

ARC DOCUMENT SOLUTIONS, INC.  
Form 10-K  
March 05, 2018

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

Form 10-K

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2017

or

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number: 001-32407

ARC DOCUMENT SOLUTIONS, INC.  
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its Charter)

Delaware 20-1700361  
(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer  
incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

1981 N. Broadway, Suite 385  
Walnut Creek, California 94596  
(925) 949-5100

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

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

Title of Each Class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: NONE

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

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

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 and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted 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 and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. "

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer " Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer " Smaller reporting company "

Emerging growth company " (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

If an emerging growth company, 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. "

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

Based on the closing price of \$4.16 of the registrant's Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange on June 30, 2017 (the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter), the aggregate market value of the voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant on that date was approximately \$169,964,779.

As of February 16, 2018, there were 45,266,008 shares of the Registrant's common stock outstanding.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement on Form 14A for its April 26, 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference in this Annual Report on Form 10-K in Part III.

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 For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2017  
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ARC DOCUMENT SOLUTIONS, INC.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K

In this Annual Report on Form 10-K, “ARC Document Solutions,” “ARC,” “the Company,” “we,” “us,” and “our” refer to ARC Document Solutions, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise dictates.

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. When used in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the words “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “estimate,” “intend,” “plan,” “project,” “target,” “likely,” “will,” “would,” “could,” and variations of such words and similar expressions as they relate to our management or to the Company are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated herein. We have described in Part I, Item 1A-“Risk Factors” a number of factors that could cause our actual results to differ from our projections or estimates. These factors and other risk factors described in this report are not necessarily all of the important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any of our forward-looking statements. Other unknown or unpredictable factors also could harm our results. Consequently, there can be no assurance that the actual results or developments anticipated by us will be realized or, even if substantially realized, that they will have the expected consequences to, or effects on, us. Given these uncertainties, you are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements.

Except where otherwise indicated, the statements made in this Annual Report on Form 10-K are made as of the date we filed this report with the Securities and Exchange Commission and should not be relied upon as of any subsequent date. All future written and verbal forward-looking statements attributable to us or any person acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this section. We undertake no obligation, and specifically disclaim any obligation, to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. You should, however, consult further disclosures we make in future filings of our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and Current Reports on Form 8-K, and any amendments thereto, as well as our proxy statements.

**TRADEMARKS AND TRADE NAMES**

We own or have rights to a number of trademarks, service marks, and trade names that we use in conjunction with the operation of our business, including the name and design mark “ARC Document Solutions,” “ABACUS,” “BUILDING INTELLIGENCE,” “DATAPRINT,” “METAPRINT” “PlanWell,” “PlanWell PDS,” “Riot Creative Imaging,” “SKYSITE,” and various design marks associated therewith. In addition, we own or have rights to various trademarks, service marks, and trade names that we use regionally in conjunction with our operations. This report also includes trademarks, service marks and trade names of other companies.

## PART I

### Item 1. Business

#### Our Company

ARC Document Solutions, Inc. (“ARC Document Solutions,” “ARC,” “we,” “us,” or “our”) is a leading document solutions provider to design, engineering, construction, and facilities management professionals, while also providing document solutions to businesses of all types.

Our customers need us to manage the scale, complexity and workflow of their documents. We help them reduce their costs and increase their efficiency by improving their access and control over documents, and we offer a wide variety of ways to access, distribute, collaborate on, and store documents.

Our offerings include:

**Managed Print Services (“MPS”)** - An onsite service where we place, manage, and optimize print and imaging equipment in our customers' offices, job sites, and other facilities. MPS relieves our customers of the burden of owning and managing print devices and print networks, and shifts their costs to a “per-use” basis typically billed in a single consolidated invoice.

**Offsite Services** - We operate 175 offsite service centers in major metropolitan markets in the U.S. and internationally which provide local customers with high-volume, project-related printing of construction documents, offer our MPS customers flexibility and overflow capacity during peak workloads, and support our customers' scanning needs in archive and information management services.

**Archive and Information Management (“AIM”)** - We store our customers' information and intellectual property in a cloud-based and searchable digital archive. We scan existing paper documents or import digital documents, organize them, and store them in our proprietary content management software.

**Specialized Color Printing** - Our production centers offer color printing, finishing, and assembly of graphic materials for regional and national retailers, franchises, marketing departments, theme parks, and cultural institutions.

**Web-Based Document Management Applications** - We develop and offer proprietary tools to our customers, such as SKYSITE®, Planwell® and Abacus™, that facilitate project collaboration, manage print networks, track equipment fleets, create and maintain project document archives, and other document and content management tasks.

**Equipment and Supplies Sales** - We sell equipment and supplies primarily to customers in the architectural, engineering, construction, and building owner/operator (AEC/O) industry and provide ancillary services such as equipment service and maintenance.

The combination of our services allows us to provide a comprehensive document management ecosystem where any document, anywhere in the enterprise, can be captured, stored, managed, accessed, and distributed anywhere in the world.

Our cloud-based services are hosted and administered by Amazon Web Services.

We believe we are the largest document solutions provider to the AEC/O market in North America, and the only national provider offering onsite, offsite and cloud-based document management solutions for regional, national and global customers. We offer comprehensive services across geographical boundaries and frequently bill under a single monthly invoice, consolidating purchasing, vendor relations, and administration for companies seeking a unified document management platform.

We serve our clients' onsite in their offices in approximately 10,100 locations, and offsite or virtually through a combination of 175 service centers globally, a variety of web-based applications and software, and a global network of service partners. We operate in major metropolitan markets across the U.S., with meaningful operations in China, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

Our origins lie in the reprographics, or “blueprinting,” industry and we still maintain robust reprographics operations. We believe that we are the largest reprographics company in the United States as measured by revenue, number of customers, and number of service centers.

Our base of more than 90,000 customers includes most of the largest design and construction-oriented firms in North America, and the world. Our legacy as the largest reprographics company in the U.S. has allowed us to leverage our relationships, domain expertise, and national presence as we have evolved into a technology-enabled document

solutions company.

Our largest customers are served by a corporate sales force called Global Solutions. This sales force is focused on large regional and national customers. Our diverse customer base results in no individual customer accounting for more than 2% of our overall revenue.

We are a Delaware corporation operating under a single brand, “ARC,” in order to highlight the scope and scale of our business, and to generate synergies in our overall national marketing efforts to the consolidating AEC/O market. Our corporate name is “ARC Document Solutions, Inc.,” and our New York Stock Exchange ticker symbol is “ARC.” We conduct our operations through our wholly-owned subsidiary, ARC Document Solutions, LLC, a Texas limited liability company, and its affiliates.

### Principal Products and Services

We report revenues from our service and product offerings under the following categories:

Construction Document and Information Management (CDIM), which consists of software services and professional services to manage and distribute documents and information primarily related to construction projects. CDIM sales include software services such as SKYSITE®, our cloud-based project communication application, as well as providing document and information management services that are often technology-enabled. The bulk of our current revenue from CDIM comes from large-format and small-format printing services we provide in both black and white and in color.

Software services are a smaller part of overall CDIM. The sale of services addresses a variety of customer needs including the provision of project communication tools, project information management, building information modeling, digital document distribution services, printing services, and others.

Managed Print Services (MPS), consists of placement, management, and optimization of print and imaging equipment in our customers' offices, job sites, and other facilities. MPS relieves our customers of the burden of owning and managing print devices and print networks, and shifts their costs to a “per-use” basis. MPS is supported by our proprietary technology, Abacus™, which allows our customers to capture, control, manage, print, and account for their documents. MPS Services revenue is derived from two sources: 1) an engagement with the customer to place primarily large-format equipment, that we own or lease, at a construction site or in our customers' offices, and 2) an arrangement by which our customers outsource their printing function to us, including all office printing, copying, and reprographics printing. In both cases this is recurring, contracted revenue with most contracts ranging from 3 to 5 years and we are paid a single cost per unit of material used, often referred to as a “click charge.” MPS sales are driven by the ongoing print needs of our customers at their facilities.

Archiving and Information Management (AIM), combines software and professional services to facilitate the capture, management, access and retrieval of documents and information that have been produced in the past. AIM includes our SKYSITE® software to organize, search and retrieve documents, as well as the provision of services that include the capture and conversion of hardcopy and electronic documents, and their cloud-based storage and maintenance. AIM sales are driven by the need to leverage past intellectual property for present or future use, facilitate cost savings and efficiency improvements over current hardcopy and digital storage methods, as well as comply with regulatory and records retention requirements.

Equipment and Supplies, which consists of reselling printing, imaging, and related equipment to customers primarily to architectural, engineering and construction firms.

Each of our service offerings is enabled through a suite of supporting proprietary technology and a wide variety of value-added services.

### Operations

Our products and services are available from any of our 175 service centers around the world, and nearly all of our services can be made available in our customers' offices. Our geographic presence is concentrated in the U.S., with additional service centers in Canada, China, India, and the United Kingdom. Our corporate headquarters are located in Walnut Creek, California.

Historically, our business grew through acquisitions to expand our share of the reprographics market and enhance our geographic footprint to serve our larger customers. Since our inception we have acquired more than 140 companies. As we have consolidated, diversified our service offerings, and optimized our operations during the past several years, we have limited acquisition activity in order to focus on organic sales growth. Our origin as a company was in California, and our early acquisition activity was concentrated there. We still derive approximately 34% of our total revenue from California.

We operate a technology center in Silicon Valley with approximately 20 employees who develop, maintain, and support our software. We operate a similar facility in Kolkata, India, with approximately 179 employees who, in addition to supporting our Silicon Valley team, also support our research and development efforts. All of our production facilities are connected via a high-performance, dedicated, wide-area network, to facilitate data transmissions to and from our customers, our operating facilities and the cloud hosted by Amazon. We employ a combination of proprietary and industry-leading technologies to provide redundancy, backup and security of all data in our systems.

Historically, the majority of our revenue has been derived from customers engaged in the seasonal, non-residential construction market. While our traditional reprographics business, included in the CDIM revenue category, is still influenced by the non-residential seasonality and building cycles, our other CDIM offerings are less so. Color printing services are affected by retail



marketing calendars, advertising campaigns, as well as the marketing needs of our architectural and real estate development clients. Our software services are influenced primarily by the desire for document workflow improvements and our ability to market our technology-based solutions. MPS is driven by the generation of office documents and our customers' desire to improve business processes and reduce print-related costs. Equipment and Supplies Sales are driven by purchasing cycles of individual customers, as well as by new features and advancements by manufacturers.

As of December 31, 2017, the Company employed approximately 2,500 employees.

#### Our Customers and Markets

We serve both the enterprise and project content management needs of companies primarily within the AEC/O industry. Our customers include senior management teams, IT and procurement departments, project architects, engineers, general contractors, facilities managers, and others.

The mix of services demanded by the AEC/O industry continues to shift toward services provided at customer locations (represented primarily by our MPS revenues), and away from its historical emphasis on producing prints in our service centers (included in our CDIM revenue line). We believe the market forces of the recent recession and its aftermath are causing our customers in the construction industry to emphasize efficiency in their production and distribution of printed documents, to reduce their dependence on print as it relates to construction projects, and to improve access and control over all the documents related to their business. We also believe that consolidation in the AEC/O industry is contributing to this trend as companies seek to reduce costs, eliminate redundant business practices, and procure products and services from vendors who can centrally serve their business with a comprehensive offering.

We believe that these trends are advantageous to us for four reasons: first, we are well-positioned to provide our customers with web applications and cloud-based offerings to meet their demand for technology-enabled content management services; second, our diversification into services such as MPS and AIM allow us to capture long-term contracted revenue streams that are less exposed to the volatility and cyclicality of project-related printing; third, as our customers merge, consolidate, and grow larger, we believe ARC becomes a more compelling choice because of our extensive geographic reach and ability to act as a single-source supplier of document solutions; and fourth, our market-leading presence as a traditional reprographer in major metropolitan areas allows us to capture large-format printing and document management work associated with local building projects.

In addition to the AEC/O industry, we also provide document management and printing services to customers in the retail, technology, entertainment, and healthcare industries, among others. A significant portion of our non-AEC/O revenues are derived from supplying color printing services to customers with short-run, high quality, frequently updated promotional, advertising and marketing materials. We market these services under a separate brand known as Riot Creative Imaging. Likewise, our digital tools and services appeal to companies outside of the construction industry, but with similar document management needs, including manufacturers, airlines, and healthcare/hospital companies.

In general, we address customers based on size and geographic reach. Local markets tend to be highly fragmented with a wide variety of specialized, geographically differentiated business practices. We serve smaller customers in these markets with service offerings aligned with local market expectations. Larger regional, national and international customers often consolidate purchasing and the acquisition of services through a single corporate department, and seek centralized management of document solutions. We serve these customers through our corporate sales force called Global Solutions.

#### Competition

The level of competition varies in each of the areas in which we provide services. Further, we believe we are unique; that no other company provides the complete portfolio of services and products we provide. We compete with different firms in our different business lines that can provide a portion of our services. However, we do not know of any other firm that can provide a full suite of physical and digital content management services similar to our offering. We believe service levels, breadth of offering, terms and conditions, price, quality, responsiveness, and convenience to the customer are competitive elements in each of the industry segments in which we compete.

In addressing larger local and regional customers, there are several companies that provide MPS and reprographic print services, but in general these companies cannot provide or integrate software or technology that enables the digital management of documents and centralized cost control management that we provide. In our CDIM services businesses, local copy shops and self-serve franchises are often aggressive competitors for printing business, but rarely offer the breadth of document management and logistics services we do.

With regard to large national and international customers, there are no other document solutions companies in the U.S. with the national presence and global reach that we have established, but we often compete against equipment manufacturers and businesses who offer some of the same products and services we do. Related services are offered by large printing/multifunctional

device manufacturers such as Xerox, Canon, Konica Minolta, Ricoh, and Sharp, but most offerings from these companies are focused on selling equipment as opposed to ARC's offering of comprehensive document management services for both project and enterprise documents. Further, our deep knowledge of the AEC/O industry document workflows, which are incorporated into our software, provides us an advantage against local printers and national equipment manufacturers.

We believe that we have a strong competitive position in the marketplace for the following reasons:

**Strong domain expertise:** No other national vendor/service provider possesses the document management and technology expertise that we have in the AEC/O market. Construction professionals have highly specialized needs in document capture, short-term storage, management, fulfillment, distribution, and archival services. We believe our domain expertise is unmatched thanks to our legacy in reprographics and software development.

**Customer relationships in AEC/O industry:** Our relationships with our local customers frequently span generations, and we do business with nearly all of the top 100 companies in the U.S. construction industry. In addition, our Global Solutions sales force has established long-term contract relationships with 27 of the largest 100 AEC/O firms. We believe this provides a competitive advantage by leveraging our success through referrals.

**Service center footprint:** We possess an extensive national network of service centers creating a distribution and customer service solution that can cater to both large and small customers. We operate service centers in more than 130 cities in the U.S., and in 37 states. We also have a market presence in Canada and China, and operations in India and the U.K. We are not aware of any other provider of MPS that has as extensive a network to supplement its MPS services and provide overflow and remote document management and printing capabilities.

**Equipment agnostic:** We are not required to sell or use any particular brands of equipment, nor do we manufacture equipment. We are free to place the products best suited for the required task in our own service centers or in our customers' offices, regardless of manufacturer. Additionally, with respect to our MPS Services, as our customers' document management needs evolve over their respective contract terms, we have the ability to replace the equipment previously deployed to ensure that the equipment placed at our customers' sites is best suited for the required tasks. We believe that this, combined with the competitive market for printing and imaging products, provides us with an advantage relative to MPS providers owned by equipment manufacturers.

**Capabilities in a wide variety of formats:** Several equipment manufacturers who also market managed print services do not produce the full range of large- and small-format equipment demanded by the AEC/O, manufacturing, and building industries. In addition, we are not aware of any manufacturers that provide the breadth of services and technology related to large- and small-format document production that we possess.

**Unique combination of Onsite, Offsite, and Cloud-based offerings:** We are the only national company that integrates (1) document production at customer sites (Onsite), (2) document production at company service centers (Offsite), and (3) digital management of documents in the cloud. We have proprietary technology built by our own development team that interacts with our production machines. We believe we are the only company that both develops document management software and manages the equipment that produces documents.

#### Suppliers and Vendors

We purchase or lease equipment for use in our production facilities and at our customers' sites. We also purchase paper, toner and other consumables for the operation of our and our customers' production equipment. As a high-volume purchaser, we believe we receive favorable prices as compared to other service providers, and price increases have been historically passed on to customers.

Our primary vendors of equipment, maintenance services, and reprographics supplies include Hewlett Packard, Canon Solutions America (Océ), and Xerox. Purchases from these vendors during 2017 comprised approximately 46% of our total purchases of inventory and supplies. Although there are a limited number of suppliers that could supply our inventory, we believe any shortfalls from existing suppliers could be filled by other suppliers on comparable terms.

### Research and Development

We conduct research and development to support the design and testing of new technology or enhancements and maintenance to existing technology. Such costs are expensed as incurred and primarily recorded to cost of sales. In total, research and development costs amounted to \$6.9 million, \$6.2 million, and \$5.8 million during 2017, 2016, and 2015, respectively.

### Proprietary Rights

We rely on a combination of copyright, trademark and trade secret laws, license agreements, nondisclosure and non-competition agreements, reseller agreements, customer contracts, and technical measures to establish and protect our rights in our proprietary technology. We also rely on a variety of technologies that are licensed from third parties to perform key functions.

We have registered “ARC Document Solutions,” as well as our historical name and logo, “ARC American Reprographics Company,” as service marks in the U.S. with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). We have registered “PlanWell”, “PlanWell PDS”, “Riot Creative Imaging”, “ABACUS” and “SKYSITE” as trademarks with the USPTO and in other countries. We do not own any other registered trademarks or service marks, or any patents, that are material to our business.

For a discussion of the risks associated with our proprietary rights, see Item 1A — “Risk Factors — Our failure to adequately protect the proprietary aspects of our technology, including SKYSITE, PlanWell, and Abacus, may cause us to lose market share.”

### Executive Officers of the Registrant

The following sets forth certain information regarding all of our executive officers as of February 28, 2017:

Name	Age	Position
Kumarakulasingam Suriyakumar	64	Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
Jorge Avalos	42	Chief Financial Officer
Rahul K. Roy	58	Chief Technology Officer
Dilantha Wijesuriya	56	Chief Operating Officer
D. Jeffery Grimes	54	Vice President, Senior Corporate Counsel and Corporate Secretary

Kumarakulasingam (“Suri”) Suriyakumar has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer since June 1, 2007, and he served as the Company’s President and Chief Operating Officer from 1991 until his appointment as Chief Executive Officer. On July 24, 2008, Mr. Suriyakumar was appointed Chairman of our Board of Directors.

Mr. Suriyakumar served as an advisor of Holdings from March 1998 until his appointment as a director of the Company in October 2004. Mr. Suriyakumar joined Micro Device, Inc. (our predecessor company) in 1989. He became the Vice President of Micro Device, Inc. in 1990. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Suriyakumar was employed with Aitken Spence & Co. LTD, a highly diversified conglomerate and one of the five largest corporations in Sri Lanka.

Jorge Avalos was appointed Chief Financial Officer of the Company on February 1, 2015. Prior to his appointment to Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Avalos served as Chief Accounting Officer and Vice President of Finance of the Company, positions he held since April 14, 2011. Mr. Avalos joined the Company in June 2006 as the Company’s Director of Finance, and became the Company’s Corporate Controller in December 2006, and Vice President, Corporate Controller in December 2010. From March 2005 through June 2006, Mr. Avalos was employed with Vendare Media Group, an online network and social media company, as its Controller. From September 1998 through March 2005, Mr. Avalos was employed with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, a global professional services firm focusing on audit and assurance, tax and advisory services.

Rahul K. Roy joined Holdings as its Chief Technology Officer in September 2000. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Roy was the founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of MirrorPlus Technologies, Inc., which developed software for the reprographics industry, from August 1993 until it was acquired by the Company in 1999. Mr. Roy also served as the Chief Operating Officer of InPrint, a provider of printing, software, duplication, packaging,

assembly and distribution services to technology companies, from 1993 until it was acquired by the Company in 1999. Dilantha ("Dilo") Wijesuriya joined Ford Graphics, a former division of the Company, in January 1991. He subsequently became president of that division in 2001, and became a Company regional operations head in 2004, which position he retained until his appointment as the Company's Senior Vice President, National Operations in August 2008. Mr. Wijesuriya was appointed Chief Operating Officer of the Company on February 25, 2011. Prior to his employment with the Company, Mr. Wijesuriya was

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a divisional manager with Aitken Spence & Co. LTD, a highly diversified conglomerate and one of the five largest corporations in Sri Lanka.

D. Jeffery Grimes was appointed Vice President, Senior Corporate Counsel and Corporate Secretary in March 2014. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Grimes was Vice President, Legal Affairs, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Aradigm Corporation, a publicly traded specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of drug products for severe respiratory diseases. From 1997 to 2013, Mr. Grimes worked as in-house counsel for medical device, specialty pharmaceutical, and technology companies serving in various senior corporate legal roles. Mr. Grimes received joint J.D./M.B.A. degrees and a Bachelor's degree in Finance, from University of Colorado at Boulder.

#### Available Information

ARC Document Solutions, Inc. uses its corporate website, [www.e-arc.com](http://www.e-arc.com), as a channel for routine distribution of important information, including news releases, analyst presentations and financial information. The information on our website is not incorporated by reference into this Annual Report on Form 10-K or in any other report or document we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The company files with or furnishes to the SEC Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to those reports, as well as proxy statements and annual reports to shareholders, and, from time to time, other documents. The reports and other documents filed with or furnished to the SEC are available to investors on or through our corporate website free of charge as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file them with or furnish them to the SEC. In addition, the public may read and copy any of the materials we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington D.C. 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an internet site located at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers, such as ARC, that file electronically with the SEC. ARC's SEC filings and other documents pertaining to the conduct of its business can be found on the "Investors" page of its website. These documents are available in print to any shareholder who requests a copy by writing or by calling ARC Document Solutions.

#### Item 1A. Risk Factors

Our business faces significant risks. The following risk factors could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition and the price of our common stock. We may encounter risks in addition to those described below. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair or adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

We are highly dependent on the architectural, engineering, construction and building owner/operator (AEC/O) industry and any decline in that industry could adversely affect our future revenue and profitability. We estimate that customers in the AEC/O industry accounted for approximately 78% of our net sales in 2017; therefore, our results largely depend on the strength of that industry. Our historical operating results reflect the cyclical and variable nature of the AEC/O industry. We believe that the industry generally experiences downturns several months after a downturn in the general economy, and that there may be a similar delay in the recovery of the AEC/O industry following a recovery of the general economy. A downturn in the AEC/O industry would diminish demand for some of our products and services, and would therefore negatively affect our revenues and have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition.

Adverse domestic and global economic conditions and disruption of financial and commercial real estate markets could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

A prolonged economic downturn may adversely affect the ability of our customers and suppliers to obtain financing and to perform their obligations under agreements with us. These restrictions could result in a decrease in, or cancellation of, existing business, could limit new business, and could negatively affect our ability to collect on our accounts receivable on a timely basis, if at all. These events may, in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Because a significant portion of our overall costs are fixed, our earnings are highly sensitive to changes in revenue.

Our network of service centers, equipment and related support activities involves substantial fixed costs which cannot be adjusted quickly to respond to declines in demand for our services. We estimate approximately 36% of our overall costs were fixed in 2017. As a consequence, our results of operations are subject to relatively high levels of volatility and our earnings could deteriorate rapidly in the face of declining revenues because our ability to reduce fixed costs in the short-term is limited. If we fail to manage our fixed costs appropriately, or to maintain adequate cash reserves to cover such costs, we may suffer material adverse effects on our results of operations and financial condition.

Impairment of goodwill may adversely affect future results of operations.

We have intangible assets, including goodwill and other identifiable acquired intangibles on our balance sheet due to prior acquisitions. Based on our 2017 annual goodwill impairment assessment, we determined that goodwill was impaired and we recorded an impairment of \$17.6 million.

The results of our impairment analysis are as of a particular point in time. If our assumptions regarding future forecasted revenue or profitability of our reporting units are not achieved, we may be required to record additional goodwill impairment charges in future periods, if any such change constitutes a triggering event prior to the quarter in which we perform our annual goodwill impairment test.

Competition in our industry and innovation by our competitors may hinder our ability to execute our business strategy and adversely affect our profitability.

The markets for our products and services are highly competitive, with competition primarily at local and regional levels. We compete primarily based on the level and quality of customer service, technological leadership, and price. Our future success depends, in part, on our ability to continue to improve our service and product offerings, and develop and integrate new technology solutions. In addition, current and prospective customers may decide to perform certain services themselves instead of outsourcing these services to us. These competitive pressures could adversely affect our sales and consolidated results of operations.

We also face the possibility that competition will continue to increase, particularly if copy and printing or business services companies choose to compete in lines of business similar to ours. Many of these companies are substantially larger and have significantly greater financial resources than us, which could place us at a competitive disadvantage. In addition, we could encounter competition in the future from large, well-capitalized companies such as equipment dealers and system integrators that can produce their own technology and leverage their existing distribution channels. Any such future competition could adversely affect our business and reduce our future revenue and profitability. If we are unable to charge for our value-added services to offset declines in print volumes, our long-term revenue could decline.

Our customers value the ability to view and order prints over the internet and print to output devices in their own offices and other locations throughout the country and the world. In 2017, our CDIM sales, which consists of the management, distribution, and production of documents and information related to construction projects, including large-format construction drawings, black and white and color signage, specification documents, and marketing material represented approximately 52% of our total net sales, and our MPS represented approximately 33% of our total net sales. Both categories of revenue are generally derived from a charge per square foot of printed material. Future technology advances may further facilitate and improve our customers' ability to reduce print and the associated costs thereof. As technology continues to improve, this trend toward printing on an "as needed" basis could result in further decreased printing volumes and sales decline in the longer term. Failure to offset these declines in printing volumes by changing how we charge for our services and develop additional revenue sources could significantly affect our business and reduce our long term revenue, resulting in an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

We derive a significant percentage of net sales from within the State of California and our business could be disproportionately harmed by an economic downturn or natural disaster affecting California.

We derived approximately 34% of our net sales in 2017 from our operations in California. As a result, we are dependent to a large extent upon the AEC/O industry in California and, accordingly, are sensitive to economic factors affecting AEC/O activity in California, including general and local economic conditions, macroeconomic trends, political factors affecting commercial and residential real estate development and natural disasters (including drought, earthquakes and wildfires). Any adverse developments affecting California could have a disproportionately negative effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our growth strategy depends, in part, on our ability to successfully market and execute several different, but related, service offerings. Failure to do so could impede our future growth and adversely affect our competitive position.

As part of our growth strategy, we intend to continue to offer and grow a variety of service offerings that are relatively new to the company. Our efforts will be affected by our ability to acquire new customers for our new service offerings



as well as sell the new service offerings to existing customers. If we fail to procure new customers, our growth may be adversely affected and we may incur operating losses as a result of a failure to realize revenue from investments made in new service offerings.

We are dependent upon our vendors to continue to supply us equipment, parts, supplies, and services at comparable terms and price levels as the business grows.

Our access to equipment, parts, supplies, and services depends upon our relationships with, and our ability to purchase these items on competitive terms from our principal vendors. These vendors are not required to use us to distribute their equipment and are generally free to change the prices and other terms at which they sell to us. In addition, we compete with the selling efforts of some of these vendors. Significant deterioration in relationships with, or in the financial condition of, these significant vendors could have an adverse effect on our ability to sell equipment as well as our ability to provide effective service and technical support. If one of these vendors terminates or significantly curtails its relationship with us, or if one of these vendors ceases operations, we would be forced to expand our relationships with our other existing vendors or seek out new relationships with previously unused vendors.

Our failure to adequately protect the proprietary aspects of our technology, including SKYSITE®, PlanWell®, and Abacus™ may cause us to lose market share.

Our success depends on our ability to protect and preserve the proprietary aspects of our technology products. We rely on a combination of copyright, trademark and trade secret protection, confidentiality agreements, license agreements, non-competition agreements, reseller agreements, customer contracts, and technical measures to establish and protect our rights in our proprietary technologies. These protections, however, may not be adequate to remedy harm we suffer due to misappropriation of our proprietary rights by third parties. In addition, the laws of certain countries may not protect our proprietary rights to the same extent as the laws of the United States and we may be unable to protect our proprietary technology adequately against unauthorized third-party copying or use, which could adversely affect our competitive position. It is also possible that our intellectual property rights could be challenged, invalidated or circumvented, allowing others to use our intellectual property to our competitive detriment. We also must ensure that all of our products comply with existing and newly enacted regulatory requirements in the countries in which they are sold. Furthermore, we may, from time to time, be subject to intellectual property litigation which can be expensive, a burden on management's time and our Company's resources, and the outcome of any such litigation may be uncertain. Our computer hardware and software and telecommunications systems are susceptible to damage, breach or interruption.

The management of our business is aided by the uninterrupted operation of our computer and telecommunication systems. These systems are vulnerable to security breaches, natural disasters or other catastrophic events, computer viruses, or other interruptions or damage stemming from power outages, equipment failure or unintended usage by employees. In particular, our employees may have access or exposure to personally identifiable or otherwise confidential information and customer data and systems, the misuse of which could result in legal liability. In addition, we rely on information technology systems to process, transmit and store electronic information and to communicate among our locations around the world and with our clients, partners and consultants, including through cloud-based platforms often provided by third parties. The breadth and complexity of this infrastructure increases the potential risk of security breaches. Security breaches, including cyber-attacks or cyber-intrusions by computer hackers, foreign governments, cyber terrorists or others with grievances against the industry in which we operate or us in particular, may disable or damage the proper functioning of our networks and systems. It is possible that our security controls, or those of the third parties with whom we partner, over personal and other data may not prevent unauthorized access to, or destruction, loss, theft, misappropriation or release of personally identifiable or other proprietary, confidential, sensitive or valuable information of ours or others; this access could lead to potential unauthorized disclosure of confidential Company or client information that others could use to compete against us or for other disruptive, destructive or harmful purposes and outcomes. Any such disclosure or damage to our networks, or those of the third parties with whom we partner, and systems could subject us to third party claims against us and reputational harm. If these events occur, our ability to attract new clients may be impaired or we may be subjected to damages or penalties. In addition, system-wide or local failures of these information technology systems could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

In performing our document management services, we handle customers' confidential information. Our failure to protect our customers' confidential information against security breaches could damage our reputation, harm our business and adversely affect our results of operations.

Our document management services involve the handling of our customers' confidential information. Any compromise of security, accidental loss or theft of customer data in our possession could damage our reputation and expose us to risk of liability, which could harm our business and adversely affect our consolidated results of operation.

Added risks are associated with our international operations.

We have international operations in China, India, the United Kingdom, Canada, Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates, and Australia. Approximately 14% of our revenues for 2017 were derived from our international operations, with approximately 8% derived from China. Our future revenues, costs of operations and net income could be adversely affected by a number of factors

related to our international operations, including changes in economic conditions from country to country, currency fluctuations, changes in a country's political condition, trade protection measures, licensing and other legal requirements and local tax issues.

A large percentage of our cash and cash equivalents are held outside of the United States, and we could be subject to repatriation delays and costs which could reduce our financial flexibility.

Approximately 52% of our cash and cash equivalents are currently held outside the United States. Repatriation of some of the funds could be subject to delay for local country approvals and could have potential adverse tax consequences. As a result of holding cash and cash equivalents outside of the U.S., our financial flexibility may be reduced.

Our business could suffer if we fail to attract, retain, and successfully integrate skilled personnel.

We believe that our ability to attract, retain, and successfully integrate qualified personnel is critical to our success. As we continue to place more emphasis on document management and storage technology, our need to hire and retain software and other technology focused personnel has and can be expected to continue to increase. Competition for such personnel, particularly in the San Francisco Bay Area, is intense. If we lose key personnel and/or are unable to recruit qualified personnel, our ability to manage and grow our business will be adversely affected. In addition, the loss of the services of one or more members of our senior management team would disrupt our business and impede our ability to successfully execute our business strategy.

The market prices of our common stock may be volatile, which could cause the value of an investment in our stock to decline.

The market price of our common stock may fluctuate substantially due to a variety of factors, many of which are beyond our control. Between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017, the closing price of our common stock has fluctuated from a low of \$2.41 to a high of \$5.44 per share. Factors that may contribute to fluctuations in the market prices of our common stock include:

- failure to sustain an active, liquid trading market for our shares;

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