

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): January 14, 2020

FLUENT, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

001-37893  
(Commission  
File Number)

77-0688094  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

300 Vesey Street, 9th Floor  
New York, New York  
(Address of principal executive offices)

10282  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (646) 669-7272

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

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name
Common Stock, \$0.0005 par value per share	FLNT	

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2 (b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4 (c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2).

Emerging growth company

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

**Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.**

On January 14, 2020, Fluent, Inc. (the "Company") issued a press release announcing preliminary financial metrics for the fourth quarter and full year ended December 31, 2019. Additionally, the Company is scheduled to present at the 22nd Annual Needham Growth Conference on Wednesday, January 15 at 8:40am Eastern time, and will participate in one-on-one meetings throughout the course of the day. The presentation will be webcast live and archived at <http://www.fluentco.com/webcast/needham94/flnt>. The Company has made an investor presentation available on the Investor Relations section of its website at <http://investors.fluentco.com/>. The press release and investor presentation are furnished as Exhibit 99.1 and Exhibit 99.2, respectively, to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

The information included herein and in Exhibit 99.1 and Exhibit 99.2 shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act, except as expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
<a href="#">99.1</a>	Press Release, issued January 14, 2020
<a href="#">99.2</a>	Investor Presentation

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

January 14, 2020

**Fluent, Inc.**

By: /s/ Ryan Schulke  
Name: Ryan Schulke  
Title: Chief Executive Officer

## Fluent, Inc. Announces Preliminary Financial Metrics for 2019

NEW YORK, NY – January 14, 2020 – Fluent, Inc. (NASDAQ: FLNT), a leading data-driven performance marketing company, today announced that it expects to exceed its previously provided guidance for full-year 2019. These expectations are based on preliminary financial data and subject to final reporting and audit procedures. The Company's updated outlook and previously provided guidance are reflected below:

### Full-Year and Fourth Quarter 2019

- Full-year 2019 revenue is now anticipated to be \$280.8 - \$281.8 million, representing growth of 12% compared to full-year 2018 and an increase from previous guidance of \$265 - \$267 million. This reflects anticipated fourth quarter revenue of \$79.1 - \$80.1 million.
- Media Margin is now anticipated to be in the range of \$93.0 - \$94.0 million, representing an increase from previous guidance of \$87 - \$88 million. This reflects anticipated fourth quarter Media Margin of \$25.7 - \$26.7 million.

Ryan Schulke, Fluent's Chief Executive Officer, commented, "The improvement in our core commercial trending we noted in early November gained considerable further traction as the quarter progressed, closing out the year on a particularly strong note. We look forward to discussing our final full-year results in March."

As previously announced, the Company is scheduled to present at the 22nd Annual Needham Growth Conference on Wednesday, January 15 at 8:40am Eastern time, and will participate in one-on-one meetings throughout the course of the day. The presentation will be webcast live and archived at <http://wsw.com/webcast/needham94/flnt>. Additionally, the Company has made an investor presentation available on the Investor Relations section of its website at <http://investors.fluentco.com/>.

### Definitions of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

Media margin is defined as revenue minus cost of revenue (exclusive of depreciation and amortization) attributable to variable costs paid for media and related expenses. Media margin is also presented as percentage of revenue.

### About Fluent, Inc.

Fluent, Inc. (NASDAQ: FLNT) is a leading performance marketing company with an expertise in creating meaningful connections between consumers and brands. Leveraging our proprietary first-party data asset of opted-in consumer profiles, Fluent, Inc. drives intelligent growth strategies that deliver superior outcomes. Founded in 2010, the company is headquartered in New York City.

### Safe Harbor Statement Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995

The matters contained in this press release may be considered to be "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Those statements include statements regarding the intent, belief or current expectations or anticipations of Fluent and members of our management team. Factors currently known to management that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in forward-looking statements include the following: compliance with a significant number of governmental laws and regulations, including those laws and regulations regarding privacy and data; failure to safeguard the personal information and other data contained in our database; failure to compete effectively against other online marketing and advertising companies; dependence on third-party publishers, internet search providers and social media platforms for a significant portion of visitors to our websites; dependence on our key personnel; dependence on emails, text messages and telephone calls, among other channels, to reach users for marketing purposes; competition we face for web traffic; ability to compete and manage media costs in an industry characterized by rapidly-changing internet media and advertising technology, evolving industry standards, regulatory uncertainty, and changing user and client demands; liability related to actions of third-party publishers; limitations on our or our third-party publishers' ability to collect and use data derived from user activities; ability to remain competitive with the shift of online interactions from computers to mobile devices; dependence on third-party service providers; management of the growth of our operations, including the integration of the AdParlor business and other acquired business units or personnel; management of unfavorable publicity and negative public perception about our industry; failure to meet our clients' performance metrics or changing needs; failure to detect click-through or other fraud on advertisements; achievement of some or all of the benefits that we expect to achieve as a stand-alone company; failure to adequately protect intellectual property rights, or allegations of infringement of intellectual property rights; compliance with the covenants of our credit agreement; and the potential for failures in our internal control over financial reporting. These and additional factors to be considered are set forth under "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 and in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Fluent undertakes no obligation to update or revise forward-looking statements to reflect changed assumptions, the occurrence of unanticipated events or changes to future operating results or expectations.

### Contact Information:

Investor Relations  
 Fluent, Inc.  
 (917) 310-2070  
[InvestorRelations@fluentco.com](mailto:InvestorRelations@fluentco.com)



# Fluent, Inc.

(Nasdaq: FLNT)

**22nd Annual Needham Growth Conference**

January 15, 2020

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# Forward-Looking Statements Safe Harbor

This presentation contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date hereof and are based on the Company's current plans and expectations. While we believe these expectations, assumptions, estimates and projections are reasonable, such forward-looking statements are only predictions and involve a number of known and unknown uncertainties and risks, many of which are beyond the Company's control. Factors currently known to management that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in forward-looking statements include the following: compliance with a significant number of governmental laws and regulations, including those laws and regulations regarding privacy and data; failure to safeguard the personal information and other data contained in our database; failure to compete effectively against other online marketing and advertising companies; dependence on third-party publishers, internet search providers and social media platforms for a significant portion of visitors to our websites; dependence on our key personnel; dependence on emails, text messages and telephone calls, among other channels, to reach users for marketing purposes; competition we face for web traffic; ability to compete and manage media costs in an industry characterized by rapidly-changing internet media and advertising technology, evolving industry standards, regulatory uncertainty, and changing user and client demands; liability related to actions of third-party publishers; limitations on our or our third-party publishers' ability to collect and use data derived from user activities; ability to remain competitive with the shift of online interactions from computers to mobile devices; dependence on third-party service providers; management of the growth of our operations, including the integration of the AdParlor business and other acquired business units or personnel; management of unfavorable publicity and negative public perception about our industry; failure to meet our clients' performance metrics or changing needs; failure to detect click-through or other fraud on advertisements; achievement of some or all of the benefits that we expect to achieve as a stand-alone company; failure to adequately protect intellectual property rights, or allegations of infringement of intellectual property rights; compliance with the covenants of our credit agreement; and the potential for failures in our internal control over financial reporting. These and additional factors to be considered are set forth under "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 and in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements when evaluating the information presented herein, and the Company undertakes no obligation to update or revise forward-looking statements to reflect changed assumptions, the occurrence of unanticipated events or changes to future operating results or expectations.

## Non-GAAP Financial Measures

This presentation contains "non-GAAP financial measures," which are adjusted financial measures that are not calculated and presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States, or "GAAP." We present non-GAAP measures, such as Media Margin, Adjusted EBITDA and ratios based on these financial measures, herein as supplemental measures of our financial and operating performance because our management believes that such information provides useful information to investors about our operating performance. Non-GAAP financial measures do not have any standardized meaning and are, therefore, unlikely to be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies. The presentation of non-GAAP financial measures is not intended to be a substitute for, and should not be considered in isolation from, the financial measures reported in accordance with GAAP. For reconciliations of the non-GAAP financial measures used in this presentation to the most comparable GAAP measures, please see the Appendix to this presentation.



# Company Overview



Leading digital performance marketplace, delivering measurable results to advertiser clients



500+ clients across multiple industries



~190 Employees



4 offices: NYC (HQ), Toronto, Boca Raton, Kansas City



Founded in 2010 (NYC), founder led/managed

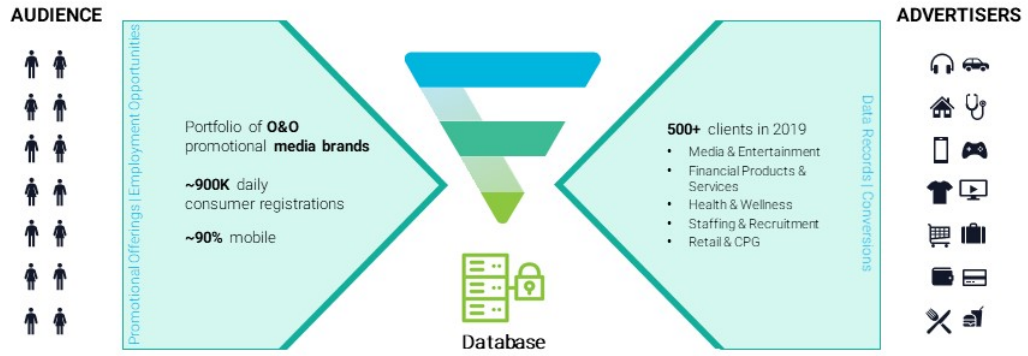


NASDAQ: FLNT



# Industry Leader in Data-Driven Digital Marketing Services

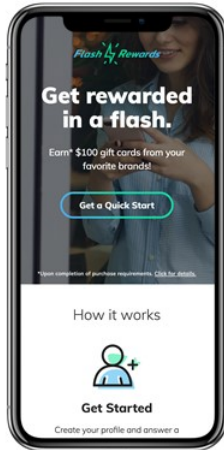
Aggregate & qualify **consumers** first-hand through fun, relevant & safe digital environments...



...and connect them with **Advertisers** seeking to reach targeted audiences, through data- and performance-based marketing executions



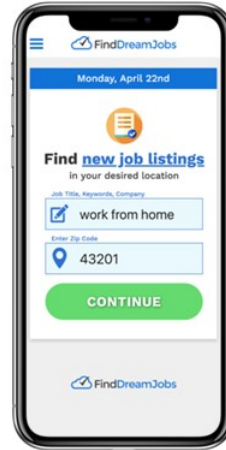
# O&O Media Brands



PROMOTIONS



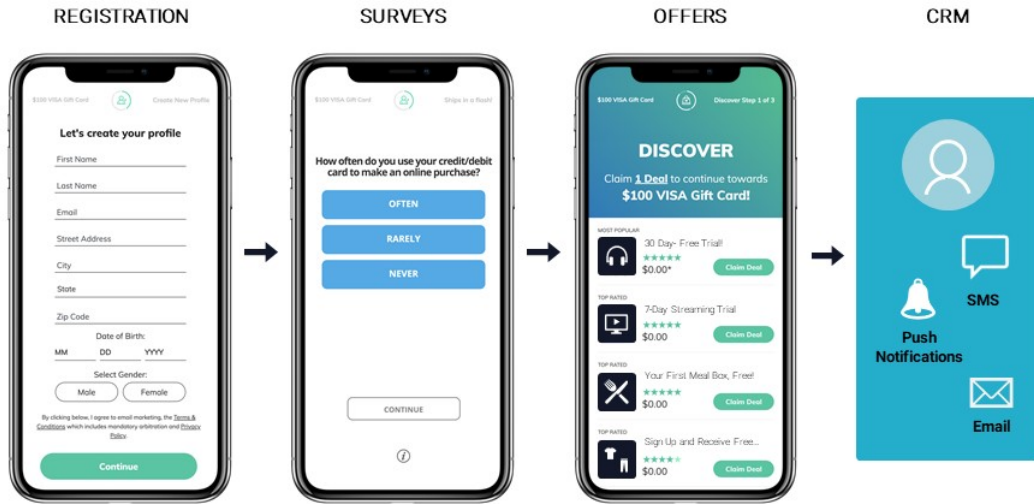
CONTENT



EMPLOYMENT

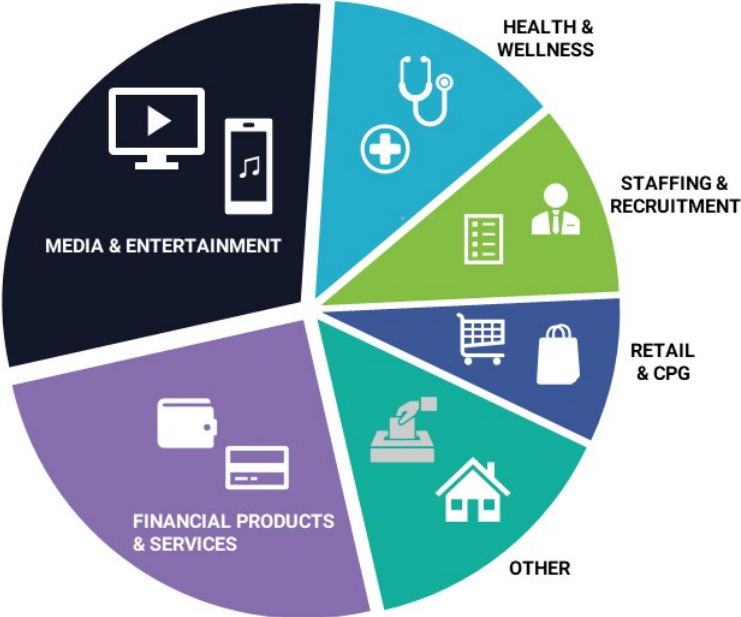


# Consumer Promotional Experience



Helping consumers **earn, win & save.**

# Vertically Diversified Client Base

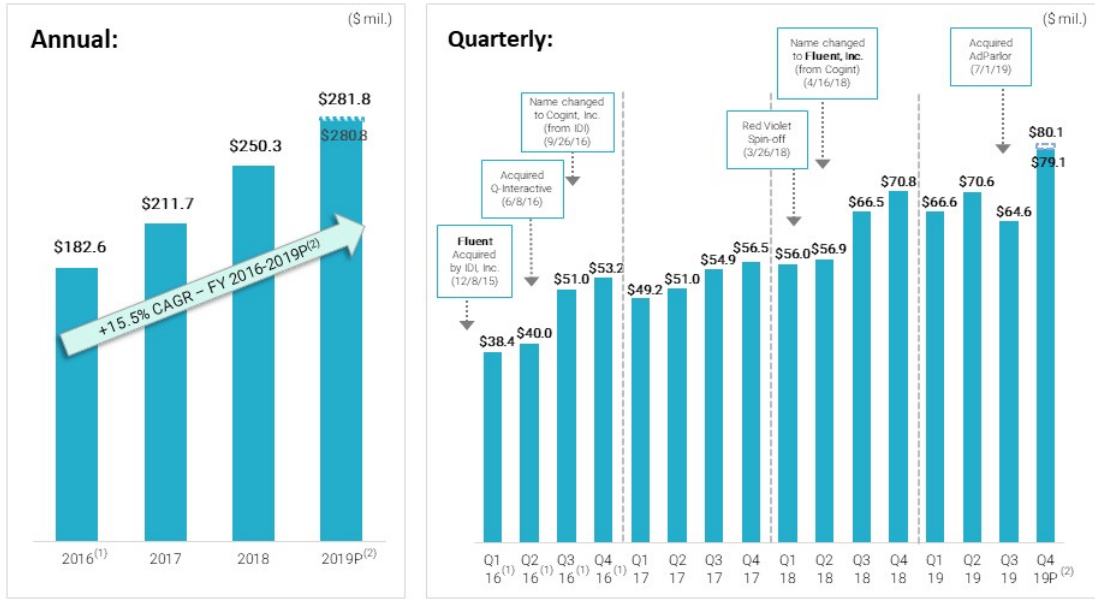


# Longer-Term Opportunity

Full suite of data-driven, lifecycle marketing services



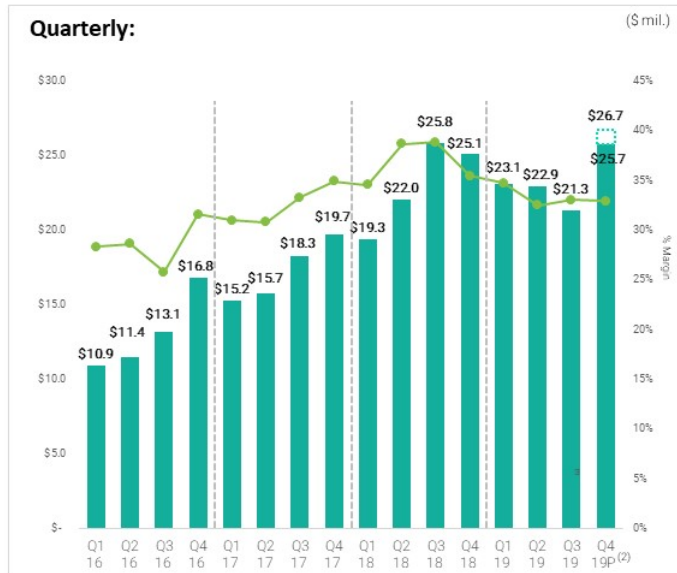
# Revenue Profile



(1) The figures presented for 2016 represent the portion of revenue reported by IDI/Cogint attributable to Fluent's business retained following the Red Violet Spin-off.  
 (2) Preliminary figures per Form 8-K and press release dated January 14, 2020. FY CAGR based on mid-point of FY 2019 preliminary figures.



# Media Margin<sup>(1)</sup>



- (1) For the definition of Media Margin and a reconciliation to net (loss) income from continuing operations, its most directly comparable financial measure presented in accordance with GAAP, see the Appendix hereto.
- (2) Preliminary figures per Form 8-K and press release dated January 14, 2020. FY CAGR based on mid-point of FY 2019 preliminary figures. Fluent is not able to provide a reconciliation of projected media margin to the most directly comparable expected GAAP results due to the unknown effect, timing and potential significance of certain operating costs and expenses, share-based compensation expense, depreciation and amortization expense, interest expense (net), and the provision for (benefit from) income taxes.

# Adjusted EBITDA<sup>(1)</sup>



(1) For the definition of Adjusted EBITDA and a reconciliation to net (loss) income from continuing operations, its most directly comparable financial measure presented in accordance with GAAP, see the Appendix hereto.  
 Note: Historical Adjusted EBITDA reported and reconciled from 2017 onward. Q4 2019 figures not yet reported.

## Balance Sheet Summary (as of 9/30/19)

Assets (\$ mil.)		Liabilities & S/H Equity (\$ mil.)	
Cash	\$24.2	Current Liabilities excl. Debt	\$38.0
Other Current Assets	47.8	Current Portion LT Debt <sup>1</sup>	6.1
PP&E	3.0	Long-Term Debt, Net <sup>2</sup>	46.9
Goodwill & Intangibles	223.3	Other Long-Term Liabilities	10.2
Other Long-Term Assets	12.4	Shareholders' Equity	209.5
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$310.7</b>	<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Shareholders' Equity</b>	<b>\$310.7</b>



- (1) Includes \$1.25M portion of Note Payable due on 7/1/20 in connection with AdParlor acquisition and \$4.75M current portion of Refinanced Term Loan due 2023.  
 (2) Includes \$1.125M portion of Note Payable due on 7/1/21 (less unamortized discount of \$0.125M) in connection with AdParlor acquisition and \$45.9M long-term portion Refinanced Term Loan due 2023 (less unamortized discount of \$3.9M). Note Payable is non-interest bearing. Refinanced Term Loan bears interest at L+7.00%.



# Appendix



# Non-GAAP Financial Measures

We present non-GAAP measures, such as Media Margin, Adjusted EBITDA and ratios based on these financial measures, herein as supplemental measures of our financial and operating performance because our management believes that such information provides useful information to investors about our operating performance.

Media margin, defined as revenue minus cost of revenue (exclusive of depreciation and amortization) attributable to variable costs paid for media and related expenses, is a measure of the efficiency of the Company's operating model. We use media margin and the related measure of media margin as a percentage of revenue as primary metrics to measure the financial return on our media and related costs, specifically to measure the degree by which the revenue generated from our digital marketing services exceeds the cost to attract the consumers to whom offers are made through our services. Media margin is used extensively by our management to manage our operating performance, including evaluating operational performance against budgeted media margin and understanding the efficiency of our media and related expenditures. We also use media margin for performance evaluations and compensation decisions regarding certain personnel.

Adjusted EBITDA, defined as net (loss) income from continuing operations, excluding (1) income taxes, (2) non-cash loss on amendment of warrants, (3) interest expense, net, (4) write-off of long-lived assets, (5) depreciation and amortization, (6) share-based compensation expense, (7) acquisition-related costs, (8) restructuring and certain severance costs, (9) certain litigation and other related costs, and (10) one-time items, is another primary metric by which we evaluate the operating performance of our business, on which certain operating expenditures and internal budgets are based and by which, in addition to media margin and other factors, our senior management is compensated. The adjustments for income taxes, interest expense and depreciation and amortization represent the conventional definition of EBITDA, and the remaining adjustments are items recognized and recorded under GAAP in particular periods but which might be viewed as not necessarily coinciding with the underlying business operations for the periods in which they are so recognized and recorded. Items are considered one-time in nature if they are non-recurring, infrequent or unusual and have not occurred in the past two years or are not expected to recur in the next two years, in accordance with SEC rules.

Media margin and adjusted EBITDA are not intended to be performance measures that should be regarded as alternatives to, or more meaningful than, net (loss) income from continuing operations as indicators of operating performance. Neither of these metrics are presented as measures of liquidity. The way we measure media margin and adjusted EBITDA may not be comparable to similarly titled measures presented by other companies and may not be identical to corresponding measures used in our various agreements.



# Media Margin Reconciliation

(\$ in millions)	2017					2018					2019		
Reconciliation of net (loss) income from continuing operations to media margin:	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FY	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FY	Q1	Q2	Q3
Net (loss) income from continuing operations	(\$9,832)	(\$8,276)	(\$10,761)	(\$2,837)	(\$31,706)	(\$5,558)	\$2,645	\$4,462	\$1,643	\$3,192	\$1,046	\$715	(\$4,463)
Income taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	46	(35)	-	-
Non-cash loss on amendment of warrants	-	-	-	1,005	1,005	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest expense, net	2,227	2,445	2,426	2,585	9,683	2,394	1,933	1,882	1,925	8,134	1,778	1,767	1,719
Spin-off transaction costs	-	-	-	-	-	7,708	-	-	-	7,708	-	-	-
Write-off of long-lived assets	3,626	-	-	-	3,626	-	-	-	1,517	1,517	-	-	280
Depreciation and amortization	3,205	3,234	3,297	3,319	13,055	3,331	3,338	3,352	3,153	13,174	3,317	3,306	3,642
General and administrative expenses	11,286	13,921	18,392	11,495	55,094	6,659	8,954	9,775	10,619	36,007	10,035	10,294	14,049
Product development	662	612	647	657	2,578	734	1,142	1,680	1,723	5,279	2,158	2,287	2,040
Sales and marketing expenses	3,169	3,053	3,161	2,590	11,973	3,102	3,166	3,640	3,755	13,663	3,434	3,058	2,717
Non-media cost of revenue <sup>(1)</sup>	873	709	1,100	889	3,571	943	814	1,010	706	3,473	1,361	1,475	1,323
<b>Media margin</b>	<b>\$15,216</b>	<b>\$15,698</b>	<b>\$18,262</b>	<b>\$19,703</b>	<b>\$68,879</b>	<b>\$19,313</b>	<b>\$21,992</b>	<b>\$25,801</b>	<b>\$25,087</b>	<b>\$92,193</b>	<b>\$23,094</b>	<b>\$22,902</b>	<b>\$21,307</b>
Revenue	49,194	51,031	54,942	56,523	211,690	55,989	56,935	66,535	70,821	250,280	66,561	70,560	64,552
Media margin % of revenue	30.9%	30.8%	33.2%	34.9%	32.5%	34.5%	38.6%	38.8%	35.4%	36.8%	34.7%	32.5%	33.0%

(1) Represents the portion of cost of revenue (exclusive of depreciation and amortization) not attributable to variable costs paid for media and related expenses.

Note: Fluent is not able to provide a reconciliation of projected media margin for Q4 2019 to the most directly comparable expected GAAP results due to the unknown effect, timing and potential significance of certain operating costs and expenses, share-based compensation expense, depreciation and amortization expense, interest expense (net), and the provision for (benefit from) income taxes.



## Media Margin Reconciliation (continued)

(\$ in millions)	2016				
Reconciliation of net (loss) income from continuing operations to media margin:	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FY
Net (loss) reported by IDI/Cogint	(\$6,772)	(\$7,184)	(\$9,744)	(\$5,386)	(\$29,086)
Net (loss) income from discontinued operations <sup>(1)</sup>	<u>(2,955)</u>	<u>2,223</u>	<u>(12,480)</u>	<u>(3,657)</u>	<u>(16,869)</u>
<b>Net (loss) income from continuing operations</b>	<b>(\$3,817)</b>	<b>(\$9,407)</b>	<b>\$2,736</b>	<b>(\$1,729)</b>	<b>(\$12,216)</b>
Income taxes	(3,536)	(3,503)	(4,493)	(2,531)	(14,063)
Non-cash loss on amendment of warrants	297	976	-	224	1,497
Interest expense, net	1,825	1,856	1,879	2,032	7,593
Depreciation and amortization	2,534	2,847	3,320	3,323	12,024
General and administrative expenses	10,051	15,287	5,386	10,664	41,388
Product development	622	660	490	632	2,404
Sales and marketing expenses	2,381	2,197	2,786	3,282	10,647
Non-media cost of revenue <sup>(2)</sup>	497	523	1,012	900	2,931
<b>Media margin</b>	<b>\$10,853</b>	<b>\$11,437</b>	<b>\$13,118</b>	<b>\$16,796</b>	<b>\$52,205</b>
Revenue	38,393	40,016	50,991	53,214	182,614
Media margin % of revenue	28.3%	28.6%	25.7%	31.6%	28.6%

(1) Represents the portion of net (loss) income reported by IDI/Cogint attributable to the business operations discontinued in connection with the Red Violet Spin-off.

(2) Represents the portion of cost of revenue (exclusive of depreciation and amortization) not attributable to variable costs paid for media and related expenses.



## Adjusted EBITDA Reconciliation

(\$ in millions)	2017					2018					2019		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FY	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FY	Q1	Q2	Q3
Reconciliation of net (loss) income from continuing operations to adjusted EBITDA:													
Net (loss) income from continuing operations	(\$9,832)	(\$8,276)	(\$10,761)	(\$2,837)	(\$31,706)	(\$5,558)	\$2,645	\$4,462	\$1,643	\$3,192	\$1,045	715	(\$4,463)
Income taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	46	(35)	-	-
Non-cash loss on amendment of warrants	-	-	-	1,005	1,005	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest expense, net	2,227	2,445	2,426	2,585	9,683	2,394	1,933	1,882	1,925	8,134	1,778	1,767	1,719
Write-off of long-lived assets	3,626	-	-	-	3,626	-	-	-	1,517	1,517	-	-	280
Depreciation and amortization	3,205	3,234	3,297	3,319	13,055	3,331	3,338	3,352	3,153	13,174	3,317	3,306	3,642
Share-based compensation expense	6,854	8,094	10,508	5,669	31,125	6,648	2,614	2,593	2,826	14,681	2,275	2,954	2,790
Acquisition-related costs	-	1,144	1,799	482	3,425	417	140	119	-	676	-	448	-
Restructuring and certain severance costs	668	505	675	269	2,117	2,322	269	-	-	2,591	110	250	-
Certain litigation and other related costs	-	-	3	199	202	46	-	-	-	46	489	227	375
One-time items <sup>(1)</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	168	-	-
<b>Adjusted EBITDA</b>	<b>\$6,748</b>	<b>\$7,146</b>	<b>\$7,947</b>	<b>\$10,691</b>	<b>\$32,532</b>	<b>\$9,600</b>	<b>\$10,939</b>	<b>\$12,408</b>	<b>\$11,110</b>	<b>\$44,057</b>	<b>\$9,147</b>	<b>\$9,667</b>	<b>\$4,343</b>
Revenue	49,194	51,031	54,942	56,523	211,690	55,989	56,935	66,535	70,821	250,280	66,561	70,560	64,552
Adjusted EBITDA % of revenue	13.7%	14.0%	14.5%	18.9%	15.4%	17.1%	19.2%	18.6%	15.7%	17.6%	13.7%	13.7%	6.7%

(1) Adjusted EBITDA for Q1 2019 excluded as one-time items \$0.2 million of costs associated with the move of our corporate headquarters.





## **Fluent, Inc.**

Fluent, Inc. – Investor Relations

[www.investors.fluentco.com](http://www.investors.fluentco.com)

[InvestorRelations@fluentco.com](mailto:InvestorRelations@fluentco.com)

(917) 310-2070