unless such immediate holding company’s jurisdiction of incorporation has a tax treaty with China that provides for a different withholding arrangement. The Cayman Islands, where the Company is incorporated, does not have such tax treaty with China. According to the arrangement between Mainland China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion in August 2006, dividends paid by an FIE in China to its immediate holding company in Hong Kong will be subject to withholding tax at a rate of no more than 5% (if the foreign investor owns directly at least 25% of the shares of the FIE). The Group did not record any dividend withholding tax, as the Group’s PRC entities, have no retained earnings in any of the periods presented.

Reconciliation of the differences between PRC statutory income tax rate and the Group’s effective income tax rate for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020 are as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB
Computed expected income tax expense	(87,256,869)	49,574,778	47,434,681
Non-PRC entities not subject to income tax	9,726,109	(700,393)	2,563,762
Research and development expenses bonus deduction	(7,528,081)	(10,181,598)	(18,508,967)
Non-deductible share-based compensation expenses	66,374,951	4,532,885	9,453,660
Other non-deductible expenses	176,111	32,602	446,051
Change in valuation allowance	18,507,779	(35,043,933)	(20,302,931)
Actual income tax expense	—	8,214,341	21,086,256

b) Deferred income tax assets and deferred income tax liabilities

	As of December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Deferred income tax assets		
Net operating loss carry forwards	39,342,952	38,311,539
Accrued warranty	14,987,967	14,798,974
Accrued payroll and social insurance	3,873,748	2,690,649
Deferred revenue	6,363,254	6,333,023
Advertising expense	937,639	—
Allowance for doubtful accounts	822,134	826,845
Write-downs for inventories	2,622,784	3,665,728
Less: Valuation allowance	(62,864,281)	(41,219,052)
Total deferred income tax assets, net	6,086,197	25,407,706
Deferred income tax liabilities		
Short-term investments	511,975	341,864
Property, plant and equipment	6,840,002	11,581,945
Total deferred income tax liabilities	7,351,977	11,923,809
Net deferred income tax assets	—	14,593,376
Net deferred income tax liabilities	1,265,780	1,109,479

As of December 31, 2020, the Group had net operating loss carry forwards of RMB153,246,154 attributable to the PRC subsidiaries, the VIE and VIE's subsidiaries. Tax losses of RMB39,438,941, RMB34,897,140, RMB40,001,196, RMB8,922,241 and RMB29,986,636 will expire, if unused, by 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, respectively.

A valuation allowance is provided against deferred income tax assets when the Group determines that it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred income tax assets will not be utilized in the foreseeable future. The valuation allowance as of December 31, 2019 and 2020 was primarily provided for the deferred income tax assets of certain PRC subsidiaries, VIE and VIE's subsidiaries. In making such determination, the Group evaluates a variety of factors including the Group's operating history, accumulated deficit, existence of taxable temporary differences and reversal periods. The ultimate realization of deferred income tax assets is dependent upon the generation of future taxable income during the periods in which those temporary differences become deductible or utilizable. Management considers projected future taxable income and tax planning strategies in making this assessment.

Changes in valuation allowance are as follows:

	For the Year Ended		
	December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB
Balance at the beginning of the year	79,704,629	98,212,408	62,864,281
Additions (reversals)	18,507,779	(35,043,933)	(20,302,931)
Decrease relating to expiration of loss carry forwards	—	(304,194)	(1,342,298)
Balance at the end of the year	98,212,408	62,864,281	41,219,052

According to the PRC Tax Administration and Collection Law, the statute of limitation is three years if the underpayment of taxes is due to computational errors made by the taxpayer or the withholding agent. The statute of limitation is extended to five years under special circumstances where the underpayment of taxes is more than RMB100,000. In the case of transfer pricing issues, the statute of limitation is 10 years. There is no statute of limitation in the case of tax evasion. The income tax returns of the Company's PRC subsidiaries, consolidated VIE and VIE's subsidiaries for the years from 2016 to 2020 are open to examination by the PRC tax authorities.

20. NET INCOME (LOSS) PER ORDINARY SHARE

The following table sets forth the basic and diluted net income (loss) per ordinary share computation and provides a reconciliation of the numerator and denominator for the years presented:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2018 RMB	2019 RMB	2020 RMB
Numerator:			
Net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders	(349,027,476)	190,084,771	168,652,466
Denominator:			
Weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding	65,834,876	148,896,691	150,775,447
Weighted average number of ordinary shares equivalents outstanding	—	128,475	121,965
Denominator for basic net income (loss) per ordinary share	65,834,876	149,025,166	150,897,412
Dilutive effect of outstanding share options	—	3,978,477	4,900,551
Dilutive effect of unvested restricted share units	—	244,545	2,037,905
Denominator for diluted net income (loss) per ordinary share	65,834,876	153,248,188	157,835,868
Net income (loss) per ordinary share			
—Basic	(5.30)	1.28	1.12
—Diluted	(5.30)	1.24	1.07

Securities that could potentially dilute basic net income (loss) per share in the future that were not included in the computation of diluted net income (loss) per share because to do so would have been antidilutive for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020 are as follow:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
Share options	5,314,246	4,180,000	—
Unvested restricted share units	100,000	—	66,800

21. REVENUE INFORMATION

Revenues consist of the following:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2018 RMB	2019 RMB	2020 RMB
Electronic scooter sales	1,370,522,269	1,787,274,271	2,143,292,397
Accessory and spare parts sales	91,373,179	253,799,782	258,928,790
Service revenues	15,885,856	35,215,048	42,107,577
Revenues	1,477,781,304	2,076,289,101	2,444,328,764

The following summarizes the Group's revenue from the following geographic areas (based on the location of customers):

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB
PRC	1,318,657,227	1,643,221,531	2,039,210,587
Europe	148,963,330	274,445,360	305,244,466
Others	10,160,747	158,622,210	99,873,711
Revenues	1,477,781,304	2,076,289,101	2,444,328,764

22. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Capital commitment

The Company has commitments for the construction of fixed assets of RMB 43,056,970 as of December 31, 2020. The future payments schedule is presented as follows:

	Total	Payment Due by Period			More than 5 years
		Less than 1 year	1 – 3 years (RMB)	3 – 5 years	
Capital commitment	43,056,970	36,499,470	5,864,500	594,000	99,000

Operating lease commitment

The Group leases its offices and facilities under non-cancelable operating lease agreements. Rental expenses were RMB7,306,686, RMB10,931,713 and RMB14,034,591 for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively.

As of December 31, 2020, future minimum lease commitments, all under office and facilities non-cancelable operating lease agreements, were as follows:

Year ending December 31,	RMB
2021	11,173,499
2022	10,191,143
2023	10,437,322
2024	11,068,206
2025	2,442,573
2026	674,828

Except for those disclosed above, the Group did not have any significant capital or other commitments, long-term obligations, or guarantees as of December 31, 2020.

23. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Mr. Yi'nan Li, the founder and a board member of the Company until June 8, 2018 and Mr. Changlong Sheng, a shareholder of the Company, provide joint liability guaranty for the 2017 BOC Loan, the 2018 BOC Loan and the 2019 BOC Loan (Note 11) borrowed by Jiangsu Xiaoniu. The 2019 BOC Loan was fully repaid by Jiangsu Xiaoniu in December 2019 and the guaranty was released correspondingly.

24. PARENT COMPANY ONLY CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For the presentation of the parent company only condensed financial information, the Company records its investment in subsidiaries, consolidated VIE and VIE's subsidiaries, under the equity method of accounting as prescribed in ASC 323, "Investments-Equity Method and Joint Ventures". Such investments are presented on the condensed balance sheets as "Investment in subsidiaries, consolidated VIE and VIE's subsidiaries" and the subsidiaries, consolidated VIE and VIE's subsidiaries' income (losses) as "Share of income (losses) from subsidiaries, consolidated VIE and VIE's subsidiaries" on the condensed statements of results of operations. The parent company only condensed financial information should be read in conjunction with the Company's consolidated financial statements. As of December 31, 2020, there were no material contingencies, significant provisions of long-term obligations, mandatory dividend or redemption requirements of redeemable stocks or guarantees of Niu Technologies, except for those, which have been separately disclosed in the consolidated financial statements.

(a) Condensed Balance Sheets

	As of December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	120,548,511	73,329,699
Term deposits	174,404,554	130,498,000
Restricted cash	135,130,713	168,469,077
Prepayments and other current assets	7,705,862	7,477,871
Total current assets	437,789,640	379,774,647
Non-current assets		
Investment in and amount due from subsidiaries, consolidated VIE and VIE's subsidiaries	479,225,101	617,896,929
Total assets	917,014,741	997,671,576
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Amount due to subsidiaries, consolidated VIE and VIE's subsidiaries	4,262,270	4,262,270
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	451,354	35,062
Total current liabilities and total liabilities	4,713,624	4,297,332
Shareholders' equity:		
Class A ordinary shares	84,494	87,300
Class B ordinary shares	11,977	11,202
Additional paid-in capital	1,738,102,741	1,801,940,071
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(13,895,942)	(43,016,027)
Accumulated deficit	(812,002,153)	(765,648,302)
Total shareholders' equity	912,301,117	993,374,244
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	917,014,741	997,671,576

(b) Condensed Statements of Results of Operations

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB
Total operating expenses	(1,908,610)	(3,810,862)	(7,308,201)
Changes in fair value of a convertible loan	(34,499,858)	—	—
Share of income (losses) from subsidiaries, consolidated VIE and VIE's subsidiaries	(331,955,300)	174,142,290	47,710,647
Interest income	2,011,390	10,444,623	5,951,405
Income (loss) before income taxes	(366,352,378)	180,776,051	46,353,851
Income tax expense	—	—	—
Net income (loss)	<u>(366,352,378)</u>	<u>180,776,051</u>	<u>46,353,851</u>

(c) Condensed Statements of Cash Flows

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(351,432,253)	124,118,382	(55,920,062)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(19,902,073)	(144,813,597)	34,502,559
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	481,123,035	(2,133,713)	24,230,446
Effect of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash and restricted cash	7,176,014	4,249,727	(16,693,391)
Net increase in cash and restricted cash	<u>116,964,723</u>	<u>(18,579,201)</u>	<u>(13,880,448)</u>
Cash and restricted cash at the beginning of the year	157,293,702	274,258,425	255,679,224
Cash and restricted cash at the end of the year	<u>274,258,425</u>	<u>255,679,224</u>	<u>241,798,776</u>

List of Principal Subsidiaries and Consolidated Affiliated Entities

Subsidiaries	Place of Incorporation
Niu Technologies Group Limited	Hong Kong
Beijing Niudian Information Technology Co., Ltd.	PRC

Consolidated Affiliated Entity	Place of Incorporation
Beijing Niudian Technology Co., Ltd.	PRC

Subsidiaries of Consolidated Affiliated Entity	Place of Incorporation
Jiangsu Xiaoniu Diandong Technology Co., Ltd.	PRC
Shanghai Xiaoniu Internet Technology Co., Ltd.	PRC
Changzhou Niudian International Trading Technology Co., Ltd.	PRC

Certification by the Principal Executive Officer
Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

I, Yan Li, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 20-F of Niu Technologies;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the company as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The company's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the company and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the company, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the company's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by the annual report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the company's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The company's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the company's auditors and the audit committee of the company's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the company's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the company's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: April 9, 2021

By: /s/ Yan Li

Name: Yan Li

Title: Chairman of the Board of Directors
and Chief Executive Officer

Certification by the Principal Financial Officer
Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

I, Hardy Peng Zhang, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 20-F of Niu Technologies;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the company as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The company's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the company and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the company, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the company's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by the annual report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the company's internal control over financial reporting; and
6. The company's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the company's auditors and the audit committee of the company's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the company's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the company's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: April 9, 2021

By: /s/ Hardy Peng Zhang

Name: Hardy Peng Zhang

Title: Chief Financial Officer

**Certification by the Principal Executive Officer
Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**

In connection with the Annual Report of Niu Technologies (the "Company") on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2020 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Yan Li, Chief Executive Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that to my knowledge:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: April 9, 2021

By: /s/ Yan Li
Name: Yan Li
Title: Chairman of the Board of Directors
and Chief Executive Officer

**Certification by the Principal Financial Officer
Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**

In connection with the Annual Report of Niu Technologies (the "Company") on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2020 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Hardy Peng Zhang, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that to my knowledge:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: April 9, 2021

By: /s/ Hardy Peng Zhang
Name: Hardy Peng Zhang
Title: Chief Financial Officer

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors
Niu Technologies:

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the registration statement (No. 333- 229190) on Form S-8 of Niu Technologies of our report dated April 9, 2021, with respect to the consolidated balance sheets of Niu Technologies as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, and the related consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss), changes in shareholders' equity (deficit), and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes, which report appears in the December 31, 2020 annual report on Form 20-F of Niu Technologies.

Our report refers to a change in the method of accounting for revenue recognition.

/s/ KPMG Huazhen LLP

Beijing, China
April 9, 2021

Dahui Lawyers Letterhead

Date: April 9, 2021

Niu Technologies

No.1 Building, No. 195 Huilongguan East Road,
Changping District, Beijing 102208
People's Republic of China

Dear Sir/Madam:

We hereby consent to the use of our name and the summary of our opinion under the headings, “Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors—Risks Related to Our Corporate Structure” and “Item 4. Information on the Company—C. Organizational Structure”, included in Niu Technologies’ Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2020 (the “Annual Report”), which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) in the month of April 2021, and further consent to the incorporation by reference into the Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-229190) pertaining to Niu Technologies’ Amended and Restated 2016 Global Share Incentive Plan and 2018 Share Incentive Plan. We also consent to the filing of this consent letter with the SEC as an exhibit to the Annual Report.

In giving such consent, we do not hereby admit that we come within the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act of 1933, or under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, in each case, as amended, or the regulations promulgated thereunder.

Yours Sincerely,

/s/ DaHui Lawyers

DaHui Lawyers
