

Ambow Education Announces Second Quarter 2021 Financial Results

BEIJING, Sept. 20, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Ambow Education Holding Ltd. ("Ambow" or the "Company") (NYSE American: AMBO), a leading cross-border career educational and technology service provider, today announced its unaudited financial and operating results for the three-month and six-month periods ended June 30, 2021.

"In the second quarter of 2021, we remained focused on technology-driven educational and career enhancement services, embracing the national strategy of improving collaborative and coordinated development across education, talents and industry and promoting high-quality economic growth," noted Dr. Jin Huang, Ambow's President and Chief Executive Officer. "We're pleased to report solid financial performance and further improved operating efficiency in the second quarter, highlighted by a 10.8% year-over-year growth in net revenues and an increase in gross margin of 530 basis points year-over-year to 44.1%."

"Additionally, during the quarter, we made a number of strides that helped to expand our role as a leading innovator in the Chinese career education market. Building on our 20-year proven track record in the vocational and technical education sector, in June we cooperated with Nanchang Vocational University, one of the 15 first batch of undergraduate vocational education pilot schools in China, to co-found the Smart Manufacturing Modern Industrial College, underscoring China's pilot program for the integration between industry and education. Meanwhile, we formed a strategic cooperation with the Talent Exchange Center of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology to strengthen international communication in various information technology-related disciplines. More excitingly, in July we launched an open education platform, OOOK, which incorporates our in-house developed technologies, enabling teachers to provide high-quality, cross-device live and recorded courses with immersive and interactive learning experiences. Notably, with its groundbreaking technology and solutions, OOOK won the '2021 Best Product Technology Innovation' award at the 10th Annual China Finance Summit."

"Moving into the second half of 2021, we remain committed to delivering innovative educational products and services that will be at the forefront of the industry by continually capitalizing on technology trends. We are confident that our strategic efforts will continue to drive the long-term growth of our overall business," concluded Dr. Huang.

Second Quarter 2021 Financial Highlights

- **Net revenues** for the second quarter of 2021 increased by 10.8% to RMB 172.3 million (US\$ 26.7 million) from RMB 155.5 million (US\$ 22.0 million) in the same period of 2020. The increase was primarily due to the full business recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Gross profit** for the second quarter of 2021 increased by 25.7% to RMB 75.9 million (US\$ 11.8 million) from RMB 60.4 million (US\$ 8.5 million) in the same period of 2020. Gross profit margin was 44.1%, compared with 38.8% for the first second quarter of 2020. The increases in gross profit and margin were mainly attributable to faster growth of net revenues in the period.
- **Operating expenses** for the second quarter of 2021 decreased by 7.8% to RMB 55.6 million (US\$ 8.6 million) from RMB 60.3 million (US\$ 8.5 million) in the same period of 2020. The decrease was primarily attributable to stringent expense controls to improve operating efficiency.
- **Operating income** for the second quarter of 2021 was RMB 20.3 million (US\$ 3.1 million), compared to operating income of RMB 0.1 million (US\$ 0.02 million) in the same period of 2020.
- **Net income attributable to ordinary shareholders** was RMB 22.4 million (US\$ 3.5 million), or RMB 0.48 (US\$ 0.07) per basic and diluted share, compared with a net income of RMB 4.8 million (US\$ 0.7 million), or RMB 0.11 (US\$ 0.02) per basic and diluted share, in the same period of 2020.
- As of June 30, 2021, Ambow maintained strong cash resources of RMB 257.7 million (US\$ 39.9 million), comprised of cash and cash equivalents of RMB 168.4 million (US\$ 26.1 million), short-term investments of RMB 87.6 million (US\$ 13.5 million) and restricted cash of RMB 1.7 million (US\$ 0.3 million).

First Six Months 2021 Financial Highlights

- **Net revenues** for the first six months of 2021 increased by 22.9% to RMB 301.9 million (US\$ 46.8 million) from RMB 245.7 million (US\$ 34.8 million) in the same period of 2020. The increase was primarily due to the full business recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and higher revenue contribution from our new U.S. business.
- **Gross profit** for the first six months of 2021 increased by 67.5% to RMB 120.6 million (US\$ 18.7 million) from RMB 72.0 million (US\$ 10.2 million) in the same period of 2020. Gross profit margin was 39.9%, compared with 29.3% in the same period of 2020. The increases in gross profit and margin were mainly attributable to faster growth of net revenues in the period.
- **Operating expenses** for the first six months of 2021 slightly increased by 3.9% to RMB 115.4 million (US\$ 17.9 million) from RMB 111.1 million (US\$ 15.7 million) in the same period of 2020.
- **Operating income** for the six months of 2021 was RMB 5.2 million (US\$ 0.8 million), compared to operating loss of RMB 39.2 million (US\$ 5.5 million) in the same period of 2020.
- **Net income attributable to ordinary shareholders** was RMB 8.1 million (US\$ 1.3 million), or RMB 0.17 (US\$ 0.03) per basic and diluted share, compared with a net income of RMB 10.8 million (US\$ 1.5 million), or RMB 0.25 (US\$ 0.04) per basic and diluted share, in the same period of 2020. Excluding the one-time gain from bargain purchase of NewSchool of Architecture and Design, LLC of RMB 40.3 million (US\$ 5.7 million), net loss for the first six months of 2020 was RMB 29.5 million (US\$ 4.2 million) or RMB 0.68 (US\$ 0.10) per basic and diluted share.

The Company's financial and operating results for the second quarter and first half of 2021 can also be found on its Current Report on Form 6-K to be furnished with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission at www.sec.gov.

Regulatory Policy Update

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress promulgated an amendment to the Implementation Rules of the Law for Promoting Private Education on April 7, 2021, which has been effective since September 1, 2021 (the "Implementation Rules"). The Implementation Rules stipulated, among other provisions, that (1) sponsors of private schools may choose to establish schools as either non-profit or for-profit schools, but nine-year compulsory education schools cannot be operated as for-profit schools; (2) foreign-invested enterprises established in China and social organizations whose actual controllers are foreign parties shall not sponsor, participate in or actually control private schools that provide compulsory education; (3) group-based education organizations shall not control non-profit private schools through mergers and acquisitions, franchise agreements and contractual arrangements; and (4) related party transactions entered into by private schools shall be open, fair and just, and shall not harm national interests, school interests, or student or teacher interests. The Company is assessing the impact of the Implementation Rules and formulating different scenarios as compliance measures.

Exchange Rate Information

This announcement contains translations of certain RMB amounts into U.S. dollars at a specified rate solely for the convenience of the reader. Unless otherwise noted, all amounts translated from RMB to U.S. dollars for the second quarter and first half of 2021 are based on the effective exchange rate of 6.4566 as of June 30, 2021; all amounts translated from RMB to U.S. dollars for the second quarter and first half of 2020 are based on the effective exchange rate of 7.0651 as of June 30, 2020; all amounts translated from RMB to U.S. dollars as of December 31, 2020 are based on the effective exchange rate of 6.5250 as of December 31, 2020. The exchange rates were according to the middle rate as set forth in the H.10 statistical release of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board. Fluctuations in financial highlights are based on RMB amounts.

About Ambow Education Holding Ltd.

Ambow Education Holding Ltd. is a leading cross-border career educational and technology service provider, offering high-quality, individualized services and products. With its extensive network of regional service hubs complemented by a dynamic proprietary learning platform and distributors, Ambow provides its services and products to students in China and United States of America.

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Safe Harbor Statement

This announcement contains forward-looking statements. These statements are made under the "safe harbor" provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements can be identified by terminology such as "will," "expects," "anticipates," "future," "intends," "plans," "believes," "estimates" and similar statements. Among other things, the outlook and quotations from management in this announcement, as well as Ambow's strategic and operational plans, contain forward-looking statements. Ambow may also make written or oral forward-looking statements in its reports filed or furnished to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, in its annual reports to shareholders, in press releases and other written materials and in oral statements made by its officers, directors or employees to third parties. Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties. A number of factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements, including but not limited to the following: the Company's goals and strategies, expansion plans, the expected growth of the content and application delivery services market, the Company's expectations regarding keeping and strengthening its relationships with its customers, and the general economic and business conditions in the regions where the Company provides its solutions and services. Further information regarding these and other risks is included in the Company's filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. All information provided in this press release is as of the date of this press release, and Ambow undertakes no duty to update such information, except as required under applicable law.

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The Piacente Group | Investor Relations

AMBOW EDUCATION HOLDING LTD.
UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(All amounts in thousands, except for share and per share data)

	As of June 30,		As of December 31,
	2021		2020
	US\$	RMB	RMB
ASSETS			
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	26,086	168,424	118,821
Restricted cash	256	1,650	824
Short-term investments, available for sale	13,266	85,652	117,854
Short-term investments, held to maturity	310	2,000	45,000
Accounts receivable, net	3,289	21,234	20,972
Amounts due from related parties	501	3,235	3,024
Prepaid and other current assets, net	18,858	121,757	117,634
Total current assets	62,566	403,952	424,129
Non-current assets:			
Property and equipment, net	21,989	141,972	144,492
Land use rights, net	262	1,693	1,715
Intangible assets, net	8,403	54,252	54,808
Goodwill	3,982	25,710	25,710
Deferred tax assets, net	883	5,704	6,338
Operating lease right-of-use asset	35,522	229,353	247,608
Finance lease right-of-use asset	860	5,550	5,850
Other non-current assets	21,805	140,786	139,067
Total non-current assets	93,706	605,020	625,588
Total assets	156,272	1,008,972	1,049,717
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities:			
Short-term borrowings *	3,020	19,498	10,000
Deferred revenue *	21,106	136,274	163,699
Accounts payable *	3,320	21,425	19,423
Accrued and other liabilities *	31,473	203,207	209,590
Income taxes payable, current *	28,669	185,105	184,638
Amounts due to related parties *	429	2,771	2,543
Operating lease liability, current *	7,620	49,198	53,702
Total current liabilities	95,637	617,478	643,595
Non-current liabilities:			
Long-term borrowing	-	-	9,594
Other non-current liabilities *	47	304	292
Income taxes payable, non-current *	5,316	34,322	34,763
Operating lease liability, non-current *	32,196	207,877	220,319
Total non-current liabilities	37,559	242,503	264,968
Total liabilities	133,196	859,981	908,563
EQUITY			
Preferred shares			
(US\$ 0.003 par value; 1,666,667 shares authorized, nil issued and outstanding as of June 30, 2021 and December 31, 2020)	-	-	-
Class A Ordinary shares			
(US\$0.003 par value; 66,666,667 and 66,666,667 shares authorized, 41,948,276 and 41,923,276 shares issued and outstanding as of June 30, 2021 and December 31, 2020, respectively)	123	794	794
Class C Ordinary shares			
(US\$0.003 par value; 8,333,333 and 8,333,333 shares authorized, 4,708,415 and 4,708,415 shares issued and outstanding as of June 30, 2021 and December 31, 2020, respectively)	14	90	90
Additional paid-in capital	549,130	3,545,512	3,545,073
Statutory reserve	652	4,210	4,210
Accumulated deficit	(528,302)	(3,411,035)	(3,419,146)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	1,844	11,907	12,101
Total Ambow Education Holding Ltd.'s equity	23,461	151,478	143,122
Non-controlling interests	(385)	(2,487)	(1,968)
Total equity	23,076	148,991	141,154
Total liabilities and equity	156,272	1,008,972	1,049,717

* All of the VIE's assets can be used to settle obligations of their primary beneficiary. Liabilities recognized as a result of consolidating these VIEs do not represent additional claims on the Company's general assets.

AMBOW EDUCATION HOLDING LTD.
UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(All amounts in thousands, except for share and per share data)

For the six months ended June 30,			For the three months ended June 30,		
2021	2021	2020	2021	2021	2020
US\$	RMB	RMB	US\$	RMB	RMB

Foreign currency translation adjustment	12,500	0	=	=	(0)	=	=	115	
Unrealized gain on investment, net of income taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	
Net loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	(14,329)	-	(
Balance as of March 31, 2021	41,935,776	794	4,708,415	90	3,545,292	4,210	(3,433,475)	12,254	(2,)
Share-based compensation	-	-	-	-	220	-	-	-	
Issuance of ordinary shares for restricted stock award	12,500	0	-	-	(0)	-	-	-	
Foreign currency translation adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(532)	
Unrealized gain on investment, net of income taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	185	
Net income/(loss)	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,440	-	(
Balance as of June 30, 2021	41,948,276	794	4,708,415	90	3,545,512	4,210	(3,411,035)	11,907	(2,)
Balance as of January 1, 2020	38,858,199	730	4,708,415	90	3,508,745	20,185	(3,371,815)	6,341	(0)
Share-based compensation	-	-	-	-	238	-	-	-	
Issuance of ordinary shares for restricted stock award	12,500	0	-	-	(0)	-	-	-	
Foreign currency translation adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	433	
Unrealized gain on investment, net of income taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	154	
Impact on adoption of ASC 326	-	-	-	-	-	-	(594)	-	
Net income/(loss)	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,039	-	(
Balance as of March 31, 2020	38,870,699	730	4,708,415	90	3,508,983	20,185	(3,366,370)	6,928	(1,)
Share-based compensation	-	-	-	-	242	-	-	-	
Issuance of ordinary shares for restricted stock award	12,500	1	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	
Foreign currency translation adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,895	
Unrealized gain on investment, net of income taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	118	
Deregistration of subsidiaries	-	-	-	-	-	(15,473)	15,473	-	
Net income/(loss)	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,807	-	(
Balance as of June 30, 2020	38,883,199	731	4,708,415	90	3,509,224	4,712	(3,346,090)	14,941	(1,)

Discussion of Segment Operations
(All amounts in thousands)

	For the six months ended June 30,			For the three months ended June 30,		
	2021	2021	2020	2021	2021	2020
	US\$	RMB	RMB	US\$	RMB	RMB
NET REVENUES						
K-12 Schools	27,205	175,650	126,800	16,223	104,748	85,389
CP&CE Programs	19,546	126,206	118,942	10,455	67,503	70,074
Total net revenues	46,751	301,856	245,742	26,678	172,251	155,463
COST OF REVENUES						
K-12 Schools	(15,161)	(97,886)	(74,542)	(8,100)	(52,297)	(41,113)
CP&CE Programs	(12,920)	(83,419)	(99,240)	(6,819)	(44,025)	(53,938)
Total cost of revenues	(28,081)	(181,305)	(173,782)	(14,919)	(96,322)	(95,051)
GROSS PROFIT						
K-12 Schools	12,044	77,764	52,258	8,123	52,451	44,276
CP&CE Programs	6,626	42,787	19,702	3,636	23,478	16,136
Total gross profit	18,670	120,551	71,960	11,759	75,929	60,412

SOURCE Ambow Education Holding Ltd.

<https://www.ambow.com/2021-09-20-Ambow-Education-Announces-Second-Quarter-2021-Financial-Results>