

MERCADOLIBRE INC
Form DEF 14A
April 26, 2013
Table of Contents

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

SCHEDULE 14A
(RULE 14a-101)

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

MercadoLibre, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

Edgar Filing: MERCADOLIBRE INC - Form DEF 14A

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

 - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

 - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

 - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

 - (5) Total fee paid:
- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
 - (1) Amount Previously Paid:

 - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

 - (3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Table of Contents

Arias 3751, 7th Floor

Buenos Aires, Argentina C1430CRG

April 26, 2013

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of MercadoLibre, Inc., which will be held at 12:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on Thursday, June 14, 2013, at the offices of Hunton & Williams LLP, 1111 Brickell Avenue, Suite 2500, Miami, Florida.

We are pleased to use the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission rule that allows companies to furnish proxy materials to their stockholders primarily over the Internet. We believe that this electronic process should expedite your receipt of our proxy materials, lower the costs of our Annual Meeting, and help to conserve natural resources. On or about April 26, 2013, we first mailed to our stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability containing instructions on how to access our 2013 Proxy Statement and Annual Report and vote. The notice also included instructions on how to receive a paper copy of our proxy materials, including the proxy statement, proxy card and 2012 Annual Report.

Thank you and we look forward to your attendance at the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or receiving your proxy vote. On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to express our appreciation for your continued interest in MercadoLibre.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Marcos Galperin

Marcos Galperin

Chairman of the Board, President and Chief

Executive Officer

Table of Contents

Arias 3751, 7th Floor

Buenos Aires, Argentina C1430CRG

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON JUNE 14, 2013

To Our Stockholders:

Notice is hereby given that the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of MercadoLibre, Inc. (the 2013 Annual Meeting) will be held at 12:00 p.m., Eastern time, on June 14, 2013, at the offices of Hunton & Williams LLP, 1111 Brickell Avenue, Suite 2500, Miami, Florida. The meeting is called for the following purposes:

1. To elect the three Class III directors nominated and recommended by our board of directors, each to serve until the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until such time as their respective successors are elected and qualified, and to elect the two Class II directors nominated and recommended by our board to serve until the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until such time as their respective successors are elected and qualified;
2. To hold an advisory vote on executive compensation;
3. To ratify the appointment of Deloitte & Co. S.A. as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013; and
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Our board of directors has fixed the close of business on April 19, 2013 as the record date for determining the stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the 2013 Annual Meeting. Only stockholders of record as of the close of business on April 19, 2013 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the 2013 Annual Meeting and at any adjournment or postponement thereof. We ask that as promptly as possible you vote via the Internet, by telephone or, if you requested to receive printed proxy materials, by mailing a proxy or voting instruction card.

This is an important meeting and all stockholders are invited to attend the meeting in person. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting in person, please vote according to the instructions in this proxy statement. Voting on the Internet or by telephone is fast and convenient, and your vote is immediately confirmed and tabulated. Using the Internet or telephone saves us money by reducing postage and proxy tabulation costs. Stockholders who vote via Internet, telephone or by executing and returning a proxy card may nevertheless attend the meeting, revoke their proxy and vote their shares in person.

By order of the board of directors,

/s/ Jacobo Cohen Imach

Buenos Aires, Argentina
April 26, 2013

Jacobo Cohen Imach
Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the 2013 Annual Meeting. The Notice of Meeting and Proxy Statement for the 2013 Annual Meeting and our 2012 Annual Report to Stockholders are available electronically at www.proxyvote.com.

Table of Contents

MercadoLibre, Inc.

Arias 3751, 7th Floor

Buenos Aires, Argentina C1430CRG

PROXY STATEMENT

INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS

Under U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules, we are furnishing proxy materials to our stockholders primarily via the Internet, instead of mailing printed copies of those materials to each stockholder. On or about April 26, 2013 we first mailed to our stockholders (other than those who previously requested electronic or paper delivery) a Notice of Internet Availability containing instructions on how to access our proxy materials, including our proxy statement and our 2012 Annual Report. The Notice of Internet Availability also instructs you on how to access your proxy card to vote through the Internet or by telephone.

This process is designed to expedite stockholders' receipt of proxy materials, lower the cost of the annual meeting, and help conserve natural resources. However, if you would prefer to receive printed proxy materials, please follow the instructions included in the Notice of Internet Availability. If you have previously elected to receive our proxy materials electronically, you will continue to receive these materials via e-mail unless you elect otherwise.

ATTENDING THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

Attending in Person

Doors open 11:30 a.m., Eastern Time

Annual Meeting starts at 12:00 p.m., Eastern Time

If you wish to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting in person, please register in advance by emailing investor relations at investor@mercadolibre.com by no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on June 13, 2013. Attendance at the 2013 Annual Meeting will be limited to individuals that register in advance and present proof of stock ownership on the record date and picture identification. If you are a stockholder of record, you must bring picture identification, such as a valid driver's license. If you hold your shares through a stockbroker or other nominee, you will need to provide proof of ownership by bringing either a copy of the voting instruction card provided by your broker or a copy of a brokerage statement showing your share ownership as of April 19, 2013, as well as picture identification.

No use of cameras

You do not need to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting to vote if you submitted your proxy in advance of the 2013 Annual Meeting

Listening on the Internet

Live webcast available at <http://investor.mercadolibre.com>

Edgar Filing: MERCADOLIBRE INC - Form DEF 14A

Webcast starts at 12:00 p.m., Eastern Time

Replay available until July 13, 2013

i

Table of Contents

QUESTIONS

For questions regarding:
2013 Annual Meeting

You may contact:
MercadoLibre Investor Relations by going to
<http://investor.mercadolibre.com/contactus.cfm> and submitting your question or
request

Voting Stock Ownership

Computershare

P.O. Box 43078, Providence, RI 02940, USA

Telephone: 1-888-313-1478 (U.S. investors)

1-781-575-3100 (Non-U.S. investors)

Web: www.computershare.com/investor

Table of Contents

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROXY MATERIALS AND
OUR 2013 ANNUAL MEETING**

Q: Why am I receiving these materials?

A: Our board of directors is providing these proxy materials to you in connection with our board's solicitation of proxies for use at our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the 2013 Annual Meeting), which will take place on June 14, 2013. Stockholders are invited to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting and are requested to vote on the proposals described in this proxy statement.

Q: What information is contained in these materials?

A: The information included in this proxy statement relates to the proposals to be voted on at the 2013 Annual Meeting, the voting process, the compensation of our directors and our named executive officers, and certain other required information.

Q: Why did I receive a notice in the mail regarding the Internet availability of proxy materials instead of a full set of proxy materials?

A: In accordance with SEC rules, we may furnish proxy materials, including this proxy statement and our 2012 Annual Report, which includes our audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2012, to our stockholders by providing access to these documents on the Internet instead of mailing printed copies. On or about April 26, 2013 we first mailed to our stockholders (other than those who previously requested electronic or paper delivery) a Notice of Internet Availability containing instructions on how to access our proxy materials, including our proxy statement and our 2012 Annual Report. The Notice of Internet Availability also instructs you on how to access your proxy card to vote through the Internet, by telephone or by mail. You will not receive printed copies of the proxy materials unless you request them. Instead, the Notice of Internet Availability will instruct you as to how you may access and review all of the proxy materials on the Internet. If you would like to receive a paper or electronic copy of our proxy materials, including a copy of our 2012 Annual Report, you should follow the instructions in the notice for requesting these materials.

Q: How do I get electronic access to the proxy materials?

A: The Notice of Internet Availability will provide you with instructions regarding how to:

view our proxy materials for the 2013 Annual Meeting on the Internet; and

instruct us to send our future proxy materials to you electronically by e-mail.

Choosing to receive your future proxy materials by e-mail will save us the cost of printing and mailing documents to you and will reduce the impact of printing and mailing these materials on the environment. If you choose to receive future proxy materials by e-mail, you will receive an e-mail next year with instructions containing a link to those materials and a link to the proxy voting site. Your election to receive proxy materials by e-mail will remain in effect until you terminate it.

Q: What proposals will be voted on at the 2013 Annual Meeting?

A: There are three proposals scheduled for a vote at the 2013 Annual Meeting:

the election of the three Class III directors nominated and recommended by our board, each to serve until the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until such time as their respective successors are elected and qualified, and the election of the two Class II directors nominated and recommended by our board to serve until the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until such time as their respective successors are elected and qualified;

iii

Table of Contents

an advisory vote on executive compensation; and

the ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Co. S.A. as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013.

Q: What are our board's voting recommendations?

A: Our board recommends that you vote your shares:

FOR the election of the three Class III directors nominated and recommended by our board;

FOR the election of the two Class II directors nominated and recommended by our board;

FOR the approval of our executive compensation; and

FOR the ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Co. S.A. as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2013.

Q: How many shares are entitled to vote?

A: Each share of our common stock outstanding as of the close of business on April 19, 2013, the record date, is entitled to one vote at the 2013 Annual Meeting. At the close of business on April 19, 2013, 44,152,933 shares of our common stock were outstanding and entitled to vote. You may vote all of the shares owned by you as of the close of business on the record date and each share of common stock held by you on the record date represents one vote. These shares include shares that are (1) held of record directly in your name and (2) held for you as the beneficial owner through a stockbroker, bank or other nominee.

Q: What is the difference between holding shares as a stockholder of record and as a beneficial owner?

A: Most stockholders of MercadoLibre hold their shares beneficially through a stockbroker, bank or other nominee rather than directly in their own name. There are some distinctions between shares held of record and shares owned beneficially, specifically:

Shares held of record

If your shares are registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, Computershare, you are considered the stockholder of record with respect to those shares, and the Notice of Internet Availability was sent directly to you. As the stockholder of record, you have the right to grant your voting proxy directly to us or to vote in person at the 2013 Annual Meeting. If you requested to receive printed proxy materials, we have enclosed or sent a proxy card for you to use. Each stockholder of record is entitled to vote by proxy as described in the Notice of Internet Availability and below under the heading *How can I vote my shares without attending the 2013 Annual Meeting?*

Shares owned beneficially

If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account or by a bank or other nominee, you are considered the beneficial owner of shares held in street name, and the Notice of Internet Availability was forwarded to you by your broker or nominee who is considered, with respect to those shares, the stockholder of record. As the beneficial owner or nominee, you have the right to direct your broker or other nominee on how to vote

Edgar Filing: MERCADOLIBRE INC - Form DEF 14A

the shares in your account, and you are also invited to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting.

However, because you are not the stockholder of record, you may not vote these shares in person at the 2013 Annual Meeting unless you request and receive a valid proxy from your broker or other nominee. If you do not wish to vote in person or you will not be attending the Annual Meeting, you may vote by proxy as described in the Notice of Internet Availability and below under the heading How can I vote my shares without attending the 2013 Annual Meeting?

Table of Contents

Q: Can I attend the 2013 Annual Meeting?

A: You are invited to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting if you are a stockholder of record or a beneficial owner as of April 19, 2013. If you wish to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting in person, please register in advance by emailing investor relations at investor@mercadolibre.com. Attendance at the 2013 Annual Meeting will be limited to individuals that register in advance and present proof of stock ownership on the record date and picture identification. If you are a stockholder of record, you must bring picture identification, such as a valid driver's license. If you hold your shares through a stockbroker or other nominee, you will need to provide proof of ownership by bringing either a copy of the voting instruction card provided by your broker or a copy of a brokerage statement showing your share ownership as of April 19, 2013, as well as picture identification. If you do not attend the 2013 Annual Meeting, you can listen to a live webcast of the proceedings at our investor relations website at <http://investor.mercadolibre.com>.

Q: How can I vote my shares in person at the 2013 Annual Meeting?

A: Shares held directly in your name as the stockholder of record may be voted in person at the 2013 Annual Meeting. If you choose to vote in person, please bring proof of identification. Even if you plan to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting, we recommend that you vote your shares in advance as described below so that your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting. Shares held in street name through a brokerage account or by a bank or other nominee may be voted in person by you if you obtain a valid proxy from the record holder giving you the right to vote the shares.

Q: How can I vote my shares without attending the 2013 Annual Meeting?

A: Whether you hold shares directly as the stockholder of record or beneficially in street name, you may vote without attending the 2013 Annual Meeting as follows:

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote by proxy over the Internet or by telephone by following the instructions provided in the Notice of Internet Availability, or, if you requested to receive printed proxy materials, you can also vote by mail pursuant to instructions provided on the proxy card.

If you hold shares beneficially in street name, you may also vote by proxy over the Internet or by telephone by following the instructions provided in the Notice of Internet Availability, or, if you requested to receive printed proxy materials, you can also vote by mail by following the voting instruction card provided to you by your broker, bank, trustee or nominee.

Under Delaware law, votes cast by Internet or telephone have the same effect as votes cast by submitting a written proxy card.

Q: Can I change my vote or revoke my proxy?

A: If you are the stockholder of record, you may change your proxy instructions or revoke your proxy at any time before your proxy is voted at the 2013 Annual Meeting. Proxies may be revoked by any of the following actions:

filing a timely written notice of revocation with our Corporate Secretary at our principal executive office (Arias 3751, 7th Floor, Buenos Aires, Argentina, C1430CRG);

Edgar Filing: MERCADOLIBRE INC - Form DEF 14A

granting a new proxy bearing a later date (which automatically revokes the earlier proxy) using any of the methods described above (and until the applicable deadline for each method); or

attending the 2013 Annual Meeting and voting in person (attendance at the meeting will not, by itself, revoke a proxy).
If your shares are held through a brokerage account or by a bank or other nominee, you may change your vote by:

submitting new voting instructions to your broker, bank, or nominee following the instructions they provided; or

v

Table of Contents

if you have obtained a legal proxy from your broker, bank, or nominee giving you the right to vote your shares, by attending the 2013 Annual Meeting and voting in person.

Q: How are votes counted?

A: *Election of three Class III Directors.* In the election of three Class III directors, you may vote for any or all of the nominees for Class III director or you may withhold your vote with respect to any or all of the nominees for Class III director. Only votes for will be counted in determining whether a plurality has been cast in favor of a Class III director.

Election of two Class II Directors. In the election of two Class II directors, you may vote for either or both of the nominees for Class II director or you may withhold your vote with respect to either or both of the nominees for Class II director. Only votes for will be counted in determining whether a plurality has been cast in favor of a Class II director.

Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation. In the advisory vote on executive compensation, you may vote for, against or abstain. If you abstain from voting, it will have the same effect as a vote against this proposal.

Ratification of Appointment of Independent Auditor. In the proposal to ratify the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for 2013, you may vote for, against or abstain. If you abstain from voting, it will have the same effect as a vote against this proposal.

If you sign and return your proxy card or broker voting instruction card without giving specific voting instructions, your shares will be voted FOR the election of the three Class III directors nominated and recommended by our board and named in this proxy statement, FOR the election of the two Class II directors nominated and recommended by our board and named in this proxy statement, FOR approval of our executive compensation, FOR the ratification of the approval of our independent auditors, and at the discretion of the proxies in any other matters properly brought before the 2013 Annual Meeting.

If you are a beneficial holder and do not return a voting instruction card, your broker is only authorized to vote on the ratification of the approval of our independent auditors. See What are broker non-votes and what effect do they have on the proposals?

Q: Who will count the votes?

A: A representative of Hunton & Williams LLP will tabulate the votes at the 2013 Annual Meeting and act as the inspector of elections.

Q: What is the quorum requirement for the 2013 Annual Meeting?

A: The quorum requirement for holding the 2013 Annual Meeting and transacting business is a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote. The shares may be present in person or represented by proxy at the 2013 Annual Meeting. Both abstentions and broker non-votes are counted as present for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum.

Q: What is the voting requirement to approve each of the proposals?

A: *Election of three Class III Directors.* Class III directors are elected by plurality vote of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the matter, meaning that the three Class III director nominees receiving the highest number of FOR votes will be elected.

Election of two Class II Directors. Class II directors are elected by plurality vote of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the matter, meaning that the two Class II director nominees receiving the highest number of FOR votes will be elected.

Table of Contents

Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation. The vote of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy is required to approve our executive compensation. This vote is advisory and will not be binding on the company, the board of directors or the compensation committee.

Ratification of Appointment of Independent Auditor. The vote of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy is required to ratify the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for 2013.

Q: What are broker non-votes and what effect do they have on the proposals?

A: Generally, broker non-votes occur when shares held by a broker, bank or other nominee in street name for a beneficial owner are not voted with respect to a particular proposal because (1) the broker, bank or other nominee has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner and (2) the broker, bank or other nominee lacks discretionary voting power to vote those shares. A broker, bank or other nominee is entitled to vote shares held for a beneficial owner on routine matters without instructions from the beneficial owner of those shares, but is not entitled to vote shares held for a beneficial owner on any non-routine matter without instruction from the beneficial owner. The ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm is considered to be a routine matter for which brokers, banks or other nominees holding shares in street name may exercise discretionary voting power in the absence of voting instructions from the beneficial owner. As a result, broker non-votes will not arise in connection with, and thus will have no effect on, this proposal. Unlike the proposal to ratify the appointment of our independent auditors, the election of directors and the advisory vote on executive compensation are each considered a non-routine matter. As a result, brokers, banks or other nominees holding shares in street name that have not received voting instructions from their clients cannot vote on their clients' behalf on these proposals. **Therefore, it is very important that you provide your broker, bank or other nominee who is holding your shares in street name with voting instructions with respect to these proposals in one of the manners set forth in this proxy statement.** Under Delaware law, broker non-votes that arise in connection with the election of directors or the advisory vote on executive compensation votes will have no effect on these proposals.

Q: Where can I find the voting results of the 2013 Annual Meeting?

A: We will announce final voting results in a current report on Form 8-K that will be filed with the SEC within four business days after the 2013 Annual Meeting and that will also be available on our investor relations website at <http://investor.mercadolibre.com>.

Q: Who will bear the cost of soliciting votes for the 2013 Annual Meeting?

A: We will pay the entire cost of preparing, assembling, printing, mailing, and distributing these proxy materials. If you choose to access the proxy materials and/or vote over the Internet, you are responsible for any Internet access charges you may incur. If you choose to vote by telephone, you are responsible for telephone charges you may incur. In addition to the mailing of these proxy materials, the solicitation of proxies or votes may be made in person, by telephone or by electronic communication by our directors, officers and employees, who will not receive any additional compensation for such solicitation activities.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| <u>INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS</u> | i |
| <u>ATTENDING THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING</u> | i |
| <u>QUESTIONS</u> | ii |
| <u>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROXY MATERIALS AND OUR 2013 ANNUAL MEETING</u> | iii |
| <u>PROPOSAL ONE: ELECTION OF THREE CLASS III DIRECTORS (PROPOSAL 1A) AND ELECTION OF TWO CLASS II DIRECTORS (PROPOSAL 1B)</u> | 1 |
| <u>INFORMATION ON OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u> | 5 |
| <u>DIRECTOR COMPENSATION</u> | 14 |
| <u>SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE</u> | 16 |
| <u>EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u> | 16 |
| <u>BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF OUR COMMON STOCK</u> | 18 |
| <u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u> | 21 |
| <u>PROPOSAL TWO: ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u> | 44 |
| <u>COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION</u> | 46 |
| <u>CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS</u> | 46 |
| <u>REVIEW, APPROVAL OR RATIFICATION OF TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES</u> | 46 |
| <u>AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT</u> | 47 |
| <u>PROPOSAL THREE: RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u> | 48 |
| <u>HEADQUARTERS INFORMATION</u> | 50 |
| <u>OTHER MATTERS</u> | 50 |
| <u>STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2013 ANNUAL MEETING</u> | 51 |

Table of Contents**PROPOSAL ONE:****ELECTION OF THREE CLASS III DIRECTORS (PROPOSAL 1A)****AND ELECTION OF TWO CLASS II DIRECTORS (PROPOSAL 1B)**

Our certificate of incorporation provides for our board to be divided into three classes, with each class having a three-year term. In accordance with our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, the number of directors that constitutes our board of directors is fixed from time to time by a resolution duly adopted by our board. Our board has set the size of the board at nine directors. Information as to the directors currently comprising each class of directors and the current term expiration date of each class of directors is set forth in the following table:

| Class | Directors Comprising Class | Current Term Expiration Date |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Class I | Susan Segal Michael Spence Mario Eduardo Vázquez | 2014 Annual Meeting |
| Class II | Nicolás Galperin Meyer Malka Javier Olivan | 2015 Annual Meeting |
| Class III | Emiliano Calemzuk Marcos Galperin Veronica Allende Serra | 2013 Annual Meeting |

A director elected to fill a vacancy (including a vacancy created by an increase in the size of our board) will serve for the remainder of the term of the class of directors in which the vacancy occurred and until his or her successor is elected and qualified, or until his or her earlier death, resignation, or removal. As discussed in greater detail below in [Information on our Board of Directors](#) [Director Independence and Family Relationships](#), our Board has determined that seven of the nine current members of our board are independent directors within the meaning of the listing standards of The NASDAQ Global Market and our corporate governance guidelines.

The terms of our three Class III directors are set to expire at the 2013 Annual Meeting. The nominating and corporate governance committee recommended, and our board nominated, each of Emiliano Calemzuk, Marcos Galperin and Veronica Allende Serra as nominees for re-election as Class III members of our board at the 2013 Annual Meeting ([Proposal 1A](#)). If elected at the 2013 Annual Meeting, each of the nominees will serve until our 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until his successor is duly elected and qualified, or until his earlier death, resignation, or removal.

In addition, on December 6, 2012, our board increased the size of the board to nine directors and appointed Javier Olivan to serve as a Class II director. Pursuant to our bylaws, the nominating and corporate governance committee has recommended and our board has nominated, Javier Olivan, as nominee for election as a Class II member of our board at the 2013 Annual Meeting. If elected at the 2013 Annual Meeting, Mr. Olivan will serve until our 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until his successor is duly elected and qualified or until his earlier death, resignation or removal. Mr. Olivan's name as a potential candidate for director was initially submitted to the nominating and corporate governance committee by our chief executive officer.

Also, on March 5, 2013, our board appointed Meyer Malka to serve as a Class II director, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Martin de los Santos from our board effective on March 4, 2013. Pursuant to our bylaws, the nominating and corporate governance committee has recommended and our board has nominated, Meyer Malka, as nominee for election as a Class II member of our board at the 2013 Annual Meeting (together with the election of Mr. Olivan, [Proposal 1B](#)). If elected at the 2013 Annual Meeting, Mr. Malka will serve until our 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until his successor is duly elected and qualified or until his earlier death, resignation or removal. Mr. Malka's name as a potential candidate for director was initially submitted to the nominating and corporate governance committee by our

chief executive officer.

Table of Contents

If any of the nominees is unexpectedly unavailable for election, shares represented by validly delivered proxies will be voted for the election of a substitute nominee proposed by our nominating and corporate governance committee or our board may determine to reduce the size of our board. Each person nominated for election and named above has agreed to serve if elected.

Set forth below is biographical information for the nominees, as well as the key attributes, experience and skills that the board believes each nominee brings to the board.

Nominees for Election as Class III Directors

Emiliano Calemzuk, age 39, joined our board in August 2007. Mr. Calemzuk serves as Chairman of the advisory boards of the Heart of Los Angeles Organization, a non-profit organization where he has served since 2010. From September 2010 to January 2012, Mr. Calemzuk served as Chief Executive Officer of Shine Group Americas (and its subsidiaries), major producers of television in the U.S. market. Prior to joining Shine, from 2007 to 2010, Mr. Calemzuk was President of Fox Television Studios, another major supplier of programming to U.S. cable and broadcast networks. From 2002 to 2007, Mr. Calemzuk served as President of Fox International Channels Italy. From 2000 to 2002, Mr. Calemzuk was Vice President and Deputy Managing Director of Fox Latin American Channels and was also employed as General Manager of Fox Kids Latin America. From 1998 to 2000, Mr. Calemzuk served as Associate Director of Marketing and Promotions for Fox Latin America. Prior to that, he worked at Hero Productions. He holds a bachelor's degree, cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Mr. Calemzuk contributes significant leadership experience in media, marketing and promotions. His service as President of Fox Television Studios provides valuable business, leadership and management experience, including expertise leading a large organization with global operations, giving him a keen understanding of the issues facing a multinational business such as MercadoLibre. Similarly, he has led the growth of international operations of Fox in both Latin America and Italy. In particular, he is a leader in alternative entertainment and technology genres, uniquely positioning him to provide thought leadership and guidance as MercadoLibre adapts to a changing technology and entertainment world.

Marcos Galperin, age 41, is one of our co-founders and has served as our chairman, president and chief executive officer and one of our directors since our inception in October 1999. He is a board member of Endeavor, a non-profit organization that selects mentors and accelerates high impact entrepreneurs around the world. He is also a member of the Stanford Management Board of the Graduate School of Business. Prior to working with us, Mr. Galperin worked in the fixed income department of J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. in New York from June to August 1998 and at YPF S.A., an integrated oil company, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he was a Futures and Options Associate and managed YPF's currency and oil derivatives program from 1994 to 1997. Mr. Galperin received an MBA from Stanford University and graduated with honors from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Mr. Galperin brings leadership and extensive experience and knowledge of our company and industry to the board. As the founder and president of our company, Mr. Galperin has the most long-term and valuable hands-on knowledge of the issues, opportunities and challenges facing us and our business. In addition, Mr. Galperin brings his broad strategic vision for our company to the board. Mr. Galperin's service as our chairman and president and Chief Executive Officer provides a critical link between management and the board, enabling the board to perform its oversight function with the benefits of management's perspectives on the business.

Veronica Allende Serra, age 43, joined our board in September 2007. Ms. Serra is the founding partner of Pacific Advisors since 2006, where she advises funds and corporations in their acquisitions and strategy.

Table of Contents

Between 1998 and 2001, she ran the office for Latin American Investments for International Real Returns LLC, a holding of global investments with \$600 million under management with principal capital from the shareholders of Lazard Freres, an investment bank. Ms. Serra has invested in over a dozen companies in the United States and Latin America. She was an advisor and investor of Patagon, an on-line brokerage and bank that was sold to Banco Santander in 2000. Ms. Serra is currently sits in the following boards: Portal de Documentos (Chairman), Allied Advanced Technologies, Wow! Nutrition, ClearSale S.A. and SubwayLink (Advisory Board). She also sits on the nonprofit boards of iSmart Foundation, Instituto Sidarta and collaborates with Fundação Estudar, where she was a director for 3 years (2008-2010) and started its endowment. Between 1997 and 1998, she was Vice President and Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer of Leucadia National Corporation, an investment holding company based in New York. Ms. Serra has an MBA from Harvard Business School and a law degree from the University of São Paulo USP. She also holds a degree in art and advertising from the Escola Panamericana de Arte.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Ms. Serra provides our board with specific experience in acquisitions and other strategic transactions. She was chosen in part due to her extensive experience and leadership in global investments in both Latin America and the United States. In addition to business and finance, her law degree provides a legal perspective on our business transactions and her art and advertising degree provides marketing guidance with respect to our business decisions. Further, her dual education in both Brazil and the United States provides insights in both of our major areas of operation and oversight. She currently resides in Brazil, one of our most important markets. Ms. Serra's diverse background also contributes to her effectiveness as our lead independent director, enabling her to lead in a number of different areas.

Nominees for Election as Class II Directors

Javier Olivan, 36, is the Vice President of Growth and Analytics at Facebook, Inc. He joined Facebook as Head of International Growth in 2007. In this role, he has been responsible for Facebook's international efforts, setting strategy and helping to drive the growth of Facebook's user base across the globe through product, marketing and internationalization initiatives. His role has since expanded to also oversee all product analytics, mobile adoption and user engagement worldwide. Prior to working at Facebook, Mr. Olivan was a Product Manager at Siemens Mobile where he led a cross-functional team charged with the development and market launch of handset devices. Earlier in his career, Mr. Olivan worked for NTT Corporation in Japan as a research and development engineer and was part of a team that was responsible for developing software that enabled high quality wireless video transmission on to mobile devices. Mr. Olivan holds a master's degree in business administration from Stanford University and master's degrees in both electrical and industrial engineering from the University of Navarra.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Mr. Olivan contributes extensive knowledge in creating and growing internet usage across the globe and over various platforms (web and mobile). He also has a deep understanding of how social networks work, which uniquely positions him to provide thoughtful counsel to us as we explore the help our intersection of commerce and social media.

Meyer Micky Malka Rais, 38, is the managing partner at Ribbit Capital LP, a venture capital fund focused on investing in innovative companies in the financial services sector, a position he has held since May 2012. Mr. Malka has more than twenty years of experience building and investing in technology and financial services across three continents. Mr. Malka is the co-founder and current chairman of Lemon, Inc., an online financial service enabling individuals to access a virtual wallet online and track and manage their expenses. He currently serves on the board of Wonga Group Limited, a company offering loans that emphasize transparency, speed, convenience and flexibility through the website Wonga.com. Mr. Malka also currently serves on the

Table of Contents

boards of Peixe Urbano Inc., the first and largest Latin American local e-commerce company, MECK, Ltd., a private investment firm based in Santiago, Chile, where he was a founding partner, and Revista Climax, a Venezuelan magazine. In 1991, at the age of 18, Mr. Malka co-founded Heptagon Group, a securities and investment broker dealer servicing the Venezuelan and U.S. markets, where he served as Chief Operating Officer. In 1998, Mr. Malka developed the online brokerage Patagon.com, Inc., which became Latin America's first comprehensive Internet based financial services portal and dealer until its acquisition in March 2000 by the Spanish bank Banco Santander. Mr. Malka then served as the interim Chief Executive Officer for OpenBank S.A., an online bank in Spain and Germany. In 2003, he co-founded Banco Lemon, a Brazilian retail bank serving the underbanked population, which went on to become one of the largest private microfinance institutions in Brazil until 2009 when it was acquired by Banco do Brasil, Latin America's largest bank. In July 2008, Mr. Malka co-founded and was Co-Chief Executive Officer of Bling Nation Ltd., a Palo Alto-based mobile payments company until July 2011 when it evolved into Lemon Inc., where he currently serves as Chairman. In May 2011, Mr. Malka co-founded Banco Bracce, a Brazilian financial banking institution specializing in lending for mid-sized companies in Brazil, where he serves as Director. Mr. Malka graduated with a degree in economics from the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello in Caracas, Venezuela in 1996 and currently resides in Palo Alto, California.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Mr. Malka is an entrepreneur who brings deep industry expertise and expansive operational experience to our board. He has spent his career in the financial products and payments industries, and he has gained deep understanding of the transformative role that technology can play in these industries. From founding one of the earliest online brokerages in Latin America to creating a microfinance bank with thousands of branches throughout Brazil, to founding one of the earliest mobile payments companies in the United States, Mr. Malka has been at the forefront of bringing fundamentally transformative technologies to financial services. Serving as both an executive and a board member at companies of all stages of growth, he knows how to manage the transition from a rapidly growing start-up to a successful public company, while preserving the entrepreneurial spirit necessary to continually innovate. His deep industry expertise and diverse professional experiences giving him critical business insights into the challenges and opportunities presented for our business.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES FOR CLASS III DIRECTORS NAMED ABOVE AND FOR THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES FOR CLASS II DIRECTORS NAMED ABOVE

Table of Contents

INFORMATION ON OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Our business is managed by our employees under the direction and oversight of our board. Except for Mr. Marcos Galperin, none of the members of our board is an employee of MercadoLibre. Our board members remain informed of our business through discussions with management, materials we provide to them, and their participation in board and board committee meetings.

We believe open, effective, and accountable corporate governance practices are key to our relationship with our stockholders. Our board has adopted corporate governance guidelines that, along with the charters of our board committees and our code of business conduct and ethics, provide the framework for the governance of our company. A complete copy of our corporate governance guidelines, the charters of our board committees, and our code of business conduct and ethics may be found on our investor relations website at <http://investor.mercadolibre.com>. Information contained on our website is not part of this proxy statement. The board regularly reviews corporate governance developments and modifies these policies as warranted. Any changes in these governance documents will be reflected on the same location of our website.

Board of Directors

The following is biographical information on the remainder of our current directors, as well as the key attributes, experience and skills that the board believes such current directors bring to the board.

Class I Directors

Susan Segal, 60, has been president and Chief Executive Officer of the Americas Society and Council of the Americas since 2003, after having worked in the private sector for more than 30 years. Prior to her current position, Ms. Segal was a founding partner of her own investment advisory firm focused primarily on Latin America and the U.S. Hispanic market. Previously, she was a partner and Latin American Group Head at JPMorgan Partners/Chase Capital Partners, where she pioneered early stage venture capital investing in Latin America. Prior to joining Chase Capital Partners, Ms. Segal was a senior managing director focused on Emerging Markets Investment Banking and Capital Markets at Chase Bank and its predecessor banks. She was actively involved in developing investment banking, building an emerging-market bond-trading unit for Latin America and was also involved in the Latin American debt crisis of the 1980s and early 1990s both chairing and sitting on various advisory committees. Ms. Segal currently serves on various boards and committees, including at the Bank of Nova Scotia/Scotiabank, where she serves as a director and a member of the Audit Committee, the Tinker Foundation and the Latin American Venture Capital Association. She is also a member of the Council of Foreign Relations. In 1999, she was awarded the Order of Bernardo O'Higgins Grado de Gran Oficial in Chile and in 2009 President Uribe of Colombia honored her with the Cruz de San Carlos. Ms. Segal received a master's in business administration from Columbia University and a bachelor's degree from Sarah Lawrence College. Ms. Segal previously served as a director of the Company from 1999 to 2002.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Ms. Segal's impressive experience includes her background studying the economies of Latin American countries. She is also well-versed in Latin America's prospects for growth, integration, and economic and social development, and she is knowledgeable about economic inclusion, social empowerment, markets, overall business environment, and diversity issues. Her background includes experience in trade, private equity, venture capital, social media, and infrastructure. Ms. Segal's decades of experience in Latin America have enabled her to create an extensive network among Latin America's political and business leaders. Given the increasing political and other challenges involved with doing business across national borders in Latin America, the Committee believes that Ms. Segal's prior experience and extensive knowledge of these affairs qualify her to serve as a director of our company.

Table of Contents

Michael Spence, age 69, joined our board in 1999. Mr. Spence is Professor of Economics at the Stern School of Business at New York University, Professor Emeritus of Management in the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University. Since 2007 he has served as external advisor to the government of China on growth strategy and reform. Since 2010 he has served as consultant to PIMCO, and since 2011 Mr. Spence has served as senior advisor at Oak Hill Investment Management and director of the board of the Stanford Management Company. In 2012 Mr. Spence was appointed Chairman of the Academic Board of the Fung Global Institute. He currently is a Senior Fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford. Mr. Spence is also a distinguished visiting Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank, and publisher. He served as dean of the Stanford Business School from 1990 to 1999. Dr. Spence was awarded the John Kenneth Galbraith Prize for excellence in teaching and the John Bates Clark medal for a significant contribution to economic thought and knowledge. In 2001, Dr. Spence received the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences. From 2006 to 2010, Dr. Spence served as chairman of the Commission on Growth and Development. Dr. Spence earned his undergraduate degree in philosophy at Princeton summa cum laude and was selected for a Rhodes Scholarship. He was awarded a BS-MA from Oxford University and earned his doctorate degree in economics at Harvard University. He taught at Stanford as an Associate Professor of Economics from 1973 to 1975. From 1975 to 1990, he served as professor of Economics and Business Administration at Harvard, holding a joint appointment in the Business School and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. In 1983, he was named chairman of the Economics Department and George Gund Professor of Economics and Business Administration. From 1984 to 1990, Dr. Spence served as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard, overseeing Harvard College, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and the Division of Continuing Education. Since April 2005, Dr. Spence has served on the Board of Genpact Ltd., a NYSE-listed company that focuses on managing business processes, and previously served on the board of General Mills, Inc., from 1992 to 2008. Mr. Spence also serves on the board of a number of private companies. In the past he has served on the boards of Bank of America, Nike Inc., Siebel Systems, Inc., Exult Inc., a human resources company, Torstar Corporation, a publishing company, and Sun Microsystems, Inc.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Dr. Spence has strong leadership skills, having served as Dean of the Stanford Business School for nine years and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard for six years. Dr. Spence brings extensive experience in finance, developing country growth and management education. Further, he brings an academic perspective on the economy, business processes and developing markets, which enhances our board's ability to analyze macroeconomic trends that may impact our business. He is a frequent speaker on and leader of global economic policy. Dr. Spence's past service on the boards of major corporations, including General Mills, Bank of America, Nike and Sun Microsystems brings the board insights and best practices of admired public companies.

Mario Eduardo Vázquez, age 77, joined our board in May 2008. Mr. Vázquez serves as a member of the board of directors and as the president of the Audit Committee of Globant S.A. Mr. Vázquez served as the Chief Executive Officer of Grupo Telefónica in Argentina from June 2003 to November 2006, and served as a member of the board of directors of Telefónica S.A. Spain from November 2000 to November 2006. He has also served as a regular member of the board of directors of Telefónica Argentina S.A. and Telefónica Holding Argentina S.A., and as alternate member of the board of directors of Telefónica de Chile S.A until 2012. Mr. Vázquez served as a member of the board of directors of YPF S.A. and as the president of the Audit Committee of YPF S.A until 2012. Since November 2006, Mr. Vázquez has pursued personal interests in addition to his service as a director. Mr. Vázquez spent 23 years as a partner and general director of Arthur Andersen for Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay (Pistrelli, Diaz y Asociados and Andersen Consulting - Accenture), where he served for a total of 33 years until his retirement in 1993. Mr. Vázquez previously taught as a professor of Auditing at the Economics School of the University of Buenos Aires. Mr. Vázquez received a degree in accounting from the University of Buenos Aires.

Table of Contents

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Mr. Vázquez was chosen to join our board specifically to serve our audit committee as its audit committee financial expert. We targeted a director with financial and auditing experience specific to Latin American businesses. Mr. Vázquez worked in auditing for Arthur Andersen for 33 years total, including 23 years as a partner and general director, in many of our markets, including Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay. He also brings an academic perspective to the position from his time as a professor of Auditing at the Economics School of the University of Buenos Aires. Finally, Mr. Vázquez has employed these skills as a board member of several other technology and other companies, thus has important experience serving as a director and audit committee member.

Class II Director

Nicolás Galperin, 44, joined our board in 1999. Mr. Galperin is the principal of Onslow Capital Management Limited, an investment management company based in London, which he founded in 2006. Mr. Galperin worked at Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, an investment bank, from 1994 until 2006, and his last position was Managing Director and head of trading and risk management for the London emerging markets trading desk. In his career at Morgan Stanley, Mr. Galperin also acted as a trader of high-yield bonds, emerging market bonds and derivatives in New York and London. Mr. Galperin graduated with honors from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Galperin is the brother of Marcos Galperin, our chairman, president and chief executive officer.

Key Attributes, Experience and Skills:

Mr. Galperin's career in investment banking and investment management, including serving in various leadership roles at Morgan Stanley and Onslow Capital Management, provide valuable business experience and critical insights on the roles of finance and strategic transactions in our business. His particular focus on emerging capital markets and his leadership in risk management contribute key skills to our board. Based in London, Mr. Galperin brings experience with both Latin American and European businesses. In addition to this global business perspective, Mr. Galperin's extensive experience in banking and investments includes an understanding of financial statements, corporate finance, accounting and capital markets.

Director Independence and Family Relationships

NASDAQ rules require listed companies to have a board of directors with at least a majority of independent directors. Under NASDAQ's rules, in order for a director to be deemed independent, our board must determine that the individual does not have a relationship that would interfere with the director's exercise of independent judgment in carrying out his or her responsibilities as a director of our company. As part of our corporate governance guidelines, our board has adopted guidelines setting forth categories of relationships that it has deemed material for purposes of making a determination regarding a director's independence. On an annual basis, each member of our board is required to complete a questionnaire designed to provide information to assist our board in determining whether the director is independent under NASDAQ rules and our corporate governance guidelines. Our board has determined that each of Messrs. Calemzuk, Malka, Olivan, Spence and Vázquez, Ms. Segal and Ms. Serra, is independent under the listing standards of The NASDAQ Global Market and our corporate governance guidelines. Our governance guidelines require any director who has previously been determined to be independent to inform the chairman of our board and our corporate secretary of any change in circumstance that may cause his or her status as an independent director to change.

Other than Marcos Galperin and Nicolás Galperin, who are brothers, there are no family relationships among our officers and directors, nor are there any arrangements or understandings between any of our directors or officers or any other person pursuant to which any officer or director was or is to be selected as an officer or director.

Table of Contents

Board Leadership Structure

We do not have a fixed policy with respect to the separation of the offices of the chairman of the board and chief executive officer and believe that any determination in this regard is part of the executive succession planning process. The board understands that there is no single, generally accepted approach to providing board leadership and, in light of the competitive and dynamic environment in which we operate, the appropriate board leadership structure may vary from time to time as circumstances warrant.

Mr. Galperin currently serves as both our chairman and our president and chief executive officer. Our board believes service in these dual roles is in the best interests of our company and our stockholders. Mr. Galperin co-founded our company, has served as chief executive officer since our inception and is the only member of management on the board. The board is confident that he possesses the most thorough knowledge of the issues, opportunities and challenges facing us and our business and, accordingly, is the person best positioned to develop agendas that ensure that the board's time and attention are focused on the most critical matters. His combined role enables decisive leadership, ensures clear accountability, and enhances our ability to communicate our message and strategy clearly and consistently to our stockholders, employees and users.

Because the board also believes that strong, independent board leadership is a critical aspect of effective corporate governance, the board has established the position of lead independent director. The lead independent director is an independent director elected annually by the board. Ms. Serra currently serves as the lead independent director. As lead independent director, she chairs and has authority to call formal closed sessions of the outside directors, leads board meetings in the absence of the chairman, and leads the annual board self-assessment process. In addition, the lead independent director, together with the chair of the nominating and corporate governance committee, conducts interviews to confirm the continued qualification and willingness to serve of each director whose term is expiring at an annual meeting prior to the time at which directors are nominated for re-election.

Our board will continually evaluate the current leadership structure of the board with the goal of maximizing its effectiveness.

Risk Oversight

Our board of directors provides various forms of risk oversight. As part of this process, the board seeks to identify, prioritize, source, manage and monitor our critical risks. To this end, our board periodically, and at least annually, reviews the material risks faced by us, our risk management processes and systems and the adequacy of our policies and procedures designed to respond to and mitigate these risks.

The board has generally retained the primary risk oversight function and has an active role, in its entirety and also at the committee level, in overseeing management of our material risks. The board regularly reviews information regarding our operations, strategic plans and liquidity, as well as the risks associated with each. The audit committee oversees management of financial and internal control risks as well as the risks associated with related party transactions. Our director of internal audit reports directly to the audit committee. The compensation committee is responsible for overseeing the management of risks relating to our executive compensation plans and arrangements. The nominating and corporate governance committee oversees the management of risks associated with the composition and independence of our board and oversees our corporate governance policies and procedures related to risk management, including our whistleblower procedures, insider trading policy and corporate governance guidelines. While each committee is responsible for evaluating certain risks and overseeing the management of such risks, the entire board of directors is regularly informed through committee reports about such risks.

Stockholder Communications with our Board

Stockholders may communicate with our board, board committees or individual directors, including the lead independent director, c/o Corporate Secretary, Arias 3751, 7th Floor, Buenos Aires, Argentina, C1430CRG. The

Table of Contents

nominating and corporate governance committee has delegated responsibility for initial review of stockholder communications to our vice president of investor relations. In accordance with the committee's instructions, our vice president of investor relations will summarize all correspondence and make it available to each member of our board. In addition, the vice president of investor relations will forward copies of all stockholder correspondence to each member of the nominating and corporate governance committee, except for communications that are (a) advertisements or promotional communications, (b) solely related to complaints by users with respect to ordinary course of business customer service and satisfaction issues, or (c) clearly unrelated to our business, industry, management, or board or committee matters.

Attendance at Annual Meetings

We do not have a policy regarding director attendance at annual meetings of our stockholders. No members of our board of directors were able to attend our 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders in person.

Formal Closed Sessions

At the conclusion of each regularly scheduled board meeting, the outside directors have the opportunity to meet without our management or the other directors. The lead independent director leads these discussions.

Board Compensation

Board compensation is determined by the compensation committee. Only the directors who our board determines to be outside directors receive compensation for their service. Board compensation for our outside directors has historically consisted of both cash and equity compensation. Director compensation is reviewed from time to time by the compensation committee. Current board compensation is described under the heading "Compensation of Directors" below.

Outside Advisors

The board and each of its committees may retain outside advisors and consultants of their choosing at our expense. The board need not obtain management's consent to retain outside advisors.

Conflicts of Interest

We expect our directors, executives and employees to conduct themselves with the highest degree of integrity, ethics and honesty. MercadoLibre's credibility and reputation depend upon the good judgment, ethical standards and personal integrity of each director, executive, and employee. In order to better protect MercadoLibre and its stockholders, we periodically review our code of business conduct and ethics to ensure that it provides clear guidance to our employees and directors.

Transparency

We believe it is important that our stockholders understand our governance practices. In order to help ensure the transparency of our practices, we have posted information regarding our corporate governance procedures on our investor relations website at <http://investor.mercadolibre.com>.

Board Effectiveness and Director Performance Reviews

It is important to us that our board and its committees are performing effectively and in the best interests of the company and its stockholders. The board and each committee performs an annual self-assessment to evaluate its effectiveness in fulfilling its obligations. As part of this annual self-assessment, directors are able to provide feedback on the performance of other directors. Our lead independent director follows up on this feedback and takes such further action with directors receiving comments and other directors as she deems appropriate.

Table of Contents**Succession Planning**

The board recognizes the importance of effective executive leadership to MercadoLibre's success, and meets to discuss executive succession planning at least annually. As part of this process, our board reviews the capabilities of our senior leadership as set out in written succession planning documents and identifies and discusses potential successors for members of our executive staff, including the chief executive officer. Our nominating and corporate governance committee leads the succession planning process for our Chief Executive Officer and other senior officers and performs a similar analysis with respect to the rest of our board.

Auditor Independence

We have taken a number of steps to ensure the continued independence of our independent registered public accounting firm. Our independent registered public accounting firm reports directly to the audit committee, and we limit the use of our auditors for non-audit services. The fees for services provided by our auditors in 2011 and 2012 and our policy on pre-approval of non-audit services are described under the section below entitled Proposal Three: Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.

Corporate Hotline

We have established a corporate telephone hotline and Internet site to allow any employee to confidentially and anonymously lodge a complaint about any accounting, internal control, auditing or other matter of concern.

Board Committees

Board committees help our board perform effectively and efficiently, but do not replace the oversight of our board as a whole. There are currently three principal standing board committees: the audit committee, the compensation committee and the nominating and corporate governance committee. Each committee meets regularly and has a written charter that has been approved by our board, which is available on our investor relations website at <http://investor.mercadolibre.com>. In addition, at each regularly scheduled board meeting, a member of each committee reports on any significant matters addressed by the committee subsequent to the board's most recent prior meeting. Each committee performs an annual self-assessment to evaluate its effectiveness in fulfilling its obligations.

The following table lists the current members of each of our three principal standing board committees:

| | Audit | Compensation | Nominating & Corporate Governance |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--|
| Emiliano Calemzuk* | | X | Chair |
| Meyer Malka* | X | Chair | |
| Javier Olivan* | | | |
| Susan Segal* | X | | |
| Veronica Allende Serra* | | X | |
| Michael Spence* | | | X |
| Mario Vázquez* | Chair | | X |

* Independent Director

Table of Contents

Audit Committee

The board has established an audit committee, which consists of Mr. Vázquez (Chairman), Mr. Malka and Ms. Segal. Prior to his resignation, Mr. de los Santos also served on the audit committee. Our board has determined that each of the directors serving on our audit committee is independent within the meaning of the rules of the SEC and NASDAQ. The audit committee is responsible for, among other things:

reviewing the performance of our independent registered public accounting firm and making recommendations to our board regarding the appointment or termination of our independent registered public accounting firm;

considering and approving, in advance, all audit and non-audit services to be performed by our independent registered public accounting firm;

overseeing management's establishment and maintenance of our accounting and financial reporting processes, including our internal controls and disclosure controls and procedures, and the audits of our financial statements;

establishing procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by us regarding accounting, internal control or auditing matters and the confidential, anonymous submission by our employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters;

investigating any matter brought to its attention within the scope of its duties and engaging independent counsel and other advisers as the audit committee deems necessary;

determining compensation of the independent registered public accounting firm, compensation of advisors hired by the audit committee and ordinary administrative expenses;

reviewing annual and quarterly financial statements prior to their release;

preparing the report required by the rules and regulations of the SEC to be included in our annual proxy statement;

reviewing and assessing the adequacy of the committee's formal written charter on an annual basis; and

handling such other matters that are specifically delegated to the audit committee by our board from time to time.

The audit committee met five times during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 and took three actions by unanimous written consent. Our board has determined that Mr. Vázquez is an audit committee financial expert, as defined by SEC rules.

For more information, please see Audit Committee Report beginning on page 47 of this proxy statement.

Compensation Committee

The board has established a compensation committee, which consists of Messrs. Malka (Chairman) and Calemezuk and Ms. Serra. Prior to his resignation, Mr. de los Santos served as the Chairman of the compensation committee. Our board has determined that each of the directors serving on our compensation committee is independent within the meaning of NASDAQ rules. The compensation committee is responsible for,

among other things:

recommending to our board for determination, the compensation and benefits of all of our executive officers and key employees;

monitoring and reviewing our compensation and benefit plans to ensure that they meet corporate objectives;

administering our stock plans and other incentive compensation plans and preparing recommendations and periodic reports to our board concerning these matters;

Table of Contents

preparing the report required by the rules and regulations of the SEC to be included in our annual proxy statement and assisting management in the preparation of a compensation discussion and analysis; and

such other matters that are specifically delegated to the compensation committee by our board from time to time.

The compensation committee met once during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 and took two actions by unanimous written consent.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

The board has established a nominating and corporate governance committee, which consists of Messrs. Calemzuk (Chairman), Spence and Vázquez. Our board has determined that each of the directors serving on our nominating and corporate governance committee is independent within the meaning of NASDAQ rules. The nominating and corporate governance committee is responsible for, among other things:

recommending to our board for selection, nominees for election to our board;

making recommendations to our board regarding the size and composition of the board, committee structure and makeup and retirement procedures affecting board members;

monitoring our performance in meeting our obligations of fairness in internal and external matters and our principles of corporate governance; and

such other matters that are specifically delegated to the nominating and corporate governance committee by our board from time to time.

Our board has adopted a written charter for our nominating and corporate governance committee, which is posted on our investor relations website at <http://investor.mercadolibre.com>. That charter requires the nominating and corporate governance committee to consider the desired composition of our board, including such factors as expertise and diversity, and our corporate governance guidelines provide that, in consideration of the composition of our board, diversity of backgrounds and expertise should be emphasized.

The nominating and corporate governance committee met once during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 and took one action by unanimous written consent.

Other Committees

From time to time, our board may establish other committees as circumstances warrant. Those committees will have the authority and responsibility as delegated to them by our board.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

Our board has adopted a code of business conduct and ethics that applies to our officers, directors and employees. Among other matters, our code of business conduct and ethics is designed to deter wrongdoing and to promote:

honest and ethical conduct, including the ethical handling of actual or apparent conflicts of interest between personal and professional relationships;

full, fair, accurate, timely and understandable disclosure in our SEC filings and other public communications;

compliance with applicable governmental laws, rules and regulations;

prompt internal reporting of violations of the code to appropriate persons identified in the code; and

accountability for adherence to the code.

Table of Contents

Our audit committee must approve any waiver of the code of business conduct and ethics for our executive officers or directors, and any waiver shall be promptly disclosed. We intend to satisfy the disclosure requirement under Item 5.05 of Form 8-K relating to amendments to or waivers from any provision of the code of business conduct and ethics applicable to our chief executive officer and chief financial officer by posting the required information on our investor relations section of our website at <http://investor.mercadolibre.com>.

Director Nominations

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The nominating and corporate governance committee of our board performs the functions of a nominating committee. The nominating and corporate governance committee's charter describes the committee's responsibilities, including identifying, reviewing, evaluating and recommending director candidates for nomination by our board. Our corporate governance guidelines also contain information concerning the responsibilities of the nominating and corporate governance committee with respect to identifying and evaluating director candidates. Both documents are published on our investor relations website at <http://investor.mercadolibre.com>.

Director Candidate Recommendations and Nominations by Stockholders. The nominating and corporate governance committee's charter provides that the committee will consider director candidates recommended by stockholders. The charter of the nominating and corporate governance committee provides that it will evaluate all candidates for election to our board, regardless of the source from which the candidate was first identified, based on the totality of the merits of each candidate and not based upon minimum qualifications or attributes. Stockholders should submit any such recommendations for the consideration of our nominating and corporate governance committee through the method described under "Stockholder Communications" above. In addition, any stockholder of record entitled to vote for the election of directors may nominate persons for election to our board if that stockholder complies with the notice procedures summarized in "Stockholder Proposals for 2014 Annual Meeting" beginning on page 51 of this proxy statement.

Process for Identifying and Evaluating Director Candidates. The nominating and corporate governance committee evaluates all director candidates in accordance with the criteria described in our corporate governance guidelines and the nominating and corporate governance committee charter. The committee evaluates any candidate's qualifications to serve as a member of our board based on the skills and characteristics of individual board members as well as the composition of our board as a whole. In addition, the nominating and corporate governance committee will evaluate a candidate's independence, skills, experience, reputation, integrity, potential for conflicts of interest and other appropriate qualities in the context of our board's needs.

Directors Attendance at Meetings of our Board of Directors and Board Committees

Our board held five meetings and took three actions by written consent during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012. Except for Michael Spence and Nicolas Galperin, all other directors attended 75% or more of the aggregate of all meetings of the board of directors and the board committees on which they served during 2012.

Table of Contents**DIRECTOR COMPENSATION**

On June 25, 2010, our board, upon the recommendation of the compensation committee, adopted a director compensation program that sets compensation for our outside directors for the period June 2010 to June 2013. The 2012 portion of this director compensation program (the 2012 Director Program), which became effective as of June 10, 2012 provides that each outside director receives an annual fee for board services from June 10, 2012 to June 9, 2013, comprised of a non-adjustable board service award and an adjustable board service award. The non-adjustable board service award consists of a fixed cash payment of \$43,826. The adjustable board service award consists of a fixed cash amount of \$58,435 multiplied by the quotient of (a) the average closing sale price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market during the 30-trading day period preceding the 2013 Annual Meeting divided by (b) the average closing sale price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market during the 30-trading day period preceding the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

The 2012 Director Program also includes a non-adjustable chair service award for committee services from June 10, 2012 to June 9, 2013. Under the terms of the 2012 Director Program, the chair of each of the audit committee, the compensation committee and the nominating and corporate governance committee and the lead independent director are entitled to receive annual cash compensation in addition to existing director compensation in the amount of \$21,913, \$17,531, \$7,304 and \$14,609, respectively.

The compensation committee periodically considers our director compensation policy with a primary objective of matching compensation levels to the relative demands associated with serving on our board and its various committees.

We do not pay additional compensation to directors who have not been classified as outside directors, but do reimburse these directors for expenses incurred in attending meetings of our board and its committees.

Director Compensation for 2012

The following table presents information relating to total compensation of our outside directors for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012:

| Name (1) | Fees Earned or Paid in | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| | Cash (\$) (2) | Total (\$) (2) |
| Emiliano Calemzuk | 100,404 | 100,404 |
| Martín de los Santos (3) | 110,018 | 110,018 |
| Nicolás Galperin (4) | | |
| Anton Levy (5) | | |
| Javier Oliván (6) | 6,997 | 6,997 |
| Susan Segal (7) | 67,931 | 67,931 |
| Veronica Allende Serra | 107,271 | 107,271 |
| Michael Spence | 93,538 | 93,538 |
| Mario Eduardo Vázquez | 114,138 | 114,138 |

- (1) Marcos Galperin is not included in this table because he is an employee of our company and receives no additional compensation for his services as a director. For a detailed description of Mr. Galperin's compensation package, see Executive Compensation in this proxy statement. Meyer Malka is not included in this table because he was appointed to our board of directors on March 5, 2013 and did not perform, and thus was not compensated for, board services in 2012.
- (2) The amounts in this column reflect the fees earned by the outside directors for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. As a result, the amounts include (i) the portion of the fees earned under the 2012 Director Program for the period June 10, 2012 to December 31, 2012 and (ii) the portion of the fees earned under the 2011 portion of the director compensation program that covers the period January 1, 2012 to June 9, 2012 (the 2011 Director Program).

Table of Contents

Under the 2011 Director Program, each outside director received an annual fee for board services from June 10, 2011 to June 9, 2012, of a non-adjustable board service award and an adjustable board service award. The non-adjustable board service award consists of a fixed cash payment of \$37,703. The adjustable board service award consists of a fixed cash amount of \$50,271 multiplied by the quotient of (a) the average closing sale price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market during the 30-trading day period preceding the 2012 Annual Meeting divided by (b) the average closing sale price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market during the 30-trading day period preceding the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The 2011 Director Program also includes a non-adjustable chair service award for committee services from June 10, 2011 to June 9, 2012. Under the terms of the 2011 Director Program, the chair of each of the audit committee, the compensation committee and the nominating and corporate governance committee and the lead independent director are entitled to receive annual cash compensation in addition to existing director compensation in the amount of \$18,852, \$15,081, \$6,284 and \$12,568, respectively.

- (3) Mr. de los Santos resigned from our board of directors effective March 4, 2013. He received full compensation for his 2012 service on our board of directors.
- (4) Mr. Nicolas Galperin is not considered to be an outside director and, as a result, is not compensated by us as a director of our company.
- (5) Mr. Levy resigned from our board of directors effective April 23, 2012. During his term as a director, Mr. Levy was not considered to be an outside director and, as a result, was not compensated by us as a director of our company.
- (6) Mr. Olivan was appointed to our board of directors effective December 6, 2012. Amounts set forth reflect the pro rata portion of the compensation due to him as a director for the period December 6, 2012 to December 31, 2012.
- (7) Ms. Segal was appointed to our board of directors effective April 23, 2012. Amounts set forth reflect the pro rata portion of the compensation paid to her as a director for the period April 23, 2012 to December 31, 2012.

Table of Contents**SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), requires our officers and directors, and persons who own more than 10% of a registered class of our equity securities, to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the SEC. Officers, directors and greater-than-10% stockholders are required by SEC regulations to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) reports that they file.

Based solely upon review of the copies of such reports furnished to us and written representations from certain of our executive officers and directors that no other such reports were required, we believe that during the period from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to our officers, directors and greater-than-10% beneficial owners were complied with on a timely basis, except that Ms. Segal's Form 3 reporting that she did not own any shares of our common stock was filed late.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Our executive officers serve at the discretion of our board, and serve until their successors are elected and qualified or until their earlier death, resignation or removal. The following table contains information regarding our executive officers as of March 31, 2013.

| Name | Age | Position |
|-------------------|------------|--|
| Marcos Galperin | 41 | Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer |
| Pedro Arnt | 39 | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer |
| Stelleo Tolda | 45 | Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer |
| Oswaldo Giménez | 42 | Executive Vice President - Payments |
| Daniel Rabinovich | 35 | Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer |
| Marcelo Melamud | 42 | Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer |

For biographical information on Mr. Galperin, please see the biographical description provided above under the caption Proposal One: Election of Three Class III Directors (Proposal 1A) and Election of Two Class II Directors (Proposal 1B) .

Pedro Arnt has served as our chief financial officer since June 1, 2011. Prior to his appointment as chief financial officer, Mr. Arnt served in various capacities since joining MercadoLibre in December 1999. He initially led the business development and marketing teams as vice president, and later managed our customer service operations. He then held the position of vice president of strategic planning, treasury & investor relations, actively participating in our transition from private to public company, and playing an important role in capital markets, corporate finance, strategic planning and treasury initiatives. Prior to joining MercadoLibre, Mr. Arnt worked for The Boston Consulting Group. He is a Brazilian citizen and holds a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from Haverford College and a master's degree from the University of Oxford.

Stelleo Tolda has served as our chief operating officer since April 1, 2009. Prior to his appointment as chief operating officer, Mr. Tolda served as a senior vice president and as our country manager of Brazil since 1999. In that role he guided MercadoLibre to its current position as the leading e-commerce marketplace in Brazil. Before joining MercadoLibre, Mr. Tolda worked at Lehman Brothers Inc. in the United States, in 1999, and at Banco Pactual and Banco Icatu in Brazil, from 1996 to 1997 and 1994 to 1996, respectively. He holds a master's in business administration from Stanford University, and a master's degree and bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, also from Stanford.

Oswaldo Giménez is an executive vice president and has been responsible for MercadoPago operations since February 2004. Mr. Giménez joined MercadoLibre in January 2000 as country manager of Argentina and Chile. Before joining us, Mr. Giménez was an associate in Booz Allen and Hamilton and worked for Santander Investments in New York. Mr. Giménez received a master's in business administration from Stanford University and graduated from Buenos Aires Technological Institute with a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering.

Table of Contents

Daniel Rabinovich is a senior vice president and has served as our chief technology officer since January 2011. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Rabinovich served as our vice president of product development since January 2009, having joined MercadoLibre in March 2000 as an application architect. Before joining us, he worked in the application architecture team at PeopleSoft. Mr. Rabinovich holds a master's degree in Technological Services Management from the Universidad de San Andres and graduated with honors from Buenos Aires University with a degree in information systems.

Marcelo Melamud is a vice president and has served as our chief accounting officer since August 15, 2008. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Melamud served as our vice president administration and control since April 2008. From July 2004 through March 2008, he served as the director of finance of MDM Hotel Group, a developer, owner and operator of Marriott branded hotels in Miami, Florida. From July 1998 through July 2004, Mr. Melamud worked in various finance roles for Fidelity Investments, a provider of investment products and services. During his work at Fidelity Investments, Mr. Melamud served as the director of finance of the World Trade Center Boston/Seaport Hotel and he also served as the director of finance of MetroRed Telecom Group Ltd., a fiber-optic telecommunication provider of data, value added and hosting services within Latin America. Mr. Melamud received his master's in business administration from the Olin Graduate School of Business at Babson College and is a certified public accountant in Argentina.

Table of Contents**BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF OUR COMMON STOCK**

The following tables set forth information, as of April 1, 2013, regarding the beneficial ownership of our common stock. This information is based solely on SEC filings made by the individuals and entities by that date and upon information submitted to us by our directors and executive officers.

each person that is known by us to be a beneficial owner of more than 5% of our outstanding equity securities;

each of our named executive officers;

each of our directors; and

all directors and executive officers as a group.

Except as indicated in the footnotes to this table, we believe that each stockholder identified in the table possesses sole voting and investment power over all shares shown as beneficially owned by the stockholder. Percentage of beneficial ownership is based on 44,152,933 shares of our equity securities outstanding as of April 1, 2013. Shares of common stock subject to options that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of the date of this proxy statement are considered outstanding and beneficially owned by the person holding the options for the purposes of computing the percentage ownership of that person but are not treated as outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person. Unless indicated otherwise in the footnotes, the address of each individual listed in the table is c/o MercadoLibre, Inc., Arias 3751, 7th Floor, Buenos Aires, Argentina, C1430CRG.

| Name and Address of Beneficial Owner | Total Common Stock | |
|--|--------------------|-------------|
| | Number | Percentage |
| Five percent stockholders: | | |
| eBay Inc. (1) | 8,126,062 | 18.4% |
| Baillie Gifford & Co. (2) | 5,517,441 | 12.5% |
| Galperin Trust (3) | 3,796,563 | 8.6% |
| Wells Fargo & Company (4) | 3,451,896 | 7.8% |
| Thornburg Investment Management Inc. (5) | 2,661,335 | 6.0% |
| FMR LLC (6) | 1,984,489 | 4.5% |
| Directors and executive officers: | | |
| Marcos Galperin | 750,000 | 1.7% |
| Pedro Arnt | 13,114 | * |
| Osvaldo Giménez | 20,728 | * |
| Daniel Rabinovich | 243 | * |
| Stelleo Tolda (7) | 101,203 | * |
| Marcelo Melamud | | * |
| Emiliano Caleznuk | | * |
| Nicolás Galperin | | * |
| Javier Olivan | | * |
| Meyer Malka | | * |
| Susan Segal | | * |
| Veronica Allende Serra | 3,579 | * |
| Michael Spence | 19,354 | * |
| Mario Vázquez | 2,354 | * |
| All directors and executive officers as a group (14 persons) | 910,575 | 2.1% |

Edgar Filing: MERCADOLIBRE INC - Form DEF 14A

* Indicates less than 1% ownership

(1) According to a Schedule 13G/A filed on February 13, 2013 by eBay Inc., 2145 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose, California 95125.

-18-

Table of Contents

- (2) According to a Schedule 13G/A filed on February 7, 2013 by Baillie Gifford & Co., Calton Square, 1 Greenside Row, Edinburgh, EH1 3AN, Scotland, UK, such reporting person may be deemed to have sole voting power with respect to 3,911,109 shares and sole dispositive power with respect to 5,517,441 shares. Securities reported on the Schedule 13G/A as being beneficially owned by Baillie Gifford & Co. are held by Baillie Gifford & Co. and/or one or more of its investment adviser subsidiaries, which may include Baillie Gifford Overseas Limited, on behalf of investment advisory clients, which may include investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act, employee benefit plans, pension funds or other institutional clients.
- (3) According to a Schedule 13G filed on December 14, 2012 jointly by the Galperin Trust (the Trust), Meliga No. 1 Limited Partnership (Meliga LP) and Volorama Stichting (each a Reporting Person) relating to each Reporting Person's beneficial ownership of shares, resulting from a gift of an aggregate of 3,796,583 shares of Common Stock (the Shares) by Marcos Galperin and his spouse (collectively, the Settlers) in connection with an estate planning transaction. The Trust is an irrevocable trust formed under New Zealand law by the Settlers that was established for the benefit of Mr. Galperin's children and parents and certain charitable organizations. Intertrust Suisse Trustee GMBH (the Trustee) acts as the independent trustee of the Trust. As part of the estate planning transaction, the Trust concurrently transferred the Shares to Meliga LP, a New Zealand limited partnership in which the Trust owns an approximately 99.999% limited partnership interest. Volorama Stichting, a Dutch foundation based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, serves as the general partner (the General Partner) of Meliga LP. Pursuant to the limited partnership agreement of Meliga LP, the Shares may not be voted or disposed of without the approval of the Trust (as limited partner) and the General Partner. In addition, pursuant to the settlement deed of the Trust, the Trustee is required to obtain the majority approval of a protective committee comprised of three individuals prior to taking any action with respect to voting or disposing of any of the Shares.
- (4) According to Schedule 13G/A filed on March 29, 2013 by Wells Fargo & Company, 420 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California 94104 (Wells Fargo), Wells Capital Management Incorporated, 525 Market Street, 10th Floor, San Francisco, California 94105 (Wells Capital), and Wells Fargo Funds Management, LLC, 525 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105 (Wells Funds), Wells Fargo, Wells Capital and Wells Funds have sole voting power over 35,461, 0 and 40 shares, respectively, shared voting power over 3,105,495, 626,796 and 2,410,775 shares, respectively, sole dispositive power over 35,461, 0 and 40 shares, respectively, and shared dispositive power over 3,400,687, 3,269,043 and 2,413,927 shares, respectively. Wells Fargo holds shares on its behalf and on behalf of Wells Capital, Wells Funds and Wells Fargo Investment Group, Inc., each of which is classified as a registered investment advisor; Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC and Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC, each of which is classified as a broker dealer; and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, which is classified as a bank.
- (5) According to a Schedule 13G filed on February 1, 2013 by Thornburg Investment Management Inc., 2300 North Ridgetop Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506.
- (6) According to a Schedule 13G/A filed on February 14, 2013 by FMR LLC (FMR), Fidelity Management & Research Company (Fidelity), 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, a wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR LLC (FMR), and an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, is the beneficial owner of 1,574,659 shares of our common stock as a result of acting as investment adviser to various investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR, through its control of Fidelity, and Fidelity Funds (the Funds) each has sole power to dispose of the 1,574,659 shares owned by the Funds. Members of the family of Edward C. Johnson 3d, Chairman of FMR, are the predominant owners, directly or through trusts, of Series B voting common shares of FMR, representing 49% of the voting power of FMR. The Johnson family group and all other Series B shareholders have entered into a shareholders' voting agreement under which all Series B voting common shares will be voted in accordance with the majority vote of Series B voting common shares. Accordingly, through their ownership of voting common shares and the execution of the shareholders' voting agreement, members of the Johnson family may be deemed, under the Investment Company Act of 1940, to form a controlling group with respect to FMR. Neither FMR nor Edward C. Johnson 3d, Chairman of FMR, has the sole power to vote or direct the voting of the shares owned directly by the Funds, which power resides with the Funds Boards of Trustees. FIL Limited (FIL), Pembroke

Table of Contents

Hall, 42 Crow Lane, Hamilton, Bermuda, and various foreign-based subsidiaries provide investment advisory and management services to a number of non-U.S. investment companies and certain institutional investors. FIL, which is a qualified institution under section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii), is the beneficial owner of 226,748 shares of our common stock.

- (7) Includes 100,157 shares held by Tool, Ltd., of which Stello Tolda owns all of the outstanding equity.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

The primary goals of our compensation committee with respect to executive compensation are to attract and retain the most talented and dedicated executive officers possible and to align executive officers' incentives with stockholder value creation.

In this proxy statement, we use the term "named executive officers" to refer to Marcos Galperin, our president and chief executive officer, Pedro Arnt, our executive vice president and chief financial officer, Stello Tolda, our executive vice president and chief operating officer, Osvaldo Giménez, our executive vice president - payments, and Daniel Rabinovich, our senior vice president and chief technology officer.

At the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the advisory vote on executive compensation was approved by more than 98% of shares voted. The level of support on the advisory vote was considered by the compensation committee and supported its decision to not make any significant changes to our compensation program during 2012. The compensation committee expects that our 2013 executive compensation program will be based on similar components and principles as utilized in our 2012 executive compensation program.

Executive Summary

We host the largest online commerce platform in Latin America located at www.mercadolibre.com, which is focused on enabling e-commerce and its related services. Our services are designed to provide our users with mechanisms for buying, selling, paying, collecting, generating leads and comparing via e-commerce transactions in an effective and efficient manner. Although we consider our company to be a market leader in e-commerce in each of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, based on unique visitors and page views during 2012, we operate in a rapidly evolving and highly competitive market that requires a highly qualified executive management team with strong operational skills. Our executive compensation philosophy is designed to align the compensation of our named executive officers with our business objectives and reward performance over both the short and long term.

Executive Compensation Program Objectives

We are committed to providing an executive compensation program that supports the following goals and philosophies:

aligning our management team's interests with stockholders' expectations of earnings per share growth and a competitive dividend yield;

effectively compensating our management team for actual performance over the short and long term;

attracting and retaining an experienced and effective management team;

motivating and rewarding our management team to produce growth and performance for our stockholders that are sustainable and consistent with prudent risk-taking and based on sound corporate governance practices; and

providing market competitive levels of target (i.e., opportunity) compensation.

Structure of Our 2012 Executive Compensation Program

As discussed in more detail beginning on page 25, our 2012 executive compensation program is comprised of three different compensation elements, including:

Edgar Filing: MERCADOLIBRE INC - Form DEF 14A

base salary, which is fixed annually and compensates individuals for daily performance;

annual bonus, which is intended to compensate officers for achieving corporate goals and value-creating milestones during the prior fiscal year; and

-21-

Table of Contents

2012 Long-Term Retention Plan (2012 LTRP) bonus, which, together with the annual bonus, rewards the executive for both company and individual performance and assists in the retention of key employees. The 2012 LTRP is paid over an eight-year period through annual fixed payments as well as annual variable payments that move in tandem with increases or decreases in our stock price during the eight-year period over which the bonus is paid.

Management's Assessment of 2012 Performance

Since our inception, we have consistently generated revenue growth from our MercadoLibre marketplace and from MercadoPago, an integrated online payments solution, driven by the strong growth of our key operational metrics. This trend continued again in 2012. The following is a summary of our key results and achievements in 2012:

net revenues increased 25.0% from 2011 to 2012, to \$373.6 million;

net income increased 32.0% from 2011 to 2012, to \$101.3 million;

gross merchandise volume grew by 18.3% from 2011 to 2012;

successful items sold increased 27.7% in 2012 as compared to 2011; and

total payment volume for MercadoPago grew by 36.2% from 2011 to 2012.

Highlights of Our Executive Compensation Program in 2012

In making its compensation decisions for the 2012 performance year, the compensation committee recognized our company's 2012 results and the contributions and accomplishments of the named executive officers to our continuing growth story. The following is a summary of the highlights of our 2012 executive compensation program:

Base salary represents a relatively small percentage of total direct compensation for our named executive officers. In 2012, the base salaries of our three most highly compensated named executive officers, including our chief executive officer, represented between approximately 25.0% and 30.0% of their respective total direct compensation.

A significant portion of our 2012 executive compensation program is structured to reward named executive officers for actual performance. The charts below illustrate the percentage of performance-based compensation for our named executive officers:

Table of Contents

By design, a significant portion of the compensation awarded to our named executive officers is contingent upon individual and company performance. In 2012, subject to satisfaction of minimum eligibility conditions, 95% of our president and chief executive officer's annual cash bonus was based on pre-determined company performance criteria and 5% was based on a qualitative assessment of his performance during the year. For each of our other named executive officers (other than our executive vice president payments), subject to satisfaction of the minimum eligibility conditions, 85% of the annual bonus was based on company performance and 15% was based on an assessment of individual performance. For our executive vice president payments, subject to satisfaction of the minimum eligibility conditions, 50% of the annual bonus was based on company performance, 35% was based on MercadoPago Performance Constant Dollars and 15% was based on an assessment of individual performance.

The bonuses granted to our named executive officers under our 2012 LTRP are paid out over a period of eight years and subject to forfeiture if an officer retires, resigns or terminates his employment for any reason, or if an officer takes certain specified actions that could adversely affect our business. In addition, similar to the annual bonus, the 2012 LTRP bonus is tied directly to the satisfaction of minimum performance objectives. In the event the minimum performance objectives are satisfied, approximately 50% of the cash payable under the 2012 LTRP will move in tandem with increases or decreases in our stock price during the eight year period over which the bonus is paid.

We continue to provide no executive perquisites

Role of the Compensation Committee in Compensation Decisions

Our compensation committee reviews and sets all compensation programs (including equity compensation) applicable to our executive officers and directors, our overall compensation strategy for all employees, and the specific compensation of our executive officers on an annual basis. In the course of this review, the compensation committee considers our current compensation programs and whether to modify them or introduce new programs or elements of compensation in order to better meet our overall compensation objectives. The compensation committee has the authority to select, retain and terminate special counsel and other experts (including compensation consultants), as the committee deems appropriate. In late 2011, the compensation committee retained Towers Watson, an international compensation consulting firm, to assist the compensation committee and our company in developing recommendations for compensation of our employees, other than our chief executive officer and executive vice presidents, for 2012. Towers Watson reported directly to the compensation committee during the term of its engagement. The compensation committee had previously engaged Mercer, an international compensation consulting firm, in late 2009, to assist the compensation committee in developing recommendations for 2010 executive compensation. Mercer reported directly to the compensation committee during the term of its engagement. Compensation of our chief executive officer and executive vice presidents was defined on the basis of recommendations that had been provided by Mercer in 2010, duly adjusted for inflation. In late 2012, the company engaged Mercer to assist the compensation committee in developing recommendations for 2013 executive compensation.

Role of Executive Officers and Consultants in Compensation Decisions

While the compensation committee determines our overall compensation philosophy and sets the compensation of our executive officers, it looks to the officers identified below and the compensation consultants retained by the committee, if any, to work within the compensation philosophy to make recommendations to the compensation committee with respect to both overall guidelines and specific compensation decisions. Each of our chief executive officer and our vice president of human resources also provides the board and the compensation committee with his perspective on the performance of our executive officers as part of the annual personnel review and succession planning discussions. The compensation committee establishes compensation levels for our chief executive officer in consultation with the compensation consultants it retains, if any, and our chief executive officer is not present during any of these discussions. Each of our chief executive officer and our

Table of Contents

vice president of human resources recommends to the compensation committee specific salary amounts for executive officers other than the chief executive officer and provides recommendations on other compensation programs, and the compensation committee considers those recommendations before making final compensation determinations. Our vice president of human resources works closely with the chairman of our compensation committee and attends certain compensation committee meetings to provide perspectives on the competitive landscape and the needs of the business, information regarding our performance, and technical advice. Further, our vice president of human resources prepares materials for compensation committee meetings at the direction of the compensation committee. In connection with prior compensation consultant engagements, the compensation committee has directed the compensation consultants to work with our vice president of human resources and other members of management to gather information the consultants deemed necessary for purposes of forming their recommendations and evaluating the recommendations of our vice president of human resources and our chief executive officer. As noted above, the compensation committee engaged Mercer in late 2009 to assist the compensation committee with respect to establishing an executive compensation program for 2010. In late 2011, the compensation committee retained Towers Watson to assist the compensation committee and our company in developing recommendations for compensation of our employees, other than our chief executive officer and executive vice presidents, for 2012. In late 2012, the compensation committee engaged Mercer to assist the compensation committee in developing recommendations for 2013 executive compensation.

Competitive Considerations

To set total compensation guidelines, the compensation committee reviews market data of companies with which the compensation committee believes MercadoLibre competes for executive talent. The committee believes that it is necessary to consider this market data in making compensation decisions in order to attract and retain top-notch executive talent. To facilitate making external compensation comparisons, in late 2009, Mercer provided the compensation committee with competitive market data by analyzing proprietary third-party surveys and publicly-disclosed documents of companies in specified peer groups. The compensation committee used this market data in determining salary structures and defining the total annual compensation of senior management for 2010. Compensation of our chief executive officer and executive vice presidents was defined on the basis of the recommendations that had been provided by Mercer in 2010, duly adjusted for inflation. The compensation committee members also utilized both anecdotal and specific information based on personal experience and industry contacts, particularly with respect to Latin America.

In 2012, the compensation committee reviewed updated data from a peer group selected in 2010 consisting of companies of similar size within our industry. The companies included in that peer group are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Blue Nile, Inc. | Dice Holding, Inc. |
| Digital River, Inc. | EarthLink |
| GSI Commerce, Inc. | LoopNet |
| Monster Worldwide, Inc. | Netflix, Inc. |
| Orbitz Worldwide | RealNetworks |
| Shutterfly | |

In deciding whether a company should be included in the peer group, in addition to industry, the committee considered the following screening criteria:

revenues;

earnings before interest, depreciation and amortization;

market capitalization; and

total assets.

Because MercadoLibre executives live in Latin America and not in the United States, in applying the peer group data provided by Mercer, the compensation committee decided to adopt a percentage of reduction to

Table of Contents

compensate for cost of living differences between Latin America and the United States. For that reason, the market positioning of our executives is generally 80% of the median of the 2012 peer group of U.S. companies.

Elements of Compensation

The compensation received by our named executive officers consists of the following elements, each as more fully described below:

base salary;

annual bonus; and

long-term retention plan bonus.

The following table summarizes the various elements of compensation paid to our named executive officers, other than our Chief Financial Officer and our Chief Technology Officer, in each of 2012, 2011 and 2010. Compensation information for our Chief Financial Officer and Chief Technology Officer is presented for 2012 and 2011 only, as these individuals first became named executive officers in 2011. Due to various reporting requirements, the information set forth in the table below may not correspond with the amounts included in the table under the caption

Summary Compensation Table below. For example, stock issued to our named executive officers in 2012 as part of the 2008 LTRP is recognized as 2008 compensation for purposes of the information required to be included in the Summary Compensation Table. However, we believe the following summary to be a more transparent reflection of the compensation received in each of these years by our named executive officers. Payouts under the 2008 LTRP, 2009 LTRP, 2010 LTRP, 2011 LTRP and 2012 LTRP, as defined below, represent payments or stock awards in 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 or 2009, as applicable, for performance in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively.

Elements of Compensation Paid to Named Executive Officers in 2012, 2011 and 2010

| (in U.S. dollars) | Year | Base Salary (\$ (1)) | Annual Bonus (\$ (1)) | LTRP Bonus Compensation | | | | | | Total (\$) |
|---|------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | 2008 LTRP (Cash) (\$) | 2008 LTRP (Stock) (\$ (2)) | 2009 LTRP (Cash) (\$ (3)) | 2010 LTRP (Cash) (\$ (3)) | 2011 LTRP (Cash) (\$ (3)) | 2012 LTRP (Cash) (\$ (3)) | |
| Marcos Galperin <i>President and CEO</i> | 2012 | 559,797 | 645,920 | | | 171,872 | 333,923 | 270,195 | 246,632 | 2,228,339 |
| | 2011 | 557,889 | 612,385 | 85,000 | 158,322 | 168,557 | 329,124 | 266,838 | | 2,178,115 |
| | 2010 | 536,432 | 602,981 | 67,500 | 106,674 | 145,814 | 296,198 | | | 1,755,598 |
| Pedro Arnt <i>Executive VP and CFO</i> | 2012 | 245,625 | 283,414 | | | 25,781 | 10,445 | 130,739 | 119,338 | 815,343 |
| | 2011 | 191,777 | 207,057 | 12,750 | 23,763 | 25,284 | 10,295 | 129,115 | | 600,042 |
| Stelleo Tolda <i>Executive VP and COO</i> | 2012 | 266,032 | 306,960 | | | 85,936 | 161,576 | 130,739 | 119,338 | 1,070,582 |
| | 2011 | 295,570 | 313,977 | 30,600 | 57,012 | 84,279 | 159,254 | 129,115 | | 1,069,806 |
| | 2010 | 264,756 | 324,923 | 24,300 | 38,406 | 72,907 | 143,322 | | | 868,613 |
| Oswaldo Giménez <i>Executive VP Payments</i> | 2012 | 245,625 | 283,414 | | | 31,625 | 80,788 | 65,370 | 119,338 | 826,159 |
| | 2011 | 205,447 | 120,275 | 15,640 | 29,141 | 31,015 | 79,627 | 64,558 | | 545,703 |
| | 2010 | 188,743 | 113,151 | 12,420 | 19,659 | 26,830 | 71,661 | | | 432,464 |
| Daniel Rabinovich <i>Senior VP and CTO</i> | 2012 | 222,776 | 137,093 | | | 25,781 | 10,445 | 20,779 | 47,418 | 464,293 |
| | 2011 | 172,601 | 75,688 | 12,750 | 23,763 | 25,284 | 10,295 | 20,521 | | 340,902 |

- (1) Base salaries and Annual Bonus for fiscal year 2012 are paid in foreign currencies but disclosed above in U.S. dollars, at the average exchange rate for the year ended December 31, 2012. As of the date of this proxy statement, the annual bonus of certain named executive officers were not paid.

Edgar Filing: MERCADOLIBRE INC - Form DEF 14A

- (2) Represents shares acquired upon vesting of the different installments of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by the named executive officer in 2008. The value of vested common stock was calculated by multiplying

-25-

Table of Contents

the number of vested common shares by the closing price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market on the vesting date.
 (3) See footnotes 4 through 16 to the Summary Compensation Table below for information regarding the payment of long term retention plan bonuses. For a description of the 2012 LTRP, 2011 LTRP, 2010 LTRP, 2009 LTRP and 2008 LTRP, as defined below, see Elements of Compensation Long-Term Retention Plans and Prior Long-Term Retention Plans below.

Base Salary

Base salaries for our named executive officers are established based on the scope of their responsibilities and individual experience, taking into account competitive market compensation paid by the above peer companies for similar positions. Base salaries are reviewed at least annually for merit increases and cost of living adjustments, and adjusted from time to time to realign salaries with market levels based on the peer review and after taking into account individual responsibilities, performance and experience.

Base salaries of our named executive officers for 2012 were between \$222,776 and \$559,797.

We adjusted the 2012 named executive officer base salaries that are paid in foreign currencies, considering the market pay level for those positions according to the compensation market study prepared by Mercer, as adjusted for inflation, for our chief executive officer and executive vice presidents. The committee believes that each officer's salary level is appropriate in light of his roles and responsibilities within our company.

Annual Bonus

In addition to base salaries, our named executive officers are eligible to receive annual bonuses. The annual incentive bonuses are intended to compensate named executive officers for achieving corporate goals and for achieving what the compensation committee believes to be value-creating milestones during the prior year. The annual bonus for each of our named executive officers is paid in cash in an amount reviewed and approved by our compensation committee and full board of directors. The compensation committee uses annual incentive bonuses to compensate named executive officers for achieving financial and operational goals and for achieving individual annual performance objectives. These objectives are generally established in the first half of the year and vary depending on the individual named executive officer, but relate generally to financial and operational targets as well as a qualitative assessment of the officer's performance carried out by peers, subordinates and the officer's direct supervisor. If established objective thresholds for the annual performance period are not met, the executive does not receive a bonus for the year. After the end of each fiscal year, our actual performance is compared to the objectives established by the board of directors during the prior year to determine the annual bonus award payout.

For 2012, each named executive officer was eligible for an annual bonus up to an amount equal to approximately 115% of his annual base salary for each of Messrs. Galperin, Arnt, Tolda and Giménez and 62% of base salary for Mr. Rabinovich.

In 2012, subject to satisfaction of the Minimum Eligibility Conditions (described under Long-Term Retention Plan below), 95% of Mr. Galperin's annual bonus was based on the company performance criteria described below and 5% was based on a survey of his reports assessing his qualitative performance during the year (Mr. Galperin's Individual Performance). For each of Messrs. Arnt, Tolda, and Rabinovich subject to satisfaction of the Minimum Eligibility Conditions, 85% of the award was based on company performance and 15% was based on an assessment of individual performance, specifically, a 360-degree qualitative survey of the individual's performance prepared by his colleagues (Messrs. Arnt's, Tolda's and Rabinovich's Individual Performance). For Mr. Giménez, subject to satisfaction of the Minimum Eligibility Conditions, 50% of the award was based on company performance, 35% was based on MercadoPago operations and 15% was based on a 360-degree qualitative assessment of individual performance (Mr. Giménez's Individual Performance, and together with Mr. Galperin's Individual Performance, Messrs. Arnt's, Tolda's and Rabinovich's Individual Performance, Individual Performance).

Table of Contents

A portion of each named executive officer's annual bonus was based upon our company's achievement of certain pre-determined goals for performance. For 2012, the compensation committee selected the following as the company performance (the "Overall Company Performance") measures:

net revenues minus bad debt, defined as our company's net revenues for 2012, less the portion of our bad debt that is uncollectible and after adjustments for unusual items as determined by the compensation committee;

net income, defined as our company's net income in 2012 and after adjustments for unusual items as determined by the compensation committee; and

adjusted free cash flow of our company, defined as the net increase in our company's cash and cash equivalents and short-term and long-term investments in 2012 over 2011 adjusted to add (a) the difference between the MercadoPago accounts receivable balance at December 31, 2011 versus December 31, 2012 and (b) the difference between the MercadoPago accounts payable balance at December 31, 2011 versus December 31, 2012.

The Overall Company Performance is a weighted average of the Overall Company Performance measures calculated both in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") (the "Overall Company Performance - U.S. GAAP") and as consolidated financial metrics translated to U.S. dollars at the previous year's applicable exchange rate, which is intended to isolate the operational performance from fluctuations in local currencies (the "Overall Company Performance - Constant Dollars").

Within the 95% of the award for Mr. Galperin based on company performance, 55.9% was based on Overall Company Performance - U.S. GAAP and the remaining 39.1% was based on Overall Company Performance - Constant Dollars. The remaining 5% was based on a 360-degree qualitative assessment of individual performance.

Within the 85% of the award for each of Messrs. Arnt, Tolda and Rabinovich based on company performance, 50% was based on Overall Company Performance - U.S. GAAP and the remaining 35% was based on Overall Company Performance - Constant Dollars. The remaining 15% was based on a 360-degree qualitative assessment of individual performance.

For Mr. Osvaldo Giménez 50% of the award is based on Overall Company Performance - U.S. GAAP and of the remaining 50%, 35% was based on MercadoPago operations and 15% on a 360-degree qualitative assessment of individual performance. For Mr. Giménez, the objectives related to the 2012 operations of our MercadoPago business, are MercadoPago penetration, which is defined as total payment volume ("TPV") in the MercadoLibre e-commerce website in 2012 divided by gross merchandise volume in 2012, excluding motor vehicles, vessels, aircraft and real estate, off-platform net revenues, which mainly includes revenues generated off MercadoLibre's marketplace and financing revenues, and off-platform TPV (collectively, the "MercadoPago Performance - Constant Dollars"). These are calculated using consolidated financial metrics translated to U.S. dollars at the previous year's applicable exchange rate, which is intended to isolate the operational performance from fluctuations in local currencies.

The compensation committee believes these metrics are the strongest drivers of long-term stockholder value for our company. These elements each track off a target number and have a percentage weight, resulting in a total performance metric for each named executive officer. The compensation committee is given discretion to make adjustments to each element in order to reduce or eliminate the effect of unusual events and thus make better year-over-year performance comparisons. This process may involve subtracting or adding back both revenues and expenses from reported results to better reflect our core results. This policy also reflects the compensation committee's inability to predict unusual events when performance targets are established early in the fiscal year. With respect to annual bonus determinations for our 2012 fiscal year, in early 2013, the compensation committee met with our accounting staff and vice president of human resources to analyze any appropriate adjustments.

Table of Contents

Together, they prepared a detailed analysis of each performance element and the recommended adjustments and presented it to the compensation committee for approval. In its discretion, the compensation committee also made other immaterial adjustments. These elements and the mechanics of our annual bonus plan are more fully described below in the description of our 2012 Long-Term Retention Plan.

Long-Term Retention Plans

As a private company, our compensation program consisted primarily of annual salary and bonus. In 2008, our compensation committee determined that our executive compensation program needed more focus on long-term incentives to assist in the retention of key employees that have valuable industry expertise and developed competencies. In connection with this new focus, beginning in 2008, our company adopted the 2008 Long-Term Retention Plan (the 2008 LTRP), followed by the 2009 Long-Term Retention Bonus Plan (the 2009 LTRP), the 2010 Long-Term Retention Bonus Plan (the 2010 LTRP) and the 2011 Long-Term Retention Bonus Plan (individually, the 2011 LTRP, and collectively with the 2008 LTRP, 2009 LTRP and 2010 LTRP, the 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 LTRPs). See Prior Long-Term Retention Plans below for a detailed description of each of the 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 LTRPs.

2012 Long-Term Retention Plan

In 2012, the compensation committee continued its focus on long-term incentives and, on June 5, 2012, adopted the 2012 Long-Term Retention Plan (the 2012 LTRP) for executives. The 2012 LTRP is designed to assist us in the retention of key employees that have valuable industry experience and developed competencies. The award under the 2012 LTRP will be fully payable in cash in addition to the annual salary and annual bonus of each employee. In order to receive an award under the 2012 LTRP, the executive must satisfy the Minimum Eligibility Conditions applicable to determine eligibility for annual cash bonuses. If these Minimum Eligibility Conditions are satisfied, the executive will, subject to his continued employment as of each applicable payment date, receive the target amount of his 2012 LTRP bonus.

The 2012 LTRP is separate and distinct from the 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 LTRPs. However, the compensation committee considered the expected payouts under the 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 LTRPs when evaluating awards under the 2012 LTRP in the interest of evaluating total compensation to be received by the executive in the coming years.

The 2012 LTRP is similar to the 2011 LTRP, 2010 LTRP and 2009 LTRP. Awards under the 2012 LTRP were based upon an eligible participant's satisfaction of the following Minimum Eligibility Conditions:

our company must have achieved 50% of the weighted average planned growth in each of Overall Company Performance U.S. GAAP, Overall Company Performance Constant Dollars, MercadoPago Performance Constant Dollars and Individual Performance, described above, as applicable to the subject executive officer. For example, Messrs. Galperin, Arnt, Tolda and Rabinovich must achieve 50% of the weighted average planned growth for both the Overall Company Performance U.S. GAAP category and the Overall Company Performance Constant Dollars category, while Mr. Giménez must achieve 50% of the weighted average planned growth for both the Overall Company Performance U.S. GAAP category and the MercadoPago Performance Constant Dollars category;

each named executive officer must have achieved a minimum standard of meets expectations (90%) in his qualitative assessment of individual performance.

Each award under the 2012 LTRP is payable 100% in cash over an eight-year period. The committee made the decision to tie cash payments under the 2012 LTRP to our stock performance rather than to actually issue equity under the 2012 LTRP for a number of reasons, including, but not limited to, to reduce the dilutive effect on our stockholders. The portion of the award to be paid in the future will be forfeited if an employee leaves our company prior to the respective payment date.

Table of Contents**2012 LTRP Bonus**

The following table sets forth the nominal target value of the 2012 LTRP bonus and the portion of the 2012 LTRP bonus paid out for 2012 for each named executive officer:

| | Nominal Target Value of 2012 LTRP Bonus (1)(2)(3) | Portion of 2012 LTRP Bonus Paid Out for 2012 (1) |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Marcos Galperin | \$ 1,950,468 | \$ 246,626 |
| Pedro Arnt | 943,775 | 119,335 |
| Stelleo Tolda | 943,775 | 119,335 |
| Osvaldo Giménez | 943,775 | 119,335 |
| Daniel Rabinovich | 375,000 | 47,417 |

- (1) The 2012 LTRP bonus amounts were determined by the compensation committee at the end of the 2012 fiscal year based on each executive's 2012 performance tally, which tally is based on the attainment of certain individual and company goals, and the subject executive's satisfaction of the Minimum Eligibility Conditions. The first installment payment under the 2012 LTRP was paid to certain executive officers during April 2013 and the payment date to the remaining executive officers is subject to definition.
- (2) In order to receive an award under the 2012 LTRP, a named executive officer must satisfy the Minimum Eligibility Conditions applicable to determine eligibility for annual cash bonuses. If these Minimum Eligibility Conditions are satisfied, the executive will, subject to his continued employment as of each applicable payment date, receive the target amount of his 2012 LTRP bonus described above, payable as follows:

the officer will receive a fixed cash payment equal to 6.25% of his or her 2012 LTRP bonus once a year for a period of eight years starting with the first payment in 2013 (the "Annual Fixed Payment"); and

on each date the Company pays the Annual Fixed Payment to the officer, he will also receive a cash payment equal to the product of (i) 6.25% of the applicable 2012 LTRP bonus and (ii) the quotient of (a) divided by (b), where (a), the numerator, equals the Applicable Year Stock Price (as defined below) and (b), the denominator, equals the 2011 Stock Price (as defined below). For purposes of the 2012 LTRP, the 2011 Stock Price shall equal \$77.77 (the average closing price of the Company's common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market during the final 60-trading days of 2011) and the Applicable Year Stock Price shall equal the average closing price of the Company's common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market during the final 60 trading days of the year preceding the applicable payment date for so long as the Company's common stock is listed on the NASDAQ.

- (3) The maximum amount of each named executive officer's 2012 LTRP bonus will depend on our stock price for the last 60-trading days of the applicable fiscal year. To the extent our stock price exceeds \$77.77 for one or more applicable periods, the amount of the executive's 2012 LTRP bonus will exceed 6.25% of the amount listed in the column above entitled "Target Value of Total 2012 LTRP Bonus." The average closing price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market during the final 60 trading days of 2012 was \$79.57. Assuming the Applicable Year Stock Price equals \$79.57 as of each payment date, the total amount payable to each of the named executive officers under the 2012 LTRP would be as follows: Mr. Galperin: \$1,973,006, Messrs. Arnt, Tolda and Giménez: \$954,680 and Mr. Rabinovich: \$379,333.

Table of Contents**2012 Annual Bonus and 2012 LTRP Bonus Components**

The following table describes the components of each named executive officer's 2012 annual bonus and 2012 LTRP bonus and the percentage weight of each element:

| | Marcos Galperin | Pedro Arnt | Stelleo Tolda | Oswaldo Giménez | Daniel Rabinovich |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Factors | (1) | (1) | (1) | (1) | (1) |
| <i>Overall Company Performance U.S. GAAP</i> | | | | | |
| MercadoLibre net revenues minus bad debt | 27.94% | 25.00% | 25.00% | 25.00% | 25.00% |
| MercadoLibre free cash flow | 13.97% | 12.50% | 12.50% | 12.50% | 12.50% |
| MercadoLibre net income | 13.97% | 12.50% | 12.50% | 12.50% | 12.50% |
| <i>Overall Company Performance Constant Dollars</i> | | | | | |
| MercadoLibre net revenues minus bad debt | 19.56% | 17.50% | 17.50% | | 17.50% |
| MercadoLibre free cash flow | 9.78% | 8.75% | 8.75% | | 8.75% |
| MercadoLibre net income | 9.78% | 8.75% | 8.75% | | 8.75% |
| <i>MercadoPago Performance Constant Dollars (2)</i> | | | | | |
| MercadoPago Penetration (2) | | | | 10.50% | |
| Off-platform net revenues (2) | | | | 7.00% | |
| Off-platform TPV (2) | 5.00% | 15.00% | 15.00% | 15.00% | 15.00% |
| Individual performance | 27.94% | 25.00% | 25.00% | 25.00% | 25.00% |

- The 2012 annual bonus and 2012 LTRP bonus amounts were determined by the compensation committee at the end of the 2012 fiscal year based on each executive's 2012 performance tally, which tally is based on the attainment of certain individual and company goals, and the subject executive's satisfaction of the Minimum Eligibility Conditions, as described above.
- MercadoPago Performance Constant Dollars consists of (i) MercadoPago penetration, which is defined TPV in the MercadoLibre e-commerce website in 2012 divided by gross merchandise volume in 2012, excluding motor vehicles, vessels, aircraft and real estate, (ii) off-platform net revenues, which mainly includes revenues generated off MercadoLibre's marketplace and financing revenues, and (iii) off-platform TPV. These are calculated using consolidated financial metrics translated to U.S. dollars at the previous year's applicable exchange rate, which is intended to isolate the operational performance from fluctuations in local currencies.

2012 Annual Bonus and 2012 LTRP Bonus Performance Elements

The following table sets forth the elements included in the company performance tally for 2012 and actual performance realized against those objectives:

| Metrics | 2012 Actual (in MM) | 2012 actual as adjusted (in MM) | 2012 Objective (in MM) | % of Objective |
|---|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Overall Company Performance U.S. GAAP (1)</i> | | | | |
| MercadoLibre net revenues minus bad debt (2) | \$ 355.9 | \$ 355.9 | \$ 389.6 | 91.3 |
| MercadoLibre free cash flow (3) | 94.9 | 108.5 | 77.4 | 140.3 |
| MercadoLibre net income (4) | 101.3 | 101.3 | 96.6 | 104.9 |
| <i>Overall Company Performance Constant Dollars (5)</i> | | | | |
| MercadoLibre net revenues minus bad debt (2) | 397.2 | 397.2 | 421.5 | 94.2 |
| MercadoLibre free cash flow (3) | 101.2 | 110.9 | 79.6 | 139.3 |
| MercadoLibre net income (4) | 119.2 | 119.2 | 102.3 | 116.5 |
| <i>MercadoPago Performance Constant Dollars (6)</i> | | | | |
| MercadoPago Penetration (6) | 28.0% | 28.0% | 31.6% | 88.6% |
| Off-platform net revenues (6) | 67.0 | 67.0 | 74.7 | 89.6% |
| Off-platform TPV (6) | 402.5 | 402.5 | 421.7 | 95.4% |

Table of Contents

- (1) For fiscal year 2012, defined as consolidated financial metrics in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- (2) For fiscal year 2012, defined as our net revenues for 2012, less the bad debt charges and after adjustments for unusual items as determined by the compensation committee.
- (3) For fiscal year 2012, defined as our net increase in cash and cash equivalents and short-term and long-term investments in 2012 over 2011, after adjustments for unusual items as determined by the compensation committee, adjusted to add (a) the difference between the MercadoPago accounts receivable balance at December 31, 2011 versus December 31, 2012 and (b) the difference between the MercadoPago accounts payable balance at December 31, 2011 versus December 31, 2012 and (c) dividends distribution.
- (4) For fiscal year 2012, defined as our net income in 2012 after adjustments for unusual items as determined by the compensation committee.
- (5) For fiscal year 2012, defined as consolidated financial metrics translated to U.S. dollars at the previous year's applicable exchange rate, which is intended to isolate the operational performance from fluctuations in local currencies.
- (6) For fiscal year 2012, MercadoPago Performance Constant Dollars consists of (i) MercadoPago penetration, which is defined TPV in the MercadoLibre e-commerce website in 2012 divided by gross merchandise volume in 2012, excluding motor vehicles, vessels, aircraft and real estate, (ii) off-platform net revenues, which mainly includes revenues generated off MercadoLibre's marketplace and financing revenues, and (iii) off-platform TPV. These are calculated using consolidated financial metrics translated to U.S. dollars at the previous year's applicable exchange rate, which is intended to isolate the operational performance from fluctuations in local currencies.

Other Compensation and Benefits

Equity awards. In the past we have granted equity to our executive officers through our Amended and Restated 1999 Stock Option and Restricted Stock Plan, which was adopted by our board of directors to permit the grant of equity to our employees. In 2009, our board adopted and our stockholders approved the 2009 Equity Compensation Plan. Upon adoption of the 2009 Equity Compensation Plan, no further awards were available for issuance under our 1999 Stock Option and Restricted Stock Plan. As of December 31, 2012, we had approximately 270,099 shares of common stock available for issuance under the 2009 Equity Compensation Plan. The board has considered outstanding job performance, contributions to our company and achievement of other benchmarks in granting past awards. We have not adopted stock ownership guidelines for our executive officers.

The last portion of the 2008 LTRP was payable in the form of common stock. In 2012, Messrs. Galperin, Giménez, Tolda, Arnt and Rabinovich received 1,619 shares, 298 shares, 583 shares, 243 shares and 243 shares of common stock, respectively, pursuant to the 2008 LTRP.

Other compensation and benefits. We maintain broad-based benefits that are provided to certain full-time employees, including health insurance, extra vacation days, mobile telephones, executive education sponsorship programs, parking spaces and subsidized English, Spanish and/or Portuguese lessons. We also provide life insurance policies for some of our employees in Brazil. In certain cases, if an employee is asked to relocate temporarily to another country office, we will facilitate such employee's relocation by acting as guarantors in residential apartment lease agreements and paying for relocation expenses. We do not have any pension plan for our employees, including our executive officers.

Employment agreements. We have entered into employment agreements with each named executive officer as described below under Employment Agreements. Certain executive officers may also receive benefits in the event of a change in control of our company as described under Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control.

Table of Contents***Base Salary Determinations for 2013***

The compensation committee has established base salaries for 2013 for our named executive officers as follows:

| | 2013 Base Salary (1) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Marcos Galperin | \$ 647,208 |
| Pedro Arnt | \$ 284,264 |
| Stelleo Tolda | \$ 284,040 |
| Oswaldo Giménez | \$ 284,264 |
| Daniel Rabinovich | \$ 257,614 |

(1) Base salaries are paid in foreign currencies but disclosed above in U.S. dollars, at the applicable exchange rate as of March 31, 2013.

Conclusion

In evaluating the individual components of overall compensation for each of our executive officers, the compensation committee reviews not only the individual elements of compensation, but also total compensation and compares overall compensation to total compensation of similarly situated employees at the company's peer companies. By design, a significant portion of the compensation awarded to our executive officers is contingent upon individual and company performance. The committee remains committed to this philosophy of pay-for-performance and will continue to review executive compensation programs for the best methods to promote stockholder value through employee incentives.

Compensation Committee Report

The compensation committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this proxy statement with management and, based on such review and discussions, the compensation committee recommended to the board of directors that it be included in the company's proxy statement and Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Meyer Malka (Chairman)

Emiliano Calemzuk

Veronica Allende Serra

* Martín de los Santos resigned from our board of directors, from the compensation committee and from the audit committee effective March 4, 2013.

Relationship of Compensation Practices to Risk Management

When structuring our overall compensation practices for our employees generally, consideration is given as to whether the structure creates incentives for risk-taking behavior and therefore impacts our risk management practices. Attention is given to the elements and the mix of pay as well as ensuring that employees' awards align with stockholders' value.

We have assessed the compensation policies and practices for our employees and concluded that they do not create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the company. This analysis was performed and discussed by the compensation committee.

Table of Contents**Summary Compensation Table**

The following table sets forth compensation information for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012 for Marcos Galperin, our chief executive officer, Pedro Arnt, and our three other most highly-compensated executive officers for the year ended December 31, 2012. These executive officers are referred to as the named executive officers elsewhere in this proxy statement. Messrs. Arnt and Rabinovich first became named executive officers in 2011 and, accordingly, only their compensation information for 2011 and 2012 is presented below. Except as provided below, none of our named executive officers received any other compensation required to be disclosed by law or in excess of \$10,000 annually.

| Name and Principal Position | Year | Salary (\$) (1) | Bonus (\$) (2) | Stock Awards (\$) (3) | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) (4) | Total (\$) |
|--|------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------|
| Marcos Galperin <i>President and Chief Executive Officer</i> | 2012 | 559,797 | | | 1,668,542(4) | 2,228,339 |
| | 2011 | 557,889 | | | 1,461,905(5) | 2,019,794 |
| | 2010 | 536,432 | | | 1,112,492(6) | 1,648,924 |
| Pedro Arnt <i>Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer</i> | 2012 | 245,625 | | | 569,718(7) | 815,343 |
| | 2011 | 191,777 | | | 384,502(8) | 576,279 |
| Stelleo Tolda <i>Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer</i> | 2012 | 266,032 | | | 804,550(9) | 1,070,582 |
| | 2011 | 295,570 | | | 717,224(10) | 1,012,794 |
| | 2010 | 264,756 | | | 565,451(11) | 830,207 |
| Osvaldo Giménez <i>Executive Vice President Payments</i> | 2012 | 283,414 | | | 580,534(12) | 826,159 |
| | 2011 | 205,447 | | | 311,114(13) | 516,561 |
| | 2010 | 188,743 | | | 224,061(14) | 412,804 |
| Daniel Rabinovich <i>Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer</i> | 2012 | 222,776 | | | 241,517(15) | 464,293 |
| | 2011 | 172,601 | | | 144,538(16) | 317,139 |

- (1) Base salaries are paid in foreign currencies but disclosed above in U.S. dollars, at the applicable exchange rate as of the payment date.
- (2) We pay annual bonuses to our named executive officers as described above under Compensation Discussion and Analysis Elements of Compensation Annual Bonus. Pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, we have included annual bonus compensation in this table under the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column.
- (3) Bonuses are paid in foreign currencies, but disclosed above in U.S. dollars at the applicable exchange rate as of the payment date. In addition, each of the named executive officers received shares of our common stock under the 2008 LTRP in the years indicated representing the second, third and fourth share installments, respectively, of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by the named executive officer in 2008. Pursuant to the rules and regulations of the SEC, the aggregate grant date fair value of the shares awarded under the 2008 LTRP have been previously reported as 2008 compensation and thus, are not included in the table above.
- (4) Includes (i) an annual bonus of \$645,920 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013 based upon Mr. Galperin's 2012 performance tally, (ii) a bonus under the 2012 LTRP of \$246,642 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2013, representing the sum of the first fixed and variable payments of the total 2012 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Galperin in 2012, (iii) a bonus under the 2011 LTRP of \$270,195 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the second fixed and variable payments of the total 2011 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Galperin in 2011, (iv) a bonus under the 2010 LTRP of \$333,923 to be paid in

Table of Contents

- cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the third fixed and variable payments of the total 2010 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Galperin in 2010 and (v) a bonus under the 2009 LTRP of \$171,872 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2013, representing the sum of the fourth fixed and variable payments of the total 2009 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Galperin in 2009. In the first quarter of 2013, Mr. Galperin received 1,619 shares of our common stock under the 2008 LTRP, representing the fifth share installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Galperin in 2008.
- (5) Includes (i) an annual bonus of \$612,385 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012 based upon Mr. Galperin's 2011 performance tally, (ii) a bonus under the 2011 LTRP of \$266,838 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the sum of the first fixed and variable payments of the total 2011 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Galperin in 2011, (iii) a bonus under the 2010 LTRP of \$329,124 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the sum of the second fixed and variable payments of the total 2010 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Galperin in 2010, (iv) a bonus under the 2009 LTRP of \$168,557 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the sum of the third fixed and variable payments of the total 2009 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Galperin in 2009 and (v) a bonus under the 2008 LTRP of \$85,000 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the fourth cash installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus of \$500,000 earned by Mr. Galperin in 2008. In the first quarter of 2012, Mr. Galperin received 1,619 shares of our common stock under the 2008 LTRP, representing the fourth share installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Galperin in 2008.
- (6) Includes (i) an annual bonus of \$602,981 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2011 based upon Mr. Galperin's 2010 performance tally, (ii) a bonus under the 2010 LTRP of \$296,198 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2011, representing the sum of the first fixed and variable payments of the total 2010 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Galperin in 2010, (iii) a bonus under the 2009 LTRP of \$145,814 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2011, representing the sum of the second fixed and variable payments of the total 2009 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Galperin in 2009 and (iv) a bonus under the 2008 LTRP of \$67,500 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2011, representing the third cash installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus of \$500,000 earned by Mr. Galperin in 2008. In the second quarter of 2011, Mr. Galperin received 1,286 shares of our common stock under the 2008 LTRP, representing the third share installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Galperin in 2008.
- (7) Includes (i) an annual bonus of \$283,414 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013 based upon Mr. Arnt's 2012 performance tally, (ii) a bonus under the 2012 LTRP of \$119,338 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the first fixed and variable payments of the total 2012 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Arnt in 2012 (iii) a bonus under the 2011 LTRP of \$130,739 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the second fixed and variable payments of the total 2011 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Arnt in 2011, (iv) a bonus under the 2010 LTRP of \$10,445 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the third fixed and variable payments of the total 2010 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Arnt in 2010 and (v) a bonus under the 2009 LTRP of \$25,781 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the fourth fixed and variable payments of the total 2009 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Arnt in 2009. In the first quarter of 2013, Mr. Arnt received 243 shares of our common stock under the 2008 LTRP, representing the fifth share installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Arnt in 2008.
- (8) Includes (i) an annual bonus of \$207,057 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012 based upon Mr. Arnt's 2011 performance tally, (ii) a bonus under the 2011 LTRP of \$129,115 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the sum of the first fixed and variable payments of the total 2011 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Arnt in 2011, (iii) a bonus under the 2010 LTRP of \$10,295 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the sum of the second fixed and variable payments of the total 2010 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Arnt in 2010, (iv) a bonus under the 2009 LTRP of \$25,284 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the sum of the third fixed and variable payments of the total 2009 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Arnt in 2009 and (v) a bonus under the 2008 LTRP of \$12,750 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the fourth cash installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus of \$75,000 earned by Mr. Arnt in 2008. In the first quarter of 2012, Mr. Arnt received 243 shares of our common stock under the 2008 LTRP, representing the fourth share installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Arnt in 2008.

Table of Contents

- (9) Includes (i) an annual bonus of \$306,960 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013 based upon Mr. Tolda's 2012 performance tally, (ii) a bonus under the 2012 LTRP of \$119,338 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the first fixed and variable payments of the total 2012 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Tolda in 2012, (iii) a bonus under the 2011 LTRP of \$130,739 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the second fixed and variable payments of the total 2011 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Tolda in 2011, (iv) a bonus under the 2010 LTRP of \$161,576 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the third fixed and variable payments of the total 2010 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Tolda in 2010 and (v) a bonus under the 2009 LTRP of \$85,936 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the fourth fixed and variable payments of the total 2009 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Tolda in 2009. In the first quarter of 2013, Mr. Tolda received 583 shares of our common stock under the 2008 LTRP, representing the fourth share installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Tolda in 2008.
- (10) Includes (i) an annual bonus of \$313,977 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012 based upon Mr. Tolda's 2011 performance tally, (ii) a bonus under the 2011 LTRP of \$129,115 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the sum of the first fixed and variable payments of the total 2011 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Tolda in 2011, (iii) a bonus under the 2010 LTRP of \$159,254 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the sum of the second fixed and variable payments of the total 2010 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Tolda in 2010, (iv) a bonus under the 2009 LTRP of \$84,279 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the sum of the third fixed and variable payments of the total 2009 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Tolda in 2009 and (v) a bonus under the 2008 LTRP of \$30,600 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the fourth cash installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus of \$180,000 earned by Mr. Tolda in 2008. In the first quarter of 2012, Mr. Tolda received 583 shares of our common stock under the 2008 LTRP, representing the fourth share installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Tolda in 2008.
- (11) Includes (i) an annual bonus of \$324,923 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2011 based upon Mr. Tolda's 2010 performance tally, (ii) a bonus under the 2010 LTRP of \$143,322 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2011, representing the sum of the first fixed and variable payments of the total 2010 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Tolda in 2010, (iii) a bonus under the 2009 LTRP of \$72,907 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2011, representing the sum of the second fixed and variable payments of the total 2009 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Tolda in 2009 and (iv) a bonus under the 2008 LTRP of \$24,300 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2011, representing the third cash installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus of \$180,000 earned by Mr. Tolda in 2008. In the second quarter of 2011, Mr. Tolda received 463 shares of our common stock under the 2008 LTRP, representing the third share installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Tolda in 2008.
- (12) Includes (i) an annual bonus of \$283,414 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013 based upon Mr. Giménez's 2012 performance tally, (ii) a bonus under the 2012 LTRP of \$119,338 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the first fixed and variable payments of the total 2012 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Giménez in 2012, (iii) a bonus under the 2011 LTRP of \$65,370 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the second fixed and variable payments of the total 2011 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Giménez in 2011, (iv) a bonus under the 2010 LTRP of \$80,788 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the third fixed and variable payments of the total 2010 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Giménez in 2010 and (v) a bonus under the 2009 LTRP of \$31,625 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the fourth fixed and variable payments of the total 2009 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Giménez in 2009. In the first quarter of 2013, Mr. Giménez also received 298 shares of our common stock under the 2008 LTRP, representing the fourth share installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Giménez in 2008.
- (13) Includes (i) an annual bonus of \$120,275 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012 based upon Mr. Giménez's 2011 performance tally, (ii) a bonus under the 2011 LTRP of \$64,558 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the sum of the first fixed and variable payments of the total 2011 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Giménez in 2011, (iii) a bonus under the 2010 LTRP of \$79,627 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the sum of the second fixed and variable payments of the total 2010 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Giménez in 2010, (iv) a bonus under the 2009 LTRP of \$31,015 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the sum of the third fixed and variable payments of the total 2009 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Giménez in 2009 and (v) a bonus under the 2008 LTRP of \$15,640 paid in cash in the first quarter of

Table of Contents

- 2012, representing the fourth cash installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus of \$92,000 earned by Mr. Giménez in 2008. In the first quarter of 2012, Mr. Giménez also received 298 shares of our common stock under the 2008 LTRP, representing the fourth share installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Giménez in 2008.
- (14) Includes (i) an annual bonus of \$113,151 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2011 based upon Mr. Giménez's 2010 performance tally, (ii) a bonus under the 2010 LTRP of \$71,661 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2011, representing the sum of the first fixed and variable payments of the total 2010 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Giménez in 2010, (iii) a bonus under the 2009 LTRP of \$26,830 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2011, representing the sum of the second fixed and variable payments of the total 2009 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Giménez in 2009 and (iv) a bonus under the 2008 LTRP of \$12,420 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2011, representing the third cash installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus of \$92,000 earned by Mr. Giménez in 2008. In the second quarter of 2011, Mr. Giménez also received 237 shares of our common stock under the 2008 LTRP, representing the third share installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Giménez in 2008.
- (15) Includes (i) an annual bonus of \$137,093 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013 based upon Mr. Rabinovich's 2012 performance tally, (ii) a bonus under the 2012 LTRP of \$47,418 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the first fixed and variable payments of the total 2012 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Rabinovich in 2012, (iii) a bonus under the 2011 LTRP of \$20,779 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the second fixed and variable payments of the total 2011 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Rabinovich in 2011, (iv) a bonus under the 2010 LTRP of \$10,445 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the third fixed and variable payments of the total 2010 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Rabinovich in 2010 and (v) a bonus under the 2009 LTRP of \$25,781 to be paid in cash in the first half of 2013, representing the sum of the fourth fixed and variable payments of the total 2009 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Rabinovich in 2009. In the first quarter of 2013, Mr. Rabinovich received 243 shares of our common stock under the 2008 LTRP, representing the fourth share installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Rabinovich in 2008.
- (16) Includes (i) an annual bonus of \$75,688 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012 based upon Mr. Rabinovich's 2011 performance tally, (ii) a bonus under the 2011 LTRP of \$20,521 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the sum of the first fixed and variable payments of the total 2011 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Rabinovich in 2011, (iii) a bonus under the 2010 LTRP of \$10,295 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the sum of the second fixed and variable payments of the total 2010 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Rabinovich in 2010, (iv) a bonus under the 2009 LTRP of \$25,284 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the sum of the third fixed and variable payments of the total 2009 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Rabinovich in 2009 and (v) a bonus under the 2008 LTRP of \$12,750 paid in cash in the first quarter of 2012, representing the fourth cash installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus of \$12,750 earned by Mr. Rabinovich in 2008. In the first quarter of 2012, Mr. Rabinovich received 243 shares of our common stock under the 2008 LTRP, representing the fourth share installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by Mr. Rabinovich in 2008.

Table of Contents**Grants of Plan-Based Awards for 2012**

The table below summarizes plan-based awards granted to our named executive officers in 2012.

| Name | Grant Date | Threshold (\$) | Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive | |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|---|---------------|
| | | | Plan Awards (1) Target (\$) | Maximum (\$) |
| Marcos Galperin | June 5, 2012 | 387,552(2) | 516,736(2) | 645,920(2)(4) |
| | June 5, 2012 | | 1,950,468(3) | |
| Pedro Arnt | June 5, 2012 | 170,048(2) | 226,731(2) | 283,414(2)(4) |
| | June 5, 2012 | | 943,775(3) | |
| Stelleo Tolda | June 5, 2012 | 184,176(2) | 245,568(2) | 306,960(2)(4) |
| | June 5, 2012 | | 943,775(3) | |
| Osvaldo Giménez | June 5, 2012 | 170,048(2) | 226,731(2) | 283,414(2)(4) |
| | June 5, 2012 | | 943,775(3) | |
| Daniel Rabinovich | June 5, 2012 | 154,230(2) | 205,640(2) | 257,050(2)(4) |
| | June 5, 2012 | | 375,000(3) | |

- (1) Represents estimated future payouts under our 2012 LTRP and 2012 annual bonus.
- (2) The amount set forth reflects the annual discretionary cash bonus amounts that potentially could have been earned during 2012 based upon the executive's performance tally. The actual discretionary cash bonuses earned in 2012 by our named executive officers has been determined and were paid in the first quarter of 2013. The amounts paid are included in the 2012 row of the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table.
- (3) Under the 2012 LTRP, if the executive qualifies for an award based upon satisfaction of the Minimum Eligibility Conditions, he will, subject to his continued employment as of each applicable payment date, receive the full amount of his 2012 LTRP bonus set forth in the table, payable as follows:

the officer will receive a fixed cash payment equal to 6.25% of his or her 2012 LTRP bonus once a year for a period of eight years starting with the first payment in 2013 (the Annual Fixed Payment); and

on each date our company pays the Annual Fixed Payment to the officer, he will also receive a cash payment equal to the product of (i) 6.25% of the applicable 2012 LTRP bonus and (ii) the quotient of (a) divided by (b), where (a), the numerator, equals the Applicable Year Stock Price (as defined below) and (b), the denominator, equals the 2011 Stock Price (as defined below). For purposes of the 2012 LTRP, the 2011 Stock Price shall equal \$77.77 (the average closing price of the Company's common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market during the final 60-trading days of 2011) and the Applicable Year Stock Price shall equal the average closing price of the Company's common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market during the final 60 trading days of the year preceding the applicable payment date for so long as our company's common stock is listed on the NASDAQ.

- (4) The maximum amount of each named executive officer's 2012 LTRP bonus will depend on the Company's stock price for the last 60-trading days of the applicable fiscal year. To the extent the Company's stock price exceeds \$77.77 for one or more applicable periods, the amount of the executive's 2012 LTRP bonus will exceed 6.25% of the amount listed in the Target column above. To the extent the Company's stock price is less than \$77.77 for one or more applicable periods, the amount of the executive's 2012 LTRP bonus will be less than 6.25% of the amount in the Target column above. The average closing price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market during the final 60 trading days of 2012 was \$79.57. Assuming the Applicable Year Stock Price equals \$79.57 as of each payment date, the total amount payable to each of the named executive officers under the 2012 LTRP would be as follows: Mr. Galperin \$1,973,006, Messrs. Arnt, Tolda and Giménez: \$954,680 and Mr. Rabinovich: \$379,333.

Table of Contents

We have entered into employment agreements and indemnification agreements with each of our named executive officers. For a detailed description, see [Employment Agreements](#) and [Certain Relationships and Related Transactions](#) [Indemnification Agreements](#) below. For a detailed description of each of the 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 LTRPs, see [Prior Long-Term Retention Plans](#) below.

Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

The following table provides information on the current holdings of equity awards by the named executive officers at December 31, 2012:

| Name | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable | Option Awards | | | Stock Awards | |
|-------------------|---|---|----------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| | | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable | Option Exercise Price (\$) | Option Expiration Date | Number of Shares of stock That Have Not Vested (#) | Market Value of Shares of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) |
| Marco Galperin | | | | | | |
| Pedro Arnt | | | | | | |
| Stelleo Tolda | | | | | | |
| Oswaldo Giménez | 2,013 | | \$ 1.50 | 07/01/2014 | | |
| Daniel Rabinovich | | | | | | |

Option Exercises and Stock Vested

The following table presents information regarding the vesting during 2012 of shares of common stock previously granted to the named executive officers:

| Name | Options exercised | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Number of options exercised (#) (1) | Value of options exercised (\$ (2) |
| Marcos Galperin | | |
| Pedro Arnt | | |
| Stelleo Tolda | | |
| Oswaldo Giménez | 3,300 | 245,040 |
| Daniel Rabinovich | | |

| Name | Stock Awards Value Realized | |
|-------------------|--|--------------------|
| | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#) (1) | on Vesting (\$ (2) |
| Marcos Galperin | 1,619 | 158,322 |
| Pedro Arnt | 243 | 23,763 |
| Stelleo Tolda | 583 | 57,012 |
| Oswaldo Giménez | 298 | 29,141 |
| Daniel Rabinovich | 243 | 23,763 |

(1) Represents shares acquired upon vesting of the fourth installment of the total 2008 LTRP bonus earned by the named executive officer in 2008, which shares vested on March 31, 2012.

Edgar Filing: MERCADOLIBRE INC - Form DEF 14A

- (2) Represents the value of vested common stock calculated by multiplying the number of exercised common shares by the closing price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market on March 30, 2012.

-38-

Table of Contents

Pension Benefits

We do not have any plan that provides for payments or other benefits at, following, or in connection with the retirement of any of our employees. However, as required by law in certain countries where we operate, we deduct a percentage of each employee's salary, including our executive officers, and remit it to governmental social security agencies or private pension fund administrators, depending on the regulatory regime established in each country.

Nonqualified Defined Contribution and Other Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plans

We do not have any defined contribution or other plan that provides for the deferral of compensation on a basis that is not tax-qualified.

Employment Agreements

We have previously entered into employment agreements with each of our named executive officers. The term of each of these employment agreements is for an undetermined period.

Each executive officer party to the employment agreements is entitled to receive the base salary set forth in such executive officer's employment agreement, subject to the raises that we have awarded to those executive officers throughout the terms of their employment. In addition to base salary, the executive officers may receive bonus compensation as we, in our sole discretion, elect to pay them in accordance with the bonus plan policy. The executive officers are also entitled to reimbursement for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses that they incur on our behalf in the performance of their duties as executive officers.

The employment agreements provide that, during an executive officer's employment and for so long afterwards as any pertinent information remains confidential, such executive officer will not use or disclose any confidential information that we use, develop or obtain. The agreements provide that all work product relating to our business belongs to us or our subsidiaries, and the executive officer will promptly disclose such work product to us and provide reasonable assistance in connection with the defense of such work product.

The agreements also provide that, during an executive officer's employment, and for a period of one year after the end of an executive officer's employment in the event of termination without just cause, and two years in the event of resignation or termination for just cause (the non-competition period), the executive officer will not (1) compete directly or indirectly with us, (2) induce our or our subsidiaries' employees to terminate their employment with us or to engage in any competitive business or (3) solicit or do business with any of our present, past or prospective customers or the customers of our subsidiaries.

Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control

We may terminate an executive officer's employment in the event that we determine, in our sole discretion, that there is just cause (as defined below). If we terminate an executive officer's employment for just cause, such executive officer will not be entitled to receive any severance benefits, except for severance obligations mandated under the laws of the country where the executive officer resides. If we terminate the executive officer's employment without just cause, such executive officer shall be entitled to a severance payment in an amount equal to one year's gross base salary as set forth in the employment agreements.

Just cause means and includes (1) the commission by the executive officer of any gross misconduct or any offense serious enough for the relationship to become impossible to continue, including without limitation, the executive officer's willful and continuing disregard of the lawful written instructions of our board or such executive officer's superiors, (2) any action or any omission by the executive officer, resulting in such executive officer's breach of his duty of loyalty or any act of self-dealing, (3) any material breach by the executive officer

Table of Contents

of his duties and obligations under the employment agreement as decided by our board and (4) the executive officer's conviction, in our board of director's sole discretion, of any serious crime or offense for violating any law (including, without limitation, theft, fraud, paying directly or indirectly bribes or kick-backs to government officials, the crimes set forth in the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 or the foreign equivalent thereof and the executive officer's embezzlement of funds of our company or any of our affiliates).

In September of 2001, we implemented the 2001 Management Incentive Bonus Plan (the Incentive Plan). As established in the Incentive Plan, our chief executive officer established which officers would be eligible for the Incentive Plan. Pursuant to the Incentive Plan, in the event we are sold, the eligible officers, as a group, are entitled to receive a sale bonus and a stay bonus. If the purchase price is equal to or greater than \$20,000,000 then the eligible officers as a group are entitled to receive (1) a sale bonus equal to 5.5% of the purchase price and (2) a stay bonus equal to 7.1% of the purchase price, subject in both cases to a maximum combined cap of \$78,335,000. If the purchase price is less than \$20,000,000, then the eligible officers, as a group, are entitled to receive the stay bonus only. The bonuses are divided between the eligible officers, including our named executive officers and others, according to the participation percentages established by our chief executive officer, in accordance with the Incentive Plan.

Prior Long-Term Retention Plans

2008 Long-Term Retention Plan

In August 2008, our compensation committee adopted the 2008 LTRP, which provided for award grants payable 50% in cash and 50% in common stock over a four-year period based upon achievement of certain performance goals in 2008. Awards under the 2008 LTRP were made by the compensation committee based upon an eligible participant's attainment of certain performance goals in 2008. Each executive qualified for an award under the 2008 LTRP based upon a 2008 performance tally and each award has been in equal parts cash and common stock in accordance with the following payment schedule (provided that the executive continued to be employed by us through the applicable payment date):

Year One Paid on March 24, 2009: 17% (8.5% in cash and 8.5% in common stock);

Year Two Paid on March 31, 2010: 22% (11% in cash and 11% in common stock);

Year Three Paid on March 31, 2011: 27% (13.5% in cash and 13.5% in common stock); and

Year Four Paid on March 31, 2012: 34% (17% in cash and 17% in common stock).

The number of shares of our common stock awarded was determined based upon the average closing price of our common stock during the 30 days prior to January 1, 2008, the first day of the performance measuring period. Under the 2008 LTRP, in the event that, as of any payment date, our shares were not listed on a national stock exchange, in lieu of the share portion of any payment, our award recipients would have received additional cash.

As of March 31, 2012, the Company fully paid the 2008 LTRP.

2009 Long-Term Retention Plan

In July 2009, our compensation committee adopted the 2009 LTRP for executives to supplement salary and annual bonus for an eight-year period starting in 2009. The 2009 LTRP was designed to assist us in the retention of key employees that have valuable industry experience and developed competencies. The 2009 LTRP is separate and distinct from the 2008 LTRP. The committee considered the expected payouts under the 2008 LTRP when evaluating awards under the 2009 LTRP in the interest of evaluating total compensation to be received by the executive in the coming years.

Table of Contents

Awards under the 2009 LTRP were based upon an eligible participant's satisfaction of the following minimum eligibility conditions:

our company must have achieved at least 80% of the target general company performance objectives in 2009;

the subject executive officer must have scored at least 80% on his individual qualitative assessments; and

the subject executive's total performance tally must have equaled at least 80%.

In addition, Mr. Giménez's bonus eligibility was dependent upon the MercadoPago business achieving at least 70% of target net revenues. Under the 2009 LTRP, general company performance objectives included net revenues minus bad debt for our company, our net income, and our free cash flow.

Each award under the 2009 LTRP is payable 100% in cash over an eight-year period. The committee made the decision to tie cash payments under the 2009 LTRP to our stock performance rather than to actually issue equity under the 2009 LTRP for a number of reasons, including, but not limited to, to reduce the dilutive effect on our stockholders. The portion of the award to be paid in the future will be forfeited if an employee leaves our company prior to the respective payment date.

In order to receive an award under the 2009 LTRP, an eligible participant must satisfy certain minimum company and individual performance conditions. If these conditions are satisfied, the executive officer will, subject to his continued employment as of each applicable payment date, receive the full amount of his 2009 LTRP bonus, payable as follows:

the officer will receive a fixed cash payment equal to 6.25% of his or her 2009 LTRP bonus once a year for a period of eight years starting in 2010; and

on each date we pay the annual fixed payment to the officer, he or she will also receive a variable cash payment equal to the product of (i) 6.25% of the applicable 2009 LTRP bonus and (ii) the quotient of (a) divided by (b), where (a), the numerator, equals the Applicable Year Stock Price (defined below) and (b), the denominator, equals the 2008 Stock Price (as defined below). For purposes of the 2009 LTRP, the 2008 Stock Price equals \$13.81 (the average closing price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market during the final 60 trading days of 2008) and the Applicable Year Stock Price equals the average closing price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market during the final 60 trading days of the year preceding the applicable payment date.

The maximum amount of each executive officer's 2009 LTRP bonus will depend on our stock price for the last 60 trading days of the applicable fiscal year. Under the 2009 LTRP, in the event that, as of any payment date, our shares are not listed on a national stock exchange, the amount of the annual variable payment will be based upon the average closing price of the shares during the 90-day period they were last traded on a national exchange, unless the compensation committee determines that a different value is more appropriate based upon the facts and circumstances.

2010 Long-Term Retention Plan

In June 2010, the compensation committee adopted the 2010 LTRP to supplement salary and annual bonus for an eight-year period starting in 2011. The 2010 LTRP was designed to assist us in the retention of key employees that have valuable industry experience and developed competencies. The 2010 LTRP is separate and distinct from the 2008 and 2009 LTRP. The committee considered the expected payouts under the 2009 LTRP when evaluating awards under the 2010 LTRP in the interest of evaluating total compensation to be received by the executive in the coming years.

The 2010 LTRP is similar to the 2009 LTRP. Awards under the 2010 LTRP were based upon an eligible participant's satisfaction of the following minimum eligibility conditions:

Edgar Filing: MERCADOLIBRE INC - Form DEF 14A

our company must have achieved at least 80% of the target general company performance objectives in 2010;

-41-

Table of Contents

the business unit must have achieved at least 70% of the functional performance objectives in 2010;

the subject executive officer must have scored at least 80% on his individual qualitative assessments; and

the subject executive's total performance tally must have equaled at least 80%.

Each award under the 2010 LTRP is payable 100% in cash over an eight-year period. The committee made the decision to tie cash payments under the 2010 LTRP to our stock performance rather than to actually issue equity under the 2010 LTRP for a number of reasons, including, but not limited to, to reduce the dilutive effect on our stockholders. The portion of the award to be paid in the future will be forfeited if an employee leaves our company prior to the respective payment date. Under the 2010 LTRP, general company performance objectives included:

net revenues minus bad debt for our marketplace business, defined as our net revenues for 2010, determined in accordance with U.S. GAAP, less the portion of our bad debt for our marketplace business that was uncollectible and after adjustments for unusual items as determined by the compensation committee;

our net income, determined in accordance with GAAP and after adjustments for unusual items as determined by the compensation committee; and

our adjusted free cash flow, defined as the net increase in our cash and cash equivalents and short-term and long-term investments in 2010 over 2009 adjusted by (a) the difference between the MercadoPago accounts receivable balance at December 31, 2009 versus December 31, 2010 and (b) the difference between the MercadoPago accounts payable balance at December 31, 2009 versus December 31, 2010 and after adjustments for unusual items as determined by the compensation committee.

The 2010 LTRP will be paid in eight equal annual quotas (12.5% each) commencing on March 31, 2011. Each quota will be calculated as follows:

the officer will receive a fixed cash payment equal to 6.25% of his or her 2010 LTRP bonus once a year for a period of eight years starting in 2011; and

on each date we pay the annual fixed payment to the officer, he or she will also receive a variable cash payment equal to the product of (i) 6.25% of the applicable 2010 LTRP bonus and (ii) the quotient of (a) divided by (b), where (a), the numerator, equals the Applicable Year Stock Price (defined below) and (b), the denominator, equals the 2009 Stock Price (as defined below). For purposes of the 2010 LTRP, the 2009 Stock Price equals \$45.75 (the average closing price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market during the final 60 trading days of 2009) and the Applicable Year Stock Price equals the average closing price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market during the final 60 trading days of the year preceding the applicable payment date.

The maximum amount of each executive officer's 2010 LTRP bonus will depend on our stock price for the last 60 trading days of the applicable fiscal year. Under the 2010 LTRP, in the event that, as of any payment date, our shares are not listed on a national stock exchange, the amount of the annual variable payment will be based upon the average closing price of the shares during the 90-day period they were last traded on a national exchange, unless the compensation committee determines that a different value is more appropriate based upon the facts and circumstances.

2011 Long-Term Retention Plan

On August 1, 2011, the board of directors finalized the 2011 LTRP. The 2011 LTRP was designed to assist us in the retention of key employees that have valuable industry experience and developed competencies. The award under the 2011 LTRP will be fully payable in cash in addition to the annual salary and annual bonus of

Table of Contents

each employee. In order to receive an award under the 2011 LTRP, the executive must satisfy the Minimum Eligibility Conditions applicable to determine eligibility for annual cash bonuses. If these Minimum Eligibility Conditions are satisfied, the executive will, subject to his continued employment as of each applicable payment date, receive the target amount of his 2011 LTRP bonus.

The 2011 LTRP is separate and distinct from the 2008 LTRP, 2009 LTRP, and 2010 LTRP. However, the compensation committee considered the expected payouts under the 2008 LTRP, 2009 LTRP, and 2010 LTRP when evaluating awards under the 2011 LTRP in the interest of evaluating total compensation to be received by the executive in the coming years.

The 2011 LTRP is similar to the 2010 LTRP and 2009 LTRP. Awards under the 2011 LTRP were based upon an eligible participant's satisfaction of the following Minimum Eligibility Conditions :

our company must have achieved at least 80% of the target General Company Performance Objectives in 2011;

the subject executive officer must have scored at least 80% on his individual qualitative assessment; and

the subject executive officer's total performance tally must have equaled at least 80%.

In addition, in order for Mr. Giménez to be eligible to receive a 2011 LTRP bonus, the MercadoPago business must have achieved at least 70% of target net revenues.

Each award under the 2011 LTRP is payable 100% in cash over an eight-year period. The committee made the decision to tie cash payments under the 2011 LTRP to our stock performance rather than to actually issue equity under the 2011 LTRP for a number of reasons, including, but not limited to, to reduce the dilutive effect on our stockholders. The portion of the award to be paid in the future will be forfeited if an employee leaves our company prior to the respective payment date.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL TWO:

ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Section 14A of the Exchange Act added by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Financial Reform Act) provides our stockholders with an advisory vote to approve our executive compensation. This advisory vote gives our stockholders the opportunity to express their views on the compensation of our named executive officers. Although this vote is advisory and is not binding, the board of directors and the compensation committee plan to take into consideration the outcome of the vote when making future executive compensation decisions. At our 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, a majority of stockholders voted in favor of having an advisory vote to approve our executive compensation each year, consistent with the recommendation of our board. After consideration of these results and our Board's recommendation, we elected to hold future advisory votes on executive compensation each year until the next advisory vote on frequency occurs. We are required under the Financial Reform Act to hold an advisory vote on frequency at least every six years.

As described in detail under Executive Compensation, our compensation program is designed to align the interests of management with those of our stockholders, apply a pay-for-performance philosophy and attract and retain top management talent. Our board believes that our current executive compensation program directly links executive compensation to our performance and properly aligns the interests of our executive officers with those of our stockholders. For example:

By design, a significant portion of the compensation awarded to our named executive officers is contingent upon individual and company performance. In 2012, subject to satisfaction of minimum eligibility conditions, 95% of our president and chief executive officer's annual cash bonus was based on pre-determined company performance criteria and 5% was based on a qualitative assessment of his performance during the year. For each of our other named executive officers (other than our executive vice president payments and our senior vice president and chief technology officer), subject to satisfaction of the minimum eligibility conditions, 85% of the annual bonus was based on company performance and 15% was based on an assessment of individual performance. For our executive vice president payments, subject to satisfaction of the minimum eligibility conditions, 50% of the annual bonus was based on company performance, 35% was based on MercadoPago Performance Constant Dollars and 15% was based on an assessment of individual performance. For our senior vice president and chief technology officer, subject to satisfaction of the minimum eligibility conditions, 35% of the annual bonus was based on company performance, 50% was based on the IT Development Plan and 15% was based on an assessment of individual performance.

Base salary represents a relatively small percentage of total direct compensation for our named executive officers. In 2012, the compensation committee applied our pay-for-performance philosophy in setting base salaries for our chief executive officer, chief financial officer and chief operating officer that represented between approximately 25% and 30% of their respective total direct compensation.

The awards granted to our named executive officers under our long-term retention plans are paid out over a period of eight years and subject to forfeiture if an officer retires, resigns or terminates his employment for any reason, or if an officer takes certain specified actions that could adversely affect our business.

See the information set forth under Executive Compensation for more information on these elements of our executive compensation program.

For these reasons, our board strongly endorses our company's executive compensation program and recommends that stockholders vote in favor of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the company's stockholders approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the company's named executive officers, as disclosed under the compensation disclosure rules of the SEC,

Table of Contents

including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, compensation tables and narrative discussion contained in this proxy statement.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE APPROVAL OF OUR EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Table of Contents

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

Messrs. Malka (Chairman) and Caleznuk, and Ms. Serra comprise our compensation committee. None of the current members of our compensation committee has ever been an officer or employee of our company or our subsidiaries or had any relationship with us requiring disclosure as a related party transaction under applicable rules of the SEC. During fiscal year 2012, none of our executive officers served as a member of the compensation committee of another entity, one of whose executive officers served on our compensation committee; none of our executive officers served as a director of another entity, one of whose executive officers served on our compensation committee; and none of our executive officers served as a member of the compensation committee of another entity, one of whose executive officers served as a member of our board. All members of our compensation committee are independent in accordance with the applicable rules of NASDAQ and our corporate governance guidelines.

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

Office Lease

During the first quarter ended March 31, 2012, the Company recovered the escrow, amounting to \$16,553, related to the office lease contracts with Curtidos San Luis S.A. that concluded during 2011.

Indemnification Agreements

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our directors and executive officers that obligate us to indemnify them to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law.

REVIEW, APPROVAL OR RATIFICATION OF TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

The board has delegated to the audit committee the responsibility to review and approve all transactions or series of transactions in which we or a subsidiary is a participant, the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 and a related person (as defined in Item 404 of Regulation S-K) has a direct or indirect material interest. Transactions that fall within this definition will be referred to the audit committee for approval, ratification or other action. Based on its consideration of all of the relevant facts and circumstances, the audit committee will decide whether or not to approve the transaction and will approve only those transactions that are in the best interests of our company.

Table of Contents

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Pursuant to SEC rules for proxy statements, the audit committee of our board has prepared the following Audit Committee Report. The audit committee intends that this report clearly describe our current audit program, including the underlying philosophy and activities of the audit committee.

The audit committee of our board is composed of Mario Vázquez (Chairman), Meyer Malka and Susan Segal, all of whom are independent under the NASDAQ listing standards and rules and regulations of the SEC applicable to audit committees. The audit committee operates under a charter, which is posted on our investor relations website at <http://investor.mercadolibre.com> and annually reviewed by the board. This charter specifies the scope of the audit committee's responsibilities and the manner in which it carries out those responsibilities.

The audit committee members are not professional accountants or auditors. Management has the primary responsibility for preparing the financial statements and designing and assessing the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Management is also responsible for maintaining appropriate accounting and financial reporting principles and policies and the internal controls and procedures that provide for compliance with accounting standards and applicable laws and regulations. In this context, the audit committee has reviewed and discussed with management the audited financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

The audit committee also has discussed with Deloitte & Co S.A. the matters required to be discussed by the Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards, AU Section 380, as amended.

The audit committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from Deloitte & Co S.A. required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding Deloitte & Co S.A.'s communications with the audit committee concerning independence and has discussed with Deloitte & Co S.A. its independence.

Based on the audit committee's review and discussions with management and Deloitte & Co S.A. described above, the audit committee recommended that our board include the audited consolidated financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 for filing with the SEC.

The foregoing report does not constitute solicitation material and should not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any of our other filings under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, except to the extent that we specifically incorporate this report by reference therein.

AUDIT COMMITTEE*

Mario Vázquez, Chairman

Susan Segal

* Martín de los Santos resigned from our board of directors, from the compensation committee and from the audit committee effective March 4, 2013. Meyer Malka was appointed to the audit committee on March 5, 2013 and as a result, did not participate in the foregoing review or discussions.

Table of Contents**PROPOSAL THREE:****RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Our audit committee has appointed Deloitte & Co. S.A. (Deloitte) to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, and stockholders are being asked to ratify the selection at the 2013 Annual Meeting. Representatives of Deloitte will not be present at the 2013 Annual Meeting in person. However, representatives will be present telephonically and will have the opportunity to make a statement and respond to appropriate questions.

Although ratification by stockholders is not a prerequisite to the ability of the audit committee to select Deloitte as our independent registered public accounting firm, we believe ratification to be desirable. Accordingly, our stockholders are being requested to ratify, confirm and approve the selection of Deloitte as our independent registered public accounting firm to conduct the annual audit of our consolidated financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2013. If the stockholders do not ratify the selection of Deloitte, the selection of the independent registered public accounting firm will be reconsidered by the audit committee; however, the audit committee may select Deloitte notwithstanding the failure of the stockholders to ratify its selection. If the appointment of Deloitte is ratified, the audit committee will continue to conduct an ongoing review of Deloitte's scope of engagement, pricing and work quality, among other factors, and will retain the right to replace Deloitte at any time.

The audit committee considers Deloitte to be qualified to deliver independent auditing services to our company due to, among other things, their depth of experience, breadth of reserves, commitment to provide exceptional service, ability to handle transactional matters and location of key personnel.

Deloitte served as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012 and reported on our consolidated financial statements for those years.

Audit and Non-Audit Fees

The following is a description of the fees billed and to be billed to us by Deloitte for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2012:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | (Deloitte) | (Deloitte) |
| Audit Fees | \$ 1,029,564 | \$ 926,179 |
| Audit-Related Fees | \$ | |
| Tax Fees | \$ 62,801 | \$ 95,231 |
| All Other Fees | \$ 125,000 | \$ 49,918 |
| Total | \$ 1,217,365 | \$ 1,071,327 |

Audit Fees

Audit fees represent the aggregate fees billed to us by Deloitte during the applicable fiscal year in connection with the annual audit of our consolidated financial statements, the audit of our internal control over financial reporting, the review of our interim financial statements and the review of our Annual Report on Form 10-K. Audit fees also include fees for services performed by Deloitte during the applicable fiscal year that are closely related to the audit and in many cases could only be provided by our independent registered public accounting firm. Such services include consents related to SEC registration statements and certain reports relating to our regulatory filings.

Table of Contents

Audit-Related Fees

Audit-related fees represent the aggregate fees billed to us by Deloitte during the applicable fiscal year for assurance and related services reasonably related to the performance of the audit of our annual financial statements for those years.

Tax Fees

Tax fees represent the aggregate fees billed to us by Deloitte during 2011 for tax compliance, tax planning and tax advice.

All Other Fees

All other fees represent the aggregate fees billed to us by Deloitte for those permissible non-audit services that the audit committee believes are routine and recurring and would not impair the independence of the independent registered public accounting firm and are consistent with the SEC's rules on auditor independence.

Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policy

The audit committee's policy is that all audit and non-audit services provided by its independent registered public accounting firm shall either be approved before the independent registered public accounting firm is engaged for the particular services or shall be rendered pursuant to pre-approval procedures established by the audit committee. These services may include audit services and permissible audit-related services, tax services and other services. Pre-approval spending limits for all services to be performed by the independent registered public accounting firm are established periodically by the audit committee, detailed as to the particular service or category of services to be performed and implemented by our financial officers. The term of any pre-approval is twelve months from the date of pre-approval, unless the audit committee specifically provides for a different period. Any audit or non-audit service fees that we may incur that fall outside the limits pre-approved by the audit committee for a particular service or category of services require separate and specific pre-approval by the audit committee prior to the performance of services. For each fiscal year, the audit committee may determine the appropriate ratio between the total amount of fees for audit, audit-related and tax and other services. The audit committee may revise the list of pre-approved services from time to time. In all pre-approval instances, the audit committee will consider whether such services are consistent with the SEC rules on auditor independence.

All of the fees paid to Deloitte during the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011 described above were pre-approved by the audit committee in accordance with the audit committee pre-approval policy.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF DELOITTE AS OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Table of Contents

HEADQUARTERS INFORMATION

Our headquarters are located at Arias 3751, 7th Floor, Buenos Aires, Argentina, C1430CRG and the telephone number at that location is 011-54-11-4640-8000.

OTHER MATTERS

As of the date of this proxy statement, our board does not know of any matters to be presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting other than those specifically set forth in the Notice of 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and this proxy statement. If other proper matters, however, should come before the 2013 Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof, the proxies named in the enclosed proxy card intend to vote the shares represented by them in accordance with their best judgment in respect of any such matters.

Table of Contents

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

A stockholder may present proper proposals for inclusion in our proxy statement and for consideration at the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders by submitting their proposals in writing to us in a timely manner. For a stockholder proposal to be considered for inclusion in our proxy statement for our 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, our Corporate Secretary must receive the written proposal at our principal executive offices no later than December 27, 2013; provided, however, that in the event that we hold our 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders more than 30 days before or after the one-year anniversary date of the 2013 Annual Meeting, we will disclose the new deadline by which stockholders proposals must be received under Item 5 of our earliest possible quarterly report on Form 10-Q or, if impracticable, by any means reasonably calculated to inform stockholders. In addition, stockholder proposals must otherwise comply with the requirements of Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act. Such proposals also must comply with SEC regulations under Rule 14a-8 regarding the inclusion of stockholder proposals in company-sponsored proxy materials. Proposals should be addressed to:

MercadoLibre, Inc. Attn: Corporate Secretary Arias 3751, 7th Floor Buenos Aires, Argentina, C1430CRG

Our bylaws also establish an advance notice procedure for stockholders who wish to present a proposal before an annual meeting of stockholders or nominate persons for election to our board at our annual meeting but do not intend for the proposal to be included in our proxy statement. Our bylaws provide that the only business that may be conducted at an annual meeting is business that is (1) specified in the notice of a meeting (or any supplement thereto) given by or at the direction of the chairman of the board or our board of directors, (2) otherwise properly brought before the meeting by the chairperson or by or at the direction of a majority of our board of directors, or (3) properly brought before the meeting by a stockholder entitled to vote at the annual meeting who has delivered timely written notice to our Corporate Secretary, which notice must contain the information specified in our bylaws.

To be timely, our Corporate Secretary must receive the written notice at our principal executive offices not earlier than 90 days and not later than 60 days before the anniversary of the date on which we first mailed our proxy materials for the prior year's annual meeting of stockholders (i.e. between January 26, 2014¹ and February 25, 2014¹ for our 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders). However, in the event that the date of the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is advanced or delayed by more than 30 days from the first anniversary of the date of the 2013 Annual Meeting, in order to be timely, a proposal or nomination by the stockholder must be delivered not later than the later of (i) 90 days before the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or (ii) 10 days following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made. The notice must satisfy the other requirements with respect to such proposals and nominations contained in our bylaws. If a stockholder fails to meet the deadlines in Rule 14a-8 and our bylaws or fails to comply with SEC Rule 14a-4, we may exercise discretionary voting authority under proxies we solicit to vote on any such proposal. Our bylaws were filed with the SEC as an exhibit to our registration statement on Form S-1 on May 11, 2007, and which can be viewed by visiting our investor relations website at <http://investor.mercadolibre.com> and may also be obtained by writing to our Corporate Secretary at our principal executive office (Arias 3751, 7th floor, Buenos Aires, Argentina, C1430CRG).

By order of the board of directors,

Marcos Galperin

Chairman of the Board, President and Chief

Executive Officer

April 26, 2013

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Table of Contents

Table of Contents