Pandora Media, Inc.
Form 10-Q
October 26, 2015
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2015

or

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

For the transition period from to

Commission File Number: 001-35198
Pandora Media, Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	94-3352630 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
2101 Webster Street, Suite 1650 Oakland, CA	94612
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

(510) 451-4100
(Registrant’s telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes x No o

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted to its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes x No o

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

Large accelerated filer x	Accelerated filer o
Non-accelerated filer o (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company o

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

The number of shares of registrant's common stock outstanding as of October 22, 2015 was: 213,417,153.

Table of Contents

Pandora Media, Inc.

FORM 10-Q Quarterly Report

Table of Contents

		Page No.
	PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Item 1.	Financial Statements (unaudited)	3
	Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2015	3
	Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014 and 2015	4
	Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Loss for the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014 and 2015	5
	Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014 and 2015	6
	Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements	7
Item 2	Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	22
Item 3	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	39
Item 4	Controls and Procedures	40
	PART II. OTHER INFORMATION	
Item 1.	Legal Proceedings	41
Item 1A.	Risk Factors	41
Item 6.	Exhibits	42
	Signatures	43

Table of Contents

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

Pandora Media, Inc.
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets
(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)
(unaudited)

	As of December 31, 2014	As of September 30, 2015
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	$175,957	$242,981
Short-term investments	178,631	120,614
Accounts receivable, net of allowance of $1,218 at December 31, 2014 and $2,104 at September 30, 2015	218,437	262,910
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	15,389	17,163
Total current assets	588,414	643,668
Long-term investments	104,243	78,982
Property and equipment, net	42,921	56,424
Goodwill	—	23,052
Intangible assets, net	6,939	9,138
Other long-term assets	6,773	9,479
Total assets	$749,290	$820,743
Liabilities and stockholders’ equity		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	$10,825	$20,131
Accrued liabilities	15,754	37,099
Accrued royalties	73,693	163,047
Deferred revenue	14,412	22,682
Accrued compensation	34,476	36,856
Total current liabilities	149,160	279,815
Other long-term liabilities	16,773	18,270
Total liabilities	165,933	298,085
Stockholders’ equity		
Common stock: 209,071,488 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2014 and 213,461,778 at September 30, 2015	21	21
Additional paid-in capital	781,009	870,511
Accumulated deficit	(196,997)	(347,249)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(676)	(625)
Total stockholders’ equity	583,357	522,658
Total liabilities and stockholders’ equity	$749,290	$820,743

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

Pandora Media, Inc.
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations
(in thousands, except per share amounts)
(unaudited)

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Revenue				
Advertising	$194,293	$254,656	$512,251	$664,316
Subscription and other	45,300	56,906	140,551	163,570
Total revenue	239,593	311,562	652,802	827,886
Cost of revenue				
Cost of revenue - Content acquisition costs	111,315	211,272	331,051	467,429
Cost of revenue - Other	15,453	21,414	44,421	57,690
Total cost of revenue	126,768	232,686	375,472	525,119
Gross profit	112,825	78,876	277,330	302,767
Operating expenses				
Product development	13,381	21,849	38,288	56,466
Sales and marketing	72,320	107,286	200,416	285,595
General and administrative	29,143	35,603	81,369	111,169
Total operating expenses	114,844	164,738	320,073	453,230
Loss from operations	(2,019)	(85,862)	(42,743)	(150,463)
Other income (expense), net	44	(36)	236	417
Loss before provision for income taxes	(1,975)	(85,898)	(42,507)	(150,046)
Provision for income taxes	(50)	(32)	(177)	(206)
Net loss	$(2,025)	$(85,930)	$(42,684)	$(150,252)
Weighted-average common shares outstanding used in computing basic and diluted net loss per share	206,982	212,760	204,208	211,487
Net loss per share, basic and diluted	$(0.01)	$(0.40)	$(0.21)	$(0.71)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

Pandora Media, Inc.
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Loss
(in thousands)
(unaudited)

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Net loss	$(2,025)	$(85,930)	$(42,684)	$(150,252)
Change in foreign currency translation adjustment	(138)	(127)	(122)	(274)
Change in net unrealized gains (losses) on marketable securities	(217)	50	(17)	324
Other comprehensive income (loss)	(355)	(77)	(139)	50
Total comprehensive loss	$(2,380)	$(86,007)	$(42,823)	$(150,202)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

Pandora Media, Inc.
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(in thousands)
(unaudited)

	Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2015
Operating activities		
Net loss	$(42,684)	$(150,252)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		
Depreciation and amortization	11,224	15,194
Stock-based compensation	60,116	79,473
Amortization of premium on investments, net	2,106	1,712
Other operating activities	797	1,610
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Accounts receivable	(34,142)	(45,796)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(4,003)	(6,564)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	5,807	31,101
Accrued royalties	5,416	89,423
Accrued compensation	12,579	4,333
Deferred revenue	(24,407)	7,689
Reimbursement of cost of leasehold improvements	3,161	1,014
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(4,030)	28,937
Investing activities		
Purchases of property and equipment	(23,479)	(27,333)
Purchases of investments	(273,427)	(138,721)
Proceeds from maturities of investments	186,667	179,799
Proceeds from sale of investments	—	41,317
Payments related to acquisitions, net of cash acquired	—	(23,028)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(110,239)	32,034
Financing activities		
Proceeds from employee stock purchase plan	4,388	5,089
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	15,168	3,718
Tax payments from net share settlements of restricted stock units	(1,986)	(2,295)
Net cash provided by financing activities	17,570	6,512
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(172)	(459)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(96,871)	67,024
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	245,755	175,957
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	$148,884	$242,981
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information		
Cash paid during the period for interest	$314	$343
Purchases of property and equipment recorded in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$2,550	$1,328

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents
Pandora Media, Inc.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

1. Description of Business and Basis of Presentation

Pandora Media, Inc. provides an internet radio service offering a personalized experience for each listener wherever and whenever they want to listen to radio on a wide range of smartphones, tablets, computers and car audio systems, as well as a range of other internet-connected devices. We have pioneered a new form of radio—one that uses intrinsic qualities of music to initially create stations and then adapts playlists in real-time based on the individual feedback of each listener. We generate a majority of our revenue by offering local and national advertisers an opportunity to deliver targeted messages to our listeners using a combination of audio, display and video advertisements. We also generate revenue by offering a paid subscription service which we call Pandora One. We were incorporated as a California corporation in January 2000 and reincorporated as a Delaware corporation in December 2010. Our principal operations are located in the United States; we also operate in Australia and New Zealand.

As used herein, “Pandora,” “we,” “our,” the “Company” and similar terms include Pandora Media, Inc. and its subsidiaries, unless the context indicates otherwise.

Basis of Presentation

The interim unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes have been prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles (“U.S. GAAP”) along with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") Regulation S-X, and include the accounts of Pandora and our wholly-owned subsidiaries. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. In the opinion of our management, the interim unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements include all adjustments, which include only normal recurring adjustments, necessary for the fair presentation of our financial position for the periods presented. These interim unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements are not necessarily indicative of the results expected for the full fiscal year or for any subsequent period and should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and related notes included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Certain changes in presentation have been made to conform the prior period presentation to current period reporting. We have reclassified goodwill and intangible assets from the other long-term assets line item to the goodwill and intangible assets, net line items in our condensed consolidated balance sheets. We have also reclassified certain non-cash amounts from the amortization of debt issuance costs and the change in accounts receivable line items to the other operating activities line item in our condensed consolidated statements of cash flows. Additionally, we have reclassified certain non-cash amounts from the purchases of property and equipment line item to the prepaid expenses and other assets line item of our condensed consolidated statements of cash flows.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make certain estimates, judgments and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the related disclosures at the date of the financial statements, as well as the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the periods presented. Estimates are used in several areas including, but not limited to determining accrued royalties, selling prices for elements sold in multiple-element arrangements, the allowance for doubtful accounts, the fair value of stock options, market stock units ("MSUs") and the Employee Stock Purchase Plan ("ESPP"), the impact of forfeitures on stock-based compensation, the provision for (benefit from) income taxes, the subscription return

reserve, the fair value of acquired intangible assets and goodwill and the useful lives of acquired intangible assets. To the extent there are material differences between these estimates, judgments, or assumptions and actual results, our financial statements could be affected. In many cases, the accounting treatment of a particular transaction is specifically dictated by U.S. GAAP and does not require management's judgment in its application. There are also areas in which management's judgment in selecting among available alternatives would not produce a materially different result.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Other than discussed below, there have been no material changes to our significant accounting policies as compared to those described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Business Combinations, Goodwill and Intangible Assets, net

We allocate the fair value of purchase consideration to the tangible assets acquired, liabilities assumed and intangible assets acquired based on their estimated fair values. The excess of the fair value of purchase consideration over the fair values of these identifiable assets and liabilities is recorded as goodwill. Such valuations require management to make significant estimates and assumptions, especially with respect to intangible assets. Significant estimates in valuing certain intangible assets include, but are not limited to, future expected cash flows from acquired users, acquired technology, and trade names from a market participant perspective, useful lives and discount rates. Management's estimates of fair value are based upon assumptions believed to be reasonable, but which are inherently uncertain and unpredictable and, as a result, actual results may differ from estimates. During the measurement period, which is one year from the acquisition date, we may record adjustments to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed, with the corresponding offset to goodwill. Upon the conclusion of the measurement period, any subsequent adjustments are recorded to earnings.

We review goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets for impairment at least annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of goodwill may not be recoverable. We first assess the qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of our single reporting unit is less than its carrying amount as a basis for determining whether it is necessary to perform the two-step goodwill impairment test under Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2011-08, Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Testing Goodwill for Impairment, issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). If we determine that it is more likely than not that its fair value is less than its carrying amount, then the two-step goodwill impairment test is performed. The first step, identifying a potential impairment, compares the fair value of the reporting unit with its carrying amount. If the carrying amount exceeds its fair value, the second step would need to be performed; otherwise, no further step is required. The second step, measuring the impairment loss, compares the implied fair value of the goodwill with the carrying amount of the goodwill. Any excess of the goodwill carrying amount over the fair value is recognized as an impairment loss, and the carrying value of goodwill is written down to fair value. As of September 30, 2015, no impairment of goodwill has been identified.

Acquired finite-lived intangible assets are amortized over the estimated useful lives of the assets, which range from two to four years. Acquired finite-lived intangible assets consist primarily of patents, customer relationships, developed technology and trade names resulting from business combinations. We evaluate the recoverability of our intangible assets for potential impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of such assets may not be recoverable. Recoverability of these assets is measured by a comparison of the carrying amounts to the future undiscounted cash flows the assets are expected to generate. If such review indicates that the carrying amount of intangible assets is not recoverable, the carrying amount of such assets is reduced to the fair value.

In addition to the recoverability assessment, we routinely review the remaining estimated useful lives of finite-lived intangible assets. If we reduce the estimated useful life assumption for any asset, the remaining unamortized balance would be amortized over the revised estimated useful life.

Sales and Marketing Expenses - Advertising

We expense the costs of producing advertisements as they are incurred and expense the cost of communicating advertisements at the time the advertisement airs or the event occurs, in each case as sales and marketing expense within the accompanying condensed consolidated statements of operations. During the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015 and the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015, we recorded advertising

expenses of $3.9 million, $15.9 million, $6.2 million and $22.2 million, respectively.

Stock-Based Compensation — MSUs

We implemented a market stock unit program in March 2015 for certain key executives. Specifically, MSUs measure Pandora's total stockholder return ("TSR") performance against that of the Russell 2000 Index across three performance periods.

We have determined the grant-date fair value of the MSUs using a Monte Carlo simulation performed by a third-party valuation specialist. The Monte Carlo simulation model utilizes multiple input variables to estimate the probability that market conditions will be achieved. These variables include our expected stock price volatility over the expected term of the award, actual and projected employee stock option exercise behaviors and the risk-free interest rate for the expected term of the award.

Pandora Media, Inc.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements - Continued
(unaudited)

The variables used in these models are reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted, as needed. We recognize stock-based compensation for the MSUs over the requisite service period using the accelerated attribution method.

Concentration of Credit Risk

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015, we had no customers that accounted for more than 10% of our total revenue. As of December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2015, we had no customers that accounted for more than 10% of our total accounts receivable.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards

In September 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-16, Business Combinations ("ASU 2015-16"). ASU 2015-16 eliminates the requirement for an acquirer in a business combination to account for measurement-period adjustments retrospectively. Rather, the acquirer must recognize adjustments during the period in which the amounts are determined, including the effect on earnings of any amounts that would have been recorded in previous periods. The guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, although early adoption is permitted. We are currently planning to early adopt this standard beginning with the three months ended December 31, 2015. We do not expect the adoption of this guidance to have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements.

In August 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-15, Going Concern (Subtopic 205-40) (“ASU 2014-15”). ASU 2014-15 requires management of all entities to evaluate whether there are conditions and events that raise substantial doubt about the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the financial statements are issued (or available to be issued when applicable). The guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016 and for interim periods within that fiscal year. We do not expect the adoption of this guidance to have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements.

In May 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-9, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606) (“ASU 2014-9”). ASU 2014-9 outlines a single comprehensive model for entities to use in accounting for revenue. Under the guidance, revenue is recognized when a company transfers promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the company expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The standard may be effective for public entities with annual and interim reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017. Entities have the option of using either a full retrospective or a modified retrospective approach to adopt the guidance. We are currently evaluating implementation methods and the effect that implementation of this standard will have on our consolidated financial statements upon adoption.

3. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments

Cash, cash equivalents and investments consisted of the following:

Table of Contents
Pandora Media, Inc.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements - Continued
(unaudited)

	As of December 31, 2014	As of September 30, 2015
	(in thousands)	
Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash	$72,487	$79,423
Money market funds	89,113	161,808
Commercial paper	9,349	1,750
Corporate debt securities	5,008	—
Total cash and cash equivalents	$175,957	$242,981
Short-term investments		
Commercial paper	$45,443	$33,484
Corporate debt securities	128,691	84,629
U.S. government and government agency debt securities	4,497	2,501
Total short-term investments	$178,631	$120,614
Long-term investments		
Corporate debt securities	$100,998	$78,982
U.S. government and government agency debt securities	3,245	—
Total long-term investments	$104,243	$78,982
Cash, cash equivalents and investments	$458,831	$442,577

Our short-term investments have maturities of twelve months or less and are classified as available-for-sale. Our long-term investments have maturities of greater than twelve months and are classified as available-for-sale.

The following tables summarize our available-for-sale securities' adjusted cost, gross unrealized gains, gross unrealized losses and fair value by significant investment category as of December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2015.

	As of December 31, 2014			
	Adjusted Cost	Unrealized Gains	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
	(in thousands)			
Money market funds	$89,113	$—	$—	$89,113
Commercial paper	54,792	—	—	54,792
Corporate debt securities	235,135	6	(444)	234,697
U.S. government and government agency debt securities	7,751	—	(9)	7,742
Total cash equivalents and marketable securities	$386,791	$6	$(453)	$386,344

	As of September 30, 2015			
	Adjusted Cost	Unrealized Gains	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
	(in thousands)			
Money market funds	$161,808	$—	$—	$161,808
Commercial paper	35,234	—	—	35,234
Corporate debt securities	163,735	100	(224)	163,611

U.S. government and government agency debt securities	2,500	1	—	2,501
Total cash equivalents and marketable securities	$363,277	$101	$(224)	$363,154

10

Pandora Media, Inc.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements - Continued
(unaudited)

The following table presents available-for-sale investments by contractual maturity date as of December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2015.

	As of December 31, 2014	
	Adjusted Cost	Fair Value
	(in thousands)	
Due in one year or less	$282,206	$282,101
Due after one year through three years	104,585	104,243
Total	$386,791	$386,344

	As of September 30, 2015	
	Adjusted Cost	Fair Value
	(in thousands)	
Due in one year or less	$284,126	$284,172
Due after one year through three years	79,151	78,982
Total	$363,277	$363,154

The following tables summarize our available-for-sale securities' fair value and gross unrealized losses aggregated by investment category and length of time that the individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position as of December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2015.

	As of December 31, 2014					
	Twelve Months or Less		More than Twelve Months		Total	
	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses
	(in thousands)					
Money market funds	$—	$—	$—	$—	$—	$—
Commercial paper	—	—	—	—	—	—
Corporate debt securities	192,699	(422)	12,148	(22)	204,847	(444)
U.S. government and government agency debt securities	5,240	(9)	—	—	5,240	(9)
Total	$197,939	$(431)	$12,148	$(22)	$210,087	$(453)

	As of September 30, 2015					
	Twelve Months or Less		More than Twelve Months		Total	
	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses
	(in thousands)					
Money market funds	$—	$—	$—	$—	$—	$—
Commercial paper	—	—	—	—	—	—
Corporate debt securities	82,366	(209)	14,569	(15)	96,935	(224)

U.S. government and government agency debt securities	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	$82,366	$(209)	$14,569	$(15)	$96,935	$(224)

11

Table of Contents
Pandora Media, Inc.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements - Continued
(unaudited)

Our investment policy requires investments to be investment grade, primarily rated “A1” by Standard & Poor’s or “P1” by Moody’s or better for short-term investments and rated “A” by Standard & Poor’s or “A2” by Moody’s or better for long-term investments, with the objective of minimizing the potential risk of principal loss. In addition, the investment policy limits the amount of credit exposure to any one issuer.

The unrealized losses on our available-for-sale securities as of September 30, 2015 were primarily a result of unfavorable changes in interest rates subsequent to the initial purchase of these securities. As of September 30, 2015, we owned 77 securities that were in an unrealized loss position. Based on our cash flow needs, we may be required to sell a portion of these securities prior to maturity. However, we expect to recover the full carrying value of these securities. As a result, no portion of the unrealized losses at September 30, 2015 is deemed to be other-than-temporary and the unrealized losses are not deemed to be credit losses. When evaluating the investments for other-than-temporary impairment, we review factors such as the length of time and extent to which fair value has been below cost basis, the financial condition of the issuer and any changes thereto, and our intent to sell, or whether it is more likely than not we will be required to sell, the investment before recovery of the investment’s amortized cost basis. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, we did not recognize any impairment charges. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, proceeds from the sale of available-for-sale securities were $37.7 million and $41.3 million. We did not recognize a realized gain or loss in connection with these sales.

4. Fair Value

We record cash equivalents and short-term investments at fair value. Fair value is an exit price, representing the amount that would be received from the sale of an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. As such, fair value is a market-based measurement that should be determined based on assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability. Fair value measurements are required to be disclosed by level within the following fair value hierarchy:

Level 1 — Inputs are unadjusted, quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities at the measurement date.

Level 2 — Inputs (other than quoted prices included in Level 1) are either directly or indirectly observable for the asset or liability through correlation with market data at the measurement date and for the duration of the instrument’s anticipated life.

Level 3 — Inputs lack observable market data to corroborate management’s estimate of what market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date. Consideration is given to the risk inherent in the valuation technique and the risk inherent in the inputs to the model.

When determining fair value, whenever possible we use observable market data and rely on unobservable inputs only when observable market data is not available.

The fair value of these financial assets and liabilities was determined using the following inputs at December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2015:

Table of Contents
Pandora Media, Inc.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements - Continued
(unaudited)

	As of December 31, 2014		
	Fair Value Measurement Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Instruments (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
	(in thousands)		
Assets			
Money market funds	$89,113	$—	$89,113
Commercial paper	—	54,792	54,792
Corporate debt securities	—	234,697	234,697
U.S. government and government agency debt securities	—	7,742	7,742
Total assets measured at fair value	$89,113	$297,231	$386,344

	As of September 30, 2015		
	Fair Value Measurement Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Instruments (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
	(in thousands)		
Assets			
Money market funds	$161,808	$—	$161,808
Commercial paper	—	35,234	35,234
Corporate debt securities	—	163,611	163,611
U.S. government and government agency debt securities	—	2,501	2,501
Total assets measured at fair value	$161,808	$201,346	$363,154

Our money market funds are classified as Level 1 within the fair value hierarchy because they are valued primarily using quoted market prices. Our other cash equivalents and short-term investments are classified as Level 2 within the fair value hierarchy because they are valued using professional pricing sources for identical or comparable instruments, rather than direct observations of quoted prices in active markets. As of December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2015, we held no Level 3 assets or liabilities.

5. Commitments and Contingencies

Legal Proceedings

We have been in the past, and continue to be, a party to rate-setting, privacy and patent infringement litigation which have consumed, and may continue to consume, financial and managerial resources. We are also from time to time subject to various other legal proceedings and claims arising in the ordinary course of our business. We record a liability when we believe that it is both probable that a loss has been incurred and the amount can be reasonably estimated. Our management periodically evaluates developments that could affect the amount, if any, of liability that we have previously accrued and make adjustments as appropriate. Determining both the likelihood and the estimated

amount of a loss requires significant judgment, and management's judgment may be incorrect. We do not believe the ultimate resolution of any pending legal matters is likely to have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Performing Rights Organization ("PRO") rate-setting litigation

On November 5, 2012, we filed a petition in the rate court in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York established by the consent decree between the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers ("ASCAP") and the U.S. Department of Justice for the determination of reasonable license fees and terms for an ASCAP blanket license for the

13

period from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2015. A trial to determine the royalty rate for this blanket license concluded in February 2014, and in March 2014, the court issued its opinion establishing a royalty rate of 1.85% of revenue before certain deductions. On April 14, 2014, ASCAP, Sony/ATV, EMI Music Publishing, and Universal Publishing Group filed notices of appeal of the district court's decision with the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Oral arguments were held before the Second Circuit on March 19, 2015. On May 6, 2015 the Second Circuit upheld the district court's ruling. On June 3, 2015, ASCAP petitioned the Second Circuit for a rehearing. On June 26, 2015, that petition was denied.

On June 13, 2013, Broadcast Music, Inc. ("BMI") filed a petition in the rate court in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York established by the consent decree between BMI and the U.S. Department of Justice for the determination of reasonable fees and terms for a BMI blanket license for the period from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2016. The rate proceeding concluded on March 13, 2015, and in May 2015, the court issued its opinion establishing a royalty rate of 2.5% of revenue before certain deductions. On June 26, 2015, we filed a notice of appeal of the court's decision with the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. On October 19, 2015, we filed our appeal brief. Briefing will continue through February 2016. The district court's decision and our appeal of the court's decision did not have a material impact on our consolidated statements of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015.

RMLC ("Radio Music Licensing Committee")

In June 2013, we entered into an agreement to purchase the assets of KXMZ-FM and in June 2015 the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") approved the transfer of the FCC licenses and the acquisition was completed. The agreement to purchase the assets of KXMZ allowed us to qualify for the RMLC royalty rate of 1.7% of revenue for a license to the ASCAP and BMI repertoires, before certain deductions, beginning in June 2013. As a result, we recorded cost of revenue - content acquisition costs at the RMLC royalty rate starting in June 2013, rather than the rate that was set in rate court proceedings in March 2014 for ASCAP and in May 2015 for BMI.

In the three months ended September 30, 2015, despite confidence in our legal position that we were entitled to the RMLC royalty rate starting in June 2013, and as part of our strategy to strengthen our partnership with the music industry, management decided to forgo the application of the RMLC royalty rate from June 2013 through September 2015. As a result, we recorded a one-time cumulative charge to increase cost of revenue - content acquisition costs within our condensed consolidated financial statements of $23.9 million in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 related to spins played from June 2013 through September 30, 2015 in order to align the cumulative cost of revenue - content acquisition costs to the amounts previously paid at the rates that were set in the rate court proceedings in March 2014 for ASCAP and May 2015 for BMI.

Pre-1972 copyright litigation

On April 17, 2014, UMG Recordings, Inc., Sony Music Entertainment, Capitol Records, LLC, Warner Music Group Corp. and ABKCO Music and Records, Inc. filed suit against Pandora Media Inc. in the Supreme Court of the State of New York. The complaint claims common law copyright infringement and unfair competition arising from allegations that Pandora owes royalties for the public performance of sound recordings recorded prior to February 15, 1972.

In October 2015, the parties reached an agreement ("pre-1972 settlement") whereby we agreed to pay the plaintiffs a total of $90 million. The settlement resolves all past claims as to our use of pre-1972 recordings owned or controlled

by the plaintiffs and enables us, without any additional payment, to reproduce, perform and broadcast such recordings in the United States through December 31, 2016. This agreement was approved by our board of directors and executed on October 21, 2015. Pursuant to this settlement, we agreed to pay the plaintiffs $60 million on or before October 23, 2015 and the plaintiffs will dismiss the case with prejudice. We recorded a one-time cumulative charge of $57.9 million to cost of revenue - content acquisition costs within our condensed consolidated statements of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 related to the pre-1972 spins played through September 30, 2015. The remaining charge of $32.1 million will be recorded in cost of revenue - content acquisition costs over the future service period of October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016 based on expected streaming of pre-1972 recordings over the period. This settlement will be paid in five installments. The first installment of $60 million was paid in October 2015, and the remaining amount will be paid in four equal installments of $7.5 million from January 1, 2016 through October 1, 2016.

On October 2, 2014, Flo & Eddie Inc. filed a class action suit against Pandora Media Inc. in the federal district court for the Central District of California. The complaint alleges misappropriation and conversion in connection with the public

performance of sound recordings recorded prior to February 15, 1972. On December 19, 2014, Pandora filed a motion to strike the complaint pursuant to California's Anti-Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation ("Anti-SLAPP") statute. This motion was denied, and we have appealed the ruling to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. As a result, the district court litigation has been stayed pending the Ninth Circuit's review.

On September 14, 2015, Arthur and Barbara Sheridan, et al filed a class action suit against Pandora Media, Inc. in the federal district court for the Northern District of California. The complaint alleges common law misappropriation, unfair competition, conversion, unjust enrichment and violation of California rights of publicity arising from allegations that we owe royalties for the public performance of sound recordings recorded prior to February 15, 1972. We are currently preparing our response to these allegations.

On September 16, 2015, Arthur and Barbara Sheridan, et al filed a second class action suit against Pandora Media, Inc. in the federal district court for the Southern District of New York. The complaint alleges common law copyright infringement, violation of New York right of publicity, unfair competition and unjust enrichment arising from allegations that we owe royalties for the public performance of sound recordings recorded prior to February 15, 1972. We are currently preparing our response to these allegations.

On October 17, 2015, Arthur and Barbara Sheridan, et al filed a third class action suit against us in the federal district court for the Northern District of Illinois ("Third Class Action Suit"). The complaint alleges common law copyright infringement, violation of the Illinois Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, conversion, and unjust enrichment arising from allegations that we owe royalties for the public performance of sound recordings recorded prior to February 15, 1972. We are currently preparing our response to these allegations.

On October 19, 2015, Arthur and Barbara Sheridan, et al filed a fourth class action suit against us in the federal district court for the District of New Jersey ("Fourth Class Action Suit"). The complaint alleges common law copyright infringement, unfair competition and unjust enrichment arising from allegations that we owe royalties for the public performance of sound recordings recorded prior to February 15, 1972. We are currently preparing our response to these allegations.

The outcome of any litigation is inherently uncertain. Except as noted above, including with respect to the $90 million settlement for UMG Recordings, Inc. et al v. Pandora Media Inc. in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, we do not believe it is probable that the final outcome of the matters discussed above will, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations or cash flows; however, in light of the uncertainties involved in such matters, there can be no assurance that the outcome of each case or the costs of litigation, regardless of outcome, will not have a material adverse effect on our business. In particular, rate court proceedings could take years to complete, could be very costly and may result in current and past royalty rates that are materially less favorable than rates we currently pay or have paid in the past.

Indemnification Agreements, Guarantees and Contingencies

In the ordinary course of business, we are party to certain contractual agreements under which we may provide indemnifications of varying scope, terms and duration to customers, vendors, lessors, business partners and other parties with respect to certain matters, including, but not limited to, losses arising out of breach of such agreements, services to be provided by us or from intellectual property infringement claims made by third parties. In addition, we have entered into indemnification agreements with directors and certain officers and employees that will require us,

among other things, to indemnify them against certain liabilities that may arise by reason of their status or service as directors, officers or employees. Such indemnification provisions are accounted for in accordance with guarantor's accounting and disclosure requirements for guarantees, including indirect guarantees of indebtedness of others. To date, we have not incurred, do not anticipate incurring and therefore have not accrued for, any costs related to such indemnification provisions.

While the outcome of these matters cannot be predicted with certainty, we do not believe that the outcome of any claims under indemnification arrangements will have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

6. Goodwill and Intangible Assets

Acquisitions

Table of Contents
Pandora Media, Inc.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements - Continued
(unaudited)

In July 2015, we completed the acquisition of Next Big Sound, Inc. ("NBS"). Goodwill generated from the business acquisition is primarily attributable to expected synergies from future growth and from the potential to expand our Artist Marketing Platform ("AMP") and is not deductible for tax purposes. We have accounted for this acquisition as a business combination in the three months ended September 30, 2015. NBS provides analytics for online music, including analyzing the popularity of musicians in social networks, streaming services and radio.

In June 2013, we entered into an agreement to purchase the assets of KXMZ-FM. The Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") approved the transfer of the FCC licenses and the acquisition was completed in June 2015. We have accounted for this acquisition as a business combination in the nine months ended September 30, 2015.

These acquisitions were not material to our condensed consolidated financial statements, either individually or in the aggregate. Accordingly, pro forma historical results of operations related to these business acquisitions during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 have not been presented. We have included the financial results of these business acquisitions in our condensed consolidated financial statements from their respective dates of acquisition.

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill for the nine months ended September 30, 2015, are as follows:

	Goodwill (in thousands)
Balance as of December 31, 2014	$—
Goodwill resulting from business combinations	23,052
Balance as of September 30, 2015	$23,052

The following summarizes information regarding the gross carrying amounts and accumulated amortization of intangibles.

		As of December 31, 2014			As of September 30, 2015		
	Useful Lives From Date of Acquisition (in years)	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Value	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Value
		(in thousands)			(in thousands)		
Finite-lived intangible assets							
Patents	5.5 - 11	$8,030	$(1,091)	$6,939	$8,030	$(1,640)	$6,390
Developed technology	4	—	—	—	1,550	(97)	1,453
Customer relationships	2	—	—	—	940	(118)	822
Trade names	2	—	—	—	320	(40)	280
Total finite-lived intangible assets		$8,030	$(1,091)	$6,939	$10,840	$(1,895)	$8,945

Indefinite-lived intangible assets						
FCC license - Broadcast Radio	$—	$—	$—	$193	$—	$193
Total intangible assets	$8,030	$(1,091)	$6,939	$11,033	$(1,895)	$9,138

Amortization expense of intangible assets was $0.2 million and $0.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015, and $0.5 million and $0.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015, respectively.

Table of Contents
Pandora Media, Inc.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements - Continued
(unaudited)

The following is a schedule of future amortization expense related to finite-lived intangible assets as of September 30, 2015.

	As of September 30, 2015 (in thousands)
Three months ending December 31, 2015	$439
2016	1,750
2017	1,435
2018	1,120
2019	926
Thereafter	3,275
Total future amortization expense	$8,945

7. Debt Instruments

We are party to a $60.0 million credit facility with a syndicate of financial institutions, which expires on September 12, 2018. As of September 30, 2015, we had no borrowings outstanding, $1.1 million in letters of credit outstanding and $58.9 million of available borrowing capacity under the credit facility. We are in compliance with all financial covenants associated with the credit facility as of September 30, 2015.

8. Stock-based Compensation Plans and Awards

ESPP

The ESPP allows eligible employees to purchase shares of our common stock through payroll deductions of up to 15% of their eligible compensation. The ESPP provides for six-month offering periods, commencing in February and August of each year.

The per-share fair value of shares to be granted under the ESPP is determined on the first day of the offering period using the Black-Scholes option pricing model using the following assumptions:

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Expected life (in years)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Risk-free interest rate	0.05 - 0.08%	0.07 - 0.24%	0.05 - 0.08%	0.05 - 0.24%
Expected volatility	42%	29 - 42%	42%	29 - 42%
Expected dividend yield	0%	0%	0%	0%

During the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015, we withheld $1.9 million and $1.8 million in contributions from employees and recognized $0.6 million and $0.6 million of stock-based compensation expense related to the ESPP, respectively. During the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015, we withheld $4.4 million and $5.1 million in contributions from employees and recognized $1.5 million and $1.9 million of stock-based

compensation expense related to the ESPP, respectively. In the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015, 149,378 and 255,432 shares of common stock were issued under the ESPP. In the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015, 149,378 and 538,398 shares of common stock were issued under the ESPP.

Employee Stock-Based Awards

Pandora Media, Inc.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements - Continued
(unaudited)

Our 2011 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2011 Plan") provides for the issuance of stock options, restricted stock units and other stock-based awards to our employees. The 2011 Plan is administered by the compensation committee of our board of directors.

Stock options

We measure stock-based compensation expenses for stock options at the grant date fair value of the award and recognize expenses on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period, which is generally the vesting period. We estimate the fair value of stock options using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. During the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015, we recorded stock-based compensation expense from stock options of approximately $4.0 million and $2.3 million. During the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015, we recorded stock-based compensation expense from stock options of approximately $11.2 million and $7.5 million.

The per-share fair value of each stock option was determined on the grant date using the Black-Scholes option pricing model using the following assumptions.

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Expected life (in years)	6.08	6.08	6.08	6.08
Risk-free interest rate	1.93 %	1.92 %	1.71 - 1.93%	1.92 %
Expected volatility	58 %	49 %	58 - 59%	49 %
Expected dividend yield	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %

Restricted stock units ("RSUs")

The fair value of the restricted stock units is expensed ratably over the vesting period. RSUs typically have an initial annual cliff vest and then vest quarterly thereafter over the service period, which is generally four years. During the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015, we recorded stock-based compensation expense from RSUs of approximately $17.5 million and $25.4 million. During the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015, we recorded stock-based compensation expense from RSUs of approximately $47.4 million and $69.1 million.

MSUs

We implemented a market stock unit program in March 2015 for certain key executives. MSUs are earned as a function of Pandora's TSR performance measured against that of the Russell 2000 Index across three performance periods:

- One-third of the target MSUs are eligible to be earned for a performance period that is the first calendar year of the MSU grant (the "One-Year Performance Period");
- One-third of the target MSUs are eligible to be earned for a performance period that is the first two calendar years of the MSU grant (the "Two-Year Performance Period"); and
- Any remaining portion of the target MSUs are eligible to be earned for a performance period that is the entire three calendar years of the MSU grant (the "Three-Year Performance Period").

For each performance period, a “performance multiplier” is calculated by comparing Pandora’s TSR for the period to the Russell 2000 Index TSR for the same period, using the average adjusted closing stock price of Pandora stock, and the Russell 2000 Index, for ninety calendar days prior to the beginning of the performance period and the last ninety calendar days of the performance period. In each period, the target number of shares will vest if the Pandora TSR is equal to the Russell 2000 Index TSR. For each percentage point that the Pandora TSR falls below the Russell 2000 Index TSR for the period, the performance multiplier is decreased by three percentage points. The performance multiplier is capped at 100% for the One-Year and Two-Year Performance Periods. However, the full award is eligible for a payout up to 200% of target, less any shares earned in prior periods, in the Three-Year Performance Period. Specifically, for each percentage point that the Pandora TSR exceeds the Russell 2000 Index TSR for the Three-Year Performance Period, the performance multiplier is increased by 2%. As such, the ability to exceed the target number of shares is determined exclusively with respect to Pandora's three-year TSR during the term of the award.

Table of Contents
Pandora Media, Inc.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements - Continued
(unaudited)

We have determined the grant-date fair value of the MSUs using a Monte Carlo simulation performed by a third-party valuation firm. We recognize stock-based compensation for the MSUs over the requisite service period, which is approximately three years, using the accelerated attribution method. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, we granted 776,000 MSUs at a total grant-date fair value of $4.3 million. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, we recorded stock-based compensation expense from MSUs of approximately $0.5 million and $1.0 million.

Stock-based Compensation Expense

Stock-based compensation expense related to all employee and non-employee stock-based awards was as follows:

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(in thousands)		(in thousands)	
Stock-based compensation expense				
Cost of revenue - Other	$1,063	$1,427	$2,976	$4,040
Product development	4,402	6,189	12,289	16,148
Sales and marketing	10,442	13,732	28,675	38,403
General and administrative	6,204	7,446	16,176	20,882
Total stock-based compensation expense	$22,111	$28,794	$60,116	$79,473

9. Net Loss Per Share

Basic net loss per share is computed by dividing the net loss by the weighted-average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period.

Diluted net loss per share is computed by giving effect to all potential shares of common stock, including stock options, restricted stock units and market stock units, to the extent dilutive. Basic and diluted net loss per share were the same for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015, as the inclusion of all potential common shares outstanding would have been anti-dilutive.

The following table sets forth the computation of historical basic and diluted net loss per share:

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(in thousands except per share amounts)			
Numerator				
Net loss	$(2,025)	$(85,930)	$(42,684)	$(150,252)
Denominator				
Weighted-average common shares outstanding used in computing basic and diluted net loss per share	206,982	212,760	204,208	211,487

Net loss per share, basic and diluted	$(0.01)	$(0.40)	$(0.21)	$(0.71)

The following potential common shares outstanding were excluded from the computation of diluted net loss per share because including them would have been anti-dilutive:

	As of September 30,	
	2014	2015
	(in thousands)	
Options to purchase common stock	11,571	10,492
Restricted stock units	11,339	16,653
Market stock units	—	776
Total common stock equivalents	22,910	27,921

10. Subsequent Events

Acquisition of Ticketfly, Inc. ("Ticketfly")

On October 7, 2015, we entered into an agreement to acquire Ticketfly, a leading live events technology company that provides ticketing services and marketing software for venues and event promoters across North America. Pursuant to the merger agreement, we have agreed to pay $225 million in cash and approximately 11.6 million shares of common stock, subject to customary adjustments for working capital, cash, indebtedness and transaction expenses. Per the agreement, we are entitled to a net cash balance of $50 million as part of these adjustments. In addition to the purchase price, unvested options and unvested RSUs of Ticketfly held by Ticketfly employees will be converted respectively into unvested options and unvested RSUs to acquire our common stock. The closing is subject to customary closing conditions, including the expiration or termination of any waiting periods under applicable antitrust laws, and we expect the closing to occur in the three months ending December 31, 2015. We will include the financial results of Ticketfly in our condensed consolidated financial statements as of the date of acquisition.

Pre-1972 copyright litigation

Refer to the pre-1972 settlement, Third Class Action Suit and Fourth Class Action Suit matters under the “Legal Proceedings” subheading in Note 5. Commitments and Contingencies of the Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for information related to the pre-1972 settlement and pending litigation filed after the three months ended September 30, 2015.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations ("MD&A")

You should read the following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations in conjunction with the condensed consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act").

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains "forward-looking statements" that involve substantial risks and uncertainties. The statements contained in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q that are not purely historical are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") and Section 21E of the Exchange Act, including, but not limited to, statements regarding our expectations, beliefs, intentions, strategies, future operations, future financial position, future revenue, projected expenses, plans and objectives of management and economic, competitive and technological trends. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "may," "r "plan," "project," "will," "would," "should," "could," "can," "predict," "potential," "continue," "objective," or the negative of t similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. However, not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words. These forward-looking statements reflect our current views about future events and involve known risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievement to be materially different from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, those identified below, and those discussed in the section titled "Risk Factors" included in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014. Furthermore, such forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this report. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of such statements. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements. These and other factors could cause our results to differ materially from those expressed in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

Some of the industry and market data contained in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are based on independent industry publications, including those generated by Triton Digital Media ("Triton") or other publicly available information. This information involves a number of assumptions and limitations. Although we believe that each source is reliable as of its respective date, we have not independently verified the accuracy or completeness of this information.

As used herein, "Pandora," the "Company," "we," "our," and similar terms refer to Pandora Media, Inc., unless the context indicates otherwise.

"Pandora" and other trademarks of ours appearing in this report are our property. This report may contain additional trade names and trademarks of other companies. We do not intend our use or display of other companies' trade names or trademarks to imply an endorsement or sponsorship of us by such companies, or any relationship with any of these companies.

Overview

Pandora is the leader in internet radio in the United States, offering a personalized experience for each of our listeners wherever and whenever they want to listen to radio on a wide range of smartphones, tablets, computers and car audio systems, as well as a range of other internet-connected devices. The majority of our listener hours occur on mobile devices, with the majority of our revenue generated from advertising on these devices. We have pioneered a new form of radio—one that uses intrinsic qualities of music to initially create stations and then adapts playlists in real-time based on the individual feedback of each listener. We offer local and national advertisers an opportunity to deliver targeted

messages to our listeners using a combination of audio, display and video advertisements.

For the three months ended September 30, 2015, we streamed 5.14 billion hours of radio, and as of September 30, 2015, we had 78.1 million active users during the prior 30-day period. Since we launched our free, advertising-supported radio service in 2005 our listeners have created over 9 billion stations.

At the core of our service is our set of proprietary personalization technologies, including the Music Genome Project and our playlist generating algorithms. The Music Genome Project is a database of over 1,000,000 uniquely analyzed songs from over 350,000 artists, spanning over 600 genres and sub-genres, which we develop one song at a time by evaluating and cataloging each song's particular attributes. When a listener enters a single song, artist, comedian or genre to start a station, the Pandora service instantly generates a station that plays music or comedy we think that listener will enjoy. Based on listener reactions to the recordings we pick, we further tailor the station to match the listener's preferences. Listeners also have the ability to add variety to and rename stations, which further allows for the personalization of our service.

Table of Contents

We currently provide the Pandora service through two models:

- Free Service. Our free service is advertising-based and allows listeners access to our music and comedy catalogs and personalized playlist generating system for free across all of our delivery platforms.

- Pandora One. Pandora One is a paid subscription service without any advertising. Pandora One also enables listeners to have more daily skips, enjoy higher quality audio on supported devices and enjoy longer timeout-free listening.

A key element of our strategy is to make the Pandora service available everywhere that there is internet connectivity. To this end, we make the Pandora service available through a variety of distribution channels. In addition to streaming our service to computers, we have developed Pandora mobile device applications (“apps”) for smartphones such as iPhone, Android and the Windows Phone and for tablets including the iPad and Android tablets. We distribute those mobile apps free to listeners via app stores. In addition, Pandora is now integrated with more than 1,000 connected devices, including automobiles, automotive aftermarket devices and consumer electronic devices.

Recent Events

Acquisitions

Acquisition of Ticketfly, Inc. ("Ticketfly")

On October 7, 2015, we entered into an agreement to acquire Ticketfly, a leading live events technology company that provides ticketing services and marketing software for venues and event promoters across North America. Pursuant to the merger agreement, we have agreed to pay $225 million in cash and approximately 11.6 million shares of common stock, subject to customary adjustments for working capital, cash, indebtedness and transaction expenses. Per the agreement, we are entitled to a net cash balance of $50 million as part of these adjustments. In addition to the purchase price, unvested options and unvested restricted stock units ("RSUs") of Ticketfly held by Ticketfly employees will be converted respectively into unvested options and unvested RSUs to acquire our common stock. The closing is subject to customary closing conditions, including the expiration or termination of any waiting periods under applicable antitrust laws, and we expect the closing to occur in the three months ending December 31, 2015. We will include the financial results of Ticketfly in our condensed consolidated financial statements as of the date of acquisition.

Acquisition of Next Big Sound, Inc. ("NBS")

In July 2015, we completed the acquisition of NBS. Goodwill generated from the business acquisition is primarily attributable to expected synergies from future growth and from the potential to expand our Artist Marketing Platform ("AMP") and is not deductible for tax purposes. We have accounted for this acquisition as a business combination in the three months ended September 30, 2015. NBS provides analytics for online music, including analyzing the popularity of musicians in social networks, streaming services and radio. The results of NBS in the three months ended September 30, 2015 were not material to our operating results.

Acquisition of KXMZ-FM

In June 2013, we entered into an agreement to purchase the assets of KXMZ-FM. The Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") approved the transfer of the FCC licenses and the acquisition was completed in June 2015. We have accounted for this acquisition as a business combination in the nine months ended September 30, 2015. The agreement to acquire the assets of KXMZ-FM was done in part to allow us to qualify for certain settlement agreements concerning royalties for the public performance of musical works between the Radio Music Licensing

Committee (“RMLC”) and American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (“ASCAP”) and Broadcast Music, Inc. (“BMI”) as of the date of the agreement. The results of KXMZ-FM in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 were not material to our operating results.

Music Royalty Matters

Pre-1972 copyright litigation

On April 17, 2014, UMG Recordings, Inc., Sony Music Entertainment, Capitol Records, LLC, Warner Music Group Corp. and ABKCO Music and Records, Inc. filed suit against Pandora Media Inc. in the Supreme Court of the State of New

Table of Contents

York. The complaint claims common law copyright infringement and unfair competition arising from allegations that Pandora owes royalties for the public performance of sound recordings recorded prior to February 15, 1972.

In October 2015 the parties reached an agreement whereby we agreed to pay the plaintiffs a total of $90 million. The settlement resolves all past claims as to our use of pre-1972 recordings owned or controlled by the plaintiffs and enables us, without any additional payment, to reproduce, perform and broadcast such recordings in the United States through December 31, 2016. This agreement was approved by our board of directors and executed on October 21, 2015. Pursuant to this settlement, which covers approximately 90% of total pre-1972 spins on our service, we agreed to pay the plaintiffs $60 million on or before October 23, 2015 and the plaintiffs will dismiss the case with prejudice. We recorded a one-time cumulative charge of $57.9 million to cost of revenue - content acquisition costs within our condensed consolidated statements of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 related to the pre-1972 spins played through September 30, 2015. The remaining charge of $32.1 million will be recorded in cost of revenue - content acquisition costs over the future service period of October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016 based on expected streaming of pre-1972 recordings over the period. This settlement will be paid in five installments. The first installment of $60.0 million was paid in October 2015, and the remaining amount will be paid in four equal installments of $7.5 million from January 1, 2016 through October 1, 2016.

RMLC

In June 2013, we entered into an agreement to purchase the assets of KXMZ-FM and in June 2015 the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") approved the transfer of the FCC licenses and the acquisition was completed. The agreement to purchase the assets of KXMZ allowed us to qualify for the RMLC royalty rate of 1.7% of revenue for a license to the ASCAP and BMI repertoires, before certain deductions, beginning in June 2013. As a result, we recorded cost of revenue - content acquisition costs at the RMLC royalty rate starting in June 2013, rather than the rate that was set in rate court proceedings in March 2014 for ASCAP and in May 2015 for BMI.

In the three months ended September 30, 2015, despite confidence in our legal position that we were entitled to the RMLC royalty rate starting in June 2013 and as part of our strategy to strengthen our partnership with the music industry, management decided to forgo the application of the RMLC royalty rate from June 2013 through September 2015. As a result, we recorded a one-time cumulative charge to increase cost of revenue - content acquisition costs within our condensed consolidated financial statements of $23.9 million in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 related to spins played from June 2013 through September 30, 2015 in order to align the cumulative cost of revenue - content acquisition costs to the amounts previously paid at the rates that were set in the rate court proceedings in March 2014 for ASCAP and May 2015 for BMI. We intend to record cost of revenue - content acquisition costs for the performing rights organizations ("PRO") at the rates established by the rate courts for the foreseeable future.

BMI Royalty Agreement

In June 2013, BMI filed a petition in the rate court in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York established by the consent decree between BMI and the U.S. Department of Justice for the determination of reasonable fees and terms for a BMI blanket license for the period from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2016. The rate proceeding concluded in March 2015, and in May 2015, the court issued its opinion establishing a royalty rate of 2.5% of revenue before certain deductions. In June 2015, we filed a notice of appeal of the court's decision with the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. In October 2015, we filed our appeal brief. Briefing will continue through February 2016. The district court's decision and our appeal of the court's decision did not have a material impact on our consolidated statements of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015.

Naxos of America, Inc. ("Naxos") Royalty Agreement

In February 2015, we announced a United States licensing agreement to partner with Naxos, one of the world's leading classical music labels representing a collection of classical music works. This partnership is designed to help classical labels and artists increase the audiences they reach. Participating labels and the artists they represent can also take advantage of the marketing capabilities of our connected platform, which capabilities include providing direct access to our metadata to help participating labels make data-driven business decisions. We do not expect this partnership to have a material effect on our financial condition or operating results.

Factors Affecting our Business Model

A majority of our listener hours occur on mobile devices and as such, we face challenges in optimizing our advertising products for delivery on mobile and other connected device platforms and monetizing inventory, or opportunities to sell

Table of Contents

advertisements, generated by listeners using these platforms. The mobile digital advertising industry is at an early stage of development, with lower overall spending levels than traditional online advertising markets, and faces technical challenges due to fragmented platforms and a lack of standard audience measurement protocols. As a greater share of our listener hours is consumed on mobile devices, our ability to monetize increased mobile streaming may not achieve the levels of monetization of streaming we have achieved on computers.

In addition, our monetization strategy includes increasing the number of ad campaigns for computer, mobile and other connected device platforms sold to local advertisers, placing us in more direct competition with broadcast radio for advertiser spending, especially for audio advertisements. By contrast, historically our advertisers have been predominantly national brands. Key to the success of our strategy to increase local advertising is our ability to convince a substantial base of local advertisers of the benefits of advertising on the Pandora service, including demonstrating the effectiveness and relevance of our advertising products, in particular audio advertising products, across the range of our delivery platforms.

Growth in our active users and distribution platforms has fueled a corresponding growth in listener hours. Our total number of listener hours is a key driver for both revenue generation opportunities and content acquisition costs, which are the largest component of our expenses.

- Revenue. Listener hours define the number of opportunities we have to sell advertisements, which we refer to as inventory. Our ability to attract advertisers depends in large part on our ability to offer sufficient inventory within desired demographics. In turn, our ability to generate revenue depends on the extent to which we are able to sell the inventory we have.

- Cost of Revenue—Content Acquisition Costs. The number of sound recordings we transmit to users of the Pandora service, as generally reflected by listener hours, drives a substantial majority of our content acquisition costs, although certain of our licensing agreements require us to pay fees for public performances of musical works based on a percentage of revenue.

We pay content acquisition costs, or royalties, to the copyright owners, or their agents, of each sound recording that we stream and to the copyright owners, or their agents, for the sound recordings that we perform, as well as the musical works embodied in each of those sound recordings, subject to certain exclusions. Royalties for sound recordings are negotiated with and paid to record labels, rights organizations or to SoundExchange, Inc. ("SoundExchange") and Merlin Networks B.V ("Merlin"). Royalties for musical works are most often negotiated with and paid to performing rights organizations (“PROs") such as ASCAP, BMI and SESAC, Inc. (“SESAC”) or directly to publishing companies. Royalties are calculated based on the number of sound recordings streamed, revenue earned or other usage measures.

We stream spoken word comedy content pursuant to a federal statutory license, for which the underlying literary works are not currently entitled to eligibility for licensing by any PRO for the United States. Rather, pursuant to industry-wide custom and practice, this content is performed absent a specific license from any such PRO or the copyright owner of such content. However, we pay royalties to SoundExchange at rates negotiated between representatives of online music services and SoundExchange for the right to stream this spoken word comedy content.

Given the current royalty structures in effect through the end of 2015 with respect to the public performance of sound recordings in the United States, our content acquisition costs increase with each additional listener hour, regardless of whether we are able to generate more revenue. As such, our ability to achieve and sustain profitability and operating leverage depends on our ability to increase our revenue per hour of streaming through increased advertising revenue across all of our delivery platforms. We are presently involved in proceedings to set the royalties we pay to SoundExchange for streaming performances of musical works for the period from 2016 through 2020. Depending on

the outcome of those proceedings, our royalty costs could change significantly. Please refer to our discussion of these matters in “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 for further information.

We expect to invest heavily in our operations to support anticipated future growth. One of our key objectives is furthering our industry leadership in internet radio, which we believe will strengthen our brand and help us to convince advertisers to allocate spending towards our ad products. As such, a central focus is adding, retaining and engaging listeners to build market share and grow our listener hours. As our business matures, we expect that our revenue growth will exceed the growth in our listener hours. However, we expect to incur annual net losses on a U.S. GAAP basis in the near term because our current strategy is to leverage improvements in gross profit by investing in broadening distribution channels, developing innovative and scalable advertising products, increasing utilization of advertising inventory and building our sales force. These investments are intended to drive further growth in our business through both increased listener hours and monetization of

Table of Contents

those hours, and as a result we are targeting gradual improvements in gross profit over time. Our planned reinvestment of the resulting incremental gross profit will continue to depress the growth of our bottom line profitability.

Key Metrics

Listener Hours

We track listener hours because it is a key indicator of the growth of our business. We calculate listener hours based on the total bytes served for each track that is requested and served from our servers, as measured by our internal analytics systems, whether or not a listener listens to the entire track. To the extent that third-party measurements of listener hours are not calculated using a similar server-based approach, the third-party measurements may differ from our measurements.

The table below sets forth our total listener hours for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015.

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(in billions)		(in billions)	
Listener hours	4.99	5.14	14.83	15.74

Active Users

We track the number of active users as an additional indicator of the breadth of audience we are reaching at a given time. We define active users as the number of distinct registered users, including subscribers that have requested audio from our servers within the trailing 30 days to the end of the final calendar month of the period. The number of active users may overstate the number of unique individuals who actively use our service within a month as one individual may register for, and use, multiple accounts.

The table below sets forth our total active users as of September 30, 2014 and 2015.

	As of September 30,	
	2014	2015
	(in millions)	
Active users	76.5	78.1

We define advertising-based active users (“ad-based active users”) as the number of users, excluding subscribers, that have requested audio from our servers within the trailing 30 days to the end of the final calendar month of the period. We define subscribers as the number of distinct users at the end of the period that have subscribed to our service. Inactive subscribers are included as they contribute towards revenue per thousand listener hours (“RPMs”), which are described in further detail below.

The table below sets forth our users on an advertising and subscription basis as of September 30, 2014 and 2015.

	As of September 30,	
	2014	2015
User type	Users (in millions)	
Ad-based active users	73.5	74.7
Subscribers*	3.5	3.9
Total	77.0	78.6

* Includes subscribers that have not used our service within the trailing 30 days to the end of the final calendar month of the period.

The table below sets forth our listener hours on an advertising and subscription basis for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015.

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
User type	Listener hours (in billions)		Listener hours (in billions)	
Ad-based active users	4.38	4.48	13.01	13.77
Subscribers	0.61	0.66	1.82	1.97
Total	4.99	5.14	14.83	15.74

Advertising Revenue per Thousand Listener Hours (“ad RPMs”)

We track ad RPMs for our free, advertising-supported service because it is a key indicator of our ability to monetize advertising inventory created by our listener hours. We focus on ad RPMs across all of our delivery platforms. We believe ad RPMs to be the central top-line indicator for evaluating the results of our monetization efforts. Ad RPMs are calculated by dividing advertising revenue by the number of thousands of listener hours of our advertising-based service.

Subscription and Other Revenue per Thousand Listener Hours (“subscription RPMs”)

We track subscription RPMs because it is a key indicator of the performance of our subscription service. We focus on subscription RPMs across all of our delivery platforms. Subscription RPMs are calculated by dividing subscription and other revenue by the number of thousands of listener hours of our subscription service.

Total Revenue per Thousand Listener Hours (“total RPMs”)

We track total RPMs for our service, which includes ad and subscription RPMs, because it is a key indicator of our ability to monetize our listener hours. Total RPMs compare advertising and subscription and other revenue in a given period to total listener hours in the period. We calculate total RPMs by dividing the total revenue by the number of thousands of listener hours.

Licensing Costs per Thousand Listener Hours (“LPMs”)

We track LPMs and analyze them in combination with our analysis of RPMs as they provide a key indicator of our profitability. LPMs are relatively fixed licensing costs with scheduled annual rate increases that drive period-over-period changes in LPMs. As such, the margin on our business varies principally with variances in ad RPMs and subscription RPMs.

Estimated RPMs and LPMs by Platform

We also provide estimates of disaggregated ad RPMs, subscription RPMs, total RPMs and related LPMs for our computer platform as well as our mobile and other connected devices platforms, which we calculate by dividing the estimated revenue and costs generated through the respective platforms by the number of thousands of listener hours of our services delivered through such platforms. While we believe that such disaggregated data provides directional insight for evaluating our efforts to monetize our service, we do not validate such disaggregated data to the level of financial statement reporting. Such data should be seen as indicative only and as management's best estimate. Period-to-period results should not be regarded as precise nor can they be relied upon as indicative of results for future periods. In addition, as our business matures and in response to technological evolutions, we anticipate that the relevant indicators we monitor for evaluating our business may change.

The table below sets forth our RPMs and LPMs, including total, computer and mobile and other connected devices, on an ad, subscription and total basis for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015.

Table of Contents

	Three months ended September 30,			
	2014		2015	
	RPM	LPM*	RPM	LPM*
Advertising				
Computer	$64.13	$20.59	$71.88	$45.62
Mobile and other connected devices	40.82	20.33	54.31	34.92
Total advertising	$44.35	$20.37	$56.84	$36.46
Subscription				
Computer	$61.56	$33.53	$73.35	$68.11
Mobile and other connected devices	78.11	36.94	88.35	73.12
Total subscription	$74.14	$36.12	$85.28	$72.10
Total				
Total computer	$63.67	$22.94	$72.14	$49.53
Total mobile and other connected devices	44.96	22.18	58.44	39.55
Total	$48.00	$22.30	$60.52	$41.06

*Under the Pureplay Settlement agreement, we pay per-performance rates for the streaming of sound recordings for our Pandora One subscription service that are higher than the per-performance rates for our free, advertising-supported service.

The table below sets forth our RPMs and LPMs, including total, computer and mobile and other connected devices, on an ad, subscription and total basis for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015.

	Nine months ended September 30,			
	2014		2015	
	RPM	LPM*	RPM	LPM*
Advertising				
Computer	$59.64	$20.76	$67.82	$30.21
Mobile and other connected devices	35.55	20.38	45.01	26.23
Total advertising	$39.37	$20.44	$48.24	$26.79
Subscription				
Computer	$59.38	$33.54	$70.98	$46.81
Mobile and other connected devices	83.40	36.59	86.02	50.79
Total subscription	$77.32	$35.82	$82.84	$49.95
Total				
Total computer	$59.59	$23.09	$68.38	$33.13
Total mobile and other connected devices	40.82	22.16	49.78	29.08
Total	$44.02	$22.32	$52.57	$29.69

*Under the Pureplay Settlement agreement, we pay per-performance rates for the streaming of sound recordings for our Pandora One subscription service that are higher than the per-performance rates for our free, advertising-supported service.

Total ad RPMs

For the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, total ad RPMs increased primarily due to an increase in ad RPMs on the mobile and other connected devices platform. Ad RPMs on the mobile and other connected devices platform increased as advertising revenue growth outpaced the growth in advertising listener hours

as a result of an increase in the average price per ad sold.

Table of Contents

For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, total ad RPMs increased primarily due to an increase in ad RPMs on the mobile and other connected devices platform. Ad RPMs on the mobile and other connected devices platform increased as advertising revenue growth outpaced the growth in advertising listener hours as a result of an increase in the average price per ad sold and an increase in the number of ads sold on that platform.

Total subscription RPMs

For the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, total subscription RPMs increased primarily due to an increase in subscription RPMs on the computer platform. Subscription RPMs on the computer platform increased due to growth in subscription revenue as a result of an increase in the average price per subscription and an increase in the number of subscribers.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, total subscription RPMs increased primarily due to an increase in subscription RPMs on the computer platform. Subscription RPMs on the computer platform increased due to growth in subscription revenue as a result of an increase in the average price per subscription and an increase in the number of subscribers. Subscription RPMs on the mobile and other connected devices platform grew at a slower rate as a result of the one-time recognition of the accumulation of deferred revenue related to certain subscriptions purchased through mobile app stores of $14.2 million in the three months ended March 31, 2014.

Total ad LPMs

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, total ad LPMs increased as a result of the one-time cumulative charges, inclusive of the effect of the current quarter, of $57.9 million for the pre-1972 sound recordings settlement and $23.9 million as a result of management’s decision to forgo the application of the RMLC publisher royalty rate from June 2013 to September 2015 and scheduled royalty rate increases.

Total subscription LPMs

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, total subscription LPMs increased as a result of the one-time cumulative charges, inclusive of the effect of the current quarter, of $57.9 million for the pre-1972 sound recordings settlement and $23.9 million as a result of management’s decision to forgo the application of the RMLC publisher royalty rate from June 2013 to September 2015 and scheduled royalty rate increases.

Basis of Presentation and Results of Operations

The following table presents our results of operations for the periods indicated as a percentage of total revenue. The period-to-period comparisons of results are not necessarily indicative of results for future periods.

Table of Contents

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Revenue				
Advertising	81 %	82 %	78 %	80 %
Subscription and other	19	18	22	20
Total revenue (2)	100	100	100	100
Cost of revenue				
Cost of revenue — Content acquisition costs	46	68	51	56
Cost of revenue — Other(1)	6	7	7	7
Total cost of revenue (2)	53	75	58	63
Gross profit (2)	47	25	42	37
Operating expenses				
Product development(1)	6	7	6	7
Sales and marketing(1)	30	34	31	34
General and administrative(1)	12	11	12	13
Total operating expenses (2)	48	53	49	55
Loss from operations (2)	(1)	(28)	(7)	(18)
Other income, net	—	—	—	—
Loss before provision for income taxes (2)	(1)	(28)	(7)	(18)
Provision for income taxes	—	—	—	—
Net Loss (2)	(1)%	(28)%	(7)%	(18)%
(1) Includes stock-based compensation as follows:				
Cost of revenue - Other	0.4 %	0.5 %	0.5 %	0.5 %
Product development	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.0
Sales and marketing	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.6
General and administrative	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.5

(2) Note: Amounts may not recalculate due to rounding

Revenue

	Three months ended September 30,			Nine months ended September 30,		
	2014	2015	$ Change	2014	2015	$ Change
	(in thousands)			(in thousands)		
Revenue						
Advertising	$194,293	$254,656	$60,363	$512,251	$664,316	$152,065
Subscription and other	45,300	56,906	11,606	140,551	163,570	23,019
Total revenue	$239,593	$311,562	$71,969	$652,802	$827,886	$175,084

Advertising revenue

We generate advertising revenue primarily from audio, display and video advertising, which is typically sold on a cost-per-thousand impressions, or CPM, basis. Advertising campaigns typically range from one to twelve months, and

advertisers generally pay us based on the number of delivered impressions or the satisfaction of other criteria, such as click-throughs. We also have arrangements with advertising agencies under which these agencies sell advertising inventory on our service directly to advertisers. We report revenue under these arrangements net of amounts due to agencies. For the three months ended

30

Table of Contents

September 30, 2014 and 2015 and the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015, advertising revenue accounted for 81%, 82%, 78% and 80%, of our total revenue, respectively. We expect that advertising will comprise a substantial majority of our revenue for the foreseeable future.

For the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, advertising revenue increased $60.4 million or 31%, primarily due to an approximate 35% increase in the average price per ad due in part to our increase in relative volume of local ad sales and our focus on monetizing mobile inventory.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, advertising revenue increased $152.1 million or 30%, primarily due to an approximate 20% increase in the average price per ad due in part to our increase in relative volume of local ad sales and our focus on monetizing mobile inventory and an approximate 5% increase in the number of ads sold as a result of an increase in advertising listener hours.

Subscription and other revenue

Subscription and other revenue is generated primarily through the sale of Pandora One, a premium version of the Pandora service, which currently includes advertisement-free access and higher audio quality on the devices that support it. Subscription revenue is recognized on a straight-line basis over the duration of the subscription period. For the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015 and the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015, subscription and other revenue accounted for 19%, 18%, 22% and 20% of our total revenue, respectively.

For the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, subscription revenue increased $11.6 million or 26%, primarily due to an approximate 15% increase in average price per subscription and an approximate 10% increase in the number of subscribers.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, subscription revenue increased $23.0 million or 16%, primarily due to an approximate 15% increase in the average price per subscription and an approximate 10% increase in the number of subscribers. This was partially offset by a decrease in subscription revenue as a result of the one-time recognition of the accumulation of deferred revenue related to certain subscriptions purchased through mobile app stores of $14.2 million in the three months ended March 31, 2014.

Deferred revenue

Our deferred revenue consists principally of both prepaid but unrecognized subscription revenue and advertising fees received or billed in advance of the delivery or completion of the delivery of services. Deferred revenue is recognized as revenue when the services are provided and all other revenue recognition criteria have been met.

In addition, subscription revenue derived from sales through certain mobile devices may be subject to refund or cancellation terms which may affect the timing or amount of the subscription revenue recognition. When refund rights exist, we recognize revenue when services have been provided and the rights lapse or when we have developed sufficient transaction history to estimate a return reserve.

Costs and Expenses

Cost of revenue consists of cost of revenue—content acquisition costs and cost of revenue—other. Our operating expenses consist of product development, sales and marketing and general and administrative costs. Cost of revenue—content acquisition costs are the most significant component of our costs and expenses, followed by employee-related costs, which include stock-based compensation expenses. We expect to continue to hire additional employees in order to support our anticipated growth and our product development initiatives. In any particular period, the timing of

additional hires could materially affect our cost of revenue and operating expenses, both in absolute dollars and as a percentage of revenue. We anticipate that our costs and expenses will increase in the future.

Cost of revenue - Content acquisition costs

Table of Contents

	Three months ended September 30,			Nine months ended September 30,		
	2014	2015	$ Change	2014	2015	$ Change
	(in thousands)			(in thousands)		
Cost of revenue - Content acquisition costs	$111,315	$211,272	$99,957	$331,051	$467,429	$136,378

Content acquisition costs as a percentage of advertising revenue by platform

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Computer	33 %	54 %	35 %	42 %
Mobile and other connected devices	50 %	68 %	56 %	60 %

Cost of revenue—content acquisition costs principally consist of royalties paid for streaming music or other content to our listeners. Royalties are currently calculated using negotiated rates documented in agreements. The majority of our royalties are payable based on a fee per public performance of a sound recording, while in other cases our royalties are payable based on a percentage of our revenue or a formula that involves a combination of per performance and revenue metrics. For royalty arrangements under negotiation, we accrue for estimated royalties based on the available facts and circumstances and adjust these estimates as more information becomes available. The results of any finalized negotiation may be materially different from our estimates.

We estimate our advertising-based content acquisition costs attributable to specific platforms by allocating costs from royalties payable based on a fee per track to the platform for which the track is served and by allocating costs from royalties based on a percentage of our revenue in accordance with the overall percentage of our revenue estimated to be attributable to such platforms. While we believe that comparing disaggregated content acquisition costs and revenues across our delivery platforms may provide directional insight for evaluating our efforts to monetize the rapid adoption of our service on mobile and other connected devices, we do not validate such disaggregated metrics to the level of financial statement reporting. We continue to refine our systems and methodologies used to categorize such metrics across our delivery platforms and the period-to-period comparisons of results are not necessarily indicative of results for future periods.

For the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, content acquisition costs increased $100.0 million or 90%, primarily due to the one-time cumulative charges, inclusive of the effect of the current quarter, of $57.9 million for the pre-1972 sound recordings settlement and $23.9 million as a result of management's decision to forgo the application of the RMLC publisher royalty rate from June 2013 to September 2015 and scheduled royalty rate increases of 8%. Content acquisition costs as a percentage of total revenue increased from 46% to 68%, primarily due to the one-time cumulative charges, inclusive of the effect of the current quarter, of $57.9 million for the pre-1972 sound recordings settlement and $23.9 million as a result of management's decision to forgo the application of the RMLC publisher royalty rate from June 2013 to September 2015 and scheduled royalty rate increases of 8%, offset by an increase in advertising sales. Estimated content acquisition costs as a percentage of the advertising revenue attributable to our computer platform increased from 33% to 54% and estimated content acquisition costs as a percentage of the advertising revenue attributable to our mobile and other connected devices platforms increased from 50% to 68%, in each case primarily due to the one-time cumulative charges, inclusive of the effect of the current quarter, of $57.9 million for the pre-1972 sound recordings settlement and $23.9 million as a result of management's decision to forgo the application of the RMLC publisher royalty rate from June 2013 to September 2015 and scheduled royalty rate increases of 8%, offset by an increase in advertising sales on both the computer and mobile and

other connected devices platforms.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, content acquisition costs increased $136.4 million or 41%, primarily due to the one-time cumulative charges, inclusive of the effect of the current quarter, of $57.9 million for the pre-1972 sound recordings settlement and $23.9 million as a result of management's decision to forgo the application of the RMLC publisher royalty rate from June 2013 to September 2015 and scheduled royalty rate increases of 8%. Content acquisition costs as a percentage of total revenue increased from 51% to 56%, primarily due to the one-time cumulative charges, inclusive of the effect of the current quarter, of $57.9 million for the pre-1972 sound recordings settlement and $23.9 million as a result of management's decision to forgo the application of the RMLC publisher royalty rate from June 2013 to September 2015 and scheduled royalty rate increases of 8%, offset by an increase in advertising sales. Estimated content acquisition costs as a percentage of the advertising revenue attributable to our computer platform increased from 35% to 42% and estimated content acquisition costs as a percentage of the advertising revenue attributable to our mobile and other

Table of Contents

connected devices platform increased from 56% to 60%, in each case primarily due to the one-time cumulative charges, inclusive of the effect of the current quarter, of $57.9 million for the pre-1972 sound recordings settlement and $23.9 million as a result of management's decision to forgo the application of the RMLC publisher royalty rate from June 2013 to September 2015 and scheduled royalty rate increases of 8%, offset by an increase in advertising sales on both the computer and mobile and other connected devices platforms.

Cost of revenue—Other

	Three months ended September 30,			Nine months ended September 30,		
	2014	2015	$ Change	2014	2015	$ Change
	(in thousands)			(in thousands)		
Cost of revenue — Other	$15,453	$21,414	$5,961	$44,421	$57,690	$13,269

Cost of revenue—other consists primarily of hosting and ad serving costs, employee-related and facilities and equipment costs and other costs of ad sales. Hosting and ad serving costs consist of content streaming, maintaining our internet radio service and creating and serving advertisements through third-party ad servers. We make payments to third-party ad servers for the period the advertising impressions are delivered or click-through actions occur, and accordingly, we record this as a cost of revenue in the related period. Employee-related costs include salaries and benefits associated with supporting hosting and ad serving functions. Other costs of ad sales include costs related to music events that are sold as part of advertising arrangements.

For the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, cost of revenue—other increased $6.0 million or 39%, primarily due to a $3.3 million increase in hosting and ad serving costs driven by an increase in advertising revenue and a $1.6 million increase in employee-related and facilities and equipment costs driven by an approximate 40% increase in headcount.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, cost of revenue—other increased $13.3 million or 30%, primarily due to a $7.4 million increase in hosting and ad serving costs driven by an increase in advertising revenue and a $4.9 million increase in employee-related and facilities and equipment costs driven by an approximate 40% increase in headcount.

Gross profit

	Three months ended September 30,			Nine months ended September 30,		
	2014	2015	$ Change	2014	2015	$ Change
	(in thousands)			(in thousands)		
Gross profit						
Total revenue	$239,593	$311,562	$71,969	$652,802	$827,886	$175,084
Total cost of revenue	126,768	232,686	105,918	375,472	525,119	149,647
Gross profit	$112,825	$78,876	$(33,949)	$277,330	$302,767	$25,437
Gross margin	47%	25%		42%	37%	

For the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, gross profit decreased by $33.9 million or 30% and gross margin decreased from 47% to 25% as the growth in content acquisition costs outpaced the growth in revenue, primarily due to the one-time cumulative charges, inclusive of the effect of the current quarter, of $57.9 million for the pre-1972 sound recordings settlement and $23.9 million as a result of management's decision to forgo the application of the RMLC publisher royalty rate from June 2013 to September 2015 and scheduled royalty rate

increases of 8%.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, gross profit increased by $25.4 million or 9% and gross margin decreased from 42% to 37% as the growth in content acquisition costs outpaced the growth in revenue, primarily due to the one-time cumulative charges, inclusive of the effect of the current quarter, of $57.9 million for the pre-1972 sound recordings settlement and $23.9 million as a result of management's decision to forgo the application of the RMLC publisher royalty rate from June 2013 to September 2015 and scheduled royalty rate increases of 8%, offset by an increase in advertising sales.

Table of Contents

Product development

	Three months ended September 30,			Nine months ended September 30,		
	2014	2015	$ Change	2014	2015	$ Change
	(in thousands)			(in thousands)		
Product development	$13,381	$21,849	$8,468	$38,288	$56,466	$18,178

Product development consists primarily of employee-related and facilities and equipment costs, including salaries and benefits related to employees in software engineering, music analysis and product management departments, information technology and costs associated with supporting consumer connected-device manufacturers in implementing our service in their products. We incur product development expenses primarily for improvements to our website and the Pandora app, development of new advertising products and development and enhancement of our personalized station generating system. We have generally expensed product development as incurred. Certain website development and internal use software development costs are capitalized when specific criteria are met. In such cases, the capitalized amounts are amortized over the useful life of the related application once the application is placed in service. We intend to continue making significant investments in developing new products and enhancing the functionality of our existing products.

For the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, product development expenses increased $8.5 million or 63%, primarily due to an $8.1 million increase in employee-related and facilities and equipment costs driven by an approximate 60% increase in headcount.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, product development expenses increased $18.2 million or 47%, primarily due to a $17.9 million increase in employee-related and facilities and equipment costs driven by an approximate 60% increase in headcount.

Sales and marketing

	Three months ended September 30,			Nine months ended September 30,		
	2014	2015	$ Change	2014	2015	$ Change
	(in thousands)			(in thousands)		
Sales and marketing	$72,320	$107,286	$34,966	$200,416	$285,595	$85,179

Sales and marketing consists primarily of employee-related and facilities and equipment costs, including salaries, commissions and benefits related to employees in sales, sales support, marketing, advertising and music industry group departments. In addition, sales and marketing expenses include transaction processing commissions on subscription purchases through mobile app stores, external sales and marketing expenses such as brand marketing, advertising, direct response and search engine marketing costs, public relations expenses, costs related to music events, agency platform and media measurement expenses, facilities and equipment expenses and infrastructure costs.

We expect sales and marketing expenses to increase as we hire additional personnel to build out our sales and sales support teams, particularly as we continue to build out our local market sales team. While we have historically relied on the success of viral marketing to expand consumer awareness of our service, in 2014 we began to launch marketing campaigns to increase consumer awareness and expand our listener base and in 2015, we began to launch advertising campaigns. We anticipate that we will continue to utilize these types of marketing and advertising campaigns in the future. As such, we anticipate higher overall levels of sales and marketing expense going forward.

For the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, sales and marketing expenses increased $35.0 million or 48%, primarily due to a $17.6 million increase in brand marketing, advertising, direct response and search engine marketing costs driven by our advertising campaigns launched in the three months ended September 30, 2015, a $12.3 million increase in employee-related and facilities and equipment costs driven by an approximate 30% increase in headcount and a $2.8 million increase in transaction processing commissions on subscription purchases through mobile app stores.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, sales and marketing expenses increased $85.2 million or 43%, primarily due to a $39.3 million increase in employee-related and facilities and equipment costs driven by an approximate 30% increase in headcount, a $30.6 million increase in brand marketing, advertising, direct response and search

Table of Contents

engine marketing costs driven by our advertising campaigns launched in the three months ended September 30, 2015 and a $9.0 million increase in transaction processing commissions on subscription purchases through mobile app stores.

General and administrative

	Three months ended September 30,			Nine months ended September 30,		
	2014	2015	$ Change	2014	2015	$ Change
	(in thousands)			(in thousands)		
General and administrative	$29,143	$35,603	$6,460	$81,369	$111,169	$29,800

General and administrative consists primarily of employee-related and facilities and equipment costs, including salaries and benefits for finance, accounting, legal, internal information technology and other administrative personnel. In addition, general and administrative expenses include professional services costs for outside legal and accounting services, infrastructure costs and credit card fees. We expect general and administrative expenses to increase in future periods as we continue to invest in corporate infrastructure, including adding personnel and systems to our administrative functions.

For the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, general and administrative expenses increased $6.5 million or 22%, primarily due to a $3.6 million increase in employee-related and facilities and equipment costs driven by an approximate 25% increase in headcount and a $1.9 million increase in professional service costs related to royalty and other legal matters.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 2014, general and administrative expenses increased $29.8 million or 37%, primarily due to a $14.8 million increase in employee-related and facilities and equipment costs driven by an approximate 25% increase in headcount and an $11.6 million increase in professional service costs related to royalty and other legal matters.

Provision for (benefit from) income taxes

We have historically been subject to income taxes in the United States, Australia and New Zealand. As we expand our operations outside of these locations, we become subject to taxation based on the applicable foreign statutory rates and our effective tax rate could fluctuate accordingly.

Our provision for (benefit from) income taxes is computed using the asset and liability method, under which deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the difference between the financial statement and tax bases of assets and liabilities using enacted statutory income tax rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to affect taxable income. Valuation allowances are established when necessary to reduce net deferred tax assets to the amount expected to be realized.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

Our liquidity is not dependent on the use of off-balance sheet financing arrangements and as of September 30, 2015 we had no such arrangements.

Contractual Obligations

The following summarizes changes to our contractual obligations in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015.

	Payments Due by Period		
	Remainder of 2015	2016	Total
	(in thousands)		
Purchase obligation	$60,000	$30,000	$90,000

Our purchase obligation represents a non-cancelable royalty-related contractual obligation at September 30, 2015 related to the pre-1972 sound recordings settlement.

Table of Contents

Quarterly Trends

Our operating results fluctuate from quarter to quarter as a result of a variety of factors. We expect our operating results to continue to fluctuate in future quarters.

Our results reflect the effects of seasonal trends in listener and advertising behavior. We expect to experience both higher advertising sales due to greater advertiser demand during the holiday season and increased usage due to the popularity of holiday music during the last three months of each calendar year. In addition, we expect to experience lower advertising sales in the first three months of each calendar year due to reduced advertiser demand and increased usage due to increased use of media-streaming devices received as gifts during the holiday season. We believe these seasonal trends have affected, and will continue to affect our operating results, particularly as increases in content acquisition costs from increased usage are not offset by increases in advertising sales in the first calendar quarter.

In addition, expenditures by advertisers tend to be cyclical and discretionary in nature, reflecting overall economic conditions, the economic prospects of specific advertisers or industries, budgeting constraints and buying patterns and a variety of other factors, many of which are outside our control. As a result of these and other factors, the results of any prior quarterly or annual periods should not be relied upon as indications of our future operating performance.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

As of September 30, 2015, we had cash, cash equivalents and investments totaling $442.6 million, which primarily consisted of cash and money market funds held at major financial institutions, commercial paper and investment-grade corporate debt securities. On October 7, 2015, we entered into an agreement to acquire Ticketfly. Pursuant to the merger agreement, we have agreed to pay $225 million in cash and approximately 11.6 million shares of common stock, subject to customary adjustments for working capital, cash, indebtedness and transaction expenses. Per the agreement, we are entitled to a net cash balance of $50 million as part of these adjustments. In addition to the purchase price, unvested options and unvested RSUs of Ticketfly held by Ticketfly employees will be converted respectively into unvested options and unvested RSUs to acquire our common stock. The closing is subject to customary closing conditions, including the expiration or termination of any waiting periods under applicable antitrust laws, and we expect the closing to occur in the three months ending December 31, 2015. We expect to pay the cash portion of the purchase price for the transaction using cash and cash equivalents on hand.

Our principal uses of cash during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 were funding our operations, as described below, and capital expenditures.

Sources of Funds

We believe, based on our current operating plan, that our existing cash and cash equivalents and available borrowings under our credit facility will be sufficient to meet our anticipated cash needs for at least the next twelve months.

From time to time, we may explore additional financing sources and means to lower our cost of capital, which could include equity, equity-linked and debt financing. In addition, in connection with any future acquisitions, we may require additional funding which may be provided in the form of additional debt, equity or equity-linked financing or a combination thereof. There can be no assurance that any additional financing will be available to us on acceptable terms.

Our Indebtedness

We are party to a $60.0 million credit facility with a syndicate of financial institutions, which expires on September 12, 2018. As of September 30, 2015, we had no borrowings outstanding, $1.1 million in letters of credit outstanding and $58.9 million of available borrowing capacity under the credit facility.

Capital Expenditures

Consistent with previous periods, future capital expenditures will primarily focus on acquiring additional hosting and general corporate infrastructure. Our access to capital is adequate to meet our anticipated capital expenditures for our current plans.

Historical Trends

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes our cash flow data for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2015.

	Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2015
	(in thousands)	
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	$(4,030)	$28,937
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(110,239)	32,034
Net cash provided by financing activities	17,570	6,512

Operating activities

In the nine months ended September 30, 2015, net cash provided by operating activities was $28.9 million and included an $89.4 million increase in accrued royalties primarily due to the one-time cumulative charge of $57.9 million related to the pre-1972 sound recordings settlement, the one-time cumulative charge of $23.9 million related to the RMLC rate and a $7.7 million increase in deferred revenue primarily due to the reinstatement of the annual subscription option in December 2014. Net cash provided by operating activities also included non-cash charges of $98.0 million, primarily related to $79.5 million in stock-based compensation charges and $15.2 million in depreciation and amortization expense, offset by our net loss of $150.3 million. Net cash provided by operating activities improved by $33.0 million from the nine months ended September 30, 2014, primarily due to a $32.1 million increase in deferred revenue primarily due to the reinstatement of the annual subscription option in December 2014.

Investing activities

In the nine months ended September 30, 2015, net cash provided by investing activities was $32.0 million and included $221.1 million in proceeds from sales and maturities of investments, offset by $138.7 million in purchases of investments, $27.3 million of capital expenditures for leasehold improvements and server equipment and $23.0 million in payments related to mergers and acquisitions. Net cash provided by investing activities improved by $142.3 million from the nine months ended September 30, 2014, primarily due to a decrease in purchases of investments of $134.7 million and an increase in proceeds from sales and maturities of investments of $34.4 million, offset by an increase in payments related to mergers and acquisitions of $23.0 million.

Financing activities

In the nine months ended September 30, 2015, net cash provided by financing activities was $6.5 million and included $5.1 million in proceeds from our employee stock purchase plan and $3.7 million in proceeds from the exercise of stock options, offset by $2.3 million in tax payments from net share settlements of RSUs. Net cash provided by financing activities decreased $11.1 million from the nine months ended September 30, 2014, primarily due to a decrease in proceeds from the exercise of stock options of $11.5 million.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations is based upon our condensed consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The preparation of these condensed consolidated financial statements requires us to make estimates, judgments and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses and the related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances. Our estimates form the basis for our judgments about the carrying values of

assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

An accounting policy is considered to be critical if it requires an accounting estimate to be made based on assumptions about matters that are highly uncertain at the time the estimate is made, and if different estimates that reasonably could have been used, or changes in the accounting estimate that are reasonably likely to occur, could materially impact the condensed consolidated financial statements. We believe that our critical accounting policies reflect the more significant estimates and assumptions used in the preparation of the condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

Other than those discussed below, there have been no material changes to our critical accounting policies and estimates as compared to those described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 under the caption “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates.”

Business Combinations, Goodwill and Intangible Assets, Net

We allocate the fair value of purchase consideration to the tangible assets acquired, liabilities assumed, and intangible assets acquired based on their estimated fair values. The excess of the fair value of purchase consideration over the fair values of these identifiable assets and liabilities is recorded as goodwill. Such valuations require management to make significant estimates and assumptions, especially with respect to intangible assets. Significant estimates in valuing certain intangible assets include, but are not limited to, future expected cash flows from acquired users, acquired technology, and trade names from a market participant perspective, useful lives, and discount rates. Management’s estimates of fair value are based upon assumptions believed to be reasonable, but which are inherently uncertain and unpredictable and, as a result, actual results may differ from estimates. During the measurement period, which is one year from the acquisition date, we may record adjustments to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed, with the corresponding offset to goodwill. Upon the conclusion of the measurement period, any subsequent adjustments are recorded to earnings.

We review goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets for impairment at least annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of goodwill may not be recoverable. We first assess the qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of our single reporting unit is less than its carrying amount as a basis for determining whether it is necessary to perform the two-step goodwill impairment test under Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2011-08, Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Testing Goodwill for Impairment, issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). If we determine that it is more likely than not that its fair value is less than its carrying amount, then the two-step goodwill impairment test is performed. The first step, identifying a potential impairment, compares the fair value of the reporting unit with its carrying amount. If the carrying amount exceeds its fair value, the second step would need to be performed; otherwise, no further step is required. The second step, measuring the impairment loss, compares the implied fair value of the goodwill with the carrying amount of the goodwill. Any excess of the goodwill carrying amount over the applied fair value is recognized as an impairment loss, and the carrying value of goodwill is written down to fair value. As of September 30, 2015, no impairment of goodwill has been identified.

Acquired finite-lived intangible assets are amortized over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Acquired finite-lived intangible assets consist primarily of patents, customer relationships, developed technology and trade names resulting from business combinations. We evaluate the recoverability of our intangible assets for potential impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of such assets may not be recoverable. Recoverability of these assets is measured by a comparison of the carrying amounts to the future undiscounted cash flows the assets are expected to generate. If such review indicates that the carrying amount of intangible assets is not recoverable, the carrying amount of such assets is reduced to fair value.

In addition to the recoverability assessment, we routinely review the remaining estimated useful lives of finite-lived intangible assets If we reduce the estimated useful life assumption for any asset, the remaining unamortized balance would be amortized over the revised estimated useful life.

Stock-Based Compensation — Market Stock Units ("MSUs")

We implemented a market stock unit program in March 2015 for certain key executives. Specifically, MSUs measure Pandora’s total stockholder return ("TSR”) performance against that of the Russell 2000 Index across three performance

periods.

We have determined the grant-date fair value of the MSUs using a Monte Carlo simulation performed by a third-party valuation firm. The Monte Carlo simulation model utilizes multiple input variables to estimate the probability that market conditions will be achieved. These variables include our expected stock price volatility over the expected term of the award, actual and projected employee stock option exercise behaviors and the risk-free interest rate for the expected term of the award. The variables used in these models are reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted, as needed. We recognize stock-based compensation for the MSUs over the requisite service period using the accelerated attribution method.

Table of Contents

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk

Interest Rate Fluctuation Risk

There have been no material changes in our primary market risk exposures or how those exposures are managed from the information disclosed in Part II, Item 7A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014. For further discussion of quantitative and qualitative disclosures about market risk, reference is made to our Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Table of Contents

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We maintain “disclosure controls and procedures,” as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act, that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. In designing and evaluating our disclosure controls and procedures, management recognizes that disclosure controls and procedures, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the disclosure controls and procedures are met. Additionally, in designing disclosure controls and procedures, our management necessarily was required to apply its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible disclosure controls and procedures. Based on their evaluation at the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level as of September 30, 2015.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We are in the process of implementing a new enterprise resource planning ("ERP") system, which will occur over a period of more than one year. During the three months ended September 30, 2015, we completed the implementation of several significant ERP modules including core financial and purchasing modules. In connection with the implementation of the ERP system, we updated the processes that constitute our internal control over financial reporting, as necessary, to accommodate related changes to our business processes and accounting procedures. We will continue to implement additional ERP modules in a phased approach.

Although the processes that constitute our internal control over financial reporting have been materially affected by the implementation of several significant ERP modules and will require testing for effectiveness as the implementation progresses, we do not believe that the implementation of the ERP system has had or will have a material adverse effect on our internal control over financial reporting.

Except as otherwise described above, there have been no other changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect our internal control over financial reporting.

Table of Contents

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

The material set forth in Note 5 in the Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. Before deciding to invest in our common stock, you should carefully consider each of the risk factors described in "Part I - Item 1A. Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 and all information set forth in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Those risks and the risks described in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, including in the section entitled "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," could materially harm our business, financial condition, operating results, cash flow and prospects. If that occurs, the trading price of our common stock could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

There have been no material changes to the Risk Factors described under "Part I - Item 1A. Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, other than as set forth below. The risk factors below, all of which originally appear in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, have been updated to reflect additional information regarding programmatic buying on mobile and platforms for deploying and monitoring ads, among other things.

Advertising spending is increasingly being placed through new data-driven channels, such as the programmatic buying ecosystem, where mobile offerings are not as mature as their web-based equivalents. Because the majority of our listener hours occur on mobile devices, our growth prospects and revenue may be adversely impacted if the advertising ecosystem is slow to adopt data-driven mobile advertising offerings.

As new advertising channels, such as programmatic buying, develop around data-driven technologies and advertising products, an increasing percentage of advertising spend is likely to shift to such channels and products. These data-driven advertising products and programmatic buying channels allow publishers to use data to target advertising toward specific groups of consumers who are more likely to be interested in the advertising message delivered. These advertising products and programmatic channels are currently more developed in terms of ad technology and industry adoption on the web than they are on mobile. Due to the fact that the majority of our listener hours occur on mobile devices, our ability to attract advertising spend, and ultimately our ad revenue, may be negatively impacted by this shift. We have no reliable way to predict how significantly or how quickly advertisers will shift buying to programmatic channels and data-driven advertising products on the web.

We have developed a data-driven, programmatic advertising capability for mobile in an effort to take advantage of this trend. However, we only released this capability to the market in the second quarter of 2015, and we have no reliable way to predict how significantly or how quickly advertisers will shift buying toward such data-driven ad products and programmatic channels on mobile. If advertising spend continues to be reallocated to web-based programmatic channels and mobile programmatic adoption lags, our ability to grow revenue may be impacted and our business could be materially and adversely affected.

We rely upon an agreement with DoubleClick, which is owned by Google, for delivering and monitoring most of our ads. Failure to renew the agreement on favorable terms, or termination of the agreement, could adversely affect our business.

We use DoubleClick's ad-serving platform to deliver and monitor most of the ads for our service. There can be no assurance that our agreement with DoubleClick, which is owned by Google, will be extended or renewed upon expiration, that we will be able to extend or renew our agreement with DoubleClick on terms and conditions favorable to us or that we could identify another alternative vendor to take its place. Our agreement with DoubleClick also allows DoubleClick to terminate our relationship before the expiration of the agreement on the occurrence of certain events, including material breach of the agreement by us, and to suspend provision of the services if DoubleClick determines that our use of its service violates certain security, technology or content standards.

Table of Contents

Item 6. Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Exhibit Description	Incorporated by Reference Form	File No.	Exhibit	Filing Date	Filed By	Filed Herewith
10.29+	Settlement Agreement by and among Pandora Media, Inc. and Capitol Records, LLC et al.						X
31.01	Certification of the Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002						X
31.02	Certification of the Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002						X
32.01	Certification of the Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to 8 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002						X
101	Interactive Data Files Pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T: (i) Condensed Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, (ii) Condensed Statements of Operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, (iii) Condensed Statements of Comprehensive Loss for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, (iv) Condensed Statements of Cash Flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 and (v) Notes to Condensed Financial Statements						X

† Indicates management contract or compensatory plan.
+ Confidential treatment requested as to certain portions of this exhibit, which portions have been omitted and submitted separately to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

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

PANDORA MEDIA, INC.

Date: October 26, 2015

By: /s/ Michael S. Herring
Michael S. Herring
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
(Duly Authorized Officer and Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)