

## Fluent, Inc.

(Nasdaq: FLNT)

23rd Annual Needham Virtual Growth Conference

January 15, 2021

### Forward-Looking Statements Safe Harbor

This presentation contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date hereof and are based on the Company's current plans and expectations. While we believe these expectations, assumptions, estimates and projections are reasonable, such forward-looking statements are only predictions and involve a number of known and unknown uncertainties and risks, many of which are beyond the Company's control. Factors currently known to management that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in forward-looking statements include the following: compliance with a significant number of governmental laws and regulations, including those laws and regulations regarding privacy and data; failure to safeguard the personal information and other data contained in our database; unfavorable global economic conditions, including as a result of health and safety concerns around the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; failure to compete effectively against other online marketing and advertising companies; dependence on third-party publishers, internet search providers and social media platforms for a significant portion of visitors to our websites; dependence on our key personnel; dependence on emails, text messages and telephone calls, among other channels, to reach users for marketing purposes; competition we face for web traffic; ability to compete and manage media costs in an industry characterized by rapidly-changing internet media and advertising technology, evolving industry standards, regulatory uncertainty, and changing user and client demands; liability related to actions of third-party publishers; limitations on our or our third-party publishers' ability to collect and use data derived from user activities; ability to remain competitive with the shift of online interactions from computers to mobile devices; dependence on third-party service providers; management of the growth of our operations, including the integration of the AdParlor and Winopoly businesses and other acquired business units or personnel; management of unfavorable publicity and negative public perception about our industry; failure to meet our clients' performance metrics or changing needs; risks associated with the expansion of our international operations; failure to detect clickthrough or other fraud on advertisements; achievement of some or all of the benefits that we expect to achieve as a stand-alone company; failure to adequately protect intellectual property rights, or allegations of infringement of intellectual property rights; compliance with the covenants of our credit agreement; and the potential for failures in our internal control over financial reporting. These and additional factors to be considered are set forth under "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019 and in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements when evaluating the information presented herein, and the Company undertakes no obligation to update or revise forward-looking statements to reflect changed assumptions, the occurrence of unanticipated events or changes to future operating results or expectations.

#### Non-GAAP Financial Measures

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





### **Company Snapshot**

### **COMPANY BACKGROUND**

**2010** Founded in NYC

500 Clients across multiple industries

Offices in NYC, Toronto, South Florida & Kansas City

200+ Employees

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

14.2% Revenue CAGR<sup>(1)</sup>

**20.5%** Media Margin<sup>(2)</sup> CAGR<sup>(1)</sup>

**\$1 Bil.** Media spend to date

**~900k** Daily registrations on our 0&0 media properties in 2020



<sup>(1) 2016</sup> through 2020P; Q4 '20 and FY '20 figures represent mid-point of preliminary ranges per Form 8-K and press release dated January 14, 2021.

<sup>(2)</sup> Non-GAAP measure defined as revenue minus cost of revenue (exclusive of depreciation and amortization) attributable to variable costs paid for media & related expenses. Reconciled in Appendix hereto.

## Industry Leader in Data-Driven Digital Marketing Services

Connecting consumers & advertisers via the Fluent platform



Attract & engage consumers through our digital media properties

- High-value, incremental audiences
- Advertisers' MVCs (most valuable customers)









Efficient customer acquisition for clients

- Pay-for-performance model
  - ► CPA, CPL, CPE, CPS
- Aligns client & Fluent objectives



### **Diversified Media Footprint & Client Base**

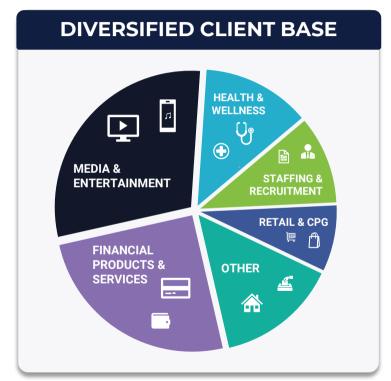
#### **0&O MEDIA PROPERTIES** Flash & Rewards smartwallet FindDreamJobs FindDreamJobs Monday, April 22nd **Get rewarded** 23 Stupid Simple Ways to Make Extra Cash in 2019 in a flash. Find new job listings in your desired location work from home 9 43201 How it works ew you, right? But how long does that last? ow that we're halfway through 2019, I'll ✓ FindDreamJobs **Get Started PROMOTIONS** CONTENT **EMPLOYMENT**





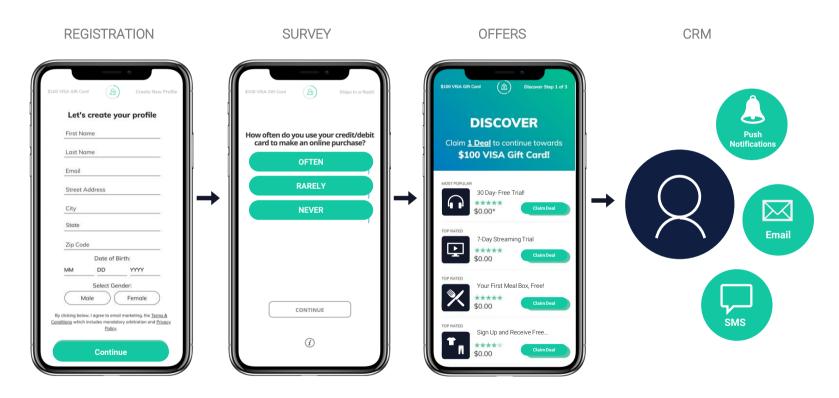






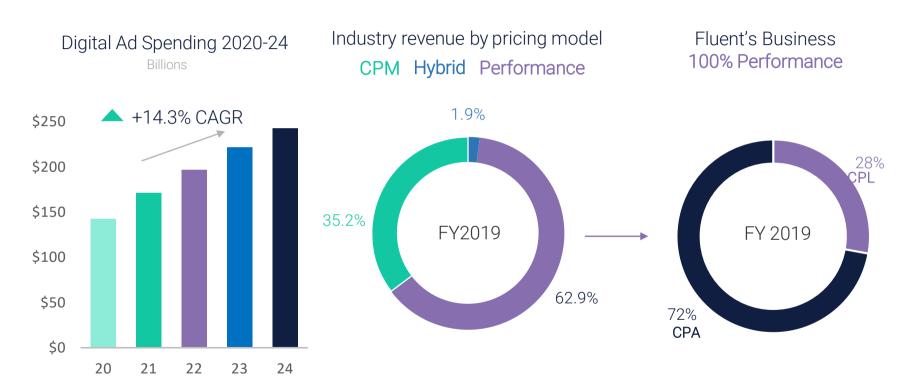


### Sample Consumer Experience





### **Large & Growing Market Opportunity**





Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.
Source: IAB/PwC Internet Ad Revenue Report, FY 2019



### **Strategic Growth Pillars**



### Performance Marketplace

- 25M active and authenticated consumers/month
- 500 clients
- 1.2M billable actions daily



### Media Footprint

- Publisher & media platform partnerships
- International expansion
- Lifecycle marketing / LTV

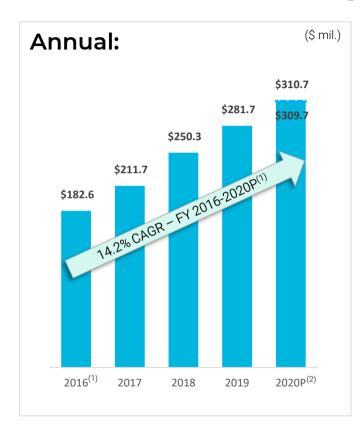


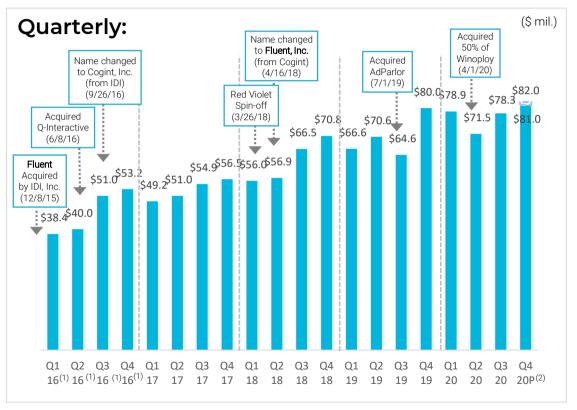
## Proprietary Technology Platform

- Consumer insights
- Data science
- Proprietary analytics and technology stack



### **Revenue Profile**



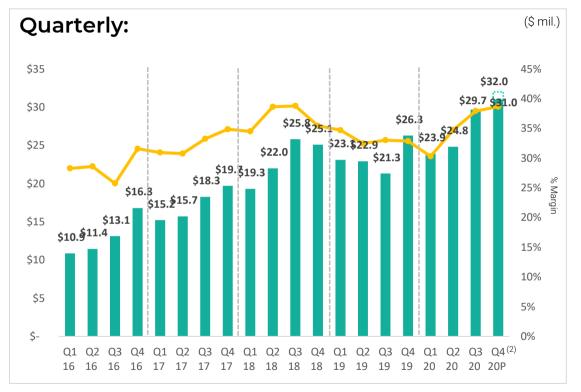


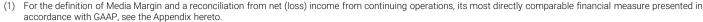


- 1) Represents the portion of revenue reported by IDI/Cogint attributable to Fluent's business retained following the Red Violet Spin-off.
- ) Preliminary figures per Form 8-K and press release dated January 14, 2021. FY CAGR based on mid-point of FY 2020 preliminary figures.

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



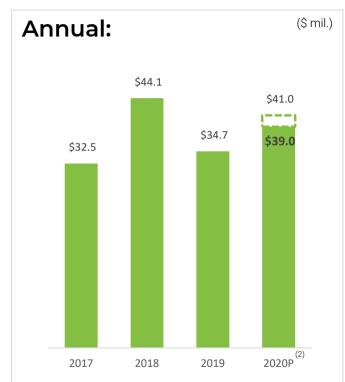


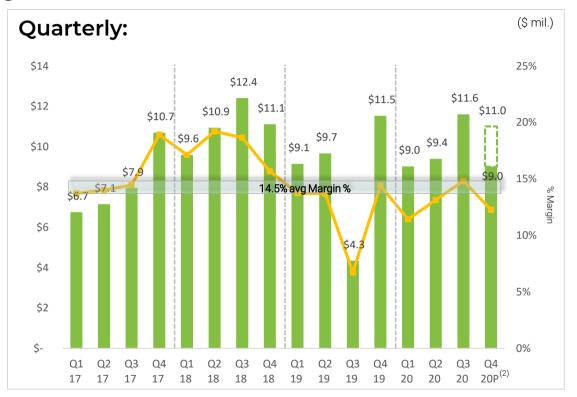


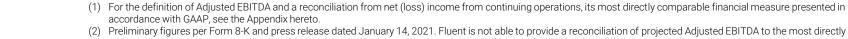




### Adjusted EBITDA<sup>(1)</sup>







<sup>(2)</sup> Preliminary figures per Form 8-K and press release dated January 14, 2021. Fluent is not able to provide a reconciliation of projected Adjusted EBITDA to the most directly comparable expected GAAP results due to the unknown effect, timing and potential significance of certain operating costs and expenses, share-based compensation expense, depreciation and amortization expense, interest expense (net), and the provision for (benefit from) income taxes.
Note: Historical Adjusted EBITDA reported and reconciled from 2017 onward.



# Balance Sheet Summary (as of 9/30/20)

| Assets                 | (\$ mil.) |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Cash                   | \$15.4    |
| Other Current Assets   | 62.3      |
| PP&E                   | 2.4       |
| Goodwill & Intangibles | 213.2     |
| Other Long-Term Assets | 12.0      |
| Total Assets           | \$305.3   |

| Liabilities & S/H Equity                 | (\$ mil.) |
|--|-----------|
| Current Liabilities excl. Debt           | \$38.4    |
| Current Portion LT Debt <sup>(1)</sup>   | 4.8       |
| Long-Term Debt, Net <sup>(2)</sup>       | 36.4      |
| Other Long-Term Liabilities              | 9.6       |
| Shareholders' Equity                     | 216.1     |
| Total Liabilities & Shareholders' Equity | \$305.3   |



<sup>(1)</sup> Includes \$1.25M portion of Note Payable due on 7/1/21 in connection with AdParlor acquisition (non-interest bearing) and \$3.5M current portion of Refinanced Term Loan due 2023.

<sup>(2)</sup> Long-term portion of Refinanced Term Loan due 2023 (less unamortized discount of \$2.7M). Bears interest at L+7.00%.

### **Investment Highlights**

LEADING DIGITAL PERFORMANCE MARKETPLACE



- 25 Mil. active and authenticated consumers/month
- 500 advertiser clients

MASSIVE MARKET OPPORTUNITY



- \$140 Bil. US digital ad spend
- Accelerating shift to digital and performance
- CMO need for measurable ROI on spend demand for true "performance" marketing

**COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES** 



- Expansive reach with omnichannel marketing permissions
- Large, proprietary database 1st-party user insights and preferences, from ~900k daily registrations
- Proprietary analytics, ad serving and direct marketing technologies

LEVERAGEABLE BUSINESS MODEL



- Scalable platform 
   enables expansion into new markets and client verticals
- High incremental margins leverageable operating base

STRONG FINANCIAL PROFILE



- 2016 2020P CAGRs<sup>(1)</sup> of **14.2% revenue, 20.5% media margin**<sup>(2)</sup>
- Robust conversion of Adj. EBITDA to cash flow from operations
- Solid balance sheet



- (1) FY 2016 FY 2020P. Q4 '20 and FY '20 figures represent mid-point of preliminary ranges per Form 8-K and press release dated January 14, 2021.
- (2) Non-GAAP measure defined as revenue minus cost of revenue (exclusive of depreciation and amortization) attributable to variable costs paid for media & related expenses. Reconciled in Appendix hereto.

# Appendix



### Non-GAAP Financial Measures

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

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

Adjusted EBITDA, defined as net income (loss), excluding (1) income taxes, (2) interest expense, net, (3) depreciation and amortization, (4) non-cash loss on amendment of warrants, (5) write-off of long-lived assets, goodwill impairment, (6) accrued compensation expense for Put/Call Consideration, (7) share-based compensation expense, (8) acquisition-related costs, (9) restructuring and certain severance costs, (10) certain litigation and other related costs, and (11) one-time items, is another primary metric by which we evaluate the operating performance of our business, on which certain operating expenditures and internal budgets are based and by which, in addition to media margin and other factors, our senior management is compensated. The first three adjustments represent the conventional definition of EBITDA, and the remaining adjustments are items recognized and recorded under GAAP in particular periods but might be viewed as not necessarily coinciding with the underlying business operations for the periods in which they are so recognized and recorded. These adjustments include certain severance costs associated with department-specific reorganizations and certain litigation and other related costs associated with legal matters outside the ordinary course of business. Items are considered one-time in nature if they are non-recurring, infrequent or unusual and have not occurred in the past two years or are not expected to recur in the next two years, in accordance with SEC rules.

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



## Media Margin Reconciliation

| (\$ in millions)                                       | 2018      |          |          |          |          |          | -        | 2019      | 2020     |           |          |          |          |
|--|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Reconciliation of net (loss) income to media margin:   | Q1        | Q2       | Q3       | Q4       | FY       | Q1       | Q2       | Q3        | Q4       | FY        | Q1       | Q2       | Q3       |
| Net (loss) income                                      | (\$5,558) | \$2,645  | \$4,462  | \$1,643  | \$3,192  | \$1,045  | \$715    | (\$4,463) | \$956    | (\$1,747) | \$408    | \$452    | \$1,169  |
| Income taxes   | -         | -        | -        | 46       | 46       | (35)     | -        | -         | 109      | 74        | -        | -        | 65       |
| Non-cash loss on<br>amendment of warrants              | -         | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -         | -        | -         | -        | -        | -        |
| Interest expense, net                                  | 2,394     | 1,933    | 1,882    | 1,925    | 8,134    | 1,778    | 1,767    | 1,719     | 1,628    | 6,892     | 1,532    | 1,333    | 1,317    |
| Spin-off transaction costs                             | 7,708     | -        | -        | -        | 7,708    | -        | -        | -         | -        | -         | -        | -        | -        |
| Write-off of long-lived assets,<br>Goodwill impairment | -         | -        | -        | 1,517    | 1,517    | -        | -        | 280       | 145      | 425       | -        | 817      | -        |
| Depreciation and amortization                          | 3,331     | 3,338    | 3,352    | 3,153    | 13,174   | 3,317    | 3,306    | 3,642     | 3,675    | 13,940    | 3,733    | 3,853    | 3,906    |
| General and administrative                             | 6,659     | 8,954    | 9,775    | 10,620   | 36,007   | 10,043   | 10,294   | 14,049    | 13,687   | 48,065    | 11,076   | 10,044   | 12,772   |
| Product development                                    | 734       | 1,142    | 1,680    | 1,723    | 5,279    | 2,150    | 2,287    | 2,040     | 1,570    | 8,055     | 2,731    | 3,115    | 3,355    |
| Sales and marketing                                    | 3,102     | 3,166    | 3,640    | 3,754    | 13,663   | 3,434    | 3,058    | 2,717     | 2,336    | 11,545    | 2,830    | 2,888    | 2,925    |
| Non-media cost of revenue <sup>(1)</sup>               | 943       | 814      | 1,010    | 706      | 3,473    | 1,361    | 1,475    | 1,323     | 2,182    | 6,341     | 1,603    | 2,312    | 4,173    |
| Media margin   | \$19,313  | \$21,992 | \$25,801 | \$25,087 | \$92,193 | \$23,093 | \$22,902 | \$21,307  | \$26,288 | \$93,590  | \$23,913 | \$24,814 | \$29,682 |
| Revenue  | 55,989    | 56,935   | 66,535   | 70,821   | 250,280  | 66,561   | 70,560   | 64,552    | 80,011   | 281,684   | 78,934   | 71,509   | 78,280   |
| Media margin % of revenue                              | 34.5%     | 38.6%    | 38.8%    | 35.4%    | 36.8%    | 34.7%    | 32.5%    | 33.0%     | 32.9%    | 33.2%     | 30.3%    | 34.7%    | 37.9%    |

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



### Media Margin Reconciliation (cont'd)

| (\$ in millions)  |           |              | 2016      |           |            |            |            | 2017       |           |            |
|---|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Reconciliation of net (loss) income from continuing operations to media margin: | Q1        | Q2           | Q3        | Q4        | FY         | Q1         | Q2         | Q3         | Q4        | FY         |
| Net (loss) reported by IDI/Cogint   | (\$6,772) | (\$7,184)    | (\$9,744) | (\$5,386) | (\$29,086) | (\$12,725) | (\$20,409) | (\$14,095) | (\$5,977) | (\$53,206) |
| Net (loss) income from discontinued operations <sup>(1)</sup>                   | (2,955)   | <u>2,223</u> | (12,480)  | (3,657)   | (16,869)   | (2,893)    | (12,133)   | (3,334)    | (3,140)   | (21,500)   |
| Net (loss) income from continuing operations                                    | (\$3,817) | (\$9,407)    | \$2,736   | (\$1,729) | (\$12,216) | (\$9,832)  | (\$8,276)  | (\$10,761) | (\$2,837) | (\$31,706) |
| Income taxes  | (3,536)   | (3,503)      | (4,493)   | (2,531)   | (14,063)   | -          | -          | -          | -         | -          |
| Non-cash loss on amendment of warrants  | 297       | 976          | -         | 224       | 1,497      | -          | -          | =          | 1,005     | 1,005      |
| Interest expense, net   | 1,825     | 1,856        | 1,879     | 2,032     | 7,593      | 2,227      | 2,445      | 2,426      | 2,585     | 9,683      |
| Write-off of long-lived assets, Goodwill impairment                             | -         | -            | -         | -         | -          | 3,626      | -          | -          | -         | 3,626      |
| Depreciation and amortization   | 2,534     | 2,847        | 3,320     | 3,323     | 12,024     | 3,205      | 3,234      | 3,297      | 3,319     | 13,055     |
| General and administrative expenses   | 10,051    | 15,287       | 5,386     | 10,664    | 41,388     | 11,286     | 13,921     | 18,392     | 11,495    | 55,094     |
| Product development   | 622       | 660          | 490       | 632       | 2,404      | 662        | 612        | 647        | 657       | 2,578      |
| Sales and marketing expenses  | 2,381     | 2,197        | 2,786     | 3,282     | 10,647     | 3,169      | 3,053      | 3,161      | 2,590     | 11,973     |
| Non-media cost of revenue <sup>(2)</sup>  | 497       | 523          | 1,012     | 900       | 2,931      | 873        | 709        | 1,100      | 889       | 3,571      |
| Media margin  | \$10,853  | \$11,437     | \$13,118  | \$16,796  | \$52,205   | \$15,216   | \$15,698   | \$18,262   | \$19,703  | \$68,879   |
| Revenue   | 38,393    | 40,016       | 50,991    | 53,214    | 182,614    | 49,194     | 51,031     | 54,942     | 56,523    | 211,690    |
| Media margin % of revenue   | 28.3%     | 28.6%        | 25.7%     | 31.6%     | 28.6%      | 30.9%      | 30.8%      | 33.2%      | 34.9%     | 32.5%      |



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

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

### **Adjusted EBITDA Reconciliation**

| (\$ in millions)   | 2017      |           |            |           |            | 2018      |          |          |          |          | 2019    |         |           |          |           | 2020    |         |          |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|-----------|---------|---------|----------|
| Reconciliation of net (loss) income to adjusted EBITDA:    | Q1        | Q2        | Q3         | Q4        | FY         | Q1        | Q2       | Q3       | Q4       | FY       | Q1      | Q2      | Q3        | Q4       | FY        | Q1      | Q2      | Q3       |
| Net (loss) income  | (\$9,832) | (\$8,276) | (\$10,761) | (\$2,837) | (\$31,706) | (\$5,558) | \$2,645  | \$4,462  | \$1,643  | \$3,192  | \$1,045 | 715     | (\$4,463) | \$956    | (\$1,747) | \$408   | \$452   | \$1,169  |
| Income taxes   | -         | -         | -          | -         | -          | -         | -        | -        | 46       | 46       | (35)    | -       | -         | 109      | 74        | -       | -       | 65       |
| Interest expense, net                                      | 2,227     | 2,445     | 2,426      | 2,585     | 9,683      | 2,394     | 1,933    | 1,882    | 1,925    | 8,134    | 1,778   | 1,767   | 1,719     | 1,628    | 6,892     | 1,532   | 1,333   | 1,317    |
| Depreciation and amortization                              | 3,205     | 3,234     | 3,297      | 3,319     | 13,055     | 3,331     | 3,338    | 3,352    | 3,153    | 13,174   | 3,317   | 3,306   | 3,642     | 3,675    | 13,940    | 3,733   | 3,853   | 3,906    |
| Non-cash loss on amendment of warrants                     | -         | -         | -          | 1,005     | 1,005      | -         | -        | -        | -        | -        | -       | -       | -         | -        | -         | -       | -       | -        |
| Write-off of long-lived assets, Goodwill impairment        | 3,626     | -         | -          | -         | 3,626      | -         | -        | -        | 1,517    | 1,517    | -       | -       | 280       | 145      | 425       | -       | 817     | -        |
| Accrued compensation expense for<br>Put/Call consideration | -         | -         | -          | -         | -          | -         | -        | -        | -        | -        | -       | -       | -         | -        | -         | -       | 530     | 654      |
| Share-based compensation expense                           | 6,854     | 8,094     | 10,508     | 5,669     | 31,125     | 6,648     | 2,614    | 2,593    | 2,826    | 14,681   | 2,275   | 2,954   | 2,790     | 2,322    | 10,341    | 2,397   | 1,281   | 1,170    |
| Acquisition-related costs                                  | -         | 1,144     | 1,799      | 482       | 3,425      | 417       | 140      | 119      | -        | 676      | -       | 448     | -         | 35       | 483       | 47      | 15      | 89       |
| Restructuring and certain severance costs                  | 668       | 505       | 675        | 269       | 2,117      | 2,322     | 269      | -        | -        | 2,591    | 110     | 250     | -         | 1,596    | 1,956     | -       | -       | 565      |
| Certain litigation and other related costs                 | -         | -         | 3          | 199       | 202        | 46        | -        | -        | -        | 46       | 489     | 227     | 375       | 1,044    | 2,135     | 907     | 1,115   | 2,671    |
| One-time items <sup>(1)</sup>                              | -         | -         | -          | -         | -          | -         | -        | -        | -        | -        | 168     | -       | -         | 17       | 185       | -       | -       | -        |
| Adjusted EBITDA  | \$6,748   | \$7,146   | \$7,947    | \$10,691  | \$32,532   | \$9,600   | \$10,939 | \$12,408 | \$11,110 | \$44,057 | \$9,147 | \$9,667 | \$4,343   | \$11,527 | \$34,684  | \$9,024 | \$9,396 | \$11,606 |
| Revenue  | 49,194    | 51,031    | 54,942     | 56,523    | 211,690    | 55,989    | 56,935   | 66,535   | 70,821   | 250,280  | 66,561  | 70,560  | 64,552    | 80,011   | 281,684   | 78,934  | 71,509  | 78,280   |
| Adjusted EBITDA % of revenue                               | 13.7%     | 14.0%     | 14.5%      | 18.9%     | 15.4%      | 17.1%     | 19.2%    | 18.6%    | 15.7%    | 17.6%    | 13.7%   | 13.7%   | 6.7%      | 14.4%    | 12.3%     | 11.4%   | 13.1%   | 14.8%    |

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





## Fluent, Inc.

Fluent, Inc. – Investor Relations www.investors.fluentco.com InvestorRelations@fluentco.com (917) 310-2070