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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

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**FORM 10-K**

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015

**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: 333-187850

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**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Delaware**

(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)

**7887 East Belleview Avenue, Suite 1000**

**Englewood, Colorado**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**31-1811298**

(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**80111**

(Zip Code)

**(720) 479-3500**

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

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

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

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

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, and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Note: as a voluntary filer, not subject to the requirements the Registrant has filed all reports under Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act during the proceeding 12 months

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

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

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

State the aggregate market value of the common equity held by non-affiliates of the Registrant: **Not Applicable**

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the Registrants' classes of common stock: **Not Applicable**

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**WIDOPENWEST FINANCE, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**FORM 10-K**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015**

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This Annual Report on Form 10-K is for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015. Any statement contained in a prior periodic report shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Annual Report to the extent that a statement contained herein modifies or supersedes such statement. The Securities and Exchange Commission allows us to “incorporate by reference” information that we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information by referring you directly to those documents. Information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this Annual Report. References in this Annual Report to “WOW,” “we,” “us,” or “our” are to WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and its direct and indirect subsidiaries, unless the context specifies or requires otherwise.

### Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements contained in this Annual Report that are not historical facts contain “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. These forward-looking statements represent our goals, beliefs, plans and expectations about our prospects for the future and other future events. Such statements involve certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Forward-looking statements include all statements that are not historical fact and can be identified by terms such as “may,” “intend,” “might,” “will,” “should,” “could,” “would,” “anticipate,” “expect,” “believe,” “estimate,” “plan,” “project,” “predict,” “potential,” or the negative of these terms. Although these forward-looking statements reflect our good-faith belief and reasonable judgment based on current information, these statements are qualified by important factors, many of which are beyond our control, that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements, including, but not limited to:

- the wide range of competition we face in our business;
- conditions in the economy, including economic uncertainty or downturn, high unemployment levels and the level of activity in the housing sector;
- our ability to offset increased direct costs, particularly programming, with price increases;
- competitive and technological developments;
- plans to develop future networks and upgrade facilities;
- our substantial level of indebtedness;
- the current and future markets for our services and products;
- the effects of regulatory changes on our business;
- our exposure to the credit risk of customers, vendors and other third parties;
- possible acquisitions, alliances or dispositions;
- fluctuations in the economy or natural disasters in the area we operate;
- certain covenants in our debt documents;
- our failure to realize the anticipated benefits of acquisitions in the expected time frame or at all;
- our expectations with respect to the continuing integration of Knology, Inc. (“Knology”) and the ability to realize expected cost savings related thereto;
- our ability to manage the risks involved in the foregoing;

and other factors described from time to time in our reports filed or furnished with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), and in particular those factors set forth in the section entitled “Risk Factors” and other reports subsequently filed with the SEC. Given these uncertainties, you should not place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements included in this report are made as of the date hereof or the date specified herein, based on information available to us as of such date. Except as required by law, we assume no obligation to update these forward-looking statements, even if new information becomes available in the future.

## PART I

### Item 1. Business

#### Overview

WideOpenWest Finance, LLC (“WOW”) was organized in Delaware on November 13, 2001 and is wholly owned by WideOpenWest Illinois, Inc., WideOpenWest Ohio, Inc., WOW Sigecom, Inc. and WideOpenWest Kite, Inc. (collectively, the “Members”). The Members are wholly owned subsidiaries of Racecar Acquisition, LLC, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Racecar Holdings, LLC (the “Parent”). In the following context, the terms WOW or the “Company” may refer, as the context requires, to WOW or collectively WOW and its subsidiaries.

The financial statements presented herein include the consolidated accounts of WOW and its subsidiaries. Because the Parent’s primary asset is its investment in WOW, the Parent’s ownership structure consisting of various classes of common units has been “pushed down” to the Company. All of the Company’s ownership units and unit holders discussed herein are legally the Parent’s.

We are a fully integrated provider of high-speed data (“HSD”), cable television (“Video”), and digital telephony (“Telephony”) services. We serve markets in nineteen Midwestern and Southeastern markets in the United States. The Company manages and operates its broadband cable Midwestern systems in Detroit and Lansing, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois; Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio; Evansville, Indiana; Baltimore, Maryland and Lawrence, Kansas. The Southeastern systems are located in Augusta, Columbus and West Point, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; Dothan, Auburn, Huntsville and Montgomery, Alabama; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Panama City and Pinellas County, Florida. Our primary business is the delivery of bundled communication services over our own network. In addition to our bundled package offerings, we sell these services on an unbundled basis. We have built our business through (i) acquisitions of cable systems, (ii) upgrades of acquired networks to introduce expanded broadband services including bundled high-speed data, video and telephony services, (iii) construction and expansion of our broadband network to offer integrated high-speed data, video and telephony services and (iv) organic growth of connections through increased penetration of services to new marketable homes and our existing customer base. At December 31, 2015, our networks passed 3,003 thousand homes and served 778 thousand total customers, reflecting a total customer penetration rate of approximately 26%. Within these markets, we typically operate in affluent suburban communities and have a customer base with income levels above the national average, a propensity to purchase higher-margin bundled services and a history of low churn rates.

We began our operations over 14 years ago and have developed what we believe to be a competitively differentiated brand and a strong market position. Since our inception, our residential strategy has been to provide bundled HSD, Video and Telephony services via our fully upgraded, advanced network with approximately 97% of our network 750 MHz or greater capacity and high availability. Our commercial strategy focuses on creating an exceptional customer experience by leveraging our metropolitan network assets and recognized customer service to provide advanced data networking, internet access, cloud and business telephony products to small, medium and large enterprises in our footprint. We believe we have one of the most technically advanced and uniform networks in the industry and high availability for delivery of a full suite of products including high-speed data, video, telephony, video-on-demand and high-definition video. Because this network was originally built and designed to offer at least 750 MHz, we believe that our plant is more efficient and flexible than upgraded or rebuilt systems of comparable bandwidth. Given the advanced and uniform nature of our next generation network, we are able to maintain the network relatively inexpensively, launch new services quickly and efficiently and maintain our own telephony infrastructure. We believe our advanced plant will allow us to continue to roll out competitive high-definition video (“HD”) channel line ups and higher data speeds without major capital requirements. In addition, we are augmenting the growth of our core residential business through a

focused expansion of our commercial business and capital efficient network “edge-out” into communities adjacent to our current footprint.

We believe our high-value product offerings, customer-centric operating philosophy, technically advanced network and experienced management team have driven superior operating and financial performance compared to our peers. Our reputation as an industry leader, particularly with respect to customer experience, has been consistently recognized by independent third parties. For example, WOW has been recognized by Consumer Reports Magazine (#1 U.S. cable provider for six out of the last seven years), J.D. Power and Associates (highest customer satisfaction 21 times in the last 11 years).

We believe our July 2012 acquisition of Knology has solidified our position as a leading provider of triple-play (high-speed data, video and telephony) and other advanced communication services. The combination increased our geographic and competitive diversification and created a clustered footprint that covers 19 markets in the Midwestern and Southeastern U.S. On a combined basis as of December 31, 2015, we were the ninth largest cable company in the U.S. based on the number of video subscribers and our systems. We believe WOW’s fully upgraded network was enhanced by the legacy Knology network and we have been able to realize significant cost savings by eliminating duplicative resources and achieving scale efficiencies and believe that there are additional longer- term operational efficiencies that will continue to improve our profitability.

#### **Crestview Partners**

On December 18, 2015, funds managed by Crestview Advisor, L.L.C (“Crestview”), a leading private equity firm based in New York, and Parent consummated a transaction whereby Crestview Partners III GP, L.P. become the beneficial owner of approximately 35% of Parent. Under terms of the agreement, Crestview’s funds purchased units held by Avista Capital Partners (“Avista”) and other unitholders, and made a \$125 million primary investment in newly-issued units. As of December 31, 2015, proceeds from this transaction, net of accrued and paid transaction expenses, totaling \$102.8 million have been recorded to our Parent’s balance sheet and have not been pushed down and reflected in the accompanying consolidated financial statements. Crestview has extensive experience in the telecommunications industry, and we believe this investment will help us capitalize on future growth opportunities while we continue to deliver the award-winning customer experience we are known for.

#### **Revolver Extension**

On July 1, 2015, we entered into a fourth amendment (the “Fourth Amendment”) to our Credit Agreement, dated as of July 17, 2012, as amended on April 1, 2013, November 27, 2013 and May 21, 2015 (the “Original Credit Agreement”) among us and the other parties thereto.

Under the Original Credit Agreement, we had \$200.0 million of borrowings available under our revolving credit facility (the “Revolver”), which was to mature as of July 17, 2017. Under the Fourth Amendment, the maturity date of \$180.0 million of the \$200.0 million in available borrowings under the Revolver is extended until July 1, 2020, provided that (i) we have no Term B Loans outstanding as of January 1, 2019 and (ii) any indebtedness incurred to refinance the Term B Loans has a maturity date no earlier than September 30, 2020. If either condition in provisions (i) and (ii) above is not satisfied as of January 1, 2019, then the Revolver will mature on January 1, 2019. In addition, in the event we have outstanding borrowings under the Revolver in excess of \$180.0 million as of July 17, 2017, we would be required to pay down such borrowings to the extent of such excess.

## **Refinancing of Term B and B-1 Loans**

On May 21, 2015, we entered into a third amendment (the “Third Amendment”) to our Credit Agreement, dated as of July 17, 2012, as amended on April 1, 2013 and as further amended on November 27, 2013, among us and the other parties thereto.

The Third Amendment, among other provisions, provides for a refinancing of the Credit Agreement, resulting in \$1,411.4 million in new Term B Loans, which bear interest, at our option, at LIBOR plus 3.50% or Adjusted Base Rate (“ABR”) plus 2.50%. The new Term B Loans replace the \$1,560.4 million in outstanding Term B Loans which were previously priced, at our option, at LIBOR plus 3.75% or ABR plus 2.75%. The proceeds from the refinancing were used to pay outstanding principal under the current Term B Loans. In connection with the Third Amendment in May 2015, we made a prepayment totaling \$150.0 million, applied ratably, to the outstanding Term B Loans and outstanding Term B-1 Loans. In addition, the Third Amendment provides for the ability to refinance our Senior Subordinated Notes with proceeds from the issuance of Senior Notes. We recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$22.9 million, primarily representing the expensing of debt issuance costs related to a portion of the former Term B Loans.

On November 27, 2013, we entered into a second amendment (the “Second Amendment”) to the Credit Agreement, dated as of July 17, 2012, as amended on April 1, 2013 (the “Credit Agreement”) among us, the guarantors thereto, the lenders party thereto, and the other parties thereto. Capitalized terms used herein without definition shall have the same meanings as set forth in the Credit Agreement.

The Second Amendment provided for the refinancing of the Credit Agreement, resulting in \$425.0 million in new Term B-1 Loans, which bear interest, at our option, at LIBOR plus 3.00% or ABR plus 2.00%. The new Term B-1 Loans includes a 0.75% LIBOR floor. The new Term B-1 Loans replaced \$398.0 million in outstanding Term B-1 Loans which were previously priced, at the Company’s option, at LIBOR plus 3.25% or ABR plus 2.25% and which previously included a 1.00% LIBOR floor. The Company utilized the excess proceeds from the new Term B-1 Loans to repay existing, outstanding borrowings on its revolving credit facility and to pay fees and expenses associated with the refinancing. The Company recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$0.8 million, primarily representing the expensing of debt issuance costs related to a portion of the former Term B-1 Loans.

## **Additional 10.25% Senior Notes**

On April 1, 2014, we issued \$100.0 million aggregate principal amount of additional 10.25% Senior Notes, due 2019, (the “Additional Notes”) in a private offering conducted pursuant to Rule 144A and Regulation S under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”). The Additional Notes were issued at 113.00% plus interest deemed to have accrued from January 15, 2014. We used the net proceeds of the offering to repay the borrowings outstanding under the revolving credit facility, for general corporate purposes, and to pay certain fees and expenses relating to the offering.

The Additional Notes have been issued under the indenture governing our existing \$725.0 million Senior Notes, due 2019, issued on July 17, 2012. The Additional Notes are treated as a single series with the existing Senior Notes and have the same terms as those of the Senior Notes. We agreed to file an exchange offer for the Additional Notes in a registration statement (the “Exchange Offer”) with the SEC no later than 270 days from April 1, 2014. We filed the registration statement with the SEC on June 18, 2014 and the registration statement became effective on June 30, 2014. The Exchange Offer was completed on July 31, 2014.

## Sale of South Dakota Systems

On September 30, 2014, we and Clarity Telecom (“Clarity”) consummated an asset sale agreement in which Clarity acquired our Rapid City and Sioux Falls, South Dakota systems (the “South Dakota Systems”) for gross proceeds of approximately \$262.0 million in cash, subject to certain adjustments set forth in the agreement. We recorded a gain of \$52.6 million related to the sale. Proceeds from the sale of our South Dakota Systems were used in connection with the prepayment made on our Term B and Term B-1 Loans in connection with the Third Amendment to our Credit Agreement. Because the sale of the South Dakota Systems was consummated on September 30, 2014, our reported subscriber information for the third quarter ended September 30, 2014 through the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2015 excludes these customer relationships.

## Workforce Reduction

During the fourth quarter 2014, we committed to a workforce reduction plan whereby we eliminated approximately 275 employees across all levels and geographic regions. We implemented this plan to compete more efficiently and better position ourselves for future growth.

## Our Systems and Markets

Our systems serve the Midwestern and Southeastern U.S. As of December 31, 2015, these networks passed approximately 3,003 thousand homes and served approximately 778 thousand total customers, reflecting a total customer penetration rate of 26%. Within these markets, we typically have a customer base with income levels above the national average, unemployment rates below the national average, a propensity to purchase higher-margin bundled services and a history of low churn rates. An overview of our markets as of December 31, 2015 is shown below:

Market	Homes Passed	Plant Miles < 750 MHz	Plant Miles 750 to 859 MHz	Plant Miles > 860 MHz	Total Plant Miles
Detroit, MI . . . . .	652,361	—	5,396	409	5,805
Chicago, IL . . . . .	466,661	—	2,856	311	3,167
Columbus, OH . . . . .	406,820	—	4,243	249	4,492
Pinellas, FL . . . . .	279,385	—	3,369	—	3,369
Cleveland, OH . . . . .	166,110	—	1,154	560	1,714
Huntsville, AL . . . . .	118,899	—	1,808	—	1,808
Baltimore, MD . . . . .	111,605	—	1,225	—	1,225
Montgomery, AL . . . . .	102,038	—	1,253	—	1,253
Evansville, IN . . . . .	99,463	—	—	1,204	1,204
Augusta, GA . . . . .	91,341	—	1,287	—	1,287
Charleston, SC . . . . .	88,831	—	1,187	—	1,187
Lansing, MI . . . . .	87,113	1,000	700	300	2,000
Columbus, GA . . . . .	82,101	—	1,003	—	1,003
Panama City, FL . . . . .	74,100	—	914	—	914
Lawrence, KS . . . . .	67,549	—	915	—	915
Knoxville, TN . . . . .	46,021	—	647	—	647
Dothan, AL . . . . .	31,658	—	521	—	521
West Point, GA . . . . .	17,690	—	322	—	322
Auburn, AL . . . . .	13,328	—	161	—	161
	<u>3,003,074</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>28,961</u>	<u>3,033</u>	<u>32,994</u>

We believe we have one of the most technically advanced and uniform networks in the industry with approximately 97% of our network 750 MHz or greater capacity and high availability for delivery of a full suite of products including HSD, Video, Telephony, video-on-demand (“VOD”) and high definition video (“HD”). The remaining 3% of our network represents Mid-Michigan, where the upgrade to 750MHz is in process. Because our network was originally built and designed to offer at least 750 MHz, we believe that our plant is more efficient and flexible than upgraded or rebuilt systems of comparable bandwidth. Given the advanced and uniform nature of our next generation network, we are able to maintain the network relatively inexpensively, launch new services quickly and efficiently and maintain our own telephony infrastructure. Our advanced plant will allow us to continue to roll out competitive HD channel line ups and higher data speeds without major capital requirements.

Our most significant competitors are other cable television operators, direct broadcast satellite providers and certain telephone companies that offer services that provide features and functionality similar to our HSD, Video and Telephony services. We have a history of successfully competing in chosen markets despite the presence of competing incumbent providers through attractive high value bundling of our services and investments in new service offerings.

### **Our Operating Philosophy and Commitment to Customer Service**

We believe that our operating philosophy “to deliver an employee and customer experience that lives up to our name” is central to our success. This philosophy influences how we are organized and informs the process we employ to acquire and retain customers. For example, we use a needs-based selling process to recommend packages that best fit customers’ service and pricing needs. We seek to keep our customer response activities closely coordinated with all operational aspects of our business, so that resources are appropriately allocated and operating efficiencies are optimized. We believe in offering customers an experience that is convenient for them by generally providing installation and service appointments within a two hour window, seven days a week.

We use targeted marketing modeling to maximize Average Revenue Per Unit (“ARPU”) and minimize risk of non-pay churn. This analysis is performed at the node level in our network so that marketing and sales tactics drive penetration in a highly targeted manner. We also believe that the responsibility for winning new customers extends beyond the sales and marketing department to our entire company.

We have demonstrated our ability to grow market share by delivering a strong customer experience, offering high value bundles and introducing new competitive offerings. We believe our philosophy of providing attractively priced bundles, backed by a long-term rate protection plan, delivers value to our customers. Our customers can enjoy a seamless experience of one installation, one bill, and one service provider. Our strategy has led to bundled customers accounting for approximately 74% of our total customer mix. Bundling has allowed us to maximize the revenue generating capability of our networks through increased penetration, increased revenue per customer, greater pricing flexibility and increased customer retention.

Our operating philosophy and commitment to customer service have translated into numerous independent awards and significant recognition for our focus on the customer experience. For example, WOW has:

- received the J.D. Power and Associates recognition for highest customer satisfaction a total of 21 times in the last 11 years;
- been recognized by Consumer Reports Magazine numerous times for our superior service and product offerings, including as the #1 Cable provider in 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012; the #1 Internet provider in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014; the #1 Bundled provider in 2010 and 2012, and the #1 Phone provider in 2010 and 2014; and



- been recognized by PC Magazine as the Reader's Choice for Broadband Internet Service Provider in 2006 and 2012.

### **Our Bundled Service Offering**

We offer a complete solution of HSD, Video and Telephony services in all of our markets. We sell these services through a broad range of service bundles designed to address the varying needs of existing and potential customers. We sell individual services at prices competitive to those of the incumbent providers and attractively price our bundles. The incremental cost of purchasing a second or third service from us is often more economical than purchasing the service from a competitor on an *à la carte* basis. Bundles also provide customers with an integrated billing and customer service experience for multiple products. Bundling our services enables us to increase penetration, raise average revenue per customer, improve operating efficiency, facilitate customer service, reduce customer acquisition and installation costs, and increase customer retention.

### ***Residential Data Services***

We offer tiered high-speed Internet services to residential customers that include always-on high-speed connections to the Internet using cable modems. Our most popular Internet speed tier provides a download speed of 30 megabits per second ("Mbps"). In most of our markets, we offer a 110 Mbps connection for customers with higher bandwidth requirements and have also recently introduced a 300 Mbps tier in our larger markets.

Our data packages generally include the following:

- specialized technical support 24 hours a day, seven days a week;
- a home portal page with customizable access to local content, weather, news, sports and financial reports;
- value-added features such as e-mail accounts, on-line storage and spam protection; and
- DOCSIS-compliant modem installed by a trained professional.

As a result of evolving customer preferences, we are experiencing an increase in customers who purchase only High-Speed Internet services.

### ***Video Services***

We offer our customers a full array of video services and programming choices. Customers generally pay initial connection charges and fixed monthly fees for video service.

Our video service offering comprises the following:

- **Basic Cable Service:** All of our video customers receive a package of limited basic programming, which generally consists of local broadcast television and local community programming, including public, educational and government access channels. The expanded basic level of programming includes approximately 75 channels of satellite-delivered or non-broadcast channels, such as ESPN, MTV, USA, CNN, The Discovery Channel, Nickelodeon and various home shopping networks.
- **Digital Cable Service, HD channels, and Premiums:** This digital level of service includes over 275 channels of digital programming, including our expanded basic cable service, and over 40 music channels. We have introduced new service offerings to strengthen our competitive position and generate additional revenues, including HD TV, digital video recording ("DVR"), VOD and subscription VOD. VOD permits customers to order movies and other programming on demand with DVD-like functions, and provides thousands of hours of content available for free, on a

pay-per-view basis or with a subscription. Subscription VOD is a similar service that has specific content available to customers who subscribe to the underlying premium channel.

- **Ultra:** We offer our Ultra video product in select markets. Ultra is priced higher than digital cable service and is an all-in-one solution for our customers. Ultra's advanced feature set includes whole-home DVR, remote DVR management, the ability to view personal content from a PC on a TV, wireless home networking, caller ID on TV, sharing photos with Flickr on TV, parental control from anywhere and a smart menu user interface. We intend to develop additional features and enhancements such as a recommendation engine, user customization options and a variety of apps. Since its limited launch in February 2012, Ultra TV has attracted approximately 112 thousand customers as of December 31, 2015.
- **Premium Channels:** These channels, such as HBO, Showtime, Starz, Encore and Cinemax, provide commercial-free movies, sports and other special event entertainment programming. A customer has a choice of one of these channels in the new WOW! Choice Annual Plan packages that were introduced on February 9, 2016 and are available at an additional charge above our expanded basic and digital tiers of service.

Our platform enables us to provide an attractive service offering of extensive programming as well as interactive services.

### ***Telephony Services***

Our telephony services include local and long-distance telephone services. We offer telephone packages that include different combinations of the following core services:

- local area calling plans;
- flat-rate local and long-distance plans;
- unlimited local and long-distance plans;
- popular calling features such as caller ID, call waiting and voicemail; and
- measured and fixed rate toll packages based on usage.

### ***Business Telephony and Data Services***

Our broadband network also supports services to business customers and we have developed a full suite of products for small, medium and large enterprises. We offer the traditional bundled product offering and have also developed new products to meet the more complex high-speed data and telephony needs of medium and large enterprises. We offer fiber based services, which enable our customers to have enhanced telephony services, data speeds of up to 10 gigabit per second on our fiber network, and office-to-office metro Ethernet services that provide a secure and managed connection between customer locations. We have introduced our Hosted Voice product offering, which can replace customers' aging private branch exchange ("PBX") products with telephony and data service that offers more flexible features at a lower cost. In addition, we have a Session Initiated Protocol (SIP) trunking service. This service is a direct replacement for the traditional telephone service used by large PBX customers and is delivered over our fiber services network and terminated via an Ethernet connection at the customer's premise. We have a complete line of collocation infrastructure services, cloud computing, managed backup and recovery services. We serve our business customers from locally based business offices with customer service and network support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### ***Pricing for Our Products and Services***

We attractively price our services to promote sales of bundled packages. We offer bundles of two or more services with tiered features and prices to meet the demands of a variety of customers. The bundle approach simplifies our customers' experience, while creating operational efficiencies by reducing the number of plans handled by our sales and call center personnel and by reducing the number of packages supported in our billing system. We also sell individual services at prices competitive to *à la carte* services sold by our competitors. An installation fee may be charged to new and reconnected customers. We charge monthly fees for customer premise equipment.

### **Our Interactive Broadband Network**

Our network is critical to the implementation of our operating strategy, allowing us to offer bundled high-speed data, video and telephony services to our customers in an efficient manner and with a high level of quality. In addition to providing high capacity and scalability, our network has been specifically engineered to have increased reliability, including features such as:

- redundant fiber routing which enables the rapid, automatic redirection of network traffic in the event of a fiber cut;
- back-up power supplies in our network which ensure continuity of our service in the event of a power outage; and
- network monitoring to the customer premise for all digital high-speed data, video and telephony services.

### ***Technical Overview***

Our interactive broadband network consists primarily of fiber-optic cable and coaxial cable. Fiber-optic cable is a communications medium that uses glass fibers to transmit signals over long distances with minimum signal loss or distortion. In most of our network, our system's main high capacity fiber-optic cables connect to multiple nodes throughout our network. These nodes are connected to individual homes and buildings by coaxial cable and are shared by a number of customers. We have sufficient fibers in our cables to subdivide our nodes if growth so dictates. Our network has excellent broadband frequency characteristics and physical durability, which is conducive to providing high-speed data, video and telephony transmission.

As of December 31, 2015, our network consisted of 32,994 miles of network, passed over 3,003 thousand homes and served approximately 778 thousand total customers. Our interactive broadband network is designed using redundant fiber-optic cables. Our fiber rings are "self-healing," which means that they provide for the very rapid, automatic redirection of network traffic so that our service will continue even if there is a single point of failure on a fiber ring.

We distribute our bundled services from locations called hub sites, each of which is equipped with a generator and battery back-up power source to allow service to continue during a power outage. Additionally, individual nodes that are served by hubs are equipped with back-up generators or batteries. Our redundant fiber-optic cables and network powering systems allow us to provide circuit-based telephony services consistent with industry reliability standards for traditional telephone systems.

We monitor our network 24 hours a day, seven days a week from our network operations centers in Naperville, Illinois. Technicians in each of our service areas schedule and perform installations and repairs and monitor the performance of our interactive broadband network. We actively maintain the quality of our network to minimize service interruptions and extend the network's operational life.

### ***High-Speed Data***

We provide Internet access using high-speed cable modems in the same way customers receive Internet services over modems linked to the local telephone network. We provide our customers with a high level of data transfer rates through multiple peering arrangements with tier-one Internet facility providers.

### ***Video***

We offer video services over our network in the same way that other cable companies provide cable TV service. Our network is designed for an analog and digital two-way interactive transmission with fiber-optic cable carrying signals from the headend to hubs and to distribution points (nodes) within our customers' neighborhoods, where the signals are transferred to our coaxial cable network for delivery to our customers.

### ***Telephony***

We offer telephony service over our broadband network in predominantly the same way local phone companies provide service. We install a network interface box outside a customer's home or an Embedded Multimedia Terminal Adapter in the home to provide dial tone service. Our network interconnects with those of other local phone companies. We also operate telephone systems in Valley and Ashford, Alabama; and West Point, Georgia. In addition, we serve the majority of our telephony customers using Voice over Internet Protocol ("VoIP") switching technology. This newer architecture allows for the same enhanced custom calling services as traditional time division multiplexing switching systems, as well as additional advanced business services such as session initiation protocol, hosted PBX services and other services.

### ***Additional Commercial Services***

In addition to the data, video voice services outlined above, we also utilize our network to provide other commercial services, including session initiated protocol, web hosting, metro Ethernet and wireless backhaul services. We also provide advanced collocation and cloud infrastructure services including private cage or cabinet with high availability power, virtual and physical compute, high performance storage, dedicated firewall/load balancers, private virtual local area network segmentation, disaster recovery to the cloud and backup and archive as a service.

### ***Programming***

We purchase some of our programming directly from the program networks by entering into affiliation agreements with the programming suppliers. We also benefit from our membership with the National Cable Television Cooperative ("NCTC"), which enables us to take advantage of volume discounts. As of December 31, 2015, approximately 63% of our programming was sourced from the NCTC, which also handles our contracting and billing arrangements for this programming.

### ***Competition***

We have at least one competitor in each market. Our competition comes from a variety of communications companies because of the broad number of HSD, Video and Telephony services we offer to both residential and business customers. Competition is based on service, content, reliability, bundling, value and convenience. We believe our consistent recognition for having a strong commitment to customer service provides meaningful differentiation versus our competitors.

### *Data Services*

We primarily compete against other cable television companies, ILECs that provide dial-up and DSL services and other wireless Internet access services to provide consumers in our markets with data services. In portions of our footprint where we compete against other cable television companies, these competitors provide high-speed Internet access services for both residential and business customers as do we. The data offerings from the competitors include a range of services from DSL to gigabit Ethernet.

Our competitors primarily provide services over traditional telephone networks or broadband data networks. Our services are offered via pure and hybrid fiber network connections. Additional services include spam filtering, email, private web space, online storage, and customizable news and entertainment content.

Importantly, we compete against data service providers with a bundled high-speed data, video and telephony product which not all of our competitors can deliver.

### *Video Services*

Cable television systems are operated under non-exclusive franchises granted by local authorities, which may result in more than one cable operator providing video services in a particular market. Our cable competitors currently include Bright House Networks (“Bright House”), Charter Communications, Inc. (“Charter”), Comcast Corporation (“Comcast”), Mediacom Communications Corporation (“Mediacom”) and Time Warner Cable Inc. (“Time Warner”). We also encounter competition from direct broadcast satellite systems, including DIRECTV and Echostar Communications Corporation (“Echostar”) (also known as Dish Network) that transmit signals to small dish antennas owned by the end-user.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the “1996 Act”) eliminated many restrictions on local telephone companies offering video programming and we face competition from those companies. AT&T Inc. (“AT&T”), CenturyLink and Verizon Communications, Inc. (“Verizon”) currently provide video services to homes in certain of our markets. Given the publicly stated intentions of AT&T and Verizon, we expect modest additional incumbent local exchange carrier (“ILEC”) “fiber to the curb” activity in our footprint. We also compete with systems that provide multichannel program services directly to hotel, motel, apartment, condominium and other multi-unit complexes through a satellite master antenna—a single satellite dish for an entire building or complex.

Cable television distributors may, in some markets, compete for customers with other video programming distributors and other providers of entertainment, news and information. Alternative methods of distributing video programming offered by cable television systems include “over the top” business models such as Netflix, Hulu, Amazon and Apple. Increasingly, content owners are using Internet-based delivery of content directly to consumers, some without charging a fee to access the content. Further, due to consumer electronic innovations, consumers are able to watch such Internet-delivered content on televisions, personal computers, tablets, gaming boxes connected to televisions and mobile devices. Recently, HBO and CBS announced plans to sell their programming direct to consumers over the Internet. DISH Network has also announced Sling TV which will include ESPN among other programming, and Sony has announced Playstation Vue which is expected to include 75 channels. We believe some customers have chosen or will choose to receive video over the Internet rather than through our video on demand and subscription video services, thereby reducing our video revenues. We cannot predict the impact that Internet delivered video will have on our revenues and growth as technologies continue to evolve.

In addition to other means, we compete with these companies by delivering a differentiated customer service experience and using programming content, including the number of channels and the availability of local programming.

Importantly, we also compete against video service providers with a bundled high-speed data, video and telephony product which not all of our competitors can deliver.

### ***Telephony Services***

In providing local and long-distance telephony services, we compete with the incumbent local phone company, various long-distance providers and VoIP telephone providers in each of our markets. AT&T, CenturyLink, Frontier Communications Corporation (“Frontier”), and Verizon are the incumbent local phone companies in our current markets. We also compete with a number of providers of long-distance telephone services, such as AT&T, CenturyLink, Frontier and Verizon. In addition, we compete with a variety of smaller, more regional competitors that may lease network components from AT&T, CenturyLink, Frontier or Verizon and focus on the commercial segment of our markets.

Following years of development, VoIP has been deployed by a variety of service providers including the other Multiple System Operators (“MSOs”) that we compete against and independent service providers such as Vonage Holding Corporation. Unlike circuit switched technology, this technology does not require ownership of the last mile and eliminates the need to rent the last mile from the Regional Bell Operating Companies. VoIP providers have had differing levels of success based on their brand recognition, financial support, technical abilities, and legal and regulatory decisions.

Wireless telephone service is viewed by some consumers as a replacement for traditional telephone service. Wireless service is priced on a flat-rate or usage-sensitive basis and rates are continuously decreasing.

Importantly, we compete against telephony service providers with a bundled high-speed data, video and telephony product which not all of our competitors can deliver.

### ***Bundled Services***

Most of our competitors have deployed their own versions of the triple-play bundle in our markets. Bright House, Charter, Comcast, Mediacom and other MSOs have launched VoIP and thereby enabled their own versions of a triple play bundle in our markets.

AT&T, CenturyLink and Verizon initiated agreements or partnerships with satellite providers enabling video, which became their third service offering; AT&T U-verse, CenturyLink and Verizon FiOS have begun to provide video via their broadband networks in certain markets. Thus far, Verizon FiOS has deployed broadband video in a portion of Pinellas and AT&T U-verse has deployed video in all of our markets other than Evansville, Lawrence, Knoxville, Huntsville and Charleston markets.

We believe that our emphasis on customer service will continue to be a strategic initiative and that an additional focus on technology and deploying broadband data applications is the best way to retain and attract customers.

### ***Employees***

As of December 31, 2015, we had approximately 2,800 full-time employees. We consider our relationship with our employees to be good and we structure our compensation and benefit plans in order to attract and retain high-performing employees. We will need to recruit additional employees in order to implement our expansion plan. We recruit from several major industries for employees with skills in high-speed data, video and telephony technologies. None of our employees are subject to collective bargaining agreements.

## **Legislation and Regulation**

We operate in highly regulated industries and both our cable television and telecommunications services are subject to broad regulation at the federal, state and local levels. Our Internet services have historically been subject to more limited regulation, although the FCC has recently announced in its Open Internet Order that it will expand regulation of Internet services as more fully described below. The following is a summary of laws and regulations affecting the cable television and telecommunications industries. It does not purport to be a complete summary of all present and proposed legislation and regulations pertaining to our operations.

### ***Regulation of Cable Services***

The Federal Communications Commission (the “FCC”), the principal federal regulatory agency with jurisdiction over cable television operators and services, has promulgated regulations covering many aspects of cable television operations. The FCC enforces its regulations through the imposition of monetary fines, the issuance of cease-and-desist orders and/or the imposition of other administrative sanctions. Cable franchises, the principal instrument of governmental authority for our cable television operations, are not issued by the FCC but by states, cities, counties or political subdivisions. A brief summary of certain key federal regulations follows.

#### ***Rate Regulation***

The Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 (the “1992 Cable Act”) authorized rate regulation for certain cable services and equipment in certain markets. It also eliminated direct oversight of rates by the FCC and local franchising authorities of all but the basic service tier of cable service. Rate regulation of the basic tier does not apply, however, when a cable operator is subject to effective competition in the relevant community. Under an Order issued by the FCC in 2015, cable operators are presumed to be subject to effective competition. That Order has been appealed to the D.C. Circuit Court. Moreover, some local franchising authorities that could otherwise regulate basic rates for cable systems that are not subject to effective competition choose not to do so. We are not currently subject to rate regulation in any of our markets.

#### ***Program Access***

To promote competition between incumbent cable operators and independent cable programmers, the 1992 Cable Act placed restrictions on dealings between certain cable programmers and cable operators. Satellite video programmers affiliated with cable operators are prohibited in most cases from favoring those cable operators over competing distributors of multi-channel video programming, such as satellite television operators and unaffiliated competitive cable operators such as us. Specifically, the program access regulations generally prohibit exclusive contracts for satellite cable programming or satellite broadcast programming between any cable operator and any cable-affiliated programming vendor. On October 5, 2012, the FCC adopted and released a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Matter of *Revision of the Commission’s Program Access Rules* (the “Program Access FNPRM”). The Commission declined to extend the exclusive contract prohibition section of the program access rules beyond its October 5, 2012 sunset date. The prohibition applies only to programming that is delivered via satellite; it does not apply to programming delivered via terrestrial facilities. The Commission determined that a preemptive prohibition on exclusive contracts is no longer “necessary to preserve and protect competition and diversity in the distribution of video programming” considering that a case-by-case process will remain in place after the prohibition expires to assess the impact of individual exclusive contracts. In the Program Access FNPRM, the Commission also seeks comment on revisions to the program access rules pertaining to buying groups and rebuttable presumptions in program access complaint proceedings challenging certain exclusive contracts. The Program Access FNPRM is still pending.

### *Commercial Leased Access*

The Communications Act requires that cable systems with 36 or more channels make available a portion of their channel capacity for commercial leased access by third parties to facilitate competitive programming efforts. We have not been subject to many requests for carriage under the leased access rules. However, in 2007, the FCC proposed to modify the way that cable operators must calculate their rates for such access. An appeal has been pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit since 2008 and is currently held in abeyance pending Office of Management and Budget approval of certain information collection requirements. It is possible that, unless this modification is ultimately reversed on appeal, there may be more carriage requests in the future. It is not clear that we would be able to recover our costs under the new methodology or that the use of our network capacity for such carriage would not materially impact our ability to compete effectively in our markets.

### *Carriage of Broadcast Television Signals*

The 1992 Cable Act established broadcast signal carriage (so-called “must carry”) requirements that allow local commercial television broadcast stations to elect every three years whether to require the cable systems in the relevant area to carry the station’s signal or whether to require the cable system to negotiate for consent to carry the station. The most recent election by broadcasters became effective on January 1, 2015. For local, non-commercial stations, cable systems are also subject to must-carry obligations. We now carry most stations pursuant to retransmission consent agreements and pay fees for such consents or have agreed to carry additional services in lieu of making cash payments to a broadcaster.

### *Franchise Authority*

Cable television systems operate pursuant to non-exclusive franchises issued by franchising authorities, which depending on the specific jurisdiction can be the states, cities, counties or political subdivisions in which a cable operator provides cable service. Franchising authority is premised upon the cable operator crossing and using public rights-of-way to construct and maintain its system. The terms of franchises, while variable, typically include requirements concerning services, franchise fees, construction timelines, mandated service areas, customer service standards, technical requirements, public, educational and government access channels and support, and channel capacity. Franchise authorities may terminate a franchise or assess penalties if the franchised cable operator fails to adhere to the conditions of the franchise. Although largely discretionary, the exercise of state and local franchise authority is limited by federal statutes and regulations adopted pursuant thereto. We believe that the requirements imposed by our franchise agreements are fairly typical for the industry. Although they do vary, our franchises generally provide for the payment of fees to the applicable franchise authority of 5% of our gross cable service revenues, which is the current maximum authorized by federal law. Many of our franchises also require that we pay a percentage of our gross revenue in support of public, educational and governmental (“PEG”) channels. These so-called PEG fees vary, but generally do not exceed 2% of our gross cable services revenues.

On December 20, 2006, the FCC established rules and provided guidance (the “2006 Order”) pursuant to the Communications Act that prohibit local franchising authorities from unreasonably refusing to award competitive franchises for the provision of cable services. In order to eliminate the unreasonable barriers to entry into the cable market, and to encourage investment in broadband facilities, the FCC preempted local laws, regulations, and requirements, including local level-playing-field provisions, to the extent they impose greater restrictions on market entry than those adopted under the order. This order has the potential to benefit us by facilitating our ability to obtain and renew cable service franchises. On January 21, 2015, the FCC issued an *Order on Reconsideration of the Second Report and Order*. The Commission clarified that the franchising rules and findings it extended



to incumbent cable operators in the *2006 Order* do not apply to state laws governing cable television operators, or to any state-level cable franchising process.

Many state legislatures have enacted legislation streamlining the franchising process, including having the state, instead of local governments, issue franchises. Of particular relevance to us, states with new laws streamlining the franchising process or authorizing state-wide or uniform franchises include Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee. In some cases, these laws enable us to expand our operations more rapidly by providing for a streamlined franchising process. At the same time, they enable easier entry by additional providers into our service territories.

#### *Franchise Renewal*

Franchise renewal, or approval for the sale, transfer or assignment of a franchise, may involve the imposition of additional requirements not present in the initial franchise agreement. Franchise renewal is not guaranteed, but federal law imposes certain standards to prohibit the arbitrary denial of franchise renewal. Our franchises are typically issued for 10 to 15 year initial terms, but the terms do vary depending upon whether we are operating under a local or state franchise, and many of our existing franchise terms will expire over the course of the next several years. Still, we expect our franchises to be renewed by the relevant franchising authority. The 2006 Order discussed under “—Franchise Authority” above, as well as some state laws that regulate the issuance of state video franchises, reduce the potential for unreasonable conditions being imposed upon renewal.

#### *Pole Attachments*

The Communications Act requires all local telephone companies and electric utilities, except those owned by municipalities and co-operatives, to provide cable operators and telecommunications carriers with nondiscriminatory access to poles, ducts, conduit and rights-of-way at just and reasonable rates, except where states have certified to the FCC that they regulate pole access and pole attachment rates. The right to access poles, ducts, conduits and rights-of-way pursuant to regulated rates and set timeframes is highly beneficial to facilities-based providers such as us. Federal law also establishes principles to govern the pricing and terms of such access. Currently, 20 states and the District of Columbia have made certifications to the FCC, which leaves pole attachment matters to be regulated by those states. Of the states in which we operate, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio have made certifications to the FCC. The FCC has clarified that the provision of Internet services by a cable operator does not affect the agency’s jurisdiction over pole attachments by that cable operator, nor does the provision of such non-cable services affect the rate formula otherwise applicable to the cable operator. It is uncertain, however, how the Open Internet Order discussed below might impact our pole attachment rights and costs.

In April 2011, the FCC adopted an order that examined a number of issues involving access to pole attachments by telecommunications carriers, including the rights of ILECs to demand nondiscriminatory access in certain situations, and which attempted to bring the rates that cable operators and telecommunications carriers charge closer to parity. In November 2015, the FCC released another order taking further steps to balance the rates paid by cable operators and telecommunications carriers. Part of the order addresses some industry members’ concerns that pole attachment rates might increase sharply now that the FCC has reclassified broadband service as telecommunications service as discussed further below. The 2015 order may still be appealed by utility owners.

### *Internet service*

To date, the FCC has rejected requests by some Internet service providers to require cable operators to provide unaffiliated Internet service providers with direct access to the operators' broadband facilities. On December 23, 2010, the FCC adopted "net neutrality" rules requiring fixed and mobile providers of broadband Internet access to comply with certain disclosure and other rules designed to maximize consumer access to broadband services (the "Open Internet Order"). In summary, the rules impose obligations related to ensuring provider transparency and preventing unreasonable blocking and discrimination of content, applications or services. In general, the requirements, which took effect on November 20, 2011, permit reasonable network management practices by broadband providers. Challenges to the "net neutrality" rules, including the FCC's jurisdiction to adopt the rules, were filed in federal appellate court. On January 14, 2014, a D.C. Circuit panel struck down the portions of the FCC's 2010 Open Internet Order rules that had banned blocking or discriminatory treatment of web sites or other online applications by retail broadband Internet access providers such as incumbent telephone companies and cable operators (the "D.C. Circuit Order"). At the same time, the court approved the agency's requirement that broadband providers adequately disclose their policies regarding blocking and "network management" (that is, practices for avoiding network congestion, giving priority to some classes of traffic over others, etc.).

On February 26, 2015, the FCC announced that it reclassified broadband Internet access as a telecommunications service under Title II of the Communications Act (the "Open Internet Order"). The FCC announced that its Open Internet Order prohibits: (i) broadband providers from blocking access to legal content, applications, services, or non-harmful devices; (ii) broadband providers from impairing or degrading lawful Internet traffic on the basis of content, applications, services, or non-harmful devices; and (iii) broadband providers from favoring some lawful Internet traffic over other lawful traffic in exchange for consideration of any kind—in other words, no "fast lanes." This rule also bans ISPs such as us from prioritizing content and services of their affiliates. The FCC further announced that its Open Internet Order will require additional disclosure and network management practices, and will extend a number of the Title II regulatory requirements to broadband Internet access services.

It is unclear how the Open Internet Order may affect our business, but it is possible that the new rules imposed by the Order will increase our costs, impact our ability to provide service to our customers and adversely affect our profitability. The legality of the Open Internet Order has been challenged in court by a number of parties, but the rules are currently in effect (except for the expanded disclosure requirements, which will not become effective until they receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget).

### *Tier Buy-through*

The tier buy-through prohibition contained in the 1992 Cable Act generally prohibits cable operators from requiring subscribers to purchase a particular service tier, other than the basic service tier, in order to obtain access to video programming offered on a per-channel or per-program basis. In general, a cable television operator has the right to select the channels and services that are available on its cable system. With the exception of certain channels that are required to be carried by federal law as part of the basic tier, such as certain local broadcast television channels, the cable operator has broad discretion in choosing the channels that will be available and how those channels will be packaged and marketed to subscribers. In order to maximize the number of subscribers, the cable operator selects channels that are likely to appeal to a broad spectrum of viewers. If Congress or the FCC were to place more stringent requirements on how we package our services, such requirements could have an adverse effect on our profitability.

### *Potential Regulatory Changes*

The regulation of cable television systems at the federal, state and local levels has substantially changed over the past two decades since enactment of the 1992 Cable Act. Material additional changes in the law and implementing regulatory requirements, both those described above and others cannot be ascertained with any certainty at this time. Our business could be adversely affected by future changes in regulations.

### *Regulation of Telecommunication Services*

Our telecommunications services are subject to varying degrees of federal, state and local regulation. Pursuant to the Communications Act, as amended by the 1996 Act, the FCC generally exercises jurisdiction over the facilities of, and the services offered by, telecommunications carriers that provide interstate or international communications services. The FCC has extended many of its regulations that apply to traditional telecommunications service to Internet based, or interconnected VoIP phone services. Barring federal preemption, state regulatory authorities retain jurisdiction over the same facilities to the extent that they are used to provide intrastate communications services, as well as facilities solely used to provide intrastate services. Local regulation is largely limited to the management of the occupation and use of county or municipal public rights-of-way. Various international authorities may also seek to regulate the provision of certain services.

### *Regulation of Local Exchange Operations*

Our ILEC subsidiaries are regulated by both federal and state agencies. Our interstate products and services and the regulated telecommunications earnings of all of our subsidiaries are subject to federal regulation by the FCC, and our local and intrastate products and services and the regulated earnings are subject to regulation by state public service commissions (“PSC”). The FCC has principal jurisdiction over matters including, but not limited to, interstate switched and special access rates. The FCC also regulates the rates that ILECs and competitive local exchange carriers (“CLECs”) may charge for the use of their local networks in originating or terminating interstate and international transmissions. PSCs have jurisdiction over matters including local service rates, intrastate access rates and the quality of service.

The Communications Act places certain obligations, including those described below, on ILECs to open their networks to competitive providers, as well as heightened interconnection obligations and a duty to make their services available to resellers at a wholesale discount rate. The following are certain obligations that the Communications Act and the 1996 Act, as implemented by the FCC, place on ILECs, which gives us important rights in the areas where we operate as competitors, and actual or potential obligations where our ILEC subsidiaries operate:

- **Interconnection.** Establishes requirements and standards applicable to ILECs that receive requests from other carriers for network interconnection, unbundling of network elements, collocation of equipment and resale, and requires all LECs to enter into mutual compensation arrangements with other local exchange carriers (“LECs”) for transport and termination of local calls on each other’s networks.
- **Reciprocal Compensation.** Requires all ILECs and CLECs to complete calls originated by competing local exchange carriers under reciprocal arrangements at prices set by the FCC, PSCs or at negotiated prices.
- **Collocation of Equipment.** Allows CLECs to install and maintain their own network equipment in ILEC central offices.
- **Number Portability.** Requires all providers of telecommunications services, as well as providers of interconnected VoIP services, to permit users of telecommunications services to retain their

existing telephone numbers without impairment of quality, reliability or convenience when switching from one telecommunications provider to another. While number portability generally benefits our CLEC operations, it represents a burden to our ILEC subsidiaries.

- **Access to Rights-of-Way.** Requires telecommunications carriers to permit other carriers access to poles, ducts, conduits and rights-of-way at regulated prices and set time frames.

We have entered into PSC approved local interconnection agreements with a variety of telecom providers for, among other things, the transport and termination of our local telephone traffic. Some of these agreements have expired and we continue to operate on the same rates, terms, and conditions in the interim as we seek to enter into successor agreements. These agreements are subject to changes as a result of changes in laws and regulations, and there is no guarantee that the rates and terms concerning our interconnection agreements with ILECs under which we operate today will be available in the future.

#### *Inter-Carrier Compensation*

Our local exchange carrier subsidiaries currently receive compensation from other telecommunications providers, including long distance companies, for origination and termination of interexchange traffic through network access charges that are established in accordance with state and federal laws. Accordingly, we benefit from the receipt and termination of intrastate and interstate long distance traffic, though we also make payments to other telecommunications carriers when they terminate our telecommunications traffic. On November 18, 2011, the FCC released an order (the “IC Compensation Order”) substantially revising the inter-carrier compensation system, including intrastate and interstate access charges. As a result of this lengthy and complex order and the associated rule changes, which became effective on December 29, 2011, numerous changes to the inter-carrier compensation regime will be effectuated in the coming years, affecting all local exchange carriers. As of the effective date, all terminating interstate and intrastate access charge rates have been capped for all local exchange carriers, as well as interstate originating access charges. The IC Compensation Order also requires, as a general matter, that intrastate access charges for terminating traffic be brought into parity with interstate access charges by July 1, 2014, after which there will be a multi-year reduction in access rates to bill and keep (i.e., zero compensation) by July 1, 2017, 2018, or 2020, depending upon the specific situation and carrier. This decision and the associated rules are the subject of numerous petitions for reconsideration pending before the FCC and approximately one dozen petitions for review which have been consolidated before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. These petitions could take many months and even years to be resolved. At the same time, the FCC has initiated proceedings to further consider a number of other inter-carrier compensation matters, including whether originating access charges should be reduced or eliminated, how to handle rates for certain transport services, whether transit rates should be regulated (i.e. rates when one local exchange carrier acts in a transiting capacity between two other carriers that exchange traffic but are not directly connected), and whether IP-IP interconnection should be regulated or left to the marketplace. Revenue arising out of inter-carrier compensation when we terminate traffic will decline as the order and the associated rules are implemented, as will the payments that we must make to other carriers.

Despite the foregoing action by the FCC regarding intrastate access charges, state regulatory commissions may impose additional requirements that require us to reduce our current rates for intrastate access charges or allow us to expend additional funds to develop and file cost studies in order to attempt to secure state approval to maintain higher access charge rates. Such developments could result in a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Several of our subsidiaries are classified by the FCC as non-dominant carriers with respect to both interstate and international long-distance services and competitive local exchange services. As

non-dominant carriers, these subsidiaries' rates presently are not generally regulated by the FCC, although the rates are still subject to general statutory requirements applicable to all carriers that the rates be just, reasonable and nondiscriminatory. We may file tariffs for interstate access charges for these carriers on a permissive basis, but otherwise our interstate services are mandatorily detariffed and subject to our ability to enter into relationships with our customers through contracts. Our interstate access services are tariffed and fall within FCC-established benchmarks for such services.

Certain of our subsidiaries are regulated by the FCC as dominant carriers in the provision of interstate switched access services. These subsidiaries must file tariffs with the FCC and must provide the FCC with notice prior to changing their rates, terms or conditions of interstate access services. Each such subsidiary has filed its own tariff or concurred in the tariffs filed by the National Exchange Carrier Association.

#### *Regulatory Treatment of VoIP Services*

A significant part of our telephony line of business is classified by the FCC as VoIP. At this time, the FCC and state regulators have not classified most IP-enabled services as regulated telecommunications services. The FCC, for example, has found that a provider of "interconnected VoIP" services is providing telecommunications for purposes of some of its rules applicable to traditional circuit switched telephone providers, but has yet to issue a ruling determining whether interconnected VoIP providers are to be regulated as providers of information services or telecommunications services. The FCC initiated a rulemaking proceeding in 2004 to examine issues relating to the appropriate regulatory classification of IP-enabled services, including VoIP services. We cannot predict when or if the FCC will issue a final decision in this proceeding, though it has issued several decisions in the interim applying regulatory requirements to providers of interconnected VoIP services. These requirements include regulations relating to federal universal service contributions, the confidentiality of customer data and communications, copyright issues, taxation of services, cooperation with law enforcement, licensing, outage reporting, 911 emergency access and disability access. Within our VoIP line of business, we currently comply with all applicable regulations that have been issued by the FCC or state regulatory agencies. Decisions and regulations from similar proceedings in the future could lead to an increase in the costs associated with providing VoIP services. At this time, we are unable to predict the impact, if any, that additional regulatory action on these issues will have on our business.

As an integral part of the IC Compensation Order, the FCC adopted, for the first time, a regulatory framework specifically addressing compensation for traffic that originates or terminates in Internet protocol and also traverses the public switched telephone network ("PSTN"). Specifically, the FCC adopted a rule that provides, as a general matter, that VoIP providers may assess the equivalent of interstate switched access charges for traffic that is exchanged in time division multiplex format and which originates and/or terminates in Internet protocol format, whether the traffic originates or terminates in the same state or in different states. Because a significant amount of our telephone traffic is considered VoIP under the FCC's definition, this traffic is now afforded unambiguous status in this regard for the first time. The new FCC framework also defines what other carriers may charge our VoIP traffic for access services, and, in general, those rates are largely reciprocal for the majority of our traffic. We have modified our federal and state tariffs to implement the new rules. However, there are petitions for reconsideration on file with the FCC and petitions for review before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit which may affect our ability to charge for such traffic and our obligation to pay others for originating or terminating such traffic of our customers.

#### *Universal Service*

The Federal Universal Service Fund ("USF") is the support mechanism established by the FCC to ensure that high quality, affordable telecommunications service is available to all Americans. Pursuant

to the FCC's universal service rules, all telecommunications providers and interconnected VoIP providers, including us, must contribute a percentage of their interstate and international telecommunications revenues to the USF. The FCC establishes an industry-wide quarterly contribution factor, which sets the exact percentage that applies for the given quarter. The contribution factor for the fourth quarter of 2015 was 16.7% of gross assessable interstate and international telecommunications revenues. The contribution rate is reviewed quarterly and may increase or decrease, which would either increase or decrease our contributions to the USF. This is not materially adverse to our business as we currently choose to recover the cost of the contributions from our end user customers. However, climbing USF contributions may negatively impact our end users because they effectively make our products more expensive. The FCC has recently indicated its intent to cap increases on this fund in the context of the ICC order referenced above, but whether or not the contribution factor decreases over time remains to be seen.

#### *Forbearance and Other Relief to Dominant Carriers*

The Communications Act permits the FCC to forbear from requiring telecommunications carriers to comply with certain of its regulations and provisions of the Communications Act if certain conditions are present that make enforcement of the regulations or statutory provisions unnecessary. Future reduction or elimination of federal regulatory and statutory requirements could free us from regulatory burdens, but might also increase the relative flexibility of our major competitors. The FCC has certain petitions for forbearance pending before it, including a petition filed by USTelecom in December 2011 seeking to have the FCC forbear from enforcing a number of traditional regulatory and statutory common carrier requirements against incumbent ILECs. As a result of grants of forbearance, our costs (and those of our competitors) of purchasing broadband services from carriers could increase significantly, as the rates, terms and conditions offered in non-tariffed "commercial agreements" may become less favorable and we may not be able to purchase services from alternative vendors.

#### *Multiple Tenant Properties*

The FCC has prohibited telecommunications carriers from entering into exclusive access agreements (or enforcing pre-existing exclusive arrangements) with building owners or managers in both commercial and residential multi-tenant environments. The FCC has also adopted rules requiring utilities (including LECs) to provide telecommunications carriers (and cable operators) with reasonable and non-discriminatory access to utility-owned or -controlled conduits and rights-of-way in all multiple tenant environments (e.g., apartment buildings, office buildings and campuses) in those states where the state government has not certified to the FCC that it regulates utility pole attachments and rights-of-way matters. These requirements may facilitate our access (as well as the access of competitors) to customers in multi-tenant environments, at least with regard to our provision of telecommunications services.

In an Order released November 13, 2007, the FCC found that contractual agreements between multiple dwelling unit (MDU) owners and cable operators that grant exclusive access to the cable operator are proscribed as "unfair methods of competition." Under the rule, the Commission prohibits the enforcement of *existing* exclusivity clauses and the execution of *new* ones by cable operators and others subject to the relevant statutory provisions. MDUs include a multiple dwelling unit building (such as an apartment building, condominium building or cooperative) and any other centrally managed residential real estate development (such as a gated community, mobile home park, or garden apartment). These requirements may facilitate our access (as well as the access of competitors) to customers in MDU environments, at least with regard to our provision of cable services. They also, however, invalidate any of our existing exclusive access agreements covered by the rules.

### *Customer Proprietary Network Information and Personally Identifiable Information*

We are subject to specific customer privacy obligations with respect to our telecommunications and cable services. FCC rules protect the privacy of certain information about customers that telecommunications providers, including us, acquire in the course of providing telecommunications services. Such protected information, known as Customer Proprietary Network Information (“CPNI”), includes information related to the quantity, technological configuration, type, destination and the amount of use of a telecommunications offering. Certain states have also adopted state-specific CPNI rules. The FCC’s rules require affected providers to implement policies to notify customers of their rights, take reasonable precautions to protect CPNI, notify law enforcement agencies if a breach of CPNI occurs, and file a certification with the FCC stating that its policies and procedures ensure compliance. If a federal or state regulatory body determines that we have breached the applicable regulations or implemented the FCC’s requirements incorrectly, we could be subject to fines or penalties. Additionally, the FCC is considering whether supplemental security measures should be adopted to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of sensitive customer information held by telecommunications companies.

The Federal Cable Act also requires that we protect the privacy of our cable television customers. In general, the Act: (i) requires that cable operators such as us notify customers of our obligations and their privacy rights; and (ii) prohibits cable operators from: (a) disclosing cable customer personally identifiable information (PII) without customer consent, or a court order, except in limited situations; and (b) using the cable system to collect PII without customer consent, unless necessary to provide service or prevent theft of service. The Act specifically provides our customers with the right to bring legal action against us if we fail to comply with the statutory requirements.

### *Taxes and Regulatory Fees*

We are subject to numerous local, state and federal taxes and regulatory fees, including, but not limited to, local sales taxes, franchise fees and PEG fees, FCC regulatory fees and PSC regulatory fees. We have procedures in place to ensure that we properly collect taxes and fees from our customers and remit such taxes and fees to the appropriate entity pursuant to applicable law and/or regulation. If our collection procedures prove to be insufficient or if a taxing, franchise or regulatory authority determines that our remittances were inadequate, we could be required to make additional payments, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

### *Environmental Regulation*

We are subject to a variety of federal, state, and local environmental, safety and health laws, and regulations governing matters such as the generation, storage, handling, use, and transportation of hazardous materials, the emission and discharge of hazardous materials into the atmosphere, the emission of electromagnetic radiation, the protection of wetlands, historic sites and endangered species, and the health and safety of employees. We also may be subject to laws requiring the investigation and cleanup of contamination at sites we own or operate or at third-party waste disposal sites. Such laws often impose liability even if the owner or operator did not know of, or was not responsible for, the contamination. We operate several sites in connection with our operations. Our switch sites and some customer premise locations are equipped with back-up power sources in the event of an electrical failure. Each of our switch site locations has battery and diesel fuel powered backup generators, and we use batteries to back-up some of our customer premise equipment. We believe that we currently are in compliance with the relevant federal, state, and local requirements in all material respects, and we are not aware of any liability or alleged liability at any operated sites or third-party waste disposal sites that would be expected to have a material adverse effect on us.

## Franchises

As described above, cable television systems generally are constructed and operated under the authority of nonexclusive franchises, granted by local and/or state governmental authorities. Cable system franchises typically contain many conditions, such as time limitations on commencement and completion of system construction, customer service standards including number of channels, the provision of free service to schools and certain other public institutions, the maintenance of insurance and indemnity bonds, the payment of franchise fees and the support of PEG channels. We are currently in the process of renegotiating a small number of expired franchises. We anticipate that those franchises will be renewed. Local regulation of cable television operations and franchising matters is currently subject to federal regulation under the Communications Act and the corresponding regulations of the FCC. The FCC has taken recent steps toward streamlining the franchising process. See “—Legislation and Regulation—Regulation of Cable Services” above.

Prior to the scheduled expiration of franchises, we may initiate renewal proceedings with the relevant franchising authorities. The Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 provides for an orderly franchise renewal process in which the franchising authorities may not unreasonably deny renewals. If a renewal is withheld and the franchising authority takes over operation of the affected cable system or awards the franchise to another party, the franchising authority must pay the cable operator the “fair market value” of the system. The Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 also established comprehensive renewal procedures requiring that the renewal application be evaluated on its own merit and not as part of a comparative process with other proposals.

## Corporate Information

WideOpenWest Finance, LLC was founded in 2001 and is a Delaware limited liability company. WOW’s principal executive offices are located at 7887 East Belleview Avenue, Suite 1000, Englewood, Colorado 80111. WOW’s telephone number is (720) 479-3500. WOW’s website can be found on the Internet at [www.wowway.com](http://www.wowway.com).

## Item 1A. Risk Factors

### RISK FACTORS

*The material risks and uncertainties that we believe affect our business are described below. These risks and uncertainties may not be the only ones we face. Additional risks and uncertainties that we are not aware of or focused on, or risks currently deemed immaterial, may also impair business operations. You should consider carefully the risks and uncertainties described below together with all of the other information included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, including our consolidated financial statements and related notes. If any of the risks and uncertainties described below actually occurs, our business, financial condition, operating results or liquidity could be materially adversely affected.*

***We face a wide range of competition, which could negatively affect our business and financial results.***

Our industry is, and will continue to be, highly competitive. Some of our principal residential services competitors, including other cable and local telephone companies, offer services that provide features and functions comparable to the residential high-speed data, video, and/or telephony that we offer, and these competitors offer these services in bundles similar to ours. In most of our markets, cable competitors have invested in their networks and are able to offer a product suite which is comparable to ours. In addition, in some of our operating areas, AT&T, Verizon or other incumbent telephone providers have upgraded their networks to carry two-way video, high-speed data with substantial bandwidth and IP-based telephony services, which they market and sell in bundles, in some cases, along with their wireless services. Consequently, there are more than two providers of “triple-play” services in some of our markets.



In addition, each of our residential services faces competition from other companies that provide residential services on a stand-alone basis. Our residential video service faces competition from other cable and direct broadcast satellite providers that seek to distinguish their services from ours by offering aggressive promotional pricing, exclusive programming, and/or assertions of superior service or offerings. Increasingly, our residential video service also faces competition from companies that deliver content to consumers over the Internet and on mobile devices, some without charging a fee for access to the content. This trend could negatively impact customer demand for our residential video service, especially premium channels and VOD services, and could encourage content owners to seek higher license fees from us in order to subsidize their free distribution of content. Our residential high-speed data and telephony services also face competition from wireless Internet and voice providers, and our residential voice service faces competition from other cable providers, “over-the-top” phone service and other communication alternatives, including texting, social networking and email. In recent years, a trend known as “wireless substitution” has developed whereby certain customers have chosen to utilize a wireless telephone service as their sole phone provider. We expect this trend to continue in the future.

We also compete across each of our commercial high-speed data, networking and telephony services with ILECs, CLECs and other cable companies.

Any inability to compete effectively or an increase in competition could have an adverse effect on our financial results and return on capital expenditures due to possible increases in the cost of gaining and retaining subscribers and lower per subscriber revenue, could slow or cause a decline in our growth rates and could reduce our revenue. As we expand and introduce new and enhanced services, we may be subject to competition from other providers of those services. We cannot predict the extent to which this competition will affect our future business and financial results or return on capital expenditures.

In addition, future advances in technology, as well as changes in the marketplace, in the economy and in the regulatory and legislative environments, may also result in changes to the competitive landscape.

***Many of our competitors are larger than we are and possess more resources than we do.***

The industry in which we operate is highly competitive and has become more so in recent years. In some instances, we compete against companies with fewer regulatory burdens, better access to financing, greater personnel resources, greater resources for marketing, greater and more favorable brand name recognition, and long-established relationships with regulatory authorities and customers. Increasing consolidation in the cable industry and the repeal of certain ownership rules have provided additional benefits to certain of our competitors, either through access to financing, resources or efficiencies of scale.

In providing video service, we currently compete with Bright House, Charter, Comcast, Mediacom, Time Warner, Cox, AT&T and Verizon. We also compete with satellite television providers, including DIRECTV and EchoStar. Satellite television providers typically offer local broadcast television stations, which further reduces our current advantage over satellite television providers and our ability to attract and maintain customers.

In providing local and long-distance telephone services and data services, we compete with the incumbent local phone company in each of our markets as well as other cable providers in our markets. AT&T, CenturyLink, Frontier, United Telephone Company and Verizon are the primary ILECs in our targeted region. They offer both local and long-distance services in our markets and are particularly strong competitors. We seek to attract customers away from other telephone companies, and cable television service operators offering telephone services with Internet-based telephony. Cable operators offering voice services and data services in our markets increase competition for our bundled services.

***We face risks relating to competition for the leisure and entertainment time of audiences, which has intensified in part due to advances in technology.***

Our business is subject to risks relating to increasing competition for the leisure and entertainment time of consumers. Our business competes with all other sources of entertainment and information delivery. Technological advancements, such as new video formats and Internet streaming and downloading, many of which have been beneficial to our business, have nonetheless increased the number of entertainment and information delivery choices available to consumers and have intensified the challenges posed by audience fragmentation. Increasingly, content owners are delivering their content directly to consumers over the Internet, often without charging any fee for access to the content. Furthermore, due to consumer electronics innovations, consumers are more readily able to watch such Internet-delivered content on television sets and mobile devices. The increasing number of choices available to audiences could negatively impact not only consumer demand for our products and services, but also advertisers' willingness to purchase advertising from us. If we do not respond appropriately to the increasing leisure and entertainment choices available to consumers, our competitive position could deteriorate, which could adversely affect our operations, business, financial condition or results of operations.

***A prolonged economic downturn, especially any downturn in the housing market, may negatively impact our ability to attract new subscribers and generate increased revenues.***

We are exposed to risks associated with prevailing economic conditions, which could adversely impact demand for our products and services and have a negative impact on our financial results. In addition, the global financial markets have continued to display uncertainty, and the equity and credit markets have experienced extreme volatility, which could cause already weak economic conditions to worsen. A continuation or further weakening of these economic conditions could lead to further reductions in consumer demand for our services, especially premium video services and enhanced features, such as DVRs, and a continued increase in the number of homes that replace their wireline telephone service with wireless service or "over-the-top" phone service and their video service with Internet-delivered and/or over-air content, which would negatively impact our ability to attract customers, maintain or increase rates and maintain or increase revenue. The expanded availability of free or lower cost competitive services, such as video streaming over the Internet, or substitute services, such as wireless phones, may further reduce consumer demand for our services during periods of weak economic conditions. In addition, providing video services is an established and highly penetrated business. Our ability to gain new video subscribers is partially dependent on growth in occupied housing in our service areas, which is influenced by both national and local economic conditions. If the number of occupied homes in our operating areas declines and/or the number of home foreclosures significantly increases, we may be unable to maintain or increase the number of our video subscribers.

***Our future growth is partially dependent upon our edge-out strategy, which may or may not be successful.***

We are strategically focused on driving growth by constructing additional cable networks in order to sell our products and services within communities which we do not currently serve. Generally, residents and enterprises within these communities can already purchase a bundled triple-play offering from other providers, or purchase high-speed data, video and telephony services from other operators on an *à la carte* basis. Therefore, we are expanding into competitive environments. This effort requires considerable financial and management resources, including reducing the near-term cash generation profile of our business. Additionally, we must obtain pole attachment agreements, franchises, construction permits, telephone numbers and other regulatory approvals to commence operations in these communities. Delays in entering into pole attachment agreements, receiving the necessary franchises and construction permits and conducting the construction itself have adversely affected our scheduled construction plans in the past and could do so again in the future. Difficulty in obtaining

numbering resources may also adversely affect our ability to expand into new markets. We may face resistance from competitors who are already in markets we wish to enter. If our expectations regarding our ability to attract customers in these communities are not met, the capital requirements to complete the network investment or the time required to attract our expected level of customers are incorrect, our financial performance may suffer.

***The demand for our bundled broadband communications services may be lower than we expect.***

The demand for high-speed data, video and telephony services, either alone or as part of a bundle, cannot readily be determined. Our business could be adversely affected if demand for bundled broadband communications services is materially lower than we expect. Our ability to generate revenue will suffer if the markets for the services we offer, including telephony and high-speed data services, fail to develop, grow more slowly than anticipated or become saturated with competitors.

***Our future growth is partially dependent upon a commercial services strategy, which may or may not be successful.***

One of the elements of our growth strategy is to execute upon a meaningful expansion in the commercial services market. However, there is significant competition in commercial services including significantly larger and better capitalized competitors. We may not be able to successfully compete with these competitors or be able to make the operational or financial investments necessary to successfully to serve the targeted customer base.

***Our business is characterized by rapid technological change, and if we do not respond appropriately to technological changes, our competitive position may be harmed.***

We operate in a highly competitive, consumer-driven, rapidly changing environment and our success is, to a large extent, dependent on our ability to acquire, develop, adopt and exploit new and existing technologies to distinguish our services from those of our competitors. We have invested in advanced technology platforms that support advanced communications services and multiple emerging interactive services, such as VOD, DVR, interactive television, IP Centrex services and pure fiber network services. If we choose technologies or equipment that are less effective, cost-efficient or attractive to our customers than those chosen by our competitors, or if we offer services that fail to appeal to consumers, are not available at competitive prices or that do not function as expected, our competitive position could deteriorate, and our business and financial results could suffer. In addition, we may be required to select one technology over another and may not choose the technology that is the most economic, efficient or attractive to customers. We may also encounter difficulties in implementing new technologies, products and services and may encounter disruptions in service as a result.

The ability of our competitors to acquire or develop and introduce new technologies, products and services more quickly than us may adversely affect our competitive position. Furthermore, advances in technology, decreases in the cost of existing technologies or changes in competitors' product and service offerings also may require us to make additional future research and development expenditures or to offer at no additional charge, or at a lower price, certain products and services that we currently offer to customers separately or at a premium. In addition, the uncertainty of the costs for obtaining intellectual property rights from third parties could impact our ability to respond to technological advances in a timely manner.

***Increases in programming and retransmission costs or the inability to obtain popular programming could adversely affect our operations, business, financial condition or results of operations.***

Programming has been our largest single operating expense. In recent years, the cable industry has experienced rapid increases in the cost of cable programming, retransmission consent charges for local commercial television broadcast stations and regional sports programming. We expect these trends to continue. As compared to large national providers, our relatively modest base of subscribers limits our ability to negotiate lower programming costs. In addition, as we increase the channel capacity of our systems and add programming to our expanded basic and digital programming tiers, we may face additional market constraints on our ability to pass programming cost increases on to our customers. Furthermore, content providers may be unwilling to enter into distribution arrangements on acceptable terms and owners of non-broadcast video programming content may enter into exclusive distribution arrangements with our competitors. Any inability to pass programming cost increases on to our customers would have an adverse impact on our gross profit and a failure to carry programming that is attractive to our subscribers could adversely impact subscription and advertising revenues.

***Changes in broadcast carriage regulations could impose significant additional costs on us.***

Federal “must carry” rules require us to carry some local broadcast television signals on our cable systems that we might not otherwise carry. If the FCC seeks to revise or expand the “must carry” rules, for example by requiring carriage of multicast signals, we would be forced to carry video programming that we would not otherwise carry, potentially drop more popular programming in order to free capacity for the required programming, decrease our ability to manage our bandwidth efficiently and/or increase our costs, which could make us less competitive. As a result, cable operators, including us, could be placed at a disadvantage versus other multichannel video providers. Potential federal legislation regarding programming packaging, bundling or *à la carte* delivery of programming could fundamentally change the way in which we package and price our services. We cannot predict the outcome of any current or future FCC proceedings or legislation in this area, or the impact of such proceedings on our business at this time.

***Programming exclusivity in favor of our competitors could adversely affect the demand for our video services.***

We obtain our programming by entering into contracts or arrangements with programming suppliers. Federal rules restrict cable operators and other multichannel video programming distributors from entering into certain exclusive programming arrangements. A programming supplier, however, could enter into an exclusive arrangement, consistent with these rules, with one of our video competitors that could create a competitive advantage for that competitor by restricting our access to this programming. If our ability to offer popular programming on our cable television systems is restricted by exclusive arrangements between our competitors and programming suppliers, the demand for our video services may be adversely affected and our cost to obtain programming may increase.

***We may not be able to obtain necessary hardware, software and operational support.***

We depend on third-party suppliers and licensors to supply some of the hardware, software and operational support necessary to provide our services. Some of these vendors represent our sole source of supply or have, either through contract or as a result of intellectual property rights, a position of some exclusivity. If demand exceeds these vendors’ capacity, they experience operating or financial difficulties, they significantly increase the amount we pay for necessary products or services, or they cease production of any necessary product due to lack of demand, our ability to provide some services may be materially adversely affected. Any of these events could materially and adversely affect our ability to retain and attract subscribers, and have a material negative impact on our operations, business, financial condition or results of operations.

***Loss of interconnection arrangements could impair our telephone service.***

We rely on other companies to connect the calls made by our local telephone customers to the customers of other local telephone providers. These calls are completed because our network is interconnected with the networks of other telecommunications carriers. These interconnection arrangements are mandated by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the “Communications Act”), and the FCC’s implementing regulations. It is generally expected that the Communications Act will continue to undergo considerable interpretation and modification, including the FCC’s potential forbearance from continuing to enforce carriers’ statutory and regulatory interconnection obligations, which could have a negative impact on our interconnection agreements. It is also possible that further amendments to the Communications Act may be enacted, which could have a negative impact on our interconnection agreements. The contractual arrangements for interconnection and access to unbundled network elements with incumbent carriers generally contain provisions for incorporation of changes in governing law. Thus, future FCC, state PSC and/or court decisions may negatively impact the rates, terms and conditions of the interconnection services that we have obtained and may seek to obtain under these agreements, which could adversely affect our operations, business, financial condition or results of operations. Our ability to compete successfully in the provision of services will depend on the nature and timing of any such legislative changes, regulations and interpretations and whether they are favorable to us or to our competitors.

***We receive support from various funds established under federal and state law and the continued receipt of that support is not assured.***

We receive payments from various federal or state universal service support programs. These include interstate common line support and Lifeline and Schools and Libraries programs within the Federal USF program, as well as similar state universal support programs. The total cost of all of the various USF programs has increased greatly in recent years, putting pressure on regulators to reform those programs, and to limit both eligibility and support flows. In addition, we receive traffic termination payments from other carriers based upon rates established by various regulatory bodies. These rates may be subject to meaningful reductions due to ongoing rate reform efforts being led by the FCC. Our ability to receive state support program funds is also subject to the determination of certain PSCs. Adverse decisions by those PSCs may reduce our ability to access those funds.

In November 2011, the FCC adopted an order reforming core parts of the USF and that also broadly recast the existing intercarrier compensation (“ICC”) scheme. The order, which became effective December 29, 2011, established the Connect America Fund (“CAF”) to replace support revenues provided by the current USF and redirects support from voice services to broadband services. Beginning in 2012, we expect the order to impact the amount of support revenue we receive from USF, CAF and the ICC scheme. Some of these impacts may be greater in the early years of the transition. The order also broadly alters the manner in which affected companies will have to operate their businesses. The order is currently subject to both reconsideration and appeal. Further regulatory actions on these issues may have a material impact on our consolidated financial position and our results of operations in future periods. The impact of the order on our business cannot be fully determined at this time.

In February 2016, the FCC began internally circulating a draft of the long-anticipated order reforming universal service for rate-of-return carriers. It is our understanding that this draft focuses on alternatives to the CAF along with a phased approach to decreasing the rate of return that carriers can earn. We cannot anticipate the changes that may occur during circulation and, therefore, the impact of the order on our business cannot be fully determined at this time.

***Our exposure to the credit risks of our customers, vendors and third parties could adversely affect our operations, business, financial condition and results of operations.***

We are exposed to risks associated with the potential financial instability of our customers, many of whom may be adversely affected by the general economic downturn. Dramatic declines in the housing market in recent years, including falling home prices and increasing foreclosures, together with significant unemployment, have affected consumer confidence and may cause increased delinquencies in payment or cancellations of services by our customers, or lead to unfavorable changes in the mix of products our customers purchase. The general economic downturn also may affect advertising sales as companies seek to reduce expenditures and conserve cash. Any of these events may adversely affect our operations, business, financial condition or results of operations.

In addition, we are susceptible to risks associated with the potential financial instability of the vendors and third parties on which we rely to provide products and services, or to which we delegate certain functions. A general economic downturn, as well as volatility and disruption in the capital and credit markets, also could adversely affect vendors and third parties and lead to significant increases in prices, reduction in output or the bankruptcy of our vendors or third parties upon which we rely. Any interruption in the services provided by our vendors or by third parties could adversely affect our operations, business, financial condition or results of operations.

***Historically, we have made several acquisitions, and we may make more acquisitions in the future as part of our growth strategy. Future acquisitions or joint ventures could strain our business and resources. In addition, we may not be able to identify suitable acquisitions.***

If we acquire existing companies or networks or enter into joint ventures, we may:

- miscalculate the value of the acquired company or joint venture;
- divert resources and management time;
- experience difficulties in integrating the acquired business or joint venture with our operations;
- experience relationship issues, such as with customers, employees and suppliers as a result of changes in management;
- incur additional liabilities or obligations as a result of the acquisition or joint venture; and
- assume additional financial burdens in connection with the transaction.

Additionally, ongoing consolidation in our industry may reduce the number of attractive acquisition targets. Our failure to successfully identify and consummate acquisitions or to manage and integrate the acquisitions we make could adversely affect our operations, business, financial condition or results of operation.

***We could be negatively impacted by future interpretation or implementation of regulations or legislation.***

Our video and telephony services are subject to extensive regulation at the federal, state and local levels. In addition, the federal government has extended regulation to high-speed data services. We are also subject to regulation of our video services relating to rates, equipment, technologies, programming, levels and types of services, taxes and other charges. The current telecommunications and cable legislation and regulations are complex and in many areas set forth policy objectives to be implemented by regulation at the federal, state and local levels. It is generally expected that the Communications Act and implementing regulations and decisions, as well as applicable state laws and regulations, will continue to undergo considerable interpretation and modification. From time to time, federal legislation, FCC and PSC decisions, and court decisions interpreting legislation, FCC or PSC decisions, are made that can affect our business. We cannot predict the timing or the future financial impact of

legislation or administrative decisions. Our ability to compete successfully will depend on the nature and timing of any such legislative changes, regulations or interpretations, and whether they are favorable to us or to our competitors.

***“Net neutrality” legislation or regulation could limit our ability to operate our high-speed data service business profitably and to manage our broadband facilities efficiently.***

On December 21, 2010, the FCC adopted an “Open Internet Order” imposing net neutrality obligations on broadband Internet access providers. The new “Open Internet” rules, which became effective on November 20, 2011, are based on the principles of (1) transparency, (2) no blocking and (3) no unreasonable discrimination, and are applicable to fixed and wireless broadband Internet access providers to different extents. Under the new rules, fixed and wireless broadband Internet access providers are required to make their practices transparent to both consumers and providers of Internet content, services, applications and devices on both their website and at the point-of-sale. In addition, subject to “reasonable network management,” fixed broadband Internet access providers are prohibited from blocking lawful content, applications, services and non-harmful devices, and from engaging in unreasonable discrimination in transmitting lawful traffic. Verizon and other parties filed for additional FCC review, and filed an appeal challenging the FCC’s authority to issue such rules, which was heard by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. On January 14, 2014, a D.C. Circuit panel struck down the portions of the FCC’s 2010 Open Internet Order rules that had banned blocking or discriminatory treatment of web sites or other online applications by retail broadband Internet access providers such as incumbent telephone companies and cable operators (the “D.C. Circuit Order”). At the same time, the court approved the agency’s requirement that broadband providers adequately disclose their policies regarding blocking and “network management” (that is, practices for avoiding network congestion, giving priority to some classes of traffic over others, etc.).

On February 26, 2015, the FCC announced that it reclassified broadband Internet access as a telecommunications service under Title II of the Communications Act (the “Open Internet Order”). The FCC announced that its Open Internet Order prohibits: (i) broadband providers from blocking access to legal content, applications, services, or non-harmful devices; (ii) broadband providers from impairing or degrading lawful Internet traffic on the basis of content, applications, services, or non-harmful devices; and (iii) broadband providers from favoring some lawful Internet traffic over other lawful traffic in exchange for consideration of any kind—in other words, no “fast lanes.” This rule also bans ISPs such as us from prioritizing content and services of their affiliates. The FCC further announced that its Open Internet Order will require additional disclosure and network management practices and will extend a number of the Title II regulatory requirements to broadband Internet access services.

If the Open Internet Order survives legal challenge and remains unmodified by future legislation, the new rules imposed by the Order may increase our costs, impact our ability to provide service to our customers and adversely affect our profitability.

***Regulation may limit our ability to make required investments or adopt business models that are needed to continue to provide robust high-speed data service.***

The rising popularity of bandwidth-intensive Internet-based services increases the demand for, and usage of, our high-speed data service. Examples of such services include the delivery of video via streaming technology and by download, peer-to-peer file sharing services and gaming services. We need flexibility to develop pricing and business models that will allow us to respond to changing consumer uses and demands and, if necessary, to invest more capital than currently expected to increase the bandwidth capacity of our systems. Our ability to do so could be restricted by legislative or regulatory efforts to impose “net neutrality” requirements on cable operators.

***Offering telephony service may subject us to additional regulatory burdens, causing us to incur additional costs.***

We offer telephony services over our broadband network and continue to develop and deploy VoIP services. The FCC has ruled that competitive telephone companies that support VoIP services, such as those we offer our customers, are entitled to interconnect with incumbent providers of traditional telecommunications services, which ensure that our VoIP services can compete in the telephony market. The FCC has also declared that certain VoIP services are not subject to traditional state public utility regulation. The full extent of the FCC preemption of state and local regulation of VoIP services is not yet clear. Expanding our offering of these services may require us to obtain certain additional authorizations. We may not be able to obtain such authorizations in a timely manner, or conditions could be imposed upon such licenses or authorizations that may not be favorable to us. Telecommunications companies generally are subject to other significant regulation which could also be extended to VoIP providers. If additional telecommunications regulations are applied to our VoIP service, it could cause us to incur additional costs. The FCC has already extended certain traditional telecommunications carrier requirements, such as 911 emergency calling, USF collection, Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act, privacy, customer proprietary network information, number porting, disability and discontinuance of service requirements to many VoIP providers such as us. On November 18, 2011, the FCC released an order significantly changing the rules governing intercarrier compensation payments for the origination and termination of telephone traffic between carriers. The new rules may result in a substantial decrease in intercarrier compensation payments over a multi-year period. The decreases over the multi-year transition will affect both the amounts that we pay to other carriers and the amounts that we receive from other carriers. The schedule and magnitude of these decreases, however, will vary depending on the nature of the carriers and the telephone traffic at issue and if the FCC's new ruling initiates further implementation rulemakings. We cannot yet predict with certainty the balance of the impact on our revenues and expenses for telephony services at particular times over this multi-year period.

***Rate regulation could materially adversely impact our operations, business, financial results or financial condition.***

Under current FCC rules, rates for basic service tier ("BST") video service and associated equipment may be regulated where there is no effective competition. Under current FCC rules, cable operators are presumed to be subject to effective competition. In all of the communities we serve, we are not subject to BST video rate regulation, either because the local franchising authority has not asked the FCC for permission to regulate rates due to the lack of effective competition or because of the presumed presence of effective competition. Except for telephony services provided by our operating companies that are ILECs (which are subject to certain rate regulations), there is currently no rate regulation for our other services, including high-speed data and non-ILEC telephony services. It is possible, however, that the FCC or Congress will adopt more extensive rate regulation for our video services or regulate the rates of other services, such as high-speed data and telephony services, which could impede our ability to raise rates, or require rate reductions, and therefore could adversely affect our operations, business, financial condition or results of operation.

***We operate our network under franchises that are subject to non renewal or termination.***

Our network generally operates pursuant to franchises, permits or licenses typically granted by a municipality or state agency with the authority to grant franchises. Additionally, other state or local governmental entities may exercise control over the use of public rights-of-way. Often, franchises are terminable if the franchisee fails to comply with material terms of the franchise order or the local franchise authority's regulations. Although none of our existing franchise or license agreements have been terminated, and we have received no threat of such a termination, one or more local authorities



may attempt to take such action. We may not prevail in any judicial or regulatory proceeding to resolve such a dispute.

Further, franchises generally have fixed terms and must be renewed periodically. Local franchising authorities may resist granting a renewal if they consider either past performance or the prospective operating proposal to be inadequate. In a number of jurisdictions, local authorities have attempted to impose rights-of-way fees on providers that have been challenged as violating federal law. A number of FCC and judicial decisions have addressed the issues posed by the imposition of rights-of-way fees on CLECs and on video distributors. To date, the state of the law is uncertain and may remain so for some time. We may become subject to future obligations to pay local rights-of-way fees that are excessive or discriminatory.

The local franchising authorities can grant franchises to competitors who may build networks in our market areas. Recent FCC decisions facilitate competitive video entry by limiting the actions that local franchising authorities may take when reviewing applications by new competitors and lessen some of the burdens that can be imposed upon incumbent cable operators with which we ourselves compete. Local franchise authorities have the ability to impose regulatory constraints or requirements on our business, including those that could materially increase our expenses. In the past, local franchise authorities have imposed regulatory constraints on the construction of our network either by local ordinance or as part of the process of granting or renewing a franchise. They have also imposed requirements on the level of customer service that we provide, as well as other requirements. The local franchise authorities in our markets may also impose regulatory constraints or requirements that may be found to be consistent with applicable law, but which could increase the cost of operating our business.

***Our business may be adversely affected by the application of certain regulatory obligations governing the intellectual property rights of third parties or if we cannot continue to license or enforce the intellectual property rights on which our business depends.***

We rely on patent, copyright, trademark and trade secret laws and licenses that are proprietary to our business, as well as our key vendors, along with other agreements with our employees, customers, suppliers and other parties, to establish and maintain our intellectual property rights in technology and the products and services used in our operations. However, any of our intellectual property rights could be challenged or invalidated, or such intellectual property rights may not be sufficient to permit us to take advantage of current industry trends or otherwise to provide competitive advantages, which could result in costly redesign efforts, discontinuance of certain product or service offerings or other competitive harm. Claims of intellectual property infringement by third parties under applicable agreements, laws and regulations (including the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.) could require us to enter into royalty or licensing agreements on unfavorable terms, incur substantial monetary liability or be enjoined preliminarily or permanently from further use of the intellectual property in question, which could require us to change our business practices or offerings and limit our ability to compete effectively. Even claims without merit can be time-consuming and costly to defend and may divert management's attention and resources away from our business. Also, because of the rapid pace of technological change, we rely on technologies developed or licensed by third parties, and we may not be able to obtain or continue to obtain licenses from these third parties on reasonable terms, if at all.

***We may encounter substantially increased pole attachment costs.***

Under federal law, we have the right to attach cables carrying video and other services to telephone and similar poles of privately-owned utilities at regulated rates. However, because these cables may carry services other than video services, such as high-speed data services or new forms of telephony services, some utility pole owners have sought to impose additional fees for pole attachment. If these rates were to increase significantly or unexpectedly, it would cause our network to be more

expensive to operate. It could also place us at a competitive disadvantage with respect to video and telecommunications service providers who do not require or who are less dependent upon pole attachments, such as satellite providers and wireless telephony service providers.

On June 8, 2011, the FCC enacted revised pole attachment rules to improve the efficiency and reduce the costs of deploying telecommunications, cable and broadband networks in order to accelerate broadband deployment. The formula for calculating the telecommunications attachment rate was revised, lowering the rate and bringing it in-line to the video rate. Many utilities seek to impose the telecommunications rate on us when they carry our services, other than video services, over their attachments. The order is being challenged before the FCC and federal courts. In November 2015, the FCC released another order taking further steps to balance the rates paid by cable operators and telecommunications carriers. Part of the order addressed some industry members' concerns that pole attachment rates might increase sharply now that the FCC has reclassified broadband service as a telecommunications service as discussed further above. Moreover, the appropriate method for calculating pole attachment rates for cable operators that provide VoIP services remains unclear, and an August 2009 petition from a coalition of electric utility companies asking the FCC to declare that the pole attachment rate for cable companies' digital telephone service should be assessed at the telecommunications service rate is still pending.

Some states in which we operate have assumed jurisdiction over the regulation of pole attachment rates, and so the federal regulations and the protections provided in those regulations may not apply in those states. In addition, some of the poles we use are exempt from federal regulation because they are owned by utility cooperatives and/or municipal entities or are otherwise exempt from the pole attachment regulations.

Subject to applicable pole attachment access and rate regulations, the entities that own the poles that we attach to and conduits that we access may not renew our existing agreements when they expire, and they may require us to pay substantially increased fees. Some of these pole and conduit owners have recently imposed or are currently seeking to impose substantial rate increases. Any increase in our pole attachment or conduit access rates or inability to secure continued pole attachment and access agreements on commercially reasonable terms could adversely affect our operations, business, financial condition or results of operation.

***Our business is subject to numerous federal and state laws and regulations regarding privacy and data protection. Existing laws and regulations are evolving and subject to uncertain interpretation, and new laws and regulations affecting our business have been proposed. These laws and regulations could result in legal claims, changes to our business practices, increased cost of operations, or could otherwise impact our business.***

As a provider of high-speed data, video and telephony services, we are subject to an array of privacy-related laws and regulations that are constantly evolving and can be subject to significant change. In the course of providing service, we collect certain information about our subscribers and their use of our services. Our collection and use of personally identifiable information about our subscribers is subject to a variety of federal and state privacy requirements, including those imposed specifically on cable operators by the Federal Cable Act. The Communications Act generally restricts the nonconsensual collection and disclosure to third parties of cable customers' personally identifiable information by cable operators, subject to certain specified exceptions. Several states and numerous local jurisdictions have enacted privacy laws or franchise privacy provisions that apply to cable services. The Communications Act and FCC regulations also govern our use of customer proprietary network information related to our telecommunications services. As we continue to provide interactive and other advanced services, additional privacy considerations may arise. Congress, the Federal Trade Commission, and the U.S. Department of Commerce are all considering whether to adopt additional

laws, regulations or advisory guidelines that would affect our ability to use customer information under various additional circumstances.

We are also subject to state and federal regulations and laws regarding information security. Most of these regulations and laws apply to customer information that could be used to commit identity theft. Nearly all U.S. states and the District of Columbia have enacted security breach notification laws. These laws generally require that we give notice to customers whose financial account information has been disclosed because of a security breach. Congress is considering legislation to enact security breach notification requirements at the federal level, which may preempt or supplement these state laws and impose additional restrictions on us. In addition, our efforts to protect customer information may be unsuccessful due to the actions of third parties, technical malfunctions, employee error, employee malfeasance or other factors. If any of these events occur, our customers' information could be used, accessed or disclosed improperly.

Claims resulting from actual or purported violations of these or other federal or state privacy laws could impact our business. For example, litigation related to our now-discontinued use of the NebuAd online advertising service was filed federal court. Although that litigation was dismissed, adverse rulings in privacy-related litigation or regulatory proceedings could cause us to incur significant expense and liability or result in orders or consent decrees forcing us to modify our business practices. Moreover, any actual or purported incidents involving unauthorized access to or improper use of the information of our customers could damage our reputation and our brand and diminish our competitive position.

***A phase-out of the compulsory copyright license for broadcast programming could adversely affect our ability to carry the programming transmitted by broadcast stations or could increase our programming costs.***

In exchange for filing reports and contributing a percentage of revenue to a federal copyright royalty pool, we obtain a compulsory copyright license allowing us to retransmit copyrighted material contained in broadcast television signals. The U.S. Copyright Office, the U.S. Government Accountability Office and the FCC all issued reports to Congress in 2011 that generally supported an eventual phase-out of the compulsory licenses. Such a change, if made, could adversely affect the ability of our cable television systems to obtain programming carried by broadcast television stations, and could increase the cost of such programming.

***Regulation of the set-top box market could materially and adversely impact our operations and impose additional costs on us.***

The FCC has adopted regulations to permit consumers to connect televisions and other consumer electronics equipment through a separate security device directly to digital cable television systems to enable receipt of one-way digital programming without requiring a set-top box. Additional FCC regulations promote the manufacture of plug-and-play TV sets and other equipment that can connect directly to a cable system through these separate security devices. Cable operators must provide a credit to customers who use this plug-and-play equipment and allow them to self-install independent security devices rather than having to arrange for professional installation. Additionally, the FCC is considering further action to promote a retail market for cable service navigation devices, including requirements to facilitate access to non-cable multichannel video provider systems and Internet video distributors, which may entail further mandates in connection with the support and deployment of set-top boxes. These proposals could impose substantial costs on us and impair our ability to innovate.

***Since our business is concentrated in specific geographic locations, our business could be adversely impacted by a depressed economy and natural disasters in these areas.***

We provide our services to areas in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee, which are in the Southeastern and Midwestern regions

of the United States. A stagnant or depressed economy in the United States, and the Southeastern or Midwestern United States in particular, could affect all of our markets and could adversely affect our operations, business, financial condition or results of operation.

Our success depends on the efficient and uninterrupted operation of our communications services. Our network is attached to poles and other structures in many of our service areas, and our ability to provide service depends on the availability of electric power. A tornado, hurricane, flood, mudslide, earthquake or other natural catastrophe in one of these areas could damage our network, interrupt our service and harm our business in the affected area. In addition, many of our markets are close together, and a single natural catastrophe could damage our network in more than one market.

***We rely on network and information systems and other technology, and a disruption or failure of such networks, systems or technology as a result of computer viruses, “cyber attacks,” misappropriation of data or other malfeasance, as well as outages, accidental releases of information or similar events, may disrupt our business.***

Because network and information systems and other technologies are critical to our operating activities, network or information system, shutdowns caused by events such as computer hacking, dissemination of computer viruses, worms and other destructive or disruptive software, “cyber attacks,” denial of service attacks and other malicious activity pose increasing risks. Our network and information systems are also vulnerable to damage or interruption from power outages, terrorist attacks and other similar events which could have an adverse impact on us and our customers, including degradation of service, service disruption, excessive call volume to call centers and damage to our plant, equipment, data and reputation. The occurrence of such an event also could result in large expenditures necessary to repair or replace such networks or information systems or to protect them from similar events in the future. Significant incidents could result in a disruption of our operations, customer dissatisfaction or a loss of customers or revenues.

Furthermore, our operating activities could be subject to risks caused by misappropriation, misuse, leakage, falsification and accidental release or loss of information maintained in our information technology systems and networks, including customer, personnel and vendor data. We could be exposed to significant costs if such risks were to materialize, and such events could damage the reputation and credibility of our business and have a negative impact on our revenue. We also could be required to expend significant capital and other resources to remedy any such security breach. As a result of the increasing awareness concerning the importance of safeguarding personal information, the potential misuse of such information and legislation that has been adopted or is being considered regarding the protection, privacy and security of personal information, information-related risks are increasing, particularly for businesses like ours that handle a large amount of personal customer data.

***Tax legislation and administrative initiatives or challenges to our tax positions could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.***

We operate cable systems in locations throughout the United States and, as a result, we are subject to the tax laws and regulations of federal, state and local governments. From time to time, various legislative and/or administrative initiatives may be proposed that could adversely affect our tax positions. There can be no assurance that our effective tax rate or tax payments will not be adversely affected by these initiatives. As a result of state and local budget shortfalls due primarily to the recession as well as other considerations, certain states and localities have imposed or are considering imposing new or additional taxes or fees on our services or changing the methodologies or base on which certain fees and taxes are computed. Such potential changes include additional taxes or fees on our services which could impact our customers, combined reporting and other changes to general business taxes, central/unit-level assessment of property taxes and other matters that could increase our income, franchise, sales, use and/or property tax liabilities. In addition, federal, state and local tax laws

and regulations are extremely complex and subject to varying interpretations. There can be no assurance that our tax positions will not be challenged by relevant tax authorities or that we would be successful in any such challenge.

***We depend on the services of key personnel to implement our strategy. Changes in key personnel or loss of services of key personnel may affect our ability to implement our strategy or otherwise adversely affect our operations.***

The loss of members of our key management and certain other members of our operating personnel could adversely affect our business. Our ability to manage our anticipated growth depends on our ability to identify, hire and retain additional qualified management personnel. While we are able to offer competitive compensation to prospective employees, we may still be unsuccessful in attracting and retaining personnel.

In addition, as part of our ongoing effort to integrate WOW and Knology and successfully operate the combined company, we will regularly evaluate, on an ongoing basis, our senior management capabilities in light of, among other things, our business strategy, changes to our capital structure in connection with the acquisition, developments in our industry and markets and our ongoing financial performance. Accordingly, we may consider, where appropriate, supplementing, changing or otherwise enhancing our senior management team and operational and financial management capabilities in order to maximize our performance. Accordingly, our organizational structure and senior management team may change in the future. Changes to our senior management team could result in a material business interruption and material costs, including as a result of severance or other termination payments.

Any of the foregoing could affect our ability to successfully operate the combined company and implement our strategy and could adversely affect our operations, business, financial condition or results of operation.

***We are or from time to time may become subject to litigation and regulatory proceedings, which could materially and adversely affect us.***

We are subject to litigation in the normal course of our business. We are also a party to regulatory proceedings affecting the segments of the communications industry generally in which we engage in business. We cannot be certain of the ultimate outcomes of any claims that may arise in the future. Resolution of these types of matters against us may result in our having to pay significant fines, judgments, or settlements, which, if uninsured, or if the fines, judgments, and settlements exceed insured levels, could adversely impact us.

***Applicable law is subject to change.***

The exact requirements of applicable law are not always clear, and the rules affecting our businesses are always subject to change. For example, the FCC may interpret its rules and regulations in enforcement proceedings in a manner that is inconsistent with the judgments we have made. Likewise, regulators and legislators at all levels of government may sometimes change existing rules or establish new rules. Congress, for example, considers new legislative requirements for cable operators virtually every year, and there is always a risk that such proposals (if unfavorable to us) will ultimately be enacted. In addition, federal, state or local governments and/or tax authorities may change tax laws, regulations or administrative practices that could adversely affect our operations, business, financial condition or results of operation.

***The FCC and local franchising authorities exercise authority over cable television systems and the FCC and state PSCs exercise authority over telecommunications services.***

The FCC has promulgated regulations covering many aspects of cable television operations. Failure to comply with those regulations could lead the FCC to impose on us monetary fines, cease-and-desist orders and/or other administrative sanctions. The cable franchises that our systems operate under, which are issued by states, cities, counties or other political subdivisions, may contain similar enforcement mechanisms in the event of any failure to comply with the terms of those franchises.

The FCC also has promulgated regulations covering the interstate aspects and the regulated telecommunications earnings of our ILEC and CLEC operations. Our local and intrastate products and services and the regulated earnings are subject to regulation by state PSCs. Failure to comply with these regulations could lead the FCC to impose on us monetary fines, cease-and-desist orders and/or other administrative sanctions.

These fines, cease-and-desist order and/or other administrative sanctions may adversely affect our operations, business, financial condition or results of operations.

***Our principal equity holders own a significant amount of our equity, giving them influence over corporate transactions and other matters.***

Avista, Crestview and WOW management own approximately 59%, 35% and 6% of Racecar Holdings, LLC's (our "Parent") outstanding equity, respectively. As a result, Avista and Crestview control the power to elect our directors, to appoint members of management and to approve all actions requiring the approval of the holders of our common stock, including adopting amendments to our certificate of incorporation and approving mergers, acquisitions or sales of all or substantially all of our assets. The interests of Avista and Crestview could conflict with the interests of our noteholders in material respects. For example, if we encounter financial difficulties or are unable to pay our debts as they mature, the interests of Avista and Crestview might conflict with the interests of our noteholders. Equity holders may also have an interest in pursuing acquisitions, divestitures, financings or other transactions that, in their judgment, could enhance their equity investments even though such transactions might involve risks to our noteholders. Furthermore, Avista and Crestview are in the business of making investments in companies and may from time to time acquire and hold interests in businesses that compete directly or indirectly with us, as well as businesses that represent customers or suppliers of our business. Avista and Crestview may also pursue acquisition opportunities that may be complementary to our business and, as a result, those acquisition opportunities may not be available to us.

***We have substantial indebtedness, which will increase our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions and may limit our ability to pursue strategic alternatives and react to changes in our business and industry.***

This amount of indebtedness may:

- subject us to sensitivity to increases in prevailing interest rates;
- place us at a disadvantage to competitors with relatively less debt in economic downturns, adverse industry conditions or catastrophic external events;
- limit our flexibility as a result of our debt service requirements;
- limit our access to additional capital and our ability to make capital expenditures and other investments in our business;
- increase our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions and interest rate increases;

- result in an event of default if we fail to satisfy our obligations under the notes or our other debt or fail to comply with the financial and other restrictive covenants contained in the indentures governing the notes or our other debt, which event of default could result in the notes and all of our debt becoming immediately due and payable and, in the case of our secured debt, could permit the lenders to foreclose on our assets securing such debt;
- limit our ability to pursue strategic alternatives, including merger or acquisition transactions; and
- limit our ability to plan for or react to changes in our business and industry.

Additionally, our ability to comply with the financial and other covenants contained in our debt instruments may be affected by changes in economic or business conditions or other events beyond our control. If we do not comply with these covenants and restrictions, we may be required to take actions such as reducing or delaying capital expenditures, selling assets, restructuring or refinancing all or part of our existing debt, or seeking additional equity capital.

***The anticipated benefits of acquisitions may not be realized fully and may take longer to realize than expected and we may experience integration and transition difficulties.***

In order to obtain all of the anticipated benefits of acquisitions, management will be required to devote significant attention and resources to integrating the businesses and assets acquired. Delays in this process could adversely affect the combined company's business, financial results and financial condition. Even if we are able to integrate our business operations successfully, there can be no assurance that this integration will result in the realization of the full benefits of synergies, cost savings, innovation and operational efficiencies that we expect to realize or that these benefits will be achieved within a reasonable period of time.

There is a risk that integration difficulties may cause us not to realize expected benefits from acquisitions and may affect our results, including adversely impacting the carrying value of the acquisition premium or goodwill. The long-term success of the acquisitions will depend, in part, on our ability to realize the anticipated benefits and cost savings from combining the two businesses.

In addition, it is possible that the integration process could result in the loss of key employees, the disruption of ongoing businesses or inconsistencies in standards, controls, procedures and policies, which adversely affect our ability to maintain relationships with customers, providers and employees or to achieve the anticipated benefits of acquisitions. Integration and transition efforts also may divert management attention and resources.

***We have experienced net losses and may generate net losses in the future.***

We experienced net losses for fiscal years 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012 and may continue to report net losses in the future. In general, these prior net losses have principally resulted from interest expense related to our indebtedness, acquisitions and depreciation and amortization expenses associated with capital expenditures related to expanding and upgrading of our cable systems. If we continue to report net losses in the future, these losses may limit our ability to attract needed financing, and to do so on favorable terms, as such losses may prevent some investors from investing in our securities.

***The accounting treatment of goodwill and other identified intangibles could result in future asset impairments, which would be recorded as operating losses.***

Authoritative guidance issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board requires that goodwill, including the goodwill included in the carrying value of investments accounted for using the equity method of accounting, and other intangible assets deemed to have indefinite useful lives, such as cable franchise rights, cease to be amortized. The guidance requires that goodwill and certain intangible

assets be tested annually for impairment or upon the occurrence of a triggering event. If the carrying value of goodwill or a certain intangible asset exceeds its estimated fair value, an impairment charge is recognized in an amount equal to that excess. Any such impairment is required to be recorded as a noncash operating loss.

**Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

Not Applicable.

**Item 2. Properties**

During 2015, we leased our executive corporate offices in Englewood, Colorado. All of our other real or personal property is owned or leased by our subsidiaries.

Our subsidiaries own or lease the fixed assets necessary for the operation of their respective businesses, including office space, headend facilities, cable television and telecommunications distribution equipment, telecommunications switches and customer premise equipment and other property necessary for our subsidiaries operations. The physical components of our broadband networks require maintenance and periodic upgrades to support the new services and products we introduce. Our management believes that our current facilities are suitable and adequate for our business operations for the foreseeable future.

**Item 3. Legal Proceedings**

The Company is party to various legal proceedings (including individual, class and putative class actions) arising in the normal course of its business covering a wide range of matters and types of claims including, but not limited to, general contracts, billing disputes, rights of access, programming, taxes, fees and surcharges, consumer protection, trademark and patent infringement, employment, regulatory, tort, claims of competitors and disputes with other carriers.

In accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”), we accrue an expense for pending litigation when we determine that an unfavorable outcome is probable and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. Legal defense costs are expensed as incurred. None of the Company’s existing accruals for pending matters is material. We are constantly monitoring pending litigation for the purpose of adjusting accruals and revising disclosures accordingly, in accordance with GAAP, when required. Litigation is, however, subject to uncertainty, and the outcome of any particular matter is not predictable. The Company will vigorously defend its interest for pending litigation, and as of this date, we believe that the ultimate resolution of all such matters, after considering insurance coverage or other indemnities to which we are entitled, will not have a material adverse effect on the condensed consolidated financial position, results of operations, or our cash flows.

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures**

Not Applicable.



## PART II

### **Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

There is no public market for our equity.

### **Item 6. Selected Financial Data**

#### **SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF WOW**

The following table sets forth selected historical consolidated financial data for WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and its subsidiaries ("WOW") for the periods presented. The balance sheet data as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the statement of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013 set forth below are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of WOW included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The balance sheet data as of December 31, 2013, 2012 and, 2011 and the statement of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011 are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of WOW not included in this Annual Report.

The selected financial data below should be read in conjunction with the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," and the

consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this Annual Report. WOW's historical operating results are not necessarily indicative of future operating results.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
	(in millions)				
<b>Statement of Operations Data:</b>					
Revenue	\$1,217.1	\$1,264.3	\$1,199.7	\$ 910.4	\$ 613.9
Costs and expenses:					
Operating (excluding depreciation and amortization)	678.6	737.0	663.9	515.0	344.9
Selling, general and administrative	110.6	135.8	135.8	104.4	48.8
Depreciation and amortization	221.1	251.3	256.4	203.9	136.7
Management fee to related party	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.1
	<u>1,012.2</u>	<u>1,125.8</u>	<u>1,057.8</u>	<u>824.7</u>	<u>531.5</u>
Income from operations	204.9	138.5	141.9	85.7	82.4
Other income (expense):					
Interest expense	(226.0)	(237.0)	(242.0)	(180.4)	(75.1)
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on derivative instruments, net	5.6	4.1	3.4	(9.4)	12.6
Gain on sale of assets	—	52.9	—	—	—
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	(22.9)	—	(58.1)	(8.3)	—
Other income (expense), net	(0.4)	3.4	(0.2)	0.2	(0.5)
	<u>(38.8)</u>	<u>(38.1)</u>	<u>(155.0)</u>	<u>(112.2)</u>	<u>19.4</u>
Income (loss) before provision for income tax	(38.8)	(38.1)	(155.0)	(112.2)	19.4
Income tax benefit (expense)	(3.9)	14.9	(6.2)	0.7	3.2
Net income (loss)	<u>\$ (42.7)</u>	<u>\$ (23.2)</u>	<u>\$ (161.2)</u>	<u>\$ (111.5)</u>	<u>\$ 22.6</u>
<b>Balance Sheet Data:</b>					
Total assets	\$2,609.9	\$2,840.4	\$2,794.0	\$2,853.0	\$ 844.7
Total debt, including capital lease obligations	\$2,917.6	\$3,090.9	\$3,030.2	\$2,952.0	\$1,441.7
Total liabilities	\$3,462.9	\$3,644.8	\$3,573.3	\$3,471.1	\$1,545.3
<b>Other Financial Data:</b>					
Capital expenditures	\$ 231.9	\$ 251.9	\$ 221.9	\$ 158.2	\$ 150.8

## Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

### EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

#### Overview

We are a fully integrated provider of high-speed data ("HSD"), cable television ("Video"), and digital telephony ("Telephony") services. We serve markets in nineteen Midwestern and Southeastern markets in the United States. The Company manages and operates its broadband cable Midwestern systems in Detroit and Lansing, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois; Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio; Evansville, Indiana; Baltimore, Maryland and Lawrence, Kansas. The Southeastern systems are located in Augusta, Columbus and West Point, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; Dothan, Auburn, Huntsville and Montgomery, Alabama; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Panama City and Pinellas County, Florida. Our primary business is the delivery of bundled communication services over our own network. In addition to our bundled package offerings, we sell these services on an unbundled basis. We have built our business through (i) acquisitions of cable systems, (ii) upgrades of acquired networks to introduce expanded broadband services including bundled HSD, Video and Telephony services, (iii) construction

and expansion of our broadband network to offer integrated high-speed data, video and telephony services and (iv) organic growth of connections through increased penetration of services to new marketable homes and our existing customer base. At December 31, 2015, our networks passed 3,003 thousand homes and served 778 thousand total customers, reflecting a total customer penetration rate of approximately 26%.

Our most significant competitors are other cable television operators, direct broadcast satellite providers and certain telephone companies that offer services that provide features and functionality similar to our HSD, Video and Telephony services. We believe that our strategy of operating primarily in secondary markets provides better operating and financial stability compared to the more competitive environments in large metropolitan markets. We have a history of successfully competing in chosen markets despite the presence of competing incumbent providers through attractive high value bundling of our services and investments in new service offerings.

We believe that a decline in the U.S. economy, including a downturn in the housing market or increase in unemployment rates may adversely affect consumer demand for our services. Additional capital and credit market disruptions could cause broader economic downturns, which could also lead to lower demand for our products and lower levels of advertising sales. A slowdown in growth of the housing market could severely affect consumer confidence and may cause increased delinquencies or cancellations by our customers or lead to unfavorable changes in the mix of products purchased.

In addition, we are susceptible to risks associated with the potential financial instability of our vendors and third parties on which we rely to provide products and services or to which we delegate certain functions. The same economic conditions that may affect our customers, as well as volatility and disruption in the capital and credit markets, also could adversely affect vendors and third parties and lead to significant increases in prices, reduction in output or the bankruptcy of our vendors or third parties upon which we rely. In addition, programming costs are a significant part of our operating expenses and are expected to continue to increase primarily as a result of contractual rate increases and additional service offerings.

#### ***Crestview Partners***

On December 18, 2015, Crestview, a leading private equity firm based in New York, and our Parent consummated a transaction whereby Crestview Partners III GP, L.P. became the beneficial owner of approximately 35% of Parent. Under terms of the agreement, Crestview's funds purchased units held by Avista and other unitholders, and made a \$125 million primary investment in newly-issued units. As of December 31, 2015, proceeds from this transaction, net of accrued and paid transaction expenses, totaling \$102.8 million have been recorded to our Parent's balance sheet and have not been pushed down and reflected in the accompanying consolidated financial statements. Crestview has extensive experience in the telecommunications industry, and we believe this investment will help us capitalize on future growth opportunities while we continue to deliver the award-winning customer experience we are known for.

#### ***Sale of South Dakota Systems***

On September 30, 2014, we and Clarity Telecom ("Clarity") consummated an asset sale agreement in which Clarity acquired our Rapid City and Sioux Falls, South Dakota systems (the "South Dakota Systems") for gross proceeds of approximately \$262.0 million in cash, subject to certain adjustments set forth in the agreement. We undertook that the sale of the South Dakota Systems to enhance our operating efficiencies and enable us to continue focusing more aggressively on our long-term strategic initiatives. We recorded a gain of \$52.9 million related to the sale. Because the sale of the South Dakota Systems was consummated on September 30, 2014, our reported subscriber information for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ended September 30, 2014 excludes these customer relationships.

### ***Work force Reduction***

During the fourth quarter 2014, we committed to a workforce reduction plan whereby we eliminated approximately 275 employees across all levels and geographic regions. We implemented this plan to compete more efficiently and better position ourselves for future growth.

### ***Revolver Extension***

On July 1, 2015, we entered into a fourth amendment (the “Fourth Amendment”) to its Credit Agreement, dated as of July 17, 2012, as amended on April 1, 2013, November 27, 2013 and May 21, 2015 (the “Original Credit Agreement”) among us and the other parties thereto.

Under the Original Credit Agreement, we had \$200.0 million of borrowings available under our revolving credit facility (the “Revolver”), which was to mature as of July 17, 2017. Under the Fourth Amendment, the maturity date of \$180.0 million of the \$200.0 million in available borrowings under the Revolver is extended until July 1, 2020 provided that (i) we have no Term B Loans outstanding as of January 1, 2019 and (ii) any indebtedness incurred to refinance the Term B Loans has a maturity date no earlier than September 30, 2020. If either condition in provision (i) and (ii) above is not satisfied as of January 1, 2019, then the Revolver will mature on January 1, 2019. In addition, in the event that we have outstanding borrowings under the Revolver in excess of \$180.0 million as of July 17, 2017, we would be required to pay down such borrowings to the extent of such excess.

### ***Refinancing of Term B and B-1 Loans***

On May 21, 2015, we entered into a third amendment (the “Third Amendment”) to our Credit Agreement, dated as of July 17, 2012, as amended on April 1, 2013 and as further amended on November 27, 2013 among us and the other parties thereto.

The Third Amendment, among other provisions, provides for a refinancing of the Credit Agreement, resulting in \$1,411.4 million in new Term B Loans, which bear interest, at our option, at LIBOR plus 3.50% or ABR plus 2.50% and includes a 1.00% LIBOR floor. The new Term B Loans replace the \$1,560.4 million in outstanding Term B Loans which were previously priced, at our option, at LIBOR plus 3.75% or ABR plus 2.75%. The proceeds from the refinancing were used to pay outstanding principal under our current Term B Loans. In connection with the Third Amendment, the Company made a prepayment totaling \$150.0 million, applied ratably, to our outstanding Term B Loans and outstanding Term B-1 Loans. Proceeds from the sale of our South Dakota Systems were used in connection with the prepayment. In addition, the Third Amendment provides for the ability to refinance the Company’s Senior Subordinated Notes with proceeds from the issuance of Senior Notes. We recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$22.9 million, primarily representing the expensing of debt issue costs related to the former Term B Loans.

On November 27, 2013, we entered into a second amendment (the “Second Amendment”) to the Credit Agreement, dated as of July 17, 2012, as amended on April 1, 2013 (the “Credit Agreement”) among us, the guarantors thereto, the lenders party thereto, and the other parties thereto.

The Second Amendment provided for the refinancing of the Credit Agreement, resulting in \$425.0 million in new Term B-1 Loans, which bear interest, at our option, at LIBOR plus 3.00% or adjusted base rate (“ABR”) plus 2.00%. The new Term B-1 Loans includes a 0.75% LIBOR floor. The new Term B-1 Loans replaced \$398.0 million in outstanding Term B-1 Loans which were previously priced, at our option, at LIBOR plus 3.25% or ABR plus 2.25% and which previously included a 1.00% LIBOR floor. We utilized the excess proceeds from the new Term B-1 Loans to repay existing, outstanding borrowings on its revolving credit facility and to pay fees and expenses associated with the refinancing. We recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$0.8 million, primarily representing the expensing of debt issue costs related to the former Term B-1 Loans.

### ***Additional 10.25% Senior Notes***

On April 1, 2014, we issued \$100.0 million aggregate principal amount of additional 10.25% Senior Notes, due 2019, (the “Additional Notes”) in a private offering conducted pursuant to Rule 144A and Regulation S under the Securities Act. The Additional Notes were issued at 113.0% plus interest deemed to have accrued from January 15, 2014. We used the net proceeds of the offering to repay the borrowings outstanding under our revolving credit facility, for general corporate purposes, and to pay certain fees and expenses relating to the offering.

The Additional Notes have been issued under the indenture governing our existing \$725.0 million Senior Notes, due 2019, issued on July 17, 2012 (“Senior Notes”). The Additional Notes are treated as a single series with the existing Senior Notes and have the same terms as those of the Senior Notes. We agreed to file an exchange offer for the Additional Notes in a registration statement (the “Exchange Offer”) with the SEC no later than 270 days from April 1, 2014. We filed the registration statement with the SEC on June 18, 2014 and the registration statement became effective on June 30, 2014. The Exchange Offer was completed on July 31, 2014.

### ***Bluemile Asset Acquisition***

On September 27, 2013, we entered into and closed an asset purchase agreement to acquire certain assets from Bluemile, Inc. (“Bluemile”), an Ohio Corporation, for initial cash consideration of approximately \$15.0 million, subject to closing and post-closing adjustments, plus up to \$5.0 million in consideration contingent upon achieving certain financial metrics during the twelve month period ended December 31, 2014 (the “Bluemile Assets” acquisition). Bluemile owned and operated a national optical and IP network, data center and an enterprise cloud infrastructure. The data center, optical and IP network and cloud services will enable us to enhance our products and services to existing customers and potential customers in all of our regions.

The Bluemile Assets acquisition has been accounted for using the acquisition method of accounting. The effects of the Bluemile Assets acquisition are included in our consolidated financial statements beginning September 27, 2013. Including closing adjustments we paid cash consideration of \$15.4 million at closing, before direct acquisition costs of \$0.2 million. Additionally, pursuant to Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) 805 “Business Combinations”, we have recorded an estimate of the fair value of the contingent consideration liability based upon a discounted analysis of future financial estimates and weighted probability assumptions of outcomes. This analysis resulted in an initial contingent consideration liability of approximately \$4.6 million, which has been adjusted periodically as a component of operating expenses based on changes in the fair value of the liability resulting from changes in the assumptions pertaining to the achievement of the defined financial milestone. During the year ended December 31, 2014, we adjusted the contingent consideration liability based on projected achievement of certain financial metrics as defined in the asset purchase agreement, resulting in a fair value adjustment of \$2.9 million. As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, the contingent consideration liability is \$1.7 million.

### **Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

In the preparation of our consolidated financial statements, we are required to make estimates, judgments and assumptions that we believe are reasonable based upon the information available, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”). The estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the periods presented. Critical accounting policies are defined as those policies that are reflective of significant judgments, estimates and uncertainties, which would potentially result in materially different results under different assumptions and conditions. We believe the following accounting policies are the most critical in the

preparation of our consolidated financial statements because of the judgment necessary to account for these matters and the significant estimates involved, which are susceptible to change.

### ***Ownership and Basis of Presentation***

WideOpenWest Finance, LLC (“WOW”) was organized in Delaware on November 13, 2001 and is wholly owned by WideOpenWest Illinois, Inc., WideOpenWest Ohio, Inc., WOW Sigecom, Inc. and WideOpenWest Kite, Inc. (collectively, the “Members”). The Members are wholly owned subsidiaries of Racecar Acquisition, LLC, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Racecar Holdings, LLC (the “Parent”). In the following context, the terms WOW or the “Company” may refer, as the context requires, to WOW or collectively WOW and its subsidiaries.

The financial statements presented herein include the consolidated accounts of WOW and its subsidiaries. Because the Parent’s primary asset is its investment in WOW, the Parent’s ownership structure consisting of various classes of common units has been “pushed down” to the Company. All of the Company’s ownership units and unit holders discussed herein are legally the Parent’s.

### ***Valuation of Plant, Property and Equipment and Intangible Assets***

*Carrying Value.* The aggregate carrying value of our plant, property and equipment and intangible assets (including franchise operating rights and goodwill) comprised approximately 91% and 84% of our total assets at December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

Plant, property and equipment are recorded at cost and include costs associated with the construction of cable transmission and distribution facilities and new service installations at customer locations. Capitalized costs include materials, labor, and certain indirect costs attributable to the capitalization activity. Maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred. Upon sale or retirement of an asset, the cost and related depreciation are removed from the related accounts and resulting gains or losses are reflected in operating results. We make judgments regarding the installation and construction activities to be capitalized. We capitalize direct labor associated with capitalizable activities and indirect cost using standards developed from operational data, including the proportionate time to perform a new installation relative to the total technical operations activities and an evaluation of the nature of the indirect costs incurred to support capitalizable activities. Judgment is required to determine the extent to which indirect costs have been incurred related to capitalizable activities, and as a result should be capitalized. Indirect costs include (i) employee benefits and payroll taxes associated with capitalized direct labor, (ii) direct variable cost of installation and construction vehicle costs, (iii) the direct variable costs of support personnel directly involved in assisting with installation activities, such as dispatchers and (iv) indirect costs directly attributable to capitalizable activities.

Intangible assets consist primarily of acquired franchise operating rights, franchise related customer relationships and goodwill. Franchise operating rights represent the value attributable to agreements with local franchising authorities, which allows access to homes in the public right of way. Our franchise operating rights were acquired through business combinations. We do not amortize cable franchise operating rights as we have determined that they have an indefinite life. Costs incurred in negotiating and renewing cable franchise agreements are expensed as incurred. Franchise related customer relationships represent the value of the benefit to us of acquiring the existing cable subscriber base and are amortized over the estimated life of the subscriber base, generally four years, on a straight-line basis. Goodwill represents the excess purchase price over the fair value of the identifiable net assets we acquired in business combinations.

*Asset Impairments.* Long-lived assets, including plant, property and equipment and intangible assets subject to amortization are evaluated for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. If the total of the expected

undiscounted cash flows is less than the carrying amount of the asset, a loss is recognized for the difference between the fair value and the carrying value of the asset.

We evaluate the recoverability of our franchise operating rights at least annually on October 1, or more frequently whenever events or substantive changes in circumstances indicate that the assets might be impaired. Franchise operating rights are evaluated for impairment by comparing the carrying value of the intangible asset to its estimated fair value. We calculate the fair value of franchise operating rights using the multi-period excess earnings method, an income approach, which calculates the value of an intangible asset by discounting its future cash flows. The fair value is determined based on estimated discrete discounted future cash flows attributable to each franchise operating right intangible asset using assumptions consistent with internal forecasts. Assumptions key in estimating fair value under this method include, but are not limited to, revenue and subscriber growth rates (less anticipated customer churn), operating expenditures, capital expenditures (including any build out), market share achieved, contributory asset charge rates, tax rates and discount rate. The discount rate used in the model represents a weighted average cost of capital and the perceived risk associated with an intangible asset such as our franchise operating rights. The estimates and assumptions made in our valuations are inherently subject to significant uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control, and there is no assurance that these results can be achieved. The primary assumptions for which there is a reasonable possibility of the occurrence of a variation that would significantly affect the measurement value include the assumptions regarding revenue growth, programming expense growth rates, the amount and timing of capital expenditures and the discount rate utilized.

We also, at least annually on October 1, evaluate our goodwill for impairment for each reporting unit (which generally are represented by geographical operations of cable systems managed by us). For evaluation of our goodwill, we utilize discounted cash flow analysis to estimate the fair value of each reporting unit and compare such value to the carrying amount of the reporting unit. In the event that the carrying amount exceeds the fair value, we would be required to estimate the fair value of the assets and liabilities of the reporting unit as if the unit was acquired in a business combination, thereby revaluing goodwill. Any excess of the carrying value of goodwill over the revalued goodwill would be expensed as an impairment loss.

### ***Fair Value Measurements***

GAAP provides guidance for a framework for measuring fair value in the form of a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into three broad levels. Financial assets and liabilities are classified by level in their entirety based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Level 1 inputs are quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the reporting entity has the ability to access at the measurement date. Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted market prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability due to the fact there is no market activity. We record our interest rate swaps and interest rate caps at fair value on the balance sheet and perform recurring fair value measurements with respect to these derivative financial instruments. The fair value measurements of our interest rate swaps were determined using cash flow valuation models. The inputs to the cash flow models consist of, or are derived from, observable data for substantially the full term of the swaps. This observable data includes interest and swap rates, yield curves and credit ratings, which are retrieved from available market data. The valuations are then adjusted for our own nonperformance risk as well as the counterparty as required by the provisions of the authoritative guidance using a discounted cash flow technique that accounts for the duration of the interest rate swaps and our and the counterparty's risk profile. The fair value of the interest rate caps are calculated using a cash flow valuation model. The main inputs are obtained from quoted market prices, the LIBOR interest rate

and the projected three months LIBOR. The observable market quotes are then input into the valuation and discounted to reflect the time value of cash.

We also have non-recurring valuations primarily associated with (i) the application of acquisition accounting and (ii) impairment assessments, both of which require that we make fair value determinations as of the applicable valuation date. In making these determinations, we are required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the recorded amounts, including, but not limited to, expected future cash flows, market comparables and discount rates, remaining useful lives of long-lived assets, replacement or reproduction costs of property and equipment and the amounts to be recovered in future periods from acquired net operating losses and other deferred tax assets. To assist us in making these fair value determinations, we may engage third- party valuation specialists. Our estimates in this area impact, among other items, the amount of depreciation and amortization, and any impairment charges that we may report. Our estimates of fair value are based upon assumptions believed to be reasonable, but which are inherently uncertain. A significant portion of our long-lived assets were initially recorded through the application of acquisition accounting and all of our long-lived assets are subject to periodic or event-driven impairment assessments.

### ***Legal and other contingencies***

Legal and other contingencies have a high degree of uncertainty. When a loss from a contingency becomes estimable and probable, a reserve is established. The reserve reflects management's best estimate of the probable cost of ultimate resolution of the matter and is revised as facts and circumstances change. A reserve is released when a matter is ultimately brought to closure or the statute of limitations lapses or facts and circumstances change. The actual costs of resolving a claim may be substantially different from the amount of reserve we recorded. In addition, in the normal course of business, we are subject to various other legal and regulatory claims and proceedings directed at or involving us, which in our opinion will not have a material adverse effect on our financial position or results of operations or liquidity.

### ***Programming Agreements***

We exercise significant judgment in estimating programming expense associated with certain video programming contracts. Our policy is to record video programming costs based on our contractual agreements with our programming vendors, which are generally multi-year agreements that provide for us to make payments to the programming vendors at agreed upon market rates based on the number of customers to which we provide the programming service. If a programming contract expires prior to the parties' entry into a new agreement and we continue to distribute the service, we estimate the programming costs during the period there is no contract in place. In doing so, we consider the previous contractual rates, inflation and the status of the negotiations in determining our estimates. When the programming contract terms are finalized, an adjustment to programming expense is recorded, if necessary, to reflect the terms of the new contract. We also make estimates in the recognition of programming expense related to other items, such as the accounting for free periods, timing of rate increases and credits from service interruptions, as well as the allocation of consideration exchanged between the parties in multiple-element transactions.

Significant judgment is also involved when we enter into agreements that result in us receiving cash consideration from the programming vendor, usually in the form of advertising sales, channel positioning fees, launch support or marketing support. In these situations, we must determine based upon facts and circumstances if such cash consideration should be recorded as revenue, a reduction in programming expense or a reduction in another expense category (e.g., marketing).



## Income Taxes

From time to time, we engage in transactions in which the tax consequences may be subject to uncertainty. Examples of such transactions include business acquisitions and dispositions, including dispositions designed to be tax free, issues related to consideration paid or received, investments and certain financing transactions. Significant judgment is required in assessing and estimating the tax consequences of these transactions. We prepare and file tax returns based on interpretation of tax laws and regulations. In the normal course of business, our tax returns are subject to examination by various taxing authorities. Such examinations may result in future tax, interest and penalty assessments by these taxing authorities. In determining our income tax provision for financial reporting purposes, we establish a reserve for uncertain income tax positions unless such positions are determined to be more likely than not of being sustained upon examination, based on their technical merits. That is, for financial reporting purposes, we only recognize tax benefits taken on the tax return that we believe are more likely than not of being sustained. There is considerable judgment involved in determining whether positions taken on the tax return are more likely than not of being sustained.

We adjust our tax reserve estimates periodically because of ongoing examinations by, and settlements with, the various taxing authorities, as well as changes in tax laws, regulations and interpretations. The consolidated income tax provision of any given year includes adjustments to prior year income tax accruals that are considered appropriate and any related estimated interest. Our policy is to recognize, when applicable, interest and penalties on uncertain income tax positions as part of income tax provision.

## Homes Passed and Subscribers

We report homes passed as the number of residential units, such as single residence homes, apartments and condominium units passed by our broadband network and listed in our database. We report Video subscribers as the number of basic cable subscribers, excluding customers who only subscribe to HSD or Telephony services in this total. We define each of the individual HSD subscribers, video subscribers and telephony subscribers as a Revenue Generating Unit (“RGU”). The following table summarizes homes passed, total customers, subscribers and total RGU’s for our services as of each respective date (in thousands):

	Mar. 31 2014	June 30 2014	Sep. 30, 2014(2)	Dec. 31, 2014(2)	Mar. 31 2015(2)	June 30 2015(2)	Sep. 2015(2)	Dec. 2015(2)
Homes passed . . . . .	2,997	3,114	2,978	2,985	2,989	2,993	2,997	3,003
Total customers(1) . . . . .	853	868	816	809	799	787	782	778
HSD RGU’s . . . . .	757	770	730	728	722	713	712	712
Video RGU’s . . . . .	694	699	654	635	606	583	565	547
Telephony RGU’s . . . . .	419	416	374	359	340	325	311	297
Total RGU’s . . . . .	1,870	1,885	1,758	1,722	1,668	1,621	1,588	1,556

(1) Defined as number of customers who receive at least one of our HSD, Video or Telephony services that we count as a subscriber, without regard to which or how many services they subscribe.

(2) Due to the sale of our South Dakota Systems on September 30, 2014, the South Dakota Systems homes passed and subscribers are not included in the above table for the quarters ended September 30, 2014 through the quarter ended December 31, 2015.

Subscriber information for acquired entities is preliminary and subject to adjustment until we have completed our review of such information and determined that it is presented in accordance with our policies. While we take appropriate steps to ensure subscriber information is presented on a consistent

and accurate basis at any given balance sheet date, we periodically review our policies in light of the variability we may encounter across our different markets due to the nature and pricing of products and services and billing systems. Accordingly, we may from time to time make appropriate adjustments to our subscriber information based on such reviews.

## **Financial Statement Presentation**

### ***Revenue***

Our operating revenue is primarily derived from monthly charges for HSD, Video, Telephony and other services to residential and business customers, in addition to advertising and other revenues.

- HSD revenue consists primarily of fixed monthly fees for data service and rental of cable modems.
- Video revenue consists of fixed monthly fees for basic, premium and digital cable television services and rental of video converter equipment, as well as fees from pay-per-view, video-on-demand and other events that involve a charge for each viewing.
- Telephony revenue consists primarily of fixed monthly fees for local service and enhanced services, such as call waiting, voice mail and measured and flat rate long-distance service.
- Other revenue consists primarily of advertising, franchise and other regulatory fees, broadband carrier services, dark fiber sales and installation services.

Revenues attributable to monthly subscription fees charged to customers for our HSD, Video and Telephony services provided by our cable systems were 89%, 90% and 92% for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Generally, these customer subscriptions may be discontinued by the customer at any time without penalty. The remaining approximately 10% of non-subscription revenue is derived primarily from advertising revenues, franchise and other regulatory fee revenues (which are collected by us but then paid to local authorities), installation fees and commissions related to the sale of merchandise by home shopping services.

### ***Cost and Expenses***

Our expenses primarily consist of operating, selling, general and administrative expenses, depreciation and amortization expense, interest expense and realized and unrealized gain (loss) on derivative instruments, net.

*Operating expenses* primarily include programming costs, data costs, transport costs and network access fees related to our HSD and Telephony services, cable service related expenses, costs of dark fiber sales, network operations and maintenance services, customer service and call center expenses, bad debt, billing and collection expenses and franchise and other regulatory fees.

*Selling, general and administrative expenses* primarily include salaries and benefits of corporate and field management, sales and marketing personnel, human resources and related administrative costs.

Operating and selling, general and administrative expenses exclude depreciation and amortization expense, which is presented separately in the accompanying consolidated statement of operations.

*Depreciation and amortization expenses* include depreciation of our broadband networks and equipment, buildings and leasehold improvements and amortization of other intangible assets with definite lives primarily related to acquisitions.

*Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on derivative instruments, net* includes adjustments to fair value for the various interest rate swaps and caps we enter on the required portions of our outstanding variable debt. As we do not use hedge accounting for financial reporting purposes, at the end of each reporting period, the adjustment to fair value of our interest rate swaps and caps are recorded to earnings.

We control our costs of operations by maintaining strict controls on expenditures. More specifically, we are focused on managing our cost structure by improving workforce productivity, increasing the effectiveness of our purchasing activities and maintaining discipline in customer acquisition. As noted above, we initiated a work force reduction plan to better align this cost structure with future planned business growth. We expect programming expenses to continue to increase due to a variety of factors, including increased demands by owners of some broadcast stations for carriage of other services or payments to those broadcasters for retransmission consent and annual increases imposed by programmers with additional selling power as a result of media consolidation. We have not been able to fully pass these increases on to our customers nor do we expect to be able to do so in the future without a potential loss of customers.

## Results of operations

### Yearly Comparison

#### Year Ended December 31, 2015 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2014

	Year ended December 31,		Change	
	2015	2014	\$	%
Revenue . . . . .	\$1,217.1	\$1,264.3	\$ (47.2)	(4)%
Costs and expenses:				
Operating (excluding depreciation and amortization) . . . . .	678.6	737.0	(58.4)	(8)%
Selling, general and administrative . . . . .	110.6	135.8	(25.2)	(19)%
Depreciation & amortization . . . . .	221.1	251.3	(30.2)	(12)%
Management fee to related party . . . . .	1.9	1.7	0.2	12%
	<u>1,012.2</u>	<u>1,125.8</u>	<u>(113.6)</u>	<u>(10)%</u>
Income from operations . . . . .	204.9	138.5	66.4	48%
Other income (expense):				
Interest expense . . . . .	(226.0)	(237.0)	(11.0)	(5)%
Realized and unrealized gain on derivative instruments, net . . . . .	5.6	4.1	1.5	37%
Gain on asset sale . . . . .	—	52.9	(52.9)	*
Loss on early extinguishment of debt . . . . .	(22.9)	—	(22.9)	*
Other (expense) income, net . . . . .	(0.4)	3.4	(3.8)	(112)%
	<u>(38.8)</u>	<u>(38.1)</u>	<u>(0.7)</u>	<u>(2)%</u>
Loss before provision for income taxes . . . . .	(38.8)	(38.1)	(0.7)	(2)%
Income tax benefit (expense) . . . . .	(3.9)	14.9	(18.8)	*
Net loss . . . . .	<u>\$ (42.7)</u>	<u>\$ (23.2)</u>	<u>\$ (19.5)</u>	<u>(84)%</u>

\* Not meaningful

## Revenue

Revenue for the year ended December 31, 2015 decreased \$47.2 million, or 4%, as compared to revenue for the year ended December 31, 2014 as follows:

	Year ended December 31,		Change	
	2015	2014	\$	%
	(in millions)			
Residential subscription . . . . .	\$ 987.3	\$1,038.2	\$(50.9)	(5)%
Commercial subscription . . . . .	99.7	95.8	3.9	4%
Total subscription . . . . .	1,087.0	1,134.0	(47.0)	(4)%
Other commercial services . . . . .	24.0	24.6	(0.6)	(2)%
Other . . . . .	106.1	105.7	0.4	—%
	<u>\$1,217.1</u>	<u>\$1,264.3</u>	<u>\$(47.2)</u>	<u>(4)%</u>

Of the \$47.0 million, or 4%, net decrease in Total Subscription Revenue, a decrease of \$56.6 million was attributable to the disposition of the South Dakota Systems on September 30, 2014. Excluding the impact of the disposition of our South Dakota Systems, Total Subscription Revenue decreased \$53.9 million as a result of year over year reductions in average total RGUs. Offsetting these decreases was a \$63.5 million increase in Total Subscription Revenue as a result of increases in the Average Revenue Per Unit (“ARPU”) of our customer base which is calculated as subscription revenue for each of the HSD, video and telephony services divided by the average total RGUs for each service category for the respective period.

The following table details Subscription Revenue by service offering for the years ended December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014:

	Year ended December 31,		Change	
	2015	2014	\$	%
	(in millions)			
HSD subscription . . . . .	\$ 351.9	\$ 353.4	\$(1.5)	—
Video subscription . . . . .	547.4	557.1	(9.7)	(2)%
Phone subscription . . . . .	187.7	223.5	(35.8)	(16)%
	<u>\$1,087.0</u>	<u>\$1,134.0</u>	<u>\$(47.0)</u>	<u>(4)%</u>

HSD subscription revenue decreased \$1.5 million, which includes a \$16.8 million decrease attributable to the disposition of our South Dakota Systems on September 30, 2014. Excluding the impact of the disposition of our South Dakota Systems, HSD subscription revenue increased by a net \$10.4 million as a result of a year over year increase in average HSD RGUs and a net \$4.9 million increase in HSD ARPU when compared to the prior year ended December 31, 2014.

Video subscription revenue decreased \$9.7 million, which includes a \$19.8 million decrease attributable to the disposition of our South Dakota Systems on September 30, 2014. Excluding the impact of the disposition of our South Dakota Systems, video subscription revenue decreased by a net \$48.1 million as a result of year over year decreases in average video RGUs. Offsetting these volume decreases was a net increase of \$58.2 million as a result of year over year increases in video ARPU.

Phone subscription revenue decreased \$35.8 million, which includes a \$19.9 million decrease attributable to the disposition of our South Dakota Systems on September 30, 2014. Excluding the impact of the disposition of our South Dakota Systems, phone subscription revenue decreased by a net \$16.3 million as a result of year over year decreases in average phone RGUs. Partially offsetting these

volume reductions was a net increase of \$0.4 million as a result of year over year increases in phone ARPU.

*Operating Expenses (Excluding Depreciation and Amortization)*

Operating expenses (excluding depreciation and amortization) decreased \$58.4 million, or 8%, in the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2014. Approximately \$31.0 million of this decrease is related to the sale of our South Dakota Systems on September 30, 2014. In addition, operating expenses decreased by \$10.0 million as a result of lower subscribers during the year ended December 31, 2015. The remaining \$17.4 million decrease is primarily attributable to savings related to our reduction in workforce implemented during the fourth quarter of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 and from the efficiencies derived from operational and process enhancements we implemented during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

*Selling, General and Administrative Expenses*

SG&A expenses decreased \$25.2 million, or 19%, in the year ended December 31, 2015, as compared to the year ended December 31, 2014. Approximately \$3.5 million of this decrease is related to the sale of our South Dakota Systems on September 30, 2014. The remaining \$21.7 million decrease is primarily attributable to the reduction in integration related expenses associated with our acquisition of Knology that were incurred during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014.

*Depreciation and Amortization Expenses*

Depreciation and amortization expenses decreased \$30.2 million, or 12%, in the year ended December 31, 2015, as compared to the year ended December 31, 2014, primarily due to the sale of South Dakota assets on September 30, 2014.

*Management Fee to Related Party Expenses*

We pay a quarterly management fee of \$0.4 million plus any travel and miscellaneous expenses equally to Avista and Crestview.

*Interest Expense*

Interest expense decreased \$11.0 million, or 5%, in the year ended December, 2015, as compared to the year ended December 31, 2014. This decrease resulted from lower outstanding debt and lower interest rates in connection with the refinancing of our Term B loans a and principal payment of \$150.0 million made in May 2015.

*Realized and Unrealized Gain on Derivative Instruments, Net*

Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on derivative instruments, net, increased to a net gain of \$5.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to a net gain of \$4.1 million in the year ended December 31, 2014. We do not use hedge accounting for financial reporting purpose so the adjustment to fair value of our interest rate swaps and caps are recorded to earnings.

*Gain on Sale of Asset*

For the year ended December 31, 2014, we recorded a gain on sale of asset related to the disposition of our South Dakota Systems (see note 5 to our audited financial statements included elsewhere in this Form 10-K) totaling \$52.9 million.

*Loss on extinguishment of debt*

In connection with our May 21, 2015 Third Amendment refinancing of our Term B loans, we recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt representing the expensing of prior deferred financing costs of \$22.9 million during the twelve months ended December 31, 2015.

*Other income (expense)*

Other income (expense) decreased \$3.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2015 when compared to the same period ended December 31, 2014. During the year ended December 31, 2014, we recorded a reduction to the contingent liability related to our Bluemile acquisition in the amount of \$2.9 million.

*Income Tax Benefit (expense)*

We are a limited liability company (“LLC”) that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. Prior to the Knology Merger, our subsidiaries consisted only of LLC’s, which are disregarded as separate entities for federal and state tax purposes.

We acquired C Corporation subsidiaries in connection with the Knology Merger which are subject to federal income taxes. During the year ended December 31, 2015 we recognized an income tax expense of \$3.9 million driven primarily by the year over year change in our net deferred tax liabilities. We also adjusted our valuation allowance against our deferred tax assets, after considering the basis difference on franchise operating rights and tax basis goodwill, due to our current year pre-tax losses and uncertainty regarding the timing of generating taxable income in the future and our assessment that the realization of the deferred tax assets did meet the more likely than not criterion under ASC 740, Income Taxes.

*Year Ended December 31, 2014 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2013*

*Year Ended December 31, 2014 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2013*

	Year ended December 31,		Change	
	2014	2013	\$	%
Revenue . . . . .	\$1,264.3	\$1,199.7	\$ 64.6	5%
Costs and expenses:				
Operating (excluding depreciation and amortization) . . . . .	737.0	663.9	73.1	11%
Selling, general and administrative . . . . .	135.8	135.8	—	*
Depreciation & amortization . . . . .	251.3	256.4	(5.1)	(2)%
Management fee to related party . . . . .	1.7	1.7	—	*
	<u>1,125.8</u>	<u>1,057.8</u>	<u>68.0</u>	<u>6%</u>
Income from operations . . . . .	138.5	141.9	(3.4)	(2)%
Other income (expense):				
Interest expense . . . . .	(237.0)	(242.0)	(5.0)	(2)%
Realized and unrealized gain on derivative instruments, net . . . . .	4.1	3.4	0.7	21%
Gain on asset sale . . . . .	52.9	—	52.9	*
Loss on early extinguishment of debt . . . . .	—	(58.1)	(58.1)	*
Other (expense) income, net . . . . .	3.4	(0.2)	3.6	*
Loss before provision of income taxes . . . . .	(38.1)	(155.0)	116.9	75%
Income tax benefit (expense) . . . . .	14.9	(6.2)	21.1	*
Net loss . . . . .	<u>\$ (23.2)</u>	<u>\$ (161.2)</u>	<u>\$138.0</u>	<u>86%</u>

\* Not meaningful

*Revenue*

Revenue for the year ended December 31, 2014 increased \$64.6 million or 5% as compared to revenue for the year ended December 31, 2013 as follows:

	Year ended December 31,		Change	
	2014	2013	\$	%
				(in millions)
Residential subscription . . . . .	\$1,038.2	\$1,011.9	\$26.3	3%
Commercial subscription . . . . .	95.8	91.9	3.9	4%
Total subscription . . . . .	1,134.0	1,103.8	30.2	3%
Other commercial services . . . . .	24.6	17.0	7.6	45%
Other . . . . .	105.7	78.9	26.8	34%
	<u>\$1,264.3</u>	<u>\$1,199.7</u>	<u>\$64.6</u>	<u>5%</u>

Of the \$30.2 million, or 3%, net increase in Total Subscription Revenue, approximately \$78.8 million was attributable to year over year increases in the ARPU of our customer base. Partially offsetting these increases, Total Subscription Revenue decreased \$48.6 million as a result of year over year reductions in average total RGUs.

The increase in Other Commercial Services of \$7.6 million is primarily attributable to the inclusion of a full year of operating results in fiscal year 2014 related to our Bluemile Asset acquisition in September of 2013, with the remaining increase due to increases in our wholesale revenue.

The increase in Other revenue of \$26.8 million is primarily due to (i) \$14.9 million increase in customer related activity fees (i.e. installation, reactivation and service calls) due to increased customers in the period and (ii) increased franchise fee and other regulatory fees of \$5.3 million as a result of increased video and telephony revenue.

The following table details Subscription Revenue by product offering for the years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013:

	Year ended December 31,		Change	
	2014	2013	\$	%
	(in millions)			
HSD subscription . . . . .	\$ 353.4	\$ 329.1	\$ 24.3	7%
Video subscription . . . . .	557.1	529.7	27.4	5%
Phone subscription . . . . .	223.5	245.0	(21.5)	(9)%
	<u>\$1,134.0</u>	<u>\$1,103.8</u>	<u>\$ 30.2</u>	<u>3%</u>

HSD subscription revenue increased \$24.3 million, or 7%, of which a net \$4.6 million increase was attributable to a year over year increase in average HSD RGUs and a net increase of \$19.7 million due to year over year increases in HSD ARPU.

Video subscription revenue increased \$27.4 million, or 5%, which includes a net \$29.3 million decrease attributable to a year over year decrease in average video RGUs. Offsetting these decreases was a net increase of \$56.7 million due to year over year increases in video ARPU.

Phone subscription revenue decreased \$21.5 million, or 9%, of which a net \$23.8 million decrease was attributable to a year over year decrease in average phone RGUs. Partially offsetting these decreases was a net increase of \$2.3 million due to year over year increases in phone ARPU.

*Operating Expenses (Excluding Depreciation and Amortization)*

Operating expenses (excluding depreciation and amortization) increased \$73.1 million, or 11%, in the year ended December 31, 2014, as compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. We experienced increases in video programming expenses of \$48.5 million primarily due to higher rates charged by programmers and an increase in franchise fees. Remaining increases were due to a \$5.1 million increase in bad debt expense, \$3.6 million increase due to increased usage of out-sourced call center activity and \$7.4 million increase in USF fees, software expense and greater bandwidth usage from higher data- speed service.

*Selling, General and Administrative Expenses*

SG&A expenses stayed consistent for year ended December 31, 2014, as compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. Excluding our one-time charge related to our workforce reduction of \$6.4 million, our overall SG&A expenses decreased primarily due to the realization of synergies and an increase in capitalized labor. Offsetting this decrease were increases in commercial marketing and sales expense.

*Depreciation and Amortization Expenses*

Depreciation and amortization expenses decreased \$5.1 million, or 2%, in the year ended December 31, 2014, as compared to the year ended December 31, 2013 primarily due to the sale of South Dakota assets on September 30, 2014. Additionally, during the year ended December 31, 2014, we had an increase in retirements of fully depreciated assets as compared to December 31, 2013.



#### *Management Fee to Related Party Expenses*

For each of the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, we paid a quarterly management fee of \$0.4 million plus any travel and miscellaneous expenses to Avista Capital Partners (the then-majority voting unit holder of our Parent).

#### *Interest Expense*

Interest expense decreased \$5.0 million, or 2%, for the year ended December 31, 2014, as compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The year over year decrease is primarily due to the accretion of the debt premium associated with the incremental issuance on April 1, 2014 of our \$100.0 million in principal Senior Notes, due 2019.

#### *Gain on asset sale*

A gain on asset sale related to the sale of the South Dakota Systems totaling \$52.9 million was recorded during the year ended December 31, 2014.

#### *Realized and Unrealized Gain on Derivative Instruments, Net*

Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on derivative instruments, net, increased \$0.7 million to a net gain of \$4.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to a net gain of \$3.4 million in the year ended December 31, 2013. We do not use hedge accounting for financial reporting purpose so the adjustment to fair value of our interest rate swaps and caps are recorded to earnings.

#### *Loss on Early Extinguishment of Debt*

In connection with our April 1, 2013 First Amendment refinancing of our Prior Senior Secured Credit Facility, we recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt representing the expensing of prior deferred financing costs of \$57.3 million. On November 27, 2013, we entered into the Second Amendment to our Credit Agreement, dated as of July 17, 2012, as amended on April 1, 2013 and as a result recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$0.8 million, representing the expense of prior debt issue costs.

#### *Other income (expense)*

Other income (expense) increased \$3.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 when compared to the same period ended December 31, 2013. The increase is primarily due to a reduction we recorded to contingent liability related to our Bluemile acquisition in the amount of \$2.9 million.

#### *Income Tax Benefit (expense)*

We are an LLC that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. Prior to the Knology Merger, our subsidiaries consisted only of LLC's, which are disregarded as separate entities for federal and state tax purposes.

We acquired C Corporation subsidiaries in connection with the Knology Merger which are subject to federal income taxes. During the year ended December 31, 2014 we recognized an income tax benefit of \$14.9 million driven primarily by the year over year change in our net deferred tax liabilities. We also adjusted our valuation allowance against our deferred tax assets, after considering basis difference on franchise operating rights and tax basis goodwill, due to our current year pre-tax losses and uncertainty regarding the timing of generating taxable income in the future and our assessment that the realization of the deferred tax assets did meet the more likely than not criterion under ASC 740, Income Taxes.

## **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

At December 31, 2015, we had \$166.9 million in current assets, including \$66.6 million in cash and cash equivalents and \$262.8 million in current liabilities. Our outstanding consolidated debt and capital lease obligations aggregated \$2,917.6 million, of which \$20.6 million is classified as current in our consolidated balance sheet.

On December 18, 2015, Crestview, a leading private equity firm based in New York, and our Parent consummated a transaction whereby Crestview Partners III GP, L.P. became the beneficial owner of approximately 35% of Parent. Under terms of the agreement, Crestview's funds purchased units held by Avista and other unitholders, and made a \$125 million primary investment in newly-issued units. As of December 31, 2015, proceeds from this transaction, net of accrued and paid transaction expenses, totaling \$102.8 million have been recorded to Parent's balance sheet and have not been pushed down and reflected in the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

We are required to prepay principal amounts under our Senior Secured Credit Facilities credit agreement if we generate excess cash flow, as defined in the credit agreement. At December 31, 2015, we had borrowing capacity of \$192.6 million under our Revolving Credit Facility and were in compliance with all our debt covenants. Accordingly, we believe that we have sufficient resources to fund our obligations and foreseeable liquidity requirements in the near term and for the foreseeable future.

### ***Historical Operating, Investing, and Financing Activities***

#### ***Operating Activities***

Net cash provided by operating activities increased \$11.5 million from \$201.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 to \$213.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2015. The increase is due primarily to changes in operating assets and liabilities.

Net cash provided by operating activities increased \$33.2 million from \$168.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 to \$201.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2014. The increase in net cash provided by operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2014 over the prior year was primarily due to a \$13.0 million premium received from our debt issuance during the twelve months ended December 31, 2014 and a soft call premium payment of \$19.1 million during the twelve months ended December 31, 2013. An increase in accounts receivable driven by increases in revenue for the twelve months ended December 31, 2014 was offset by other changes in operating assets and liabilities.

#### ***Investing Activities***

Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities decreased \$238.1 million from \$5.6 million cash provided by investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2014 to \$232.5 million cash used in investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2015. The decrease in cash provided by investing activities is due primarily to the receipt of cash proceeds of \$262.0 million from the sale of our South Dakota Systems during the year ended December 31, 2014. Partially offsetting this decrease was a \$20.0 million decrease in our capital expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2015 compared to the same period ended December 31, 2014.

Capital expenditures were \$231.9 million, \$251.9 million and \$221.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Capital expenditures will continue to be driven primarily by customer demand for our services. In the event we may have higher-than-expected customer demand for our services, this would result in higher revenue and income from operations, but such increased demand could also increase our projected capital expenditures.

Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities increased \$242.0 million from \$236.4 million cash in investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2013 to \$5.6 million cash provided by investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2014. The change is due to the receipt of cash proceeds of \$262.0 million from the sale of our South Dakota Systems offset primarily by increases in capital expenditures of \$30.0 million when compared to the same period ended December 31, 2013.

#### *Financing Activities*

Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities decreased \$217.7 million from \$39.9 million provided by financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2014 to \$177.8 million used in financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2015. The change is primarily due to the payment of \$150.0 million on our Term B and Term B-1 loans in May 2015 associated with the refinancing of our Term B Loans. In addition, during the year ended December 31, 2015, we made cash distributions to our parent in the amount of \$5.0 million for the payment of 2014 federal taxes and estimated 2015 tax payments.

Net cash provided by financing activities decreased \$29.2 million from \$69.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 to \$39.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2014. The decrease is primarily due to payments on borrowings outstanding under our Senior Secured Credit Facility, and the repurchase of certain equity interests of former employees of \$1.9 million.

#### *Contractual Obligations*

We have obligations to make future payments for goods and services under certain contractual arrangements. These contractual obligations secure the future rights to various assets and services to be used in the normal course of our operations. In accordance with applicable accounting rules, the future rights and obligations pertaining to firm commitments, such as operating lease obligations and certain purchase obligations under contracts, are not reflected as assets or liabilities in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet. The long term debt obligations are our principal payments on cash debt service obligations. Capital lease obligations are future lease payments on certain video equipment and vehicles. Operating lease obligations are the future minimum rental payments required under the operating leases that have initial or remaining non-cancelable lease terms in excess of one year as of December 31, 2015.

The following table summarizes certain of our obligations as of December 31, 2015 and the estimated timing and effect that such obligations are expected to have on our liquidity and cash flows in future periods (in millions):

	Payment due by period				
	Total	2016	2017 - 2018	2019 - 2020	Thereafter
Long term debt obligations . . . . .	\$2,910.2	\$ 18.0	\$407.8	\$2,484.4	\$ —
Fixed-rate interest(1) . . . . .	502.2	124.5	247.2	130.5	—
Programming obligations(2) . . . . .	5.7	5.6	0.1	—	—
Capital lease obligations . . . . .	7.4	2.9	3.4	1.1	—
Operating lease obligations(3) . . . . .	35.8	7.6	14.3	7.7	6.2
Total . . . . .	<u>\$3,461.3</u>	<u>\$158.6</u>	<u>\$672.8</u>	<u>\$2,623.7</u>	<u>\$6.2</u>

(1) The fixed rate interest payments included in the table above assumes that our fixed-rate Notes outstanding as of December 31, 2015 will be held to maturity. Interest payments associated with our variable-rate debt have not been included in the table. Assuming that our \$1,784.3 million of variable-rate Senior Secured Credit Facilities as of December 31, 2015 is held to maturity, and utilizing interest rates in effect at December 31, 2015, our annual interest payments (including commitment fees and letter of credit fees) on variable rate Senior Secured Credit Facilities as of

December 31, 2015 is anticipated to be approximately \$83.2 million for fiscal year 2016, \$156.6 million for fiscal years 2017-2018, \$38.4 million for fiscal years 2019-2020 and none thereafter. The future annual interest obligations noted herein are estimated only in relation to debt outstanding as of December 31, 2015.

- (2) Programming obligations consist of obligations associated with certain of our programming contracts that are enforceable and legally binding on us in that we have agreed to pay minimum fees without regard to the actual number of subscribers to the programming services. The amounts in the table with respect to these contracts are significantly less than the amounts we expect to pay in these periods under these contracts. In the normal course of business, we have also entered into numerous contracts to purchase programming content where our payment obligations are fully contingent on the number of subscribers to whom we provide the content. The terms of our contracts typically have annual rate increases and expire in 2016 through 2018. We expect our programming expenses will continue to increase, more so to the extent we grow our subscriber base. Programming expenses are included in operating expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations.
- (3) In addition to the above operating lease obligations, we also rent utility poles used in our operations. Generally, pole rentals are cancellable on short notice, but we anticipate that such rentals will recur. Rent expense for pole rental attachments was approximately \$8.0 million, \$7.8 million and \$7.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

#### **Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

Our exposure to market risk is limited and primarily related to fluctuating interest rates associated with our variable rate indebtedness under our Senior Secured Credit Facility. As of December 31, 2015, borrowings under our Term B Loans and Term B-1 Loans (together, the “Term Facilities”) and Revolving Credit Facility bear interest at our option at a rate equal to either an adjusted LIBOR rate (which is subject to a minimum rate of 1.00% for Term B Loans and minimum rate of 0.75% for the Term B-1 loans) or an ABR (which is subject to a minimum rate of 2.00% for Term Facilities). The applicable margins for the Term B Loans may change depending on the Company’s leverage ratio, from a minimum of 3.50% up to a maximum of 4.00% for adjusted LIBOR loans or a minimum of 2.50% up to a maximum of 3.00% for ABR loans. The applicable margins for the Term B-1 Loans are 3.00% for adjusted LIBOR loans or 2.00% for ABR loans. The applicable margin for borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility is 3.50% for adjusted LIBOR loans and 2.50% for ABR loans. We manage the impact of interest rate changes on earnings and operating cash flows by entering into derivative instruments to protect against increases in the interest rates on our variable rate debt. We use interest rate swaps, where we receive variable rate amounts in exchange for fixed rate payments. We also use interest rate cap agreements that lock in a maximum interest rate if variable rates rise. As of December 31, 2015, after considering our interest rate swaps and caps, approximately 89% of our Senior Secured Credit Facility is still variable rate debt. A hypothetical 100 basis point (1%) change in LIBOR interest rates (based on the interest rates in effect under our Senior Secured Credit Facility as of December 31, 2015) would result in an annual interest expense change of up to approximately \$15.8 million on our Senior Secured Credit Facility.

#### **Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data**

Our consolidated financial statements, the related notes thereto and the reports of independent accountants are included in this annual report beginning on page F-1.

#### **Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure**

Not Applicable.

## **Item 9A. Controls and Procedures**

### ***Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures***

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our Exchange Act reports is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer (together, the “Certifying Officers”), as appropriate, to allow for timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

In designing and evaluating disclosure controls and procedures, management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance, not absolute assurance of achieving the desired objectives. Also, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that misstatements due to error or fraud will not occur or that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. The design of any system of controls is based, in part, upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions.

As of December 31, 2015, the end of the period covered by this report, we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of management, including the Certifying Officers, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Exchange Act. Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance of achieving their stated objectives and our Certifying Officers concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at a reasonable assurance level as of December 31, 2015.

### ***Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting***

There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the evaluation required by Rule 13a-15(d) and 15d-15(d) of the Exchange Act that occurred during quarter ended December 31, 2015 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

### ***Management’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) for the Company. Our internal control system was designed to provide reasonable assurance to WOW’s management and board of managers regarding the preparation and fair presentation of published financial statements.

Management has assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015. In making this assessment, we used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (“COSO”) in *Internal Control—Integrated Framework* (2013 Framework). Based on management’s assessment utilizing these criteria we believe that, as of December 31, 2015, our internal control over financial reporting was effective.

## **Item 9B. Other Information**

Not Applicable.

## PART III

### Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance

#### Executive Officers, Managers and Key Employees

The names, ages, and current positions of our Racecar Holdings, LLC (our “Parent”) current executive officers, members of our Parent’s board of managers and certain key employees are listed in the table below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Position</u>
Steven Cochran . . . . .	44	Chief Executive Officer and Manager
Richard E. Fish, Jr. . . . .	50	Chief Financial Officer
Cash Hagen . . . . .	41	Chief Technical Officer
Cathy Kuo . . . . .	50	Chief Operating Officer
Craig Martin . . . . .	64	General Counsel and Secretary
Colleen Abdoulah . . . . .	56	Manager and former Chief Executive Officer
David Burgstahler . . . . .	47	Manager
Brian Cassidy . . . . .	42	Manager
Daniel Kilpatrick . . . . .	35	Manager
Jeffrey Marcus . . . . .	69	Chairman and Manager
Phil Seskin . . . . .	52	Manager
Dudley Slater . . . . .	58	Manager
Joshua Tamaroff . . . . .	30	Manager

The following is a brief biography of our Parent’s executive officers, managers and certain key employees:

*Steven Cochran, Chief Executive Officer and Manager.* Mr. Cochran is our Parent’s Chief Executive Officer and a member of our Parent’s Board of Managers, positions he has held since April 1, 2014. Before his appointment as CEO, he had been our Chief Financial Officer from October 2002 until July 2012, our Chief Operating Officer from 2008 to April 1, 2014, and our President from 2010 to April 1, 2014. Prior to joining WOW, Mr. Cochran was with Millenium Digital Media from May 1998 to October 2002 where he served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer during the last year of his time there. Mr. Cochran also worked in public accounting at Arthur Andersen. Mr. Cochran received his undergraduate degree in Economics and holds a Master’s of Accounting Science from the University of Illinois—Urbana Champaign.

*Richard E. Fish, Jr., Chief Financial Officer.* Mr. Fish joined the WOW team in January 2013 as Chief Financial Officer and brings 23 years of experience in various financial, operational and business development leadership positions in the telecommunications industry to WOW. Prior to joining WOW, Mr. Fish served as the Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer at ITC^DeltaCom where he was responsible for all finance, accounting and treasury related functions. Prior to ITC^DeltaCom, Mr. Fish was the Chief Financial Officer at ICG Communications and served in various financial and operating leadership positions with AT&T and Teleport Communications Group. Mr. Fish began his career with Arthur Andersen, received his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska and is a Certified Public Accountant.

*Cash Hagen, Chief Technical Officer.* Mr. Hagen is our Parent’s Chief Technical Officer, a position he has held since January 2008. Prior to joining WOW, Mr. Hagen served in varying technology and business development positions at Nortel Networks from January 2003 to December 2007. He has also held a number of leadership positions at BigBand Networks, ADC Telecommunications, Antec and Cox Communications. He received his undergraduate degree from Lindenwood University and his Masters in Business Administration from Benedictine University.

*Cathy Kuo, Chief Operating Officer.* Ms. Kuo is our Parent's Chief Operating Officer, a position she has held since April 1, 2014. Before her appointment as Chief Operating Officer, Ms. Kuo had been our Chief Marketing Officer since December 2010 and Senior Vice President of Marketing since 2001. Prior to joining WOW, Ms. Kuo served as Vice President of Branding & Partnership Marketing and Vice President of Consumer Offerings for AT&T Broadband from February 1999 to November 2001. Ms. Kuo started working in the cable industry in 1997 when she joined Tele-Communications, Inc. as Director of Marketing. She received her undergraduate degree in Business Economics from Brown University.

*Craig Martin, General Counsel and Secretary.* Mr. Martin is the Company's General Counsel and Secretary, positions he has held since January 2000. Prior to joining WOW, Mr. Martin served as the Chief Operating Officer and Chairperson of the cable and telecommunications practice group of Howard & Howard Attorneys, PC. He received his undergraduate degree from Amherst College, his Master's degree from Trinity College, Dublin and his J.D. from the University of Notre Dame.

*Colleen Abdoulah, Manager.* Ms. Abdoulah is a Manager of our parent. Ms. Abdoulah is the former Chairperson of our Parent's board of managers, a position she held until Mr. Marcus' appointment in December of 2015. Ms. Abdoulah also served as our parent's Chief Executive Officer through March, 2014, a position which she held since May 2003. Prior to becoming our Parent's Chief Executive Officer, she was our Parent's President and Chief Operating Officer from August 2002 until May 2003. Before joining WOW, Ms. Abdoulah was Executive Vice President of Wireline Services at AT&T Broadband, the cable operations arm of AT&T, and Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of Cable Operations for TCI Communications, Inc. Ms. Abdoulah began her career as an account executive with public relations and advertising firms in Canada and Cincinnati, Ohio. She received her undergraduate degree in Public Relations and Marketing from Mount Royal College in Calgary and her Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Denver. She is past chairperson of the American Cable Association, a past Vice President of the Executive Board of Women in Cable and Telecommunications, and a past Chairperson for the Women in Cable Telecommunications Foundation and the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center.

*David Burgstahler, Manager.* Mr. Burgstahler is a Manager of our Parent. He is a Co-Managing Partner and the President of Avista. Prior to co-founding Avista in 2005, he was a Partner of DLJ Merchant Banking Partners. He was at DLJ Investment Banking from 1995 to 1997 and at DLJ Merchant Banking Partners from 1997 through 2005. Prior to that, he worked at Andersen Consulting (now known as Accenture) and McDonnell Douglas (now known as Boeing). He currently serves as a Director of ACP Mountain Holdings, Inc., AngioDynamics Inc., ConvaTec, INC Research Holdings, Lantheus Holdings, Inc., Strategic Partners, Inc. and Osmotica Holdings Corp. He is also a Trustee of the Trinity School in New York City. He previously served as a Director of Armored AutoGroup, Visant Corporation and Warner Chilcott plc. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Kansas and a Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School.

*Brian Cassidy, Manager.* Mr. Cassidy is a Manager of our Parent. Mr. Cassidy joined Crestview in 2004 and was elected as a partner of the firm and a member of the Investment Committee in September 2012. Mr. Cassidy is a leader of Crestview's media strategy. Prior to Crestview, Mr. Cassidy worked in private equity at Boston Ventures, where he invested in companies in the media and communications, entertainment and business services industries. He also worked for one year as the acting CFO of a portfolio company. Previously, Mr. Cassidy was an investment banking analyst at Alex, Brown & Sons, where he completed a range of financing and M&A assignments for companies in the consumer and business services sectors. Mr. Cassidy is currently a director of Camping World/Good Sam Enterprises, NEP Group, Cumulus Media and Interoute Communications. He was previously involved with Charter Communications, OneLink Communications, Insight Communications and

ValueOptions. Mr. Cassidy received his M.B.A. from Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he was an Arjay Miller Scholar, and his B.A. from Harvard College, *cum laude*, in Physics.

*Daniel Kilpatrick, Manager.* Mr. Kilpatrick is a Manager of our Parent. He is a Principal at Crestview Partners and joined the firm in 2009 after receiving his M.B.A. from Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he was an Arjay Miller Scholar. He works across a variety of sectors, including media. Mr. Kilpatrick is currently on the board of NYDJ Apparel and was previously a director of Symbion, Inc. Mr. Kilpatrick received his B.A. from Yale University, *magna cum laude*, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

*Jeffrey Marcus, Manager.* Mr. Marcus is the Chairman of the Board of Manager of our Parent. Mr. Marcus joined Crestview as a partner in 2004 and is a member of the Investment Committee. Mr. Marcus leads Crestview's media strategy. A media and communications entrepreneur, Mr. Marcus previously served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of AMFM, (formerly Chancellor Media Corporation), one of the nation's largest radio broadcasting companies. Mr. Marcus was also the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Marcus Cable, which at the time of its sale (1998) was the largest privately held cable company in the United States. Mr. Marcus also founded an earlier cable company, Marcus Communications, which was merged into Western Tele-Communications, after which Mr. Marcus was the CEO of the renamed company, WestMarc Communications, until 1988. In 1989, the company was sold to Tele-Communications. Mr. Marcus is a director of Camping World/Good Sam Enterprises and NEP Group. He has served on a variety of other public and private company boards of directors, including Brinker International (NYSE:EAT), AMFM (NYSE:AFM), Charter Communications (NASDAQ:CHTR), Insight Communications, OneLink Communications and WestMarc Communications. He received a B.A. in Economics from the University of California-Berkeley.

*Phil Seskin, Manager.* Prior to joining Avista in 2012 as an Industry Executive, Mr. Seskin spent more than two decades at Verizon Communications, most recently as a Senior Vice President of Corporate Development. At Verizon, Mr. Seskin worked on initiatives that spanned more than 20 countries and involved strategy, acquisitions, operating issues, valuation, cross-border currency, tax and regulatory issues. He also played a significant role in securing board, regulatory, and other necessary approvals in transactions. Prior to his role as Senior Vice President of Corporate Development, he held a number of positions at Verizon, including Vice President, Corporate Development; Managing Director, Mergers and Acquisitions; and Managing Director, Financing Planning and Investment Analysis. He also founded Verizon Strategic Investments, the company's venture capital operation. Mr. Seskin was instrumental in building new companies and creating shareholder value through mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures, organic investment, operating initiatives, and divestitures, totaling over \$150 billion in the United States, Europe, Latin America and Asia. Mr. Seskin serves as a Director of DataBank Holdings and Telular Corporation. Mr. Seskin received a B.A. from Adelphi in 1985 and a M.B.A. in 1992 from Hofstra Finance.

*Dudley Slater, Manager.* Mr. Slater is a Manager of our Parent. He currently serves as Vice Chairman on the Board of Integra Telecom, Inc., a company he co-founded in 1996. Mr. Slater also serves on the Board, the Financial Services Committee and the Loan and Investment Committee of Umpqua Bank. Previously, Mr. Slater served as Chief Executive Officer of Integra from 1998 through 2011. Prior to founding Integra, Mr. Slater was the founding principal for Rural Link Communication. Mr. Slater also ran the mergers and acquisitions program for Pacific Telecom, Inc. and served as a geophysicist for Texaco. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Geophysics from UCLA and an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School.



*Joshua Tamaroff, Manager.* Mr. Tamaroff joined Avista in 2009 and serves as a Vice President. Prior to joining Avista, Mr. Tamaroff worked as an Analyst in the leveraged finance group at Lehman Brothers and Barclays Capital. He currently serves as a director of InvestorPlace Media. Mr. Tamaroff received a B.S. from Cornell University and a M.B.A. with honors from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a Palmer Scholar.

### **Board of Managers**

The Board of Managers is responsible for the management of our business. The Board of Managers is comprised of nine managers. Pursuant to the Second Amended and Restated Members Agreement of Parent, dated as of December 18, 2015 (the “Members Agreement”), until such time as Crestview increases its equity stake in parent and receives certain regulatory approvals, Avista has the right to appoint five managers to the Board of Managers. David Burgstahler, Phil Seskin, Colleen Abdoulah, Dudley Slater and Joshua Tamaroff were appointed by Avista. Brendan Scollans resigned from the Board on March 11, 2016 and was replaced by Mr. Tamaroff. Crestview currently has the right to appoint three managers to the Board of Managers. Messrs. Cassidy, Marcus, and Kilpatrick were appointed by Crestview. The ninth manager is to be our chief executive officer, which resulted in the appointment of Mr. Cochran.

Although our securities are not registered or traded on any national securities exchange, we believe that Messrs. Slater and Seskin would be considered independent for either Board of Managers or Audit Committee purposes.

### **Board Committees**

The Audit Committee is composed of Messrs. Cassidy, Kilpatrick, Seskin and Tamaroff. In light of our status as a closely held company and the absence of a public trading market for our membership interests, the Board of Managers has not designated any member of the Audit Committee as an “audit committee financial expert.” The Compensation Committee is composed of Messrs. Burgstahler and Marcus.

### **Code of Ethics**

We have adopted a code of conduct and ethics for all of our employees, including our principal executive, financial and accounting officers and our controller, or persons performing similar functions, and each of the non-employee managers on our Board of Managers. The Code of Ethics is available in the “Investor Relations” section of our website at [www.woway.com](http://www.woway.com). Waivers of the Code of Ethics, if any, will be made by the Board of Managers and will be publicly disclosed in the “Investor Relations” section of our website.

## **Item 11. Executive Compensation**

### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis (“CD&A”) provides information regarding the 2015 fiscal year compensation program for each individual who served as a principal executive officer or principal financial officer during 2015 and the three other executive officers at fiscal year-end who were our most highly compensated executives. Those individuals were (the “named executive officers” or “NEOs”):

- Steven Cochran, Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”)
- Richard E. Fish, Jr., Chief Financial Officer
- Craig Martin, General Counsel and Secretary

- Cathy Kuo, Chief Operating Officer
- Cash Hagen, Chief Technical Officer

Unless the context requires otherwise, references to the “Compensation Committee” or the “Committee” in this CD&A refer to the Compensation Committee of our Board.

### **Executive Summary**

The following is a summary of key aspects of our 2015 compensation programs for our named executive officers:

- ***Multi-faceted compensation program.*** Each named executive officer participates in two primary elements of the Company’s executive compensation program: a base salary and an annual cash bonus. Base salaries provide a fixed amount of compensation that is required to retain key executives. Annual bonuses are awarded based upon achievement of specified performance targets established in connection with our annual bonus plan, which in 2015 was the 2015 Management Bonus Plan (“2015 MBP”). In addition, prior to the Crestview and the Fifth Amended and Restated Operating Agreement of Parent (the “Amended Operating Agreement”) from time to time, we historically granted long-term incentive awards consisting of unit-based equity members interests of our Parent. When granted, these awards were granted under the Management Equity Plan described below in “Long-Term Equity Incentive Awards”. The Management Equity Plan was canceled in connection with the Crestview Investment and the Amended Operating Agreement. We anticipate that our Board will adopt a new management equity plan under which equity incentive awards will be granted in future periods. No equity awards were granted in 2015.
- ***Emphasis on pay-for-performance.*** Cash bonuses under the 2015 MBP may be earned based on individual performance and the achievement of specified performance measures.
- ***Employment Agreements.*** Each named executive officer is subject to an employment agreement with the Company. Those agreements generally provide for cash severance upon a termination by the Company without cause or by the Company for good reason. The employment agreements do not provide tax gross-ups.
- ***Merit-Based Increases in Base Salaries.*** During 2015, each of Mr. Cochran, Mr. Fish, Mr. Martin, Ms. Kuo and Mr. Hagen, received a 2-1/2% merit-based increase in their base salaries consistent with other employees.

The Compensation Committee is generally charged with the oversight of our executive compensation program and is composed of Messrs. Burgstahler and Marcus. The Compensation Committee considers the proper alignment of executive pay with our values and strategy by overseeing executive compensation policies, measuring and assessing corporate performance and taking into account our CEO’s performance assessment of our company coupled with the individual performance of our other named executive officers. While the Compensation Committee has not historically used the services of independent compensation consultants, it may retain such services in the future to assist in the strategic review of programs and arrangements relating to executive compensation and performance.

### **Compensation Philosophy and Objectives**

The Company’s 2015 compensation program for its executive officers was designed to attract, motivate, reward and retain key executives and employees to enhance membership interest value by emphasizing performance-based compensation. The Company believes that its compensation programs

link performance to both annual and long-term goals and objectives and provides total compensation that is both fair and competitive.

Our policy for allocating between currently paid and long-term compensation is to provide adequate base compensation to attract and retain personnel, while offering additional incentives to achieve short-term and long-term financial performance goals and to maximize long-term value for our members. Our compensation policy provides us the flexibility to allocate between short-term and long-term compensation and between cash and equity-based compensation. We provide cash compensation in the form of a base salary to meet competitive salary norms. In addition, we provide annual cash bonuses which reward executive achievement of short-term goals. We had previously developed a long-term equity incentive program, re-established in 2012 in connection with the Fourth Amended and Restated Operating Agreement of Parent (the “Prior Operating Agreement”) to align executive pay with long term gains in membership interest value and long-term financial performance results. We granted awards in 2012 upon establishment of the program, and again granted awards in 2014. Long-term equity incentive programs were not historically granted on an annual basis, and no equity was awarded in 2015. In 2016, in connection with changes resulting from the Crestview Investment our compensation committee will consider a new equity incentive program to be established under the Amended Operating Agreement.

The primary objectives of our 2015 compensation program are to:

- Attract and retain the best possible executive talent; and
- Achieve accountability for performance by linking annual cash incentive compensation to the achievement of measurable performance objectives.

In 2016, we expect that our compensation committee will revisit our compensation program and may make adjustments in light of changes to Parent’s ownership structure, current market conditions and potential shifts in strategic direction.

### **Compensation Determination Process**

#### ***Compensation Differences Among Named Executive Officers***

The Company does not have a fixed internal pay equity scale but rather determines the compensation for each position based upon individual responsibilities and market dynamics. The job responsibilities of our named executive officers in 2015 were as follows: Steven Cochran, Chief Executive Officer; Richard E. Fish, Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Craig Martin, General Counsel and Secretary; Cathy Kuo, Chief Operating Officer; and Cash Hagen, Chief Technical Officer.

Peer group analysis plays a significant factor in establishing total compensation for our named executive officers. The total compensation among our named executive officers varies as a result of each executive’s individual performance and overall duties and responsibilities.

#### ***Role of the Board and Chief Executive Officer***

All executive compensation decisions are made by our Compensation Committee. The Committee takes significant direction from the recommendations of our CEO regarding the design and implementation of the executive compensation program, as Mr. Cochran has significant involvement in, and knowledge of, the Company’s business goals, strategies and performance, the overall effectiveness of the executive officers and each person’s individual contribution to the Company’s performance. In 2015, Mr. Cochran developed and recommended appropriate performance measures and targets for individual compensation levels. Mr. Cochran does not make recommendations with respect to his own

compensation. In addition, when making its decisions, the Compensation Committee, considers the following factors:

- The requirements of any applicable employment agreements;
- The executive's individual performance during the year;
- Projected role and responsibilities for the coming year;
- Actual and potential impact on the successful execution of our Company strategy;
- The executive's prior compensation, experience and professional status;
- Internal pay considerations; and
- Employment market conditions and compensation practices within our peer group.

Because the Company is not required to conduct a say-on-pay vote, it did not consider such a vote in its compensation-setting practices.

In making annual compensation determinations for the named executive officers, the Committee primarily focuses on target annual compensation, which consists of base salary and a target bonus. The Committee also reviewed subjective factors for each named executive officer, although subjective factors historically have not resulted in material changes to the target annual compensation.

#### *Use of Peer Group Based on Compensation Surveys and Competitive Market Data*

We have historically used comparative information acquired through industry surveys and comparative company analysis in formulating recommendations for annual base salary adjustments and bonus payments.

Our Compensation Committee generally targets the compensation level that allows us to recruit highly qualified and experienced executive talent from comparable or larger-sized organizations in the cable and telecommunications industry.

#### **Elements of Executive Compensation**

Our compensation program is weighted towards performance-based compensation, reflecting our philosophy of increasing our long-term value and supporting strategic imperatives, as discussed above. Total compensation and other benefits consist of the following elements:

- Base salary; and
- Annual cash incentive (bonus) compensation.

We do not offer a defined benefit pension plan. The Compensation Committee supports a competitive employee benefit package, but does not support executive perquisites or other supplemental programs targeted to executives.

#### ***Base Salary***

Each named executive officer received a base salary paid in cash. The employment agreements for each named executive officer established a base salary, subject to annual increases at the Company's discretion. Annual merit increases are generally effective in January of the applicable year. The Committee and the CEO rely primarily on peer group analyses in determining annual salary increases while also considering the Company's overall performance, and the individual's experience, current performance and potential for advancement. Named executive officers, consistent with most WOW employees in 2015 received a 2-1/2 percentage merit increase during 2015.

The following table sets forth the approximate base salaries approved for the named executive officers in 2014 and 2015, reflecting the increases effective in April of each year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>2014 Base Salary</u>	<u>2015 Base Salary</u>
Steven Cochran . . . . .	\$610,000	\$625,000
Cathy Kuo . . . . .	\$375,000	\$384,375
Craig Martin . . . . .	\$348,534	\$357,247
Richard Fish, Jr. . . . .	\$315,000	\$322,875
Cash Hagen . . . . .	\$315,000	\$322,875

**2015 Management Bonus Plan Compensation**

Each year, our Compensation Committee, in consultation with the company’s CEO, establishes an annual incentive bonus plan. In 2015, that plan was the 2015 MBP, which established incentive cash bonuses for each of our named executive officers based upon the achievement of certain business and individual or department objectives. The primary business objective used to determine bonus awards under the 2015 MBP were adjusted consolidated earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (“Adjusted EBITDA”) and capital expenditures (“Capex”). For this purpose, we define Adjusted EBITDA as net income (loss) before net interest expense, income taxes, depreciation and amortization (including impairments), gains (losses) realized and unrealized on derivative instruments, management fees to related party, the write-up or write-off of any asset, debt modification expenses, loss on extinguishment of debt, integration and restructuring expenses and all non-cash charges and expenses (including equity based compensation expense) and certain other income and expenses, as further defined in our credit facilities.

Bonus levels are set as a percentage of base salary and are established based upon the individual’s job-related responsibilities and corresponding impact on overall company performance. Assuming achievement of the company’s designated financial targets (i.e., Adjusted EBITDA and Capex) and satisfactory performance of the named executive officer (as determined by the Compensation Committee and/or the CEO), either the Compensation Committee or the CEO makes the final determination of participant bonus awards for the named executive officers other than the CEO. The Compensation Committee makes the final determination of a bonus award as it relates to the CEO.

The following table sets forth the specific target bonus (specified as a percentage of base salary, as in place when the targets were set), after adjustment for the merit increase described above for each of the named executive officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Target Bonus (% of Base Salary)</u>	<u>Target Bonus Amount (\$)</u>
Steven Cochran . . . . .	100%	\$625,000
Cathy Kuo . . . . .	50%	\$192,188
Craig Martin . . . . .	40%	\$142,899
Richard Fish, Jr. . . . .	40%	\$129,150
Cash Hagen . . . . .	40%	\$129,150

In general, and subject to the discretion of the Compensation Committee, bonuses were designed to be paid out under the 2015 MBP if the Company’s Adjusted EBITDA met or exceeded the Adjusted target of \$453.4 million in 2015 (an increase of 7.3% over 2014 Adjusted EBITDA) and capital expenditures (“Capex”) were at or below \$212.0 million. The Adjusted EBITDA bonus was subject to a threshold of 96% achievement and the Capex bonus was subject to a threshold of 91%, at which threshold 30% of the target bonus would be paid. The maximum achievable bonus was 150% of each named executive officer’s target bonus, with linear increases between such threshold, target and maximum amounts. In all cases, the Compensation Committee and the CEO retain the authority to

adjust reported financial measures for unusual or nonrecurring items that impact the results in a given year and/or that were not contemplated when the original targets were set. They are also permitted to use negative discretion and determine not to award any bonuses under the 2015 MBP. The Compensation Committee customarily utilizes this discretion as appropriate.

Our actual 2015 Adjusted EBITDA was \$443.9 million in 2015, and our Capex was \$231.9 million. Taking into account these results, strategic factors affecting the Capex amounts that differed from the projected budget, and Company performance as a whole, the Compensation Committee elected to award each named executive officer 90% of the target bonus amount under the 2015 MBP.

### ***Management Equity Plan***

Prior to the Crestview Investment, our named executive officers were granted management incentive units (“Incentive Units”) pursuant to a Management Incentive Unit Equity Plan (the “Management Equity Plan”) under the Prior Operating Agreement. Grants under the Management Equity Plan were not automatically made on an annual basis under the Prior Operating Agreement. In December 2015, Units awarded under our Management Equity Plan were purchased by Crestview, converted to Class B Units, or, in the case of unvested Units, forfeited in connection with the Crestview Investment. As a result, we no longer have any Equity Incentive Units outstanding. We expect our Compensation Committee will develop a new management incentive equity plan in 2016 as contemplated by the Amended Operating Agreement.

### ***Retirement Plans***

In order to attract, retain and pay market levels of compensation, we aim to provide benefits to our named executive officers that are consistent with market practices. We offer a 401(k) qualified defined contribution retirement plan for our employees, including named executive officers, we match 25% of each participant’s voluntary contributions subject to a limit of the first 4% of the participant’s compensation. The matching contributions vest 25% annually over a four- year period.

### ***Health and Welfare Benefits***

Our named executive officers are eligible to participate in all of our employee and health and welfare benefit arrangements on the same basis as our other employees (subject to, and in accordance with, applicable laws). This is a fixed component of compensation, and these benefits are provided on a non-discriminatory basis to all employees.

### ***Perquisites or Other Benefits***

Other than the benefits described in this CD&A, we do not currently provide any perquisites or other benefits to our named executive officers.

### ***Equity Ownership Guidelines***

Prior to the Crestview Investment, grants of equity incentive units were subject to the provisions of the amended and restated Members Agreement dated July 17, 2012 and the amended and restated Registration Rights Agreement dated May 1, 2006 (as further revised by way of amendment dated July 17, 2012) which, among other things, restricted the transferability of such units in order to ensure alignment with our equity investors. Future grants of equity incentive units will be subject to the provisions of the Amended Members Agreement, and any equity incentive plans developed pursuant thereto, as well as the amended and restated Registration Rights Agreement dated December 18, 2015. We do not maintain formal equity ownership guidelines, and do not expect to do so in the near term.

### ***Severance and Change in Control Benefits***

We have entered into employment agreements with each of our named executive officers. These employment agreements provide for base salary, annual discretionary bonuses and employee benefits over specified terms of employment. Each of these agreements provides for certain payments and other benefits if the executive's employment is terminated by us without cause or by the executive for good reason. In each case, severance payments are subject to signing a release and our executives are subject to non-competition, non-solicitation and confidentiality restrictions. See the subsection "Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control" for a description of these employment agreements, including the applicable severance and change in control benefits.

### ***Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan***

In July 2007, we implemented a non-qualified deferred compensation plan. Under this plan, certain members of management and other highly compensated employees may elect to defer a portion of their annual compensation, subject to certain percentage limitations. The assets and liabilities of the plan are consolidated within the Company's financial statements. The assets of the plan are specifically designated as available to the Company solely for the purpose of paying benefits under the Company's deferred compensation plan. However, in the event the Company became insolvent, the investments would be available to all unsecured general creditors.

### ***Tax and Accounting Implications***

In 2015, we were not subject to Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"), as amended. In the event we become subject to Section 162(m) of the Code, the Compensation Committee will consider the impact of Section 162(m) in the design of its compensation strategies annually.

The Compensation Committee operates its compensation programs with the intention of either complying with, or being exempt from, the requirements of Section 409A of the Code. We account for stock-based payments with respect to our long-term equity incentive award programs in accordance with the requirements of Financial Accounting Standard Board ("FASB") ASC 718—Stock Compensation ("ASC 718").

### **Compensation Committee Report**

Our compensation committee has reviewed and discussed the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section of this annual report with our management. Based upon this review and discussion, the compensation committee recommended to the Board of Managers that the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section be included in this annual report.

Respectfully submitted by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Managers.

David Burgstahler, Chairman  
Jeffrey Marcus

*The information contained in the foregoing report shall not be deemed to be "filed" or to be "soliciting material" with the Commission, nor shall such information be incorporated by reference into any future filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act, except to the extent that we specifically incorporate it by reference in a filing.*

## SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The table below summarizes the total compensation paid to, or earned by, the named executive officers in 2015, 2014 and 2013.

<u>Name and Principal Position</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Salary (\$)</u>	<u>Incentive Units (\$)(1)</u>	<u>Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)</u>	<u>All Other Compensation (\$)</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>
Steven Cochran(2) . . . . . Chief Executive Officer	2015	\$620,384	—	562,559	\$ 12,949(3)	\$1,195,892
	2014	605,919	—	—	\$ 15,699(4)	\$ 621,618
	2013	482,057	—	—	489,842(5)	971,899
Craig Martin . . . . . General Counsel and Secretary	2015	\$354,566	—	128,622	5,059(6)	\$ 488,247
	2014	\$349,504	—	—	\$ 2,593(7)	\$ 352,097
	2013	340,118	—	—	169,156(8)	509,274
Richard E. Fish, Jr.(10) . . . . . Chief Financial Officer	2015	\$320,452	—	116,247	\$ —	\$ 436,699
	2014	\$310,385	—	—	—	\$ 310,372
	2013	288,462	—	—	109,957(10)	398,419
Cash Hagen . . . . . Chief Technical Officer	2015	\$320,452	—	116,247	\$ 5,237(11)	\$ 441,936
	2014	\$311,194	—	—	\$ 2,881(12)	\$ 314,075
	2013	292,170	—	—	251,140(13)	543,310
Cathy Kuo . . . . . Chief Operating Officer	2015	\$381,491	—	172,987	\$ 5,163(14)	\$ 559,641
	2014	\$357,567	—	—	\$ 4,390(15)	\$ 361,957
	2013	292,170	—	—	244,620(16)	536,790

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- (1) This column reports information with respect to the Incentive Units that were granted to our named executive officers in 2013 and 2014. In 2012, the Company engaged a valuation expert, Fair Value Advisors, to assist in determining the grant date value of the Incentive Units awards in accordance FASB ASC 718. A binomial fair value model was used and resulted in an immaterial amount for all incentive Units granted in 2012, less than \$2,000. The Company, using a similar binomial fair value model for its 2013 and 2014 awards, determined that the grant date value of the Incentive Units was immaterial. As such, no grant date fair value is included in this column for these awards. This does not necessarily reflect the actual value a named executive officer may receive upon vesting or subsequent distribution.
  - (2) In addition to his former duties as President, Chief Operating Officer and current duties as Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Cochran also served as our principal financial officer during the interim period between November 30, 2012 and January 7, 2013.
  - (3) For 2015, consists of a distribution of \$5,287 from the Company's 401(k) plans made for compliance reasons, and \$7,662 in earnings on the Company's nonqualified deferred compensation plan.
  - (4) For 2014, consists of employer contributions to the Company's 401(k) plan and earnings on the Company's nonqualified deferred compensation plan.
  - (5) For 2013, includes a synergy bonus in connection with post- Acquisition goals of \$416,721 and employer contributions to the Company's 401(k) plan of \$4,375 and the remaining amounts are attributable to earnings from the nonqualified deferred compensation plan.
  - (6) For 2015, consists of a \$5,059 distribution of the Company's 401K plans made for compliance reasons.



- (7) For 2014, consists of employer contributions to the Company's 401(k) plan.
- (8) For 2013, includes a synergy bonus in connection with post- Acquisition goals of \$166,510 and employer contributions to the Company's 401(k) plan of \$2,608 and the remaining amounts are attributable to earnings from the nonqualified deferred compensation plan.
- (9) Richard E. Fish, Jr. was hired as our Chief Financial Officer effective January 7, 2013.
- (10) For 2013, includes a synergy bonus in connection with post- Acquisition goals of \$109,957 and the remaining amounts are attributable to earnings from the nonqualified deferred compensation plan.
- (11) For 2015, consists of \$5,237 distribution of the Company's 401K plan made for compliance reasons.
- (12) For 2014, consists of employer contributions to the Company's 401(k) plan made for compliance reasons.
- (13) For 2013, includes a synergy bonus in connection with post- Acquisition goals of \$241,698 and employer contributions to the Company's 401(k) plan of \$2,523 the remaining amounts are attributable to earnings from the nonqualified deferred compensation plan.
- (14) For 2015, consists of \$5,163 distribution of the Company's 401K plans made for compliance reasons.
- (15) For 2014, consists of employer contributions to the Company's 401(k) plan.
- (16) For 2013, includes a synergy bonus in connection with post- Acquisition goals of \$241,698 and employer contributions to the Company's 401(k) plan of \$2,922.

#### GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS IN 2015

The following table provides information about plan-based awards granted to the named executive officers in 2015.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards</u>		
	<u>Threshold (\$)</u>	<u>Target (\$)</u>	<u>Maximum (\$)</u>
Steve Cochran . . . . .	187,500	625,000	937,500
Cathy Kuo . . . . .	57,656	192,188	288,282
Craig Martin . . . . .	42,870	142,899	214,349
Richard E. Fish, Jr. . . . .	38,745	129,150	193,725
Cash Hagen . . . . .	38,745	129,150	193,725

#### Narrative to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards

##### *Non-Equity Incentive Plan—2015 Management Bonus Plan*

**Non-Equity Incentive Plan—2015 Annual Bonus Plan.** For the participating named executive officers, 70-80%, and 30-20%, respectively, of the target bonus amount was based on achievement of 2015 Adjusted EBITDA and Capex performance measures. Each named executive officer earned 90% of the target bonus. The Compensation based its determination on actual Company results, adjustments to the performance measures resulting from increased Capex requirements beyond those anticipated by the 2015 budget, and overall Company performance.

## OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT 2015 FISCAL YEAR-END

As a result of the Crestview Investment and the transactions memorialized in the Amended Operating Agreement that took place on December 18, 2015, there were no outstanding equity awards at 2015 fiscal year end.

## OPTION EXERCISES AND EQUITY UNITS VESTED IN 2015

The Company does not issue stock options to any of its employees. The following table provides information on Management Incentive Units held by our named executive officers that vested in 2015.

Name	Incentive Units	
	Number of Incentive Units Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting (\$)(1)
Steven Cochran . . . . .	1,950	—
Cathy Kuo . . . . .	850	—
Cash Hagen . . . . .	700	—
Craig Martin . . . . .	450	—
Richard E. Fish Jr. . . . .	850	—

(1) The Incentive Units represent a profits interest in the Parent. No value is realized as a result of vesting of those units. See “Narrative to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table—Management Equity Plan” for a description of the Incentive Units and the effect of the Crestview Investment and Amended Operating Agreement on the conversion, sale, or forfeiture of such Incentive Units.

### Pension Benefits in 2015

We do not offer our executives or others a pension plan. Retirement benefits are limited to participation in our 401(k) plan with an employer discretionary match for employee deferrals of up to 4% of base salary, subject to applicable IRC contribution limitations.

### Nonqualified Deferred Compensation in 2015

The following table shows certain information concerning non-qualified deferred compensation activity in 2015 for our named executive officers.

## NONQUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION IN 2015

Name(1)	Executive Contributions in 2015 (\$)	Company Contributions in 2015 (\$)	Aggregate Earnings in 2015 (\$)(1)	Aggregate Withdrawals/ Distributions (\$)(2)	Aggregate Balance at 12/31/2015 (\$)
Steven Cochran . . . . .	—	—	\$7,662	\$109,606	\$234,558
Craig Martin . . . . .	—	—	—	—	\$ 38,837
Cash Hagen . . . . .	—	—	\$ —	\$ 10,722	\$ —

(1) Amounts in this column are included in the “All Other Compensation” column in the Summary Compensation Table.

(2) Amounts in this column are not included in the Summary Compensation Table.

## POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE IN CONTROL

The following section describes potential payments and benefits to the named executive officers under the Company's compensation and benefit plans and arrangements upon termination of employment or a change of control of the Company.

As described above, each of our named executive officers have an employment agreement with the Company. In addition, the Company may authorize discretionary severance payments to its named executive officers upon termination.

### Description of Severance or Change in Control Provisions in Employment Agreements

*Mr. Cochran's Employment Agreement.* In connection with Mr. Cochran's appointment as Chief Executive Officer and member of the Board effective April 1, 2014, on February 3, 2014, the Company entered into an employment agreement (the "Employment Agreement") with Mr. Cochran. The term of the Employment Agreement is for five years unless earlier terminated pursuant to its terms, and the Employment Agreement supersedes Mr. Cochran's prior employment agreement in all respects.

Under the Employment Agreement, Mr. Cochran receives an annual base salary, subject to annual increases as determined by Parent's compensation committee, and an annual bonus award with a target bonus of 100% of his annual base salary (based upon achievement of objective performance goals established by the compensation committee, which may include Mr. Cochran and the Company's performance relative to budgeted EBITDA, numbers of subscribers, capital expenditures, and customer satisfaction and other goals established by the compensation committee). The compensation committee will establish additional performance thresholds above and below the target ranging from 50% to a percentage in excess of 100% of Mr. Cochran's annual base salary as permitted by the then existing management bonus plan. Mr. Cochran may participate in the Company's employee benefit plans as are generally made available to the Company's senior executives, including insurance programs and other fringe employee benefits.

Upon termination of Mr. Cochran's employment without cause or by Mr. Cochran for good reason, Mr. Cochran will receive severance in the form of (i) continued annual salary payments through the second anniversary of the date of his termination of employment (subject to his execution of a release in favor of Parent and its subsidiaries and continued compliance with the restrictive covenants set forth in the Employment Agreement), and (ii) the right, but not the obligation, to sell a number of vested Units equal to the lesser of (x) vested Units representing 20% of the outstanding vested Incentive Units held by Mr. Cochran (valued at fair market value as of Mr. Cochran's termination date, as determined in good faith by the Board consistent with the most recent valuation of Parent determined by Avista) or (y) vested Incentive Units with a fair market value of \$2,000,000 (valued at fair market value as of Mr. Cochran's termination date, as determined in good faith by the Board, consistent with Avista's most recent valuation of Parent). Mr. Cochran will not be entitled to severance payments or sale rights upon termination for any other reason.

*Other Named Executive Officers' Employment Agreements.* The Company entered into letter agreements relating to employment with each Messrs., Martin, Fish, Hagen and Ms. Kuo. Each such letter agreement was executed using the same form of agreement. None of those letter agreements specify a minimum term. The letter agreements provide for an annual base salary (subject to annual review for increase only) and an annual bonus award (based upon formulas to be established in its sole discretion, such as annual budgeted EBITDA, achievement of budgeted customer retention, and acquisition of customer satisfaction ratings). Each of those agreements also permit the named executive officers to participate in the Company's employee benefit plans as are generally made available to our senior executives, including insurance programs and other fringe employee benefits.

Upon termination of the employment of Messrs. Martin, Fish, Hagen or Ms. Kuo by the Company without cause or by the employee for good reason, such employee shall receive severance equal to 1 year’s salary to be paid in 12 equal monthly installments (subject to the employee’s execution of a release in favor of the Company and continued compliance with the restrictive covenants set forth in the letter agreement). The letter agreements do not provide for severance payments upon any other termination.

**Change of Control/Severance Payment Table as of December 31, 2015**

The following table estimates the potential payments and benefits to the named executive officers upon termination of employment or a change of control, assuming such event occurs on December 31, 2015. These estimates do not reflect the actual amounts that would be paid to such persons, which would only be known at the time that they become eligible for payment and would only be payable if the specified event occurs.

*Items Not Reflected in Table.* The following items are not reflected in the table set forth below:

- Accrued salary, bonus (except to the extent specifically noted in an employment agreement) and vacation.
- Costs of COBRA or any other mandated governmental assistance program to former employees.
- Welfare benefits provided to all salaried employees having substantially the same value.
- Amounts outstanding under the Trust’s 401(k) plan.
- Although the Incentive Units become fully vested upon a change in control, they are not included in the table below. This is because the Incentive Units represent a profits interest in the Parent. As such, no value is received as a result of the vesting of those units. See “—Narrative to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table—Management Equity Plan” for a description of the Incentive Units.

**CHANGE IN CONTROL AND SEVERANCE PAYMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015**

	<u>Cash Severance (\$)</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>
Steven Cochran(1) . . . . .	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000
Termination without cause or for good reason		
Cathy Kuo(2) . . . . .	\$ 384,375	\$ 384,375
Termination without cause or for good reason		
Craig Martin(2) . . . . .	\$ 357,247	\$ 357,247
Termination without cause or for good reason		
Richard E. Fish, Jr(2). . . . .	\$ 322,875	\$ 322,875
Termination without cause of for good reason		
Cash Hagen(2) . . . . .	\$ 322,875	\$ 322,875
Termination without cause or for good reason		

(1) Calculated as 2 times Mr. Cochran’s salary in effect as of December 31, 2015.

(3) Calculated as 1 times the named executive officer’s base salary in effect as of December 31, 2015.

## **Manager Compensation**

Board members from Avista and Crestview do not receive any direct compensation for their service as Managers. We pay Avista a management fee of \$1,500,000 annually pursuant to the Amended and Restated Financial Advisory Agreement, dated as of July 17, 2012. In addition, pursuant to a consulting agreement dated as of December 18, 2015 by and among Parent, Avista and Crestview, Crestview is entitled to 50% of any management fee or transaction fee actually received by Avista, and we are responsible for the reasonable expenses of each of Avista and Crestview incurred in providing services under such agreements. See “Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Manager Independence—Related Person Transactions—Services Agreement” and “—Consulting Agreement.”

Effective June 30, 2012 we engaged Mr. Slater, and effective October 20, 2012, we engaged Mr. Seskin, respectively, Managers of the Company, to provide services associated with corporate development and other strategic initiatives on a consulting basis with each receiving an annual fee of \$75,000.

We do not compensate our board members with per meeting fees. Our managers are reimbursed for any expenses incurred in connection with their service.

## **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

During 2015, the members of our compensation committee were Messrs. Burgstahler, Scollans and Ms. Abdoulah. Mr. Burgstahler is a Co-Managing Partner and President of Avista while Mr. Scollans was formerly a Partner. Avista provides us with advisory services pursuant to a Financial Advisory Agreement. See “Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions, and Manager Independence—Related Person Transaction—Services Agreement.” Effective December 18, 2015, Mr. Marcus, a Partner of Crestview, joined the compensation committee and Mr. Scollans and Ms. Abdoulah discontinued their service on the compensation committee.

## **Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters**

### **Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners**

#### **Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners**

As of December 31, 2015, Parent indirectly owns all of our issued and outstanding equity interests through its direct subsidiary, Racecar Acquisition, LLC, which in turn owns all of the capital stock of WideOpenWest Illinois, Inc., WideOpenWest Ohio Inc., WOW Sigecom, Inc., and WideOpenWest Kite, Inc., our direct parent companies. On December 10, 2015, WideOpenWest Cleveland, Inc., a former direct parent company of ours, was merged with and into WideOpenWest Kite, Inc. On December 17, 2015, WideOpenWest Networks, Inc., a former direct parent company of ours, assigned all of its assets (other than any outstanding intercompany accounts receivable) to WideOpenWest Kite, Inc. and WideOpenWest Kite, Inc. assumed all of the liabilities of WideOpenWest Networks, Inc. (other than any outstanding intercompany accounts payable).

Avista Capital Partners, L.P. and Avista Capital Partners (Offshore), L.P. (collectively, the “Avista I Funds”), Avista Capital Partners III, L.P., Avista Capital Partners (Offshore) III, L.P. and Avista Capital Partners (Offshore) III-A, L.P. (collectively, the “Avista III Funds” and, together with the Avista I Funds, the “Avista Funds”), and ACP Racecar Co-Invest, LLC, (together with the Avista Funds, the “Avista Entities”) collectively own, as of December 31, 2015, approximately 59% of Parent’s issued and outstanding equity interests and 59% of Parent’s voting interests. Avista Capital Partners GP, LLC exercises voting and dispositive power over the equity interests of Parent held by the Avista I Funds. Avista Capital Partners III GP, L.P. exercises voting and dispositive power over the equity interests of Parent held by the Avista III Funds. Avista Capital Managing Member, LLC exercises voting and dispositive power over Avista Capital Partners GP, LLC and Avista Capital Partners III GP, L.P. Voting and disposition decisions at Avista Capital Managing Member, LLC are made by an investment committee, the members of which are Thompson Dean, Steven Webster, David Burgstahler, David Durkin and Sriram Venkataraman.

Crestview W1 Co-Investors, LLC, Crestview W1 TE Holdings, LLC, and Crestview W1 Holdings, L.P. (collectively, the “Crestview Entities”) collectively own, as of December 31, 2015, approximately 35% of Parent’s issued and outstanding equity interests and 37% of Parent’s voting interests. Crestview Partners III GP, L.P. exercises voting and dispositive power over the equity interests of Parent held by the Crestview Entities. Voting and disposition decisions of Crestview Partners III GP, L.P. are made by an investment committee, the members of which are Barry Volpert, Robert Delaney, Jr., Thomas Murphy, Jr., Brian Cassidy, Jeffrey Marcus, Quentin Chu, Robert Hurst, Alexander Rose, Richard DeMartini and Adam Klein. None of the foregoing persons has the power individually to vote or dispose of any shares. Each of the foregoing individuals disclaims beneficial ownership of all such shares, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest.

Unitholders, excluding the Avista Entities and the Crestview Entities, collectively own, as of December 31, 2015, approximately 6% of Parent’s issued and outstanding equity interests and approximately 1% of Parent’s voting interests. As of December 31, 2015, none of such individuals holds more than 1% of Parent’s issued and outstanding voting equity interests.

## **Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Manager Independence**

### **Procedures for Review, Approval or Ratification of Related Person Transactions**

The Company asks its managers to complete a questionnaire each year that is designed to determine, among other things, whether the manager is involved in any related person transactions with the Company. In addition, as part of its overall controls process the Company requires each officer of

the Company to complete a questionnaire each quarter which specifically asks the officers if they are aware of any related person transactions.

## **Related Person Transactions**

### **Unit Purchase Agreement**

On December 10, 2015, Parent, the Avista Funds, the unitholders listed on the signature pages thereto (collectively, the “Sellers”), the Crestview Entities and, solely in its capacity as representative, Avista Capital Partners GP, LLC entered into the Unit Purchase Agreement (the “Crestview Purchase Agreement”) pursuant to which Parent would issue \$125,000,000 in Class A common units to the Crestview Entities and the Sellers would sell approximately 25%, in the aggregate, of Class A, Class B, Class C, Class C-1, Class C-2, Class C-3, Class C-4, Class C-5, Class C-6, Class C-7 and Class C-8 common units to the Crestview Entities. The Crestview Purchase Agreement provided that Parent may issue Class B common units in lieu of Class A common units to the Crestview Entities and permitted co-investors.

In accordance with the operating agreement of Parent in effect at the signing of the Crestview Purchase Agreement, all unitholders of Parent (other than the Avista Funds who were already parties thereto) were entitled to participate in the sale of units to the Crestview Entities. If a unitholder elected to participate in the sale, such unitholder was entitled to (but not required to) sell up to such unitholder’s pro rata share of approximately 25%, in the aggregate, of units being sold to the Crestview Entities and to become a Seller under the Crestview Purchase Agreement. Promptly after the signing of the Crestview Purchase Agreement, each unitholder was notified of the transaction and such unitholder’s right to participate therein by e-mail (if available) and U.S. mail to the last known address of such unitholder.

The transactions contemplated by the Crestview Purchase Agreement were consummated on December 18, 2015.

As of December 31, 2015, proceeds from this transaction, net of accrued and paid transaction expenses, totaling \$102.8 million have been recorded to Parent’s balance sheet and have not been pushed down and reflected in the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

### **Operating Agreement**

On December 18, 2015, Parent consummated the transactions contemplated by the Crestview Purchase Agreement, including amending and restating the operating agreement of Parent (the “Amended Operating Agreement”). The Amended Operating Agreement provides that (a) each Class C, Class C-1, Class C-2, Class C-3, Class C-4, Class C-5, Class C-6, Class C-7 and Class C-8 common unit that was purchased by the Crestview Entities was converted into a certain number of Class A common units based on a conversion ratio set forth in the Fifth A&R Operating Agreement, (b) each vested Class C, Class C-1, Class C-2, Class C-3, Class C-4, Class C-5, Class C-6, Class C-7 and Class C-8 common unit not purchased by the Crestview Entities was converted into a certain number of Class B common units based on a conversion ratio set forth in the Fifth A&R Operating Agreement and (c) each unvested Class C, Class C-1, Class C-2, Class C-3, Class C-4, Class C-5, Class C-6, Class C-7 and Class C-8 common unit was automatically cancelled and forfeited. The Amended Operating Agreement also provides that Crestview will use reasonable efforts to provide an opportunity to allow co-investors to purchase a portion of the Crestview Entities’ investment of Class A and/or Class B common units. The Amended Operating Agreement also provides that Avista may allow co-investors to purchase up a portion of the Avista Entities’ Class A and/or Class B common units. With respect to both co-investment opportunities, Crestview and its affiliates or Avista and its affiliates, as the case may be, must retain control of the vote of the common units acquired by co-investors in

connection with the co-investment opportunity as well as of the investment vehicle through which such units are held.

### **Services Agreement**

Avista entered into a financial advisory agreement (the “Financial Advisory Agreement”) pursuant to which Parent retained Avista to provide certain advisory and consulting services, including, without limitation, general advisory services in relation to Parent and its subsidiaries (including WOW), management and business; identification, analysis, support and negotiation of acquisitions and dispositions; analysis, support and negotiation of financing alternatives, including, without limitation, in connection with acquisitions, capital expenditures and refinancing of existing indebtedness; finance functions, including assistance in the preparation of financial projections; and strategic planning functions, including evaluating major strategic alternatives. In addition, the Financial Advisory Agreement provides that Parent shall pay Avista a quarterly management fee (the “Management Fee”) equal to \$375,000 (of which 50% will be paid to Crestview pursuant to the Consulting Agreement), plus reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with services provided under the Financial Advisory Agreement. See also “—Consulting Agreement.” Further, upon any transaction entered into by Parent or its affiliates in which Avista has provided advice and assistance to Parent under the Financial Advisory Agreement (other than a transaction constituting a Change of Control (as defined in Parent’s credit agreement)), the Financial Advisory Agreement provides that Parent shall pay Avista reasonable and customary advisory fees for the advice and services provided by Avista (in addition to the Management Fee) (the “Transaction Fee”). The Financial Advisory Agreement terminates upon the earlier of July 17, 2022, the ten-year anniversary of the closing of the transactions, and the date upon which Parent pays to Avista all amounts that would otherwise be payable pursuant to the Financial Advisory Agreement through July 17, 2022.

### **Consulting Agreement**

On December 18, 2015, in connection with the Crestview Purchase Agreement, Avista, Crestview, and Parent entered into a consulting agreement (the “Consulting Agreement”) pursuant to which Avista retained Crestview to assist Avista in providing services to Parent pursuant to the Financial Advisory Agreement and otherwise as agreed to by Crestview. In consideration therefore, the Consulting Agreement provides that Avista will pay Crestview 50% of any Management Fee or Transaction Fee actually received by Avista (including from the Financial Advisory Agreement) and Parent will reimburse Crestview for any reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by Crestview or its affiliates in connection with providing services under the Consulting Agreement.

### **Registration Agreement**

Parent, the Avista Entities, the Crestview Entities and certain other investors and members of management entered into an amended and restated registration agreement (the “Registration Agreement”) pursuant to which the Avista Funds or the Crestview Entities may require Parent to register the sale of its common units of Parent. In addition, all holders of common units have the right to exercise certain piggyback registration rights with respect to their own common units if Parent elects to register any of its own securities. The Registration Agreement also includes customary provisions dealing with holdback agreements, indemnification and contribution and allocation of expenses.



## **Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services**

### **Audit-Related Fees**

#### ***Principal Accounting Firm***

BDO USA, LLP acted as the Company's principal accountant in 2015 and 2014, and is expected to serve as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for 2016.

#### ***Services of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm***

The Audit Committee has adopted policies and procedures requiring the pre-approval of non-audit services that may be provided by our independent registered public accounting firm. We have also complied and will continue to comply with the provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the related SEC rules pertaining to auditor independence and audit committee pre-approval of audit and non-audit services.

#### ***Audit Fees***

During the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, we incurred fees and related expenses for professional services rendered by BDO USA, LLP for the audits of our and our subsidiaries' financial statements, for the review of our and our subsidiaries' interim financial statements and registration statement filings totaling approximately \$0.6 million, \$0.6 million and \$0.5 million, respectively.

#### ***Audit-Related Fees***

We did not incur any audit-related fees during the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

#### ***Tax Fees***

None.

#### ***All Other Fees***

We did not incur any other fees during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013.

## **PART IV**

## **Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules**

### (a) Financial Statements/Schedule

All schedules have been omitted because they are not applicable or not required or the required information is included in the financial statements or notes thereto, which are incorporated herein by reference.

### (b) Exhibits

A list of exhibits required to be filed as part of this report is set forth in the Exhibit Index which immediately precedes such exhibits and is incorporated herein by reference.

## INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### **WideOpenWest Finance, LLC—Audited Financial Statements**

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm .....	F-2
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2015 and 2014.....	F-3
Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 .	F-4
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Members' Deficit for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013 .....	F-5
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013 .	F-6
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements .....	F-7

## **Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

Board of Directors and Members  
WideOpenWest Finance, LLC  
Englewood, Colorado

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of WideOpenWest Finance, LLC as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 and the related consolidated statements of operations, changes in members' deficit, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of WideOpenWest Finance, LLC at December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

/s/BDO USA, LLP

BDO USA, LLP  
Atlanta, Georgia  
March 17, 2016

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Balance Sheets**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>(in millions)</b>	
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents . . . . .	\$ 66.6	\$ 263.9
Accounts receivable—trade, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$6.6 and \$11.5, respectively . . . . .	82.6	88.8
Accounts receivable—other . . . . .	2.0	4.4
Prepaid expenses and other . . . . .	15.7	9.8
Total current assets . . . . .	166.9	366.9
Plant, property and equipment, net (note 6) . . . . .	865.3	834.9
Franchise operating rights (note 7) . . . . .	1,048.5	1,048.5
Goodwill (note 7) . . . . .	454.1	454.1
Intangible assets subject to amortization, net (note 8) . . . . .	18.1	42.6
Debt issuance costs, net (notes 9 and 12) . . . . .	35.4	71.6
Investments (note 10) . . . . .	16.6	16.6
Other noncurrent assets . . . . .	5.0	5.2
Total assets . . . . .	\$2,609.9	\$2,840.4
<b>Liabilities and Members' Deficit</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable—trade . . . . .	\$ 17.7	\$ 30.6
Accrued interest . . . . .	65.3	66.8
Accrued liabilities and other (note 11) . . . . .	106.5	107.3
Current portion of debt and capital lease obligations (note 12) . . . . .	20.6	22.9
Current portion of fair value of derivative instruments (notes 16 and 17) . . . . .	2.3	—
Current portion of unearned service revenue . . . . .	50.4	51.0
Total current liabilities . . . . .	262.8	278.6
Long term debt and capital lease obligations—less current portion (notes 12 and 13) . . . . .	2,897.0	3,068.0
Deferred income taxes, net (note 18) . . . . .	291.3	287.2
Fair value of derivative instruments (notes 16 and 17) . . . . .	—	7.9
Unearned service revenue . . . . .	10.8	—
Other noncurrent liabilities . . . . .	1.0	3.1
Total liabilities . . . . .	3,462.9	3,644.8
<b>Commitments and contingencies (note 21)</b>		
Members' deficit (note 19) . . . . .	(184.7)	(178.8)
Accumulated deficit . . . . .	(668.3)	(625.6)
Total members' deficit . . . . .	(853.0)	(804.4)
Total liabilities and members' deficit . . . . .	\$2,609.9	\$2,840.4

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

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Operations**

	Year ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
	(in millions)		
Revenue . . . . .	\$1,217.1	\$1,264.3	\$1,199.7
Costs and expenses:			
Operating (excluding depreciation and amortization) . . . . .	678.6	737.0	663.9
Selling, general and administrative . . . . .	110.6	135.8	135.8
Depreciation & amortization . . . . .	221.1	251.3	256.4
Management fee to related party . . . . .	1.9	1.7	1.7
	<u>1,012.2</u>	<u>1,125.8</u>	<u>1,057.8</u>
Income from operations . . . . .	204.9	138.5	141.9
Other income (expense):			
Interest expense . . . . .	(226.0)	(237.0)	(242.0)
Realized and unrealized gain on derivative instruments . . . . .	5.6	4.1	3.4
Gain on sale of assets . . . . .	—	52.9	—
Loss on early extinguishment of debt . . . . .	(22.9)	—	(58.1)
Other income (expense), net . . . . .	(0.4)	3.4	(0.2)
	<u>(38.8)</u>	<u>(38.1)</u>	<u>(155.0)</u>
Loss before provision for income tax . . . . .	(38.8)	(38.1)	(155.0)
Income tax benefit (expense) . . . . .	(3.9)	14.9	(6.2)
Net loss . . . . .	<u>\$ (42.7)</u>	<u>\$ (23.2)</u>	<u>\$ (161.2)</u>

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

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Changes in Members' Deficit**

	Member Common Units			Members' Deficit	Accumulated Deficit	Total Members' Deficit
	Class A	Class B	Class C series(1)			
	(in millions, except Unit amounts)					
Balances at January 1, 2013 . . . . .	2,848,596	588	375,702	\$(176.9)	\$(441.2)	\$(618.1)
Management Unit grants, net . . . . .	—	—	27,640	—	—	—
Net loss . . . . .	—	—	—	—	(161.2)	(161.2)
Balances at December 31, 2013 . . . . .	2,848,596	588	403,342	\$(176.9)	\$(602.4)	\$(779.3)
Management Unit grants, net . . . . .	—	—	6,801	(1.9)	—	(1.9)
Net loss . . . . .	—	—	—	—	(23.2)	(23.2)
Balances at December 31, 2014 . . . . .	2,848,596	588	410,143	\$(178.8)	\$(625.6)	\$(804.4)
Management Unit grants repurchases, net . . . . .	—	(110)	(20,748)	(0.4)	—	(0.4)
Distribution to parent . . . . .	—	—	—	(5.0)	—	(5.0)
Cancelled unvested units . . . . .	—	—	(114,086)	—	—	—
C units converted to A and B units . . .	52,556	162,281	(275,309)	—	—	—
Other . . . . .	—	—	—	(0.5)	—	(0.5)
Net loss . . . . .	—	—	—	—	(42.7)	(42.7)
Balances at December 31, 2015 . . . . .	<u>2,901,152</u>	<u>162,759</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>\$(184.7)</u>	<u>\$(668.3)</u>	<u>\$(853.0)</u>

(1) See note 19.

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

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

	Year ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
	(in millions)		
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net loss	\$ (42.7)	\$ (23.2)	\$ (161.2)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	221.1	251.3	256.4
Realized and unrealized gain on derivative instruments	(5.6)	(4.1)	(3.4)
Deferred income taxes	3.7	(18.9)	6.1
Provision for doubtful accounts	24.9	24.1	19.2
Gain on sale of assets	—	(52.9)	—
Amortization of debt issuance costs and premium, net	12.3	15.6	20.6
Other non-cash items	(0.6)	(2.2)	1.2
Loss on early extinguishment of debt (note 12)	22.9	—	58.1
Premium from debt issuance	—	13.0	—
Soft call premium	—	—	(19.1)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities, excluding the impact of acquisitions:			
Receivables and other operating assets	(21.5)	(35.3)	(11.3)
Payables and accruals	(1.5)	34.1	1.7
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 213.0	\$ 201.5	\$ 168.3
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Capital expenditures	\$ (231.9)	\$(251.9)	\$ (221.9)
Anne Arundel Broadband majority interest purchase, net of cash acquired	—	(5.1)	—
Bluemile Asset acquisition (note 4)	—	—	(15.4)
Proceeds from South Dakota systems asset sale	—	262.0	—
Other investing activities	(0.6)	0.6	0.9
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	\$ (232.5)	\$ 5.6	\$ (236.4)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Proceeds from issuance of debt (note 12)	\$ 1,410.4	\$ 100.0	\$ 2,385.4
Proceeds from revolving credit facilities	—	93.2	105.0
Payments on debt and capital lease obligations	(1,581.6)	(151.4)	(2,419.0)
Distribution to parent (note 22)	(5.0)	—	—
Payment of debt issuance costs	(0.4)	—	(2.3)
Repurchase of management units	(0.4)	(1.9)	—
Other	(0.8)	—	—
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	\$ (177.8)	\$ 39.9	\$ 69.1
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(197.3)	247.0	1.0
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	263.9	16.9	15.9
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 66.6	\$ 263.9	\$ 16.9
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:			
Cash paid during the periods for interest	\$ 215.3	\$ 217.1	\$ 212.7
Cash paid during the periods for income taxes	\$ 5.0	\$ —	\$ —
Non-cash financing activities:			
Changes in non-cash capital expenditure accruals	\$ (5.7)	\$ 2.6	\$ 10.6
Assets acquired under capital lease obligations	\$ 0.1	\$ 7.5	\$ 6.2

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

**1. Organization**

WideOpenWest Finance, LLC (“WOW”) was organized in Delaware on November 13, 2001 and is wholly owned by WideOpenWest Illinois, Inc., WideOpenWest Ohio, Inc., WOW Sigecom, Inc. and WideOpenWest Kite, Inc. (collectively, the “Members”). The Members are wholly owned subsidiaries of Racecar Acquisition, LLC, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Racecar Holdings, LLC (the “Parent”). In the following context, the terms WOW or the “Company” may refer, as the context requires, to WOW or, collectively, WOW and its subsidiaries.

The Company is a fully integrated provider of residential and commercial high-speed data, video, and telephony services to nineteen Midwestern and Southeastern markets in the United States. The Company manages and operates its Midwestern broadband cable systems in Detroit and Lansing, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois; Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio; Evansville, Indiana; Baltimore, Maryland and Lawrence, Kansas. The Southeastern systems are located in Augusta, Columbus and West Point, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; Dothan, Auburn, Huntsville and Montgomery, Alabama; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Panama City and Pinellas County, Florida.

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Principles of Consolidation and Basis of Presentation**

The financial statements presented herein include the consolidated accounts of WOW and its subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. The Company operates as one operating segment.

Pursuant to the operating agreement of the Parent, as amended (the “Operating Agreement”), the Parent has issued various classes of common units. Because the Parent’s primary asset is its investment in the Company, the Parent’s ownership structure related to its ultimate ownership of WOW and has been “pushed down” to the Company. All of the Company’s ownership units and unit holders discussed herein are legally the Parent’s.

**Ownership and Basis of Presentation**

WOW was organized in Delaware on November 13, 2001 and is wholly owned by WideOpenWest Illinois, Inc., WideOpenWest Ohio, Inc., WOW Sigecom, Inc. and WideOpenWest Kite, Inc. (collectively, the “Members”). The Members are wholly owned subsidiaries of Racecar Acquisition, LLC, which is a wholly owned subsidiary the Parent. In the following context, the terms WOW or the “Company” may refer, as the context requires, to WOW or collectively WOW and its subsidiaries.

The financial statements presented herein include the consolidated accounts of WOW and its subsidiaries. Because the Parent’s primary asset is its investment in WOW, the Parent’s ownership structure related to its ultimate ownership of WOW and consisting of various classes of common units has been “pushed down” to the Company. All of the Company’s ownership units and unit holders discussed herein are legally the Parent’s. See note 19 for further discussion.

**Use of Estimates**

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”). These accounting principles require management to make assumptions and estimates that affect the reported amounts and



**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

disclosures of assets and liabilities, derivative financial instruments and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts and disclosures of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The Company bases its estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that it believes are reasonable under the circumstances. However, due to the inherent uncertainties in making estimates, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash equivalents represent short-term investments consisting of money market funds that are carried at cost, which approximates fair value. The Company considers all short-term investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the date of purchase to be cash equivalents.

**Bad Debt**

Bad debt expense and the allowance for doubtful accounts are based on historical trends. The Company's policy to reserve for potential bad debts is based on the aging of the individual receivables. The Company manages credit risk by disconnecting services to customers who are delinquent, generally after sixty days of delinquency. The individual receivables are written-off after all reasonable efforts to collect the funds have been made. Actual write-offs may differ from the amounts reserved.

The change in the allowance for doubtful accounts consists of the following for the years ended December 31 (in millions):

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Balance at beginning of year . . . . .	\$ 11.5	\$ 12.3
Provision charged to expense . . . . .	24.9	24.1
Accounts written off . . . . .	(24.1)	(22.6)
Change in unreturned equipment reserves . . . . .	(5.3)	—
Other . . . . .	<u>(0.4)</u>	<u>(2.3)</u>
Balance at end of year . . . . .	<u>\$ 6.6</u>	<u>\$ 11.5</u>

**Plant, Property and Equipment**

Plant, property and equipment are recorded at cost and include costs associated with the construction of cable transmission and distribution facilities and new service installations at the customer location. Capitalized costs include materials, labor, and certain indirect costs attributable to the capitalization activity. Maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred. Upon sale or retirement of an asset, the cost and related depreciation are removed from the related accounts and resulting gains or losses are reflected in operating results. We make judgments regarding the installation and construction activities to be capitalized. We capitalize direct labor associated with capitalizable activities and indirect cost using standards developed from operational data, including the proportionate time to perform a new installation relative to the total installation activities and an evaluation of the nature of the indirect costs incurred to support capitalizable activities. Judgment is required to determine the extent to which indirect costs incurred related to capitalizable activities. Indirect costs include (i) employee benefits and payroll taxes associated with capitalized direct labor, (ii) direct variable costs

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

of installation and construction vehicle costs, (iii) the direct variable costs of support personnel directly involved in assisting with installation activities, such as dispatchers and (iv) other indirect costs directly attributable to capitalizable activities.

The Company has evaluated certain of its lease agreements relating to fleet vehicles and determined the leases qualify as capital leases.

Plant, property and equipment are depreciated over the estimated useful life upon being placed into service. Depreciation of plant, property and equipment is provided on a straight-line method, over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Asset Category</u>	<u>Estimated Useful Lives (Years)</u>
Office and technical equipment . . . . .	3 - 10
Computer equipment and software . . . . .	3
Customer premise equipment . . . . .	5
Vehicles . . . . .	5
Headend equipment . . . . .	7
Distribution facilities . . . . .	10
Building and leasehold improvements . . . . .	5 - 20

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of the estimated useful lives or lease terms.

**Intangible Assets and Goodwill**

Intangible assets consist primarily of acquired franchise operating rights, franchise related customer relationships and goodwill. Franchise operating rights represent the value attributable to agreements with local franchising authorities, which allow access to homes in the public right of way. The Company's franchise operating rights were acquired through business combinations. The Company does not amortize franchise operating rights as it has determined that they have an indefinite life. Costs incurred in negotiating and renewing franchise operating agreements are expensed as incurred. Franchise related customer relationships represent the value to the Company of the benefit of acquiring the existing cable subscriber base and are amortized over the estimated life of the subscriber base (four years) on a straight-line basis, which is shorter than the economic useful life, which approximates an accelerated method. Goodwill represents the excess purchase price over the fair value of the identifiable net assets acquired in business combinations.

**Asset Impairments**

*Long-lived Assets*

The Company evaluates the recoverability of its long-lived assets whenever events or substantive changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. The evaluation is based on the cash flows generated by the underlying asset groups, including estimated future operating results, trends or other determinants of fair value. If the total of the expected future undiscounted cash flows were less than the carrying amount of the asset group, the Company would recognize an impairment charge to the extent the carrying amount of the asset group exceeds its estimated fair

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

value. The Company had no triggering events or impairment of our long-lived assets in any of the periods presented.

*Franchise Operating Rights*

The Company evaluates the recoverability of its franchise operating rights at least annually on October 1, or more frequently whenever events or substantive changes in circumstances indicate that the assets might be impaired. The Company evaluates the franchise operating rights for impairment by comparing the carrying value of the intangible asset to its estimated fair value. Any excess of the carrying value over the fair value would be expensed as an impairment loss.

The Company calculates the fair value of franchise operating rights using the multi-period excess earnings method, an income approach, which calculates the value of an intangible asset by discounting its future cash flows. The fair value is determined based on estimated discrete discounted future cash flows attributable to each franchise operating right intangible asset using assumptions consistent with internal forecasts. Assumptions key in estimating fair value under this method include, but are not limited to, revenue and subscriber growth rates (less anticipated customer churn), operating expenditures, capital expenditures (including any build out), market share achieved, contributory asset charge rates, tax rates and discount rate. The discount rate used in the model represents a weighted average cost of capital and the perceived risk associated with an intangible asset such as our franchise operating rights.

There were no impairments of franchise operating rights in any of the periods presented as the fair values of indefinite lived intangible assets computed using the methodology described above was in excess of their carrying value.

*Goodwill*

The Company assesses the recoverability of its goodwill at least annually on October 1, or more frequently whenever events or substantive changes in circumstances indicate that the asset might be impaired. The Company may first choose to assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount, including goodwill. If the Company determines that it is not more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount, then the first and second steps of the goodwill impairment test are unnecessary. The Company may also choose to by-pass this assessment and proceed directly to the first step of the goodwill impairment test.

In the first step of assessing goodwill for impairment, the Company assesses the recoverability for each reporting unit, which are represented by geographical operations of cable systems managed by the Company. The Company utilizes a discounted cash flow analysis to estimate the fair value of each reporting unit and compares such value to the carrying amount of the reporting unit. In the event that the carrying amount exceeds the fair value, the Company would be required to estimate the fair value of the assets and liabilities of the reporting unit as if the unit were acquired in a business combination, thereby revaluing goodwill. Any excess of the carrying value of goodwill over the revalued goodwill would be expensed as an impairment loss.

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

Significant judgment by management is required to determine estimates and assumptions used in the valuation of plant, property and equipment, intangible assets and goodwill. Through December 31, 2015, the Company has not recognized an impairment of these items.

**Debt Issuance Costs**

Debt issuance costs incurred by the Company are capitalized and are amortized over the life of the related debt using the effective interest rate method.

**Other Noncurrent Assets**

Other noncurrent assets are comprised primarily of long-term prepaid franchise fees and prepaid site leases. The franchise fees and site leases are recognized as operating expenses over the period of usage.

**Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

The carrying amounts reported in the consolidated balance sheet for cash and cash equivalents as well as derivative instruments are carried at fair value. The carrying amounts reported in the consolidated balance sheet for accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate fair value due to their short term maturities. The fair value of long-term debt is based on the debt's variable rate of interest and the Company's own credit risk and risk of nonperformance, as required by the authoritative guidance.

Certain financial instruments potentially subject the Company to concentrations of credit risk. These financial instruments consist primarily of trade receivables and cash and cash equivalents. The Company places its cash and cash equivalents with high credit quality financial institutions. The counterparties to derivative transactions are major financial institutions. The Company does not enter into master netting arrangements. The Company periodically assesses the creditworthiness of the institutions with which it invests and counterparties to derivative transactions. The Company does, however, maintain invested balances in excess of federally insured limits.

**Programming Costs and Deferred Credits**

Programming is acquired for distribution to subscribers, generally pursuant to multi-year license agreements, with rates typically based on the number of subscribers that receive the programming. These programming costs are included in operating expenses in the month the programming is distributed.

Deferred credits consist primarily of incentives received or receivable from cable networks for license of their programming. These incentive payments are deferred and recognized over the term of the related programming agreements as a reduction to programming costs in operating expenses.

**Asset Retirement Obligations**

The Company accounts for its asset retirement obligations in accordance with the authoritative guidance which requires an entity to recognize a liability for the fair value of a conditional asset retirement obligation when incurred if the fair value of the liability can be reasonably estimated.

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

Certain of the Company's franchise agreements and leases contain provisions requiring the Company to restore facilities or remove equipment in the event that the franchise or lease agreement is not renewed. The Company expects to continually renew its franchise agreements. Accordingly, the possibility is remote that the Company would be required to incur significant restoration or removal costs related to these franchise agreements in the foreseeable future. An estimated liability, which could be significant, would be recorded in the unlikely event a franchise agreement containing such a provision were no longer expected to be renewed.

An estimate of the obligations related to the removal provisions contained in the Company's lease agreements has been made and recorded in the consolidated financial statements; however, the amount is not material.

**Revenue Recognition**

Charges to customers for internet access services, video and telephony services are billed in advance. Revenue for equipment rental, advertising, VOD and pay-per-view programming is recognized as the service is provided based upon monthly service charges or fees per event in the period that the services are provided. Amounts billed in excess of recognized revenue are recorded as unearned service revenue. Installation revenue is recognized in the period the installation services are provided to the extent of direct selling costs. Any remaining amounts are deferred and recognized over the estimated average period that the subscribers are expected to remain connected to the cable system.

Under the terms of the Company's non-exclusive franchise agreements, the Company is generally required to pay up to 5% of its gross revenues derived from providing video (but not high speed Internet or broadband telephony services) to the local franchise authority. The Company normally passes these fees through to its video subscribers. Franchise fees collected and paid are reported as revenues and operating expenses, respectively. Revenue from advertising sales is recognized when the commercial announcements are broadcast.

The Company's trade receivables are subject to credit risk, as customer deposits are generally not required. The Company's credit risk is limited due to the large number of customers, individually small balances and short payment terms. We manage credit risk by screening applicants through the use of internal customer information, identification verification tools and credit bureau data. If a customer account is delinquent, various measures are used to collect amounts owed, including termination of the customer's service.

**Advertising Costs**

The cost of advertising is expensed as incurred and is included in selling, general and administrative expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations. Advertising expense during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 was \$20.4 million, \$19.6 million and \$20.6 million, respectively.

**Income Taxes**

The Company is a limited liability company ("LLC") that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. Prior to the Knology Merger, the Company's subsidiaries were LLCs that are disregarded as separate entities for federal and state tax purposes. No provision for federal income

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

taxes is required by the Company for its LLC subsidiaries, as its income or loss is taxable to or deductible by its Members.

For the Company's C corporation subsidiaries acquired in connection with the Knology Merger, it utilizes the asset and liability method of accounting for income taxes. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts and income tax basis of assets and liabilities and the expected benefits of utilizing net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards, using enacted tax rates in effect for each taxing jurisdiction in which the Company operates for the year in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The financial statement effects of a tax position are recognized when it is more-likely-than-not, based on technical merits, that the position will be sustained upon examination. Net deferred tax assets are then reduced by a valuation allowance if the Company believes it more-likely-than-not such net deferred tax assets will not be realized. Certain of the Company's valuation allowances and tax uncertainties are associated with entities that it acquired in business combinations. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. Interest and penalties related to income tax liabilities are included in income tax expense.

**Derivative Financial Instruments**

The Company uses derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to fluctuations in interest rates by entering into interest rate exchange agreements ("interest rate swaps and interest rate caps"). All derivatives, whether designated as a hedge or not, are required to be recorded on the consolidated balance sheet at fair value. If the derivative is not designated as a hedge, changes in the fair value of the derivative are recognized in earnings. None of the derivative instruments in effect during the period were designated as hedges for financial reporting purposes.

**Share-based Compensation**

The Company's share-based compensation consists of awards of management incentive units. Compensation costs associated with these awards are based on the estimated fair value at the date of grant and are recognized over the period in which any related services are provided or when it is probable any related performance condition will be met and distributions are declared. Such amounts were not significant for the three years ended December 31, 2015.

**Segments**

The Company's operations are managed on the basis of geographic operating segments. The Company has evaluated the criteria for aggregation of the operating segments and believes it meets each of the respective criteria set forth. The Company delivers similar products and services within each of its operations. Each geographic service area utilizes similar means for delivering the programming of the Company's services; have similarity in the type or class of customer receiving the products and services; distributes the Company's services over a unified network; and operates within a consistent regulatory environment. In addition, each of the operating segment results have similar economic characteristics. In light of the Company's similar services, means for delivery, similarity in type of customers, the use of a unified network and other considerations across its geographic

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

operating structure, management has determined that the Company has one reportable segment, broadband services.

**Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, “Leases (Topic 842)” (“ASU 2016-02”). Under ASU 2016-02, an entity will be required to recognize right-of-use assets and lease liabilities on its balance sheet and disclose key information about leasing arrangements. ASU 2016-02 offers specific accounting guidance for a lessee, a lessor and sale and leaseback transactions. Lessees and lessors are required to disclose qualitative and quantitative information about leasing arrangements to enable a user of the financial statements to assess the amount, timing and uncertainty of cash flows arising from leases. For public companies, ASU 2016-02 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018, including interim periods within that reporting period, and requires a modified retrospective adoption, with early adoption permitted. The Company will adopt this guidance beginning with its first quarter ending March 31, 2019. The Company is in the process of evaluating the future impact of ASU 2016-02 on its consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

In November 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-17, *Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes* (“ASU 2015-17”), which requires that all deferred tax liabilities and assets be classified as noncurrent amounts on the balance sheet. ASU 2015-17 will be effective for interim and annuals periods beginning after December 15, 2016 and may be applied prospectively or retrospectively. Early adoption of the standard is permitted. The Company is in the process of evaluating the adoption of this pronouncement but does not believe there will be a material effect on the Company’s results of operations, financial condition or cash flows.

In April 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standard Update (“ASU”) 2015-03, *Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs*, which requires debt issuance costs related to a recognized debt liability to be presented on the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the debt liability, similar to the presentation of debt discounts. The ASU is effective for public business entities for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Early application is permitted. The ASU requires retrospective application to all prior periods presented in the financial statements. The Company has elected not to early adopt ASU 2015-03. If adopted during the period, debt issuance costs and long term debt as reflected on the Company’s consolidated balance sheets would decrease \$35.4 million and \$71.6 million as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, “Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)”. ASU 2014-09 supersedes the revenue recognition requirements in ASC Topic 605, Revenue Recognition, and most industry-specific guidance. The core principle of the guidance is that an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. To achieve that core principle, an entity is required to follow five steps which are comprised of (a) identifying the contract(s) with a customer; (b) identifying the performance obligations in the contract; (c) determining the transaction price; (d) allocating the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract and (e) recognizing revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation. On August 2015, the FASB approved the deferral of the effective date of ASU 2014-09 by one year until January 1, 2018. Early adoption is permitted as of January 1, 2017.

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

ASU 2014-09 may be adopted by applying the provisions of the new standard on a retrospective basis to the periods included in the financial statements or on a modified retrospective basis which would result in the recognition of a cumulative effect of adopting ASU 2014-09 in the first quarter of 2017, if adopting early, otherwise in the first quarter of 2018. The Company has not yet decided which implementation method it will adopt. The Company is in the process of assessing the impact of adopting the new standard.

In April 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-08, "Reporting of Discontinued Operations and Disclosures of Disposals of Components of an Entity." ASU 2014-08 provides a narrower definition of discontinued operations than under existing U.S. GAAP. ASU 2014-08 requires that only a disposal of a component of an entity, or a group of components of an entity, that represents a strategic shift that has, or will have, a major effect on the reporting entity's operations and financial results should be reported in the financial statements as discontinued operations. ASU 2014-08 also provides guidance on the financial statement presentations and disclosures of discontinued operations. ASU 2014-08 is effective prospectively for disposals (or classifications as held for disposal) of components of an entity that occur in annual or interim periods beginning after December 15, 2014. The Company has elected to early adopt ASU 2014-08, effective as of April 1, 2014, and it has not had a material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

The Financial Accounting Standard Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standard Update ("ASU") No. 2013-11, "Income Taxes (Topic 740); Presentation of an Unrecognized Tax Benefit When a Net Operating Loss Carryforward, a Similar Tax Loss, or Tax credit Carryforward Exists". This guidance clarifies that an unrecognized tax benefit, or a portion of an unrecognized tax benefit, should be presented in the financial statements as a reduction to a deferred tax asset for a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss or a tax credit carryforward if such settlement is required or expected in the event the uncertain tax position is disallowed. In situations where a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward is not available at the reporting date under the tax law of the applicable jurisdiction or the tax law of the jurisdiction does not require, and the entity does not intend to use, the deferred tax asset for such purpose, the unrecognized tax benefit should be presented in the financial statements as a liability and should not be combined with deferred tax assets. This guidance is effective prospectively for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2013. The Company has evaluated the standard and it does not have a material effect on its financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

**3. Crestview Transaction**

On December 18, 2015, funds managed by Crestview Advisors, L.L.C., ("Crestview"), a private equity firm based in New York, and Parent consummated a transaction whereby Crestview Partners III GP, L.P. became the beneficial owner of approximately 35% of Parent. Under terms of the agreement (the "Crestview Purchase Agreement"), Crestview's funds purchased units held by Avista and other unitholders, and made a \$125 million primary investment in newly-issued units. As of December 31, 2015, proceeds from this transaction, net of accrued and paid transaction expenses, totaling \$102.8 million have been recorded to our Parent's balance sheet and have not been pushed down and reflected in the accompanying financial statements. Crestview has extensive experience in the telecommunications industry, and we believe this investment will help us capitalize on future growth opportunities.



**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**4. Acquisitions**

*Anne Arundel Broadband Investment*

On May 1, 2014, WOW increased its 5% ownership interest in Anne Arundel Broadband, LLC (“AAB”) to a 75% ownership interest through a purchase of additional equity in AAB for approximately \$5.5 million. The results of AAB have been included in the consolidated financial statements beginning May 1, 2014. During the quarter ended September 30, 2015, the Company increased its 75% ownership interest in AAB to a 100% ownership interest through a purchase of an additional equity in AAB for approximately \$2.6 million.

*Bluemile Assets Acquisition*

On September 27, 2013, the Company entered into and closed an asset purchase agreement to acquire certain assets from Bluemile, Inc. (“Bluemile”), an Ohio Corporation, for initial cash consideration of approximately \$15.0 million, subject to closing and post-closing adjustments, plus up to \$5.0 million in consideration contingent upon achieving certain financial metrics during the twelve month period ended December 31, 2014 (the “Bluemile Assets” acquisition). Bluemile owned and operated a national optical and IP network, a data center and an enterprise cloud infrastructure. The data center, optical and IP network and cloud services enabled the Company to enhance its products and services to existing customers and potential customers in all of its regions. The Bluemile Assets acquisition has been accounted for using the acquisition method of accounting. The effects of the Bluemile Assets acquisition are included in the Company’s consolidated financial statements beginning September 27, 2013.

Including closing adjustments, the Company paid cash consideration of \$15.4 million, before direct acquisition costs of \$0.2 million. Additionally, pursuant to Accounting Standards Codification 805 “Business Combinations”, the Company has recorded an estimate of the fair value of the contingent consideration liability based upon a discounted analysis of future financial estimates and weighted probability assumptions of outcomes. This analysis resulted in an initial contingent consideration liability of approximately \$4.6 million, which will be adjusted periodically as a component of operating expenses based on changes in the fair value of the liability resulting from changes in the assumptions pertaining to the achievement of the defined financial milestone. The purchase price consideration is as follows (in millions):

Cash .....	\$15.4
Contingent consideration .....	<u>4.6</u>
Total purchase price .....	<u>\$20.0</u>

The opening balance sheet presented below reflects the Company’s purchase price allocation. The goodwill recognized in connection with the Bluemile Assets acquisition is primarily due to the

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**4. Acquisitions (Continued)**

enhanced products and services that are immediately available for the Company in all of its regions (in millions):

Working capital acquired . . . . .	\$ 0.5
Plant, property and equipment . . . . .	10.8
Goodwill . . . . .	4.5
Intangible assets subject to amortization . . . . .	5.0
Unearned service revenue . . . . .	<u>(0.8)</u>
Fair value of assets acquired, net of liabilities assumed . . . . .	<u>\$20.0</u>

During the year ended December 31, 2014, the Company adjusted the contingent consideration liability based on projected achievement of certain financial metrics as defined in the asset purchase agreement resulting in a fair value adjustment of \$2.9 million to Other income as reflected in the Consolidated Statement of Operations. As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, the Company's contingent consideration liability is \$1.7 million.

**5. Sale of South Dakota Systems**

On June 12, 2014, the Company and Clarity Telecom ("Clarity") entered into an agreement (the "Asset Purchase Agreement") under which Clarity would acquire the Company's Rapid City and Sioux Falls, South Dakota Systems (the "South Dakota Systems"). On September 30, 2014, the Company and Clarity consummated the asset sale for gross proceeds of approximately \$262.0 million in cash, subject to certain adjustments set forth in the Asset Purchase Agreement. As a result of the sale, the Company recorded a gain totaling \$52.9 million. In conjunction with the asset sale, the Company and Clarity entered into a Transition Services Agreement in which the Company will provide certain services to Clarity on a transitional basis. Charges for the transition services generally allow the Company to fully recover all allowed costs and allocated expenses incurred in connection with providing these services, generally without profit.

In the second quarter 2014, the Company determined that the sale of the South Dakota systems was probable within one year and that the franchise operating rights associated with the sale transaction were no longer considered to have indefinite lives for purposes of calculating the Company's deferred tax valuation allowance. At that time, the Company recorded a reduction in the valuation allowance to reflect the deferred tax assets that were more likely than not to be realized. The franchise operating rights are a source of taxable income and the gain on the sale transaction was recognized when the sale transaction was completed on September 30, 2014.

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**6. Plant, Property and Equipment**

Plant, property and equipment consist of the following:

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
	(in millions)	
Distribution facilities . . . . .	\$ 1,121.4	\$ 1,006.1
Customer premise equipment . . . . .	368.6	376.0
Head-end equipment . . . . .	271.2	221.8
Telephony infrastructure . . . . .	115.5	106.1
Computer equipment and software . . . . .	81.8	69.8
Vehicles . . . . .	29.6	30.5
Buildings and leasehold improvements . . . . .	44.3	44.1
Office and technical equipment . . . . .	34.2	32.6
Land . . . . .	6.7	6.7
Construction in progress (including material inventory and other) . . . . .	93.6	83.2
Total plant, property and equipment . . . . .	2,166.9	1,976.9
Less accumulated depreciation . . . . .	(1,301.6)	(1,142.0)
	<u>\$ 865.3</u>	<u>\$ 834.9</u>

Depreciation expense for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 were \$195.9 million, \$215.9 million, and \$217.8 million, respectively. Included in depreciation expense were write-offs and sales of customer premises equipment of \$0.5 million, \$0.9 million, and \$0.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

**7. Franchise Operating Rights & Goodwill**

Changes in the carrying amounts of our franchise operating rights and goodwill during 2015 and 2014 are set forth below:

	January 1, 2015	Acquisitions	Sale	December 31, 2015
	(in millions)			
Franchise operating rights . . . . .	\$1,048.5	\$—	\$—	\$1,048.5
Goodwill . . . . .	454.1	—	—	454.1
	<u>\$1,502.6</u>	<u>\$—</u>	<u>\$—</u>	<u>\$1,502.6</u>

  

	January 1, 2014	Acquisitions	Sale	December 31, 2014
	(in millions)			
Franchise operating rights . . . . .	\$1,098.4	\$—	\$(49.9)	\$1,048.5
Goodwill . . . . .	496.5	—	(42.4)	454.1
	<u>\$1,594.9</u>	<u>\$—</u>	<u>\$(92.3)</u>	<u>\$1,502.6</u>

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**8. Intangible Assets Subject to Amortization**

Intangible assets subject to amortization consist primarily of customer relationships and changes in the carrying amounts during 2015 and 2014 are set forth below:

	<u>January 1, 2015</u>	<u>Acquisitions</u>	<u>Sale</u>	<u>Amortization</u>	<u>December 31, 2015</u>
	(in millions)				
Customer relationships . . . . .	\$32.9	\$ —	\$—	\$(20.9)	\$12.0
Other . . . . .	9.7	0.7	—	(4.3)	6.1
	<u>\$42.6</u>	<u>\$0.7</u>	<u>\$—</u>	<u>\$(25.2)</u>	<u>\$18.1</u>
	<u>January 1, 2014</u>	<u>Acquisitions</u>	<u>Sale</u>	<u>Amortization</u>	<u>December 31, 2014</u>
	(in millions)				
Customer relationships . . . . .	\$64.9	\$ —	\$(7.8)	\$(24.2)	\$32.9
Other . . . . .	19.5	2.7	—	(12.5)	9.7
	<u>\$84.4</u>	<u>\$2.7</u>	<u>\$(7.8)</u>	<u>\$(36.7)</u>	<u>\$42.6</u>

Amortization expense is included in depreciation and amortization expense in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations. Amortization expense for years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 was \$25.2 million, \$34.5 million and \$38.2 million, respectively.

Scheduled amortization of the Company's intangible assets as of December 31, 2015 for the next five years is as follows (in millions):

2016 . . . . .	\$13.6
2017 . . . . .	1.7
2018 . . . . .	1.5
2019 . . . . .	0.8
2020 . . . . .	0.1
Thereafter . . . . .	0.4
	<u>\$18.1</u>

**9. Debt Issuance Costs, Net**

Debt issuance costs, net, which relate to the Company's debt and credit facilities in place, consist of the following:

	<u>December 31, 2015</u>	<u>December 31, 2014</u>
	(in millions)	
Debt issuance costs . . . . .	\$ 60.5	\$104.5
Less accumulated amortization . . . . .	<u>(25.1)</u>	<u>(32.9)</u>
	<u>\$ 35.4</u>	<u>\$ 71.6</u>

As discussed in note 12, during 2015 and 2014, the Company entered into certain debt agreements resulting in the following debt issuance costs being capitalized.

	<u>December 31, 2015</u>	<u>December 31, 2014</u>
	(in millions)	
Senior Secured Credit Facility . . . . .	\$0.4	\$0.7

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**9. Debt Issuance Costs, Net (Continued)**

In connection with the refinancings, the Company recorded \$22.9 million, \$nil and \$58.1 million of losses on debt extinguishments for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The majority of the losses related to the write-off of prior capitalized debt issue costs related to the extinguished debt. Amortization of debt issuance costs is included in interest expense in the consolidated statements of operations.

**10. Investments**

In conjunction with the acquisition of Knology, the Company acquired investments and equity ownership in its associated companies which consisted of the following:

	<b>December 31, 2015</b>	<b>December 31, 2014</b>
	(in millions)	
Rio Holdings, Inc . . . . .	\$ 0.9	\$ 0.9
Tower Cloud, Inc . . . . .	<u>15.7</u>	<u>15.7</u>
Total investments . . . . .	<u>\$16.6</u>	<u>\$16.6</u>

Rio Holdings, Inc. (“Rio Holdings”) owns 24.7% class A general partnership units in Grande Investment, L.P, which through a holding company owns 100% of Grande Communications Networks, LLC. The Company’s investment in Rio Holdings is accounted for under the cost method of accounting, adjusted for impairment write-downs, because the Company owns less than 20% interest in Rio Holdings.

As of December 31, 2015, the Company, through its wholly owned subsidiaries, owned approximately 33,620,177 shares, or 9.6%, of the series A and B preferred stock of Tower Cloud, Inc. (“Tower Cloud”). The Company’s investment in Tower Cloud is accounted for under the cost method of accounting, adjusted for impairment write-downs. The Company did not estimate the fair value of the investment in Tower Cloud since there are no identified events or changes in circumstances that may have a significant adverse effect on the fair value of the investment.

**11. Accrued Liabilities and Other**

Accrued liabilities and other consist of the following:

	<b>December 31, 2015</b>	<b>December 31, 2014</b>
	(in millions)	
Programming costs . . . . .	\$ 38.8	\$ 39.5
Franchise, copyright and revenue sharing fees . . .	13.1	12.7
Payroll and employee benefits . . . . .	19.2	12.7
Property, income, sales and use taxes . . . . .	9.6	9.8
Utility pole rentals . . . . .	4.5	4.1
Reduction in work force . . . . .	0.4	4.6
Legal and professional fees . . . . .	0.7	—
Other accrued liabilities . . . . .	<u>20.2</u>	<u>23.9</u>
	<u>\$106.5</u>	<u>\$107.3</u>

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**12. Long-Term Debt and Capital Lease Obligations**

The following table summarizes the Company's debt and capital lease obligations:

	December 31, 2015			December 31, 2014
	Available borrowing capacity	Weighted average interest rate(2)	Outstanding balance	Outstanding balance
	(in millions)			
Long-term debt:				
Term B Loans . . . . .	\$ —	4.56%	\$1,400.8	\$1,533.1
Term B-1 Loans . . . . .	—	3.80%	383.4	419.7
Revolving Credit facility(1) . . . . .	192.6	4.14%	—	—
Senior Notes(3) . . . . .	—	10.25%	833.5	836.0
Senior Subordinated Notes, net of discounts(4) . . . . .	—	13.38%	292.5	291.9
Total long-term debt . . . . .	\$192.6	6.97%	2,910.2	3,080.7
Capital lease obligations . . . . .			7.4	10.2
Total long-term debt and capital lease obligations . . . . .			2,917.6	3,090.9
Less current portion . . . . .			(20.6)	(22.9)
Long-term portion . . . . .			\$2,897.0	\$3,068.0

- (1) Available borrowing capacity at December 31, 2015 represents \$200.0 million of total availability less outstanding letters of credit of \$7.4 million. Letters of credit are used in the ordinary course of business. The letters of credit are released when the respective contractual obligations have been fulfilled by the Company.
- (2) Represents the weighted average interest rate in effect at December 31, 2015 for all borrowings outstanding pursuant to each debt instrument including the applicable margin. The interest rates presented do not include the impact of interest rate swaps or caps (note 16).
- (3) At December 31, 2015, the carrying value of the net premium was \$8.4 million.
- (4) At December 31, 2015, the carrying value of the net original issue discount was \$2.5 million.

*Revolver Extension*

On July 1, 2015, the Company entered into a fourth amendment (the "Fourth Amendment") to its Credit Agreement, dated as of July 17, 2012, as amended on April 1, 2013, November 27, 2013 and May 21, 2015 (the "Original Credit Agreement") among the Company and the other parties thereto.

Under the Original Credit Agreement, the Company had \$200.0 million of borrowings available under its revolving credit facility (the "Revolver"), which was to mature as of July 17, 2017. Under the Fourth Amendment, the maturity date of \$180.0 million of the \$200.0 million in available borrowings under the Revolver is extended until July 1, 2020 provided that (i) the Company has no Term B Loans outstanding as of January 1, 2019 and (ii) any indebtedness incurred to refinance the Term B Loans has a maturity date no earlier than September 30, 2020. If either condition in provisions (i) and (ii) above is not satisfied as of January 1, 2019, then the Revolver will mature on January 1, 2019. In addition, in the event the Company has outstanding borrowings under the Revolver in excess of \$180.0 million as of

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**12. Long-Term Debt and Capital Lease Obligations (Continued)**

July 17, 2017, the Company would be required to pay down such borrowings to the extent of such excess.

*Refinancing of Term B and B-1 Loans*

On May 21, 2015, the Company entered into a third amendment (the “Third Amendment”) to its Credit Agreement, dated as of July 17, 2012, as amended on April 1, 2013 and as further amended on November 27, 2013, among the Company and the other parties thereto.

The Third Amendment, among other provisions, provides for a refinancing of the Credit Agreement, resulting in \$1,411.4 million in new Term B Loans, which bear interest, at the Company’s option, at LIBOR plus 3.50% or ABR plus 2.50% and includes a 1.00% LIBOR floor. The new Term B Loans replace the \$1,560.4 million in outstanding Term B Loans which were previously priced, at the Company’s option, at LIBOR plus 3.75% or ABR plus 2.75%. The proceeds from the refinancing were used to pay outstanding principal under the Company’s current Term B Loans. In connection with the Third Amendment in May 2015, the Company made a prepayment totaling \$150.0 million, applied ratably, to the Company’s outstanding Term B Loans and outstanding Term B-1 Loans. The proceeds from the sale of the Company’s South Dakota Systems were used in connection with the prepayment. In addition, the Third Amendment provides for the ability to refinance the Company’s Senior Subordinated Notes with proceeds from the issuance of Senior Notes. In connection with the Third Amendment, the Company recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$22.9 million, primarily representing the expensing of debt issuance costs related to a portion of the former Term B Loans.

On November 27, 2013, the Company entered into a second amendment (the “Second Amendment”) to the Credit Agreement, dated as of July 17, 2012, as amended on April 1, 2013 (the “Credit Agreement”) among the Company, the guarantors thereto, the lenders party thereto, and the other parties thereto.

The Second Amendment provided for the refinancing of the Credit Agreement, resulting in \$425.0 million in new Term B-1 Loans, which bear interest, at the Company’s option, at LIBOR plus 3.00% or adjusted base rate (“ABR”) plus 2.00%. The new Term B-1 Loans includes a 0.75% LIBOR floor. The new Term B-1 Loans replaced \$398.0 million in outstanding Term B-1 Loans which were previously priced, at the Company’s option, at LIBOR plus 3.25% or ABR plus 2.25% and which previously included a 1.00% LIBOR floor. The Company utilized the excess proceeds from the new Term B-1 Loans to repay existing, outstanding borrowings on its revolving credit facility and to pay fees and expenses associated with the refinancing. The Company recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$0.8 million, primarily representing the expensing of debt issuance costs related to a portion of the former Term B-1 Loans.

*Additional 10.25% Senior Notes*

On April 1, 2014, the Company issued \$100.0 million aggregate principal amount of additional 10.25% Senior Notes, due 2019, (the “Additional Notes”) in a private offering conducted pursuant to Rule 144A and Regulation S under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”). The Additional Notes were issued at 113.0% plus interest deemed to have accrued from January 15, 2014. The Company used the net proceeds of the offering to repay the borrowings outstanding under its revolving credit facility, for general corporate purposes, and to pay certain fees and expenses relating to the offering.

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**12. Long-Term Debt and Capital Lease Obligations (Continued)**

The Additional Notes have been issued under the indenture governing the Company's existing \$725.0 million Senior Notes, due 2019, issued on July 17, 2012. The Additional Notes are treated as a single series with the existing Senior Notes and have the same terms as those of the Senior Notes. The Company agreed to file an exchange offer for the Additional Notes in a registration statement (the "Exchange Offer") with the SEC no later than 270 days from April 1, 2014. The Company filed the registration statement with the SEC on June 18, 2014 and the registration statement became effective on June 30, 2014. The Company completed the Exchange Offer on July 31, 2014.

*Long-Term Debt Extinguishment*

As noted above, on November 27, 2013, the Company paid the full obligation of its Term B-1 loans and recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$0.8 million representing the expense of the related deferred financing cost of the debt.

As noted above, on April 1, 2013, the Company paid the full obligations under the Prior Senior Secured Credit Facility and recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$57.3 million representing the expensing of the related deferred financing costs of the debt.

As noted above, on May 21, 2015, the Company entered into a third amendment to its Credit Agreement and recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$22.9 million, primarily representing the expensing of debt issuance costs related to a portion of the former Term B Loans.

Amortization of debt issue costs and accretion of debt discount, which are both included in interest expense in the accompanying statements of operations, for the three years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 are as follows (in millions):

	Three years ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Amortization of deferred financing fees . . . . .	\$14.3	\$18.1	\$19.9
Accretion of debt premium . . . . .	(2.6)	(2.0)	—
Accretion of debt discount . . . . .	0.6	0.7	0.7

Maturities of long-term debt, excluding capital lease obligations, as of December 31, 2015 are as follows (in millions):

	Long-term Debt
Year ended December 31, 2016 . . . . .	\$ 18.0
Year ended December 31, 2017 . . . . .	393.6
Year ended December 31, 2018 . . . . .	14.1
Year ended December 31, 2019 . . . . .	2,484.5
Year ended December 31, 2020 . . . . .	—
Thereafter . . . . .	—
	\$2,910.2



**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**13. Operating and Capital Leases**

The Company leases office and warehouse space under both cancelable and non-cancelable operating leases. Rental expense under operating lease agreements during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 was \$8.2 million, \$7.6 million and \$7.2 million, respectively. It is expected that in the normal course of business, operating leases that expire generally will be renewed or replaced by similar leases.

At December 31, 2015 and 2014, the amount of property and equipment, net, recorded under capital leases was \$7.4 million and \$10.2 million, respectively (note 6). This amount primarily relates to certain video equipment and vehicles. Depreciation of assets under capital lease is included in depreciation and amortization in our consolidated statements of operations.

As of December 31, 2015, future capital and operating lease commitments are as follows (in millions):

	<u>Capital Leases</u>	<u>Operating Leases</u>
Year ended December 31, 2016 . . . . .	\$ 2.9	\$ 7.6
Year ended December 31, 2017 . . . . .	2.2	7.3
Year ended December 31, 2018 . . . . .	1.3	7.0
Year ended December 31, 2019 . . . . .	0.9	5.1
Year ended December 31, 2020 . . . . .	0.1	2.6
Thereafter . . . . .	<u>—</u>	<u>6.2</u>
Total minimum lease payments . . . . .	<u>\$ 7.4</u>	<u>\$35.8</u>
Less imputed interest . . . . .	<u>(0.6)</u>	
Present value of minimum capital lease payments . . . . .	6.8	
Less current portion . . . . .	<u>(2.6)</u>	
Long-term capital lease obligations . . . . .	<u>\$ 4.2</u>	

The Company also rents utility poles used in its operations. Generally, pole rentals are cancellable on short notice, but the Company anticipates that such rentals will recur. Rent expense for pole rental attachments was \$8.0 million, \$7.8 million and \$7.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

**14. Reduction in Workforce**

On December 3, 2014, the Company committed to a workforce reduction plan whereby the Company eliminated approximately 275 employees across all levels and geographic regions. The company implemented this plan to compete more efficiently and better position itself for future growth. One-time termination costs, resulting from the reduction in work force totaled \$6.4 million and have been recorded in selling, general and administrative in the consolidated statement of operations.

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**14. Reduction in Workforce (Continued)**

Changes in the Company's accrued liability for severance expense for the year ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 are as follows:

	<u>December 2014 Severance</u>
Balance January 1, 2014 .....	\$ —
Accrued to expense .....	6.4
Payments .....	<u>(1.8)</u>
Balance December 31, 2014 .....	<u>\$ 4.6</u>
	<u>December 2015 Severance</u>
Balance January 1, 2015 .....	\$ 4.6
Accrued to expense .....	1.4
Payments .....	<u>(5.6)</u>
Balance December 31, 2015 .....	<u>\$ 0.4</u>

**15. Financial Information for Subsidiary Guarantors**

The subsidiary guarantors of the Notes are wholly owned, directly or indirectly, by WOW and have, jointly and severally, fully and unconditionally guaranteed, to each holder of the Notes, the full and prompt performance of WOW's and the co-issuer's obligations under the Notes and the indenture governing the Notes, including the payment of principal and interest on the Notes. WOW has no independent assets or operations, and there are no significant restrictions on the ability of its consolidated subsidiaries to transfer funds to WOW in the form of cash dividends, loans or advances. Based on these facts, and in accordance with SEC Regulation S-X Rule 3-10, "Financial statements of guarantors and issuers of guaranteed securities registered or being registered," WOW is not required to provide condensed consolidating financial information for the subsidiary guarantors.

The indenture governing the Notes contains covenants that, among other things, limit WOW's ability, and the ability of WOW's restricted subsidiaries, to incur additional indebtedness, create liens, pay dividends on, redeem or repurchase WOW's capital stock, make investments or repay subordinated indebtedness, engage in sale-leaseback transactions, enter into transactions with affiliates, sell assets, create restrictions on dividends and other payments to WOW from its subsidiaries, issue or sell stock of subsidiaries, and engage in mergers and consolidations. All of the covenants are subject to a number of important qualifications and exceptions under the indenture.

**16. Derivative Instruments**

The Company's outstanding Senior Secured Credit Facility balances bear interest at variable rates, which, if left unmanaged, could expose the Company to potentially adverse changes in interest rates. The Company has historically entered into various interest rate swaps that effectively convert the variable interest rate component (excluding margin) to a fixed rate (excluding margin) on the required portion of the Company's outstanding debt. As of December 31, 2015, WOW has an interest rate swap

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**16. Derivative Instruments (Continued)**

covering \$190.0 million of notional debt with a pay fixed rate of 3.62% and a receive rate of the greater of the three month LIBOR or 1.00%. The interest rate swap effectively fixes the notional amount of the floating rate debt at 2.62%. The interest rate swap expires in July 2016.

As of December 31, 2015, the notional amount of debt covered by the interest rate cap has a strike price rate of 1.0% based on LIBOR and expires January 2016. The notional amount of debt covered by this interest rate cap is immaterial.

**17. Fair Value Measurements**

As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, the fair values of cash and cash equivalents, receivables, unearned revenue, prepaid and other, trade payables, accrued interest, accrued liabilities, short-term borrowings and the current installments of long-term debt approximate carrying values due to the short-term nature of these instruments. For assets and liabilities with a long-term nature, we determine fair value based on the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. Market or observable inputs are the preferred source of values, followed by unobservable inputs or assumptions based on hypothetical transactions in the absence of market inputs. We apply the following hierarchy in determining fair value:

- Level 1, defined as observable inputs being quoted prices in active markets for identical assets;
- Level 2, defined as observable inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1, including quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations in which significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets; and
- Level 3, defined as unobservable inputs for which little or no market data exists, consistent with reasonably available assumptions made by other participants therefore requiring assumptions based on the best information available.

A summary of our liabilities measured at fair values that are included in our consolidated balance sheets are as follows (by respective level of fair value hierarchy):

	Fair Value at December 31, 2015			
	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	(in millions)			
Liabilities:				
Derivatives instruments(1) . . . . .	\$2.3	\$—	\$2.3	\$—
	\$2.3	\$—	\$2.3	\$—

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**17. Fair Value Measurements (Continued)**

	Fair Value at December 31, 2014			
	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	(in millions)			
Liabilities:				
Derivatives instruments(1)(2) . . . . .	\$7.9	\$—	\$7.9	\$—
	\$7.9	\$—	\$7.9	\$—

- (1) The fair value measurements of our interest rate swaps were determined using cash flow valuation models. The inputs to the cash flow models consist of, or are derived from, observable data for substantially the full term of the swaps. This observable data includes interest and swap rates, yield curves and credit ratings, which are retrieved from available market data. The valuations are then adjusted for the Company's own nonperformance risk as well as the counterparty's as required by the provisions of the authoritative guidance using a discounted cash flow technique that accounts for the duration of the interest rate swaps and the Company's as well as the counterparty's risk profile. Accordingly, the valuations of assets and liabilities related to the derivative instruments fall under Level 2 of the authoritative guidance fair value hierarchy.
- (2) The fair value of the interest rate caps were calculated using a cash flow valuation model. The main inputs were obtained from quoted market prices, the LIBOR interest rate and the projected three months LIBOR. The observable market quotes were then input into the valuation and discounted to reflect the time value of cash.

Accordingly, the valuations of assets and liabilities related to the derivative instruments fall under Level 2 of the authoritative guidance fair value hierarchy. There were no transfers into or out of Level 1, 2 or 3 during the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014.

The estimated fair value of the Company's long-term debt (note 12), which includes debt subject to the effects of interest rate risk, was based on dealer quotes considering current market rates and was approximately \$2,744.0 million, not including debt discount and premium, compared to carrying value of \$2,904.3 million, not including debt discount and premium, for the year ended December 31, 2015 and approximately \$3,114.5 million, not including debt discount and premium, compared to a carrying value of \$3,072.8 million, not including debt discount and premium, for the year ended December 31, 2014, and therefore, is categorized as a Level 1 within the fair value hierarchy.

The sensitivity to changes in the unobservable inputs and their impact on the fair value measurement of long-term debt can be significant. The significant unobservable inputs for the senior unsecured notes are risk-free interest rates and credit spread assumptions. The risk-free interest rate is negatively correlated to the fair value measure. An increase (decrease) in risk-free interest rates will decrease (increase) the fair value measure. The credit spread is negatively correlated to the fair value measure. An increase (decrease) in the credit spread will decrease (increase) the fair value measure.

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**18. Income Taxes**

The Company accounts for income taxes under the asset and liability method. Under this method, deferred tax liabilities and assets are determined based on the difference between the financial statement and tax basis of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which the difference is expected to reverse. Additionally, the impact of changes in the tax rates and laws on deferred taxes, if any, is reflected in the consolidated financial statements in the period of enactment.

The components of our deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 are presented in the table below. Total current deferred income taxes are included in prepaid expenses and other in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets:

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>(in millions)</b>	
Current deferred income tax assets:		
Allowance for doubtful accounts . . . . .	\$ 1.6	\$ 1.1
Other . . . . .	1.0	0.9
Valuation allowance . . . . .	(0.9)	(0.7)
Total current deferred income tax assets . . . . .	\$ 1.7	\$ 1.3
Non-current deferred income tax assets (liabilities):		
Net operating loss carryforwards . . . . .	\$ 88.1	\$ 86.2
Deferred revenue . . . . .	(0.4)	—
Depreciation and amortization . . . . .	(69.9)	(68.0)
Franchise operating rights . . . . .	(280.1)	(280.0)
Investment marked to market . . . . .	3.2	3.3
Valuation Allowance . . . . .	(32.2)	(28.7)
Total noncurrent deferred income tax liabilities . . . . .	(291.3)	(287.2)
Total net deferred tax liabilities . . . . .	\$(289.6)	\$(285.9)

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**18. Income Taxes (Continued)**

The income tax expense (benefit) consisted of the following for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013:

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>(in millions)</b>		
Current tax expense			
Federal . . . . .	\$ —	\$ 3.7	\$ —
State . . . . .	<u>0.2</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>0.1</u>
Total Current . . . . .	<u>0.2</u>	<u>4.0</u>	<u>0.1</u>
Deferred tax provision (benefit)			
Federal . . . . .	3.4	(17.7)	5.8
State . . . . .	<u>0.3</u>	<u>(1.2)</u>	<u>0.3</u>
Total Deferred . . . . .	<u>3.7</u>	<u>(18.9)</u>	<u>6.1</u>
Income tax expense (benefit), net . . . . .	<u><u>\$3.9</u></u>	<u><u>\$(14.9)</u></u>	<u><u>\$6.2</u></u>

A reconciliation of the income tax provision computed at statutory tax rates to the income tax provision for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 are as follows:

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>(in millions)</b>		
Statutory Federal income taxes . . . . .	\$(13.6)	\$(13.3)	\$(54.3)
State income taxes . . . . .	7.2	3.0	4.5
Loss generated by partnership not subject to federal income tax . . . . .	6.3	13.2	27.5
Sale of South Dakota Systems . . . . .	—	14.9	—
Other . . . . .	0.1	(0.6)	(1.4)
Change in valuation allowance . . . . .	<u>3.9</u>	<u>(32.1)</u>	<u>29.9</u>
Income tax expense (benefit), net . . . . .	<u><u>\$ 3.9</u></u>	<u><u>\$(14.9)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 6.2</u></u>

The Company's C corporation subsidiaries file income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction, and various state jurisdictions. For federal tax purposes, the Company's C corporation subsidiaries' 2012 through 2015 tax years remain open for examination by the tax authorities under the normal three year statute of limitations. Generally, for state tax purposes, the Company's C corporation subsidiaries' 2012 through 2015 tax years remain open for examination by the tax authorities under a three year statute of limitations. Should the Company's C corporation subsidiaries utilize any of their U.S. or state loss carryforwards, their carryforward losses, which date back to 1995, would be subject to examination. The Company is obligated to make cash distributions to its Parent to fund income tax liabilities resulting from any taxable income generated by WOW Finance LLC. However, the Parent has net operating loss carryforwards that would significantly reduce any required cash distributions.

At December 31, 2015, the Company had available federal net operating loss carryforwards related to its C corporation subsidiaries of approximately \$221.2 million that expire from 2025 to 2035.

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**18. Income Taxes (Continued)**

Approximately \$181.6 million of this carryforward is subject to annual limitations due to a change in ownership of the Company as defined in the Internal Revenue Code. The Company also had various state net operating loss carryforwards related to its C corporation subsidiaries totaling approximately \$191.2 million. Of this amount, approximately \$151.6 million is subject to an annual limitation due to an ownership change of the Company. Unless utilized, the state carryforwards expire from 2019 to 2035. For 2015, the Company has recorded a total valuation allowance of \$33.1 million against its deferred tax assets including the operating loss carryforwards.

Unrecognized tax benefits of \$0.5 million at December 31, 2015, if recognized, would reduce our annual effective tax rate offset by deferred tax assets recorded for uncertain tax positions.

Interest and penalties related to income tax liabilities, if incurred, are included in income tax expense in the consolidated statement of operations. For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, we have not recorded any penalties and interest and do not have any accrued balance of penalties and interest.

Unrecognized tax benefits consist primarily of tax positions related to issues associated with the acquisition of Knology. We do not believe that it is reasonably possible that a significant decrease in unrecognized tax benefits will occur in the next twelve months.

**19. Members' Deficit**

On December 18, 2015, Parent consummated the transactions contemplated by the Crestview Purchase Agreement, including amending and restating the operating agreement of Parent and the sale by the Sellers of approximately 35% in the aggregate of Class A, Class B, Class C, Class C-1, Class C-2, Class C-3, Class C-4, Class C-5, Class C-6, Class C-7 and Class C-8 common units to the Crestview Entities. The Fifth Amended and Restated A&R Operating Agreement provides that (a) each Class C, Class C-1, Class C-2, Class C-3, Class C-4, Class C-5, Class C-6, Class C-7 and Class C-8 common unit that was purchased by the Crestview Entities was converted into a certain number of Class A common units based on a conversion ratio set forth in the Fifth A&R Operating Agreement, (b) each vested Class C, Class C-1, Class C-2, Class C-3, Class C-4, Class C-5, Class C-6, Class C-7 and Class C-8 common unit not purchased by the Crestview Entities was converted into a certain number of Class B common units based on a conversion ratio set forth in the Fifth A&R Operating Agreement and (c) each unvested Class C, Class C-1, Class C-2, Class C-3, Class C-4, Class C-5, Class C-6, Class C-7 and Class C-8 common unit was automatically cancelled and forfeited.

As of December 31, 2015, proceeds from this transaction, net of accrued and paid transaction expenses, totaling \$102.8 million have been recorded to Parent's balance sheet and have not been pushed down and reflected in the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

As of December 31, 2015, Parent had 2,901,152 Class A Units outstanding and 162,759 Class B Units outstanding, but only holders of Class A common units are entitled to vote. Certain holders of Class B common units, including certain affiliates of Avista Capital Partners and the Crestview Entities, are entitled to convert their Class B common units into Class A common units, subject to the conditions set forth in the Fifth A&R Operating Agreement.

For the years ended December 2014 and 2013 the Company incorrectly classified 676,384 Class A Units as Class B Units. The Company has adjusted the beginning balance as of January 1, 2013 to reflect this change.

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**19. Members' Deficit (Continued)**

During the year ended December 31, 2014, the Company offered to buy back vested C Series units from former employees of the Company. The former employees had the option to sell their units at a price set by the Company. The Company repurchased 19,694 of such units.

As of December 31, 2012, Class A, B, C, C-1 and C-2 unit holders had their capital contributions returned in connection with the aforementioned distributions. As of December 31, 2012, Class A, B and C unit holders had also received distributions representing return on capital totaling \$178.30 per unit, while Class C-1 and C-2 unit holders had received distributions representing return on capital totaling \$74.58 and \$73.45 per unit, respectively. As of December 31, 2013, none of the other class unit holders had participated in the aforementioned distributions pursuant to the Floor Amount provisions noted above.

On July 17, 2012, in conjunction with the acquisition of Knology, affiliates of Avista Capital Partners (the majority voting unit holder of Parent) and Company management contributed \$200.0 million, net of \$6.0 million of commitment fees paid to Avista Capital Partners. Avista Capital Partners and Company management received additional Class A Common Units and Class B Common Units.

The Company distributed \$400.0 million in June 2007 to Parent and its unit holders in connection with the refinancing of its debt. In May 2010, and November 2010, the Company distributed \$72.0 million and \$17.3 million, respectively, to Parent and its unit holders. In July 2011, the Company distributed \$52.0 million to Parent and its unit holders. There were no distributions to Parent or unit holders during 2015, 2014 and, 2013. In accordance with Parent's operating agreement, unvested amounts distributable to management members have been placed into an escrow account at Parent level, and are being distributed to such members as the underlying units vest.



**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**19. Members' Deficit (Continued)**

At December 31, 2015, total compensation cost not yet recognized related to unvested Management Units was not material. The following table summarizes the activity in the Management Units during the three years ended December 31, 2015:

	Class C No Floor Amount	Class C-1 \$112.19 Floor Amount	Class C-2 \$113.32 Floor Amount	Class C-3 \$208.88 Floor Amount	Class C-4 \$342.00 Floor Amount	Class C-5 \$342.00 Floor Amount	Class C-6 \$373.41 Floor Amount	Class C-7 \$374.68 Floor Amount	Class C-8 \$374.68 Floor Amount	Total
<b>Number of Management Units</b>										
Outstanding at January 1, 2013 . . . .	151,077	37,255	17,220	7,480	31,795	20,600	19,425	90,850	—	375,702
Granted . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34,970	—	34,970
Forfeited . . . . .	—	(20)	(40)	—	—	—	(770)	(6,500)	—	(7,330)
Outstanding at December 31, 2013 . .	151,077	37,235	17,180	7,480	31,795	20,600	18,655	119,320	—	403,342
Granted . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18,013	25,000	43,013
Repurchased . . . . .	(6,885)	(10,145)	(835)	(60)	(340)	—	(405)	(1,024)	—	(19,694)
Forfeited . . . . .	—	—	—	—	(186)	—	(110)	(16,222)	—	(16,518)
Outstanding at December 31, 2014 . .	144,192	27,090	16,345	7,420	31,269	20,600	18,140	120,087	25,000	410,143
Granted . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	600	—	17,775	18,375
Repurchased . . . . .	(1,290)	(1,220)	(975)	(580)	(152)	—	(135)	(3,462)	(200)	(8,014)
Forfeited unvested . . . . .	—	—	(410)	(405)	(2,535)	—	(3,652)	(23,357)	(750)	(31,109)
Sold pursuant to Crestview Purchase Agreement . . . . .	(35,288)	(6,309)	(3,598)	(1,449)	(4,958)	(4,450)	(1,817)	(7,298)	(824)	(65,991)
Convert to B Units . . . . .	(107,614)	(19,386)	(10,892)	(4,796)	(16,243)	(13,351)	(6,426)	(27,589)	(3,021)	(209,318)
Cancelled unvested . . . . .	—	(175)	(470)	(190)	(7,381)	(2,799)	(6,710)	(58,381)	(37,980)	(114,086)
Outstanding at December 31, 2015 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vested at December 31, 2015 . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unvested at December 31, 2015 . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(1) In connection with the Crestview Purchase Agreement and the adoption of the Fifth A&R LLC Agreement, (a) each Class C, Class C-1, Class C-2, Class C-3, Class C-4, Class C-5, Class C-6, Class C-7 and Class C-8 common unit that was purchased by the Crestview Entities was converted into a certain number of Class A common units based on a conversion ratio set forth in the Fifth A&R Operating Agreement, (b) each vested Class C, Class C-1, Class C-2, Class C-3, Class C-4, Class C-5, Class C-6, Class C-7 and Class C-8 common unit not purchased by the Crestview Entities was converted into a certain number of Class B common units based on a conversion ratio set forth in the Fifth A&R Operating Agreement and (c) each unvested Class C, Class C-1, Class C-2, Class C-3, Class C-4, Class C-5, Class C-6, Class C-7 and Class C-8 common unit was automatically cancelled and forfeited. Additionally, the Crestview Purchase Agreement provided that Parent may issue Class B common units in lieu of Class A common units to the Crestview Entities in order to avoid a change of control under certain agreements and permitted co-investors to purchase a portion of the Crestview Entities' investment.

**20. Employee Benefits**

*401(k) Savings Plan*

The Company has adopted a defined contribution retirement plan which complies with Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code. Substantially all employees are eligible to participate in the plan. The Company matches 25% of each participant's voluntary contributions subject to a limit of the first 4% of the participant's compensation. Company matching contributions vest 25% annually over a four- year period. During the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, the Company recorded \$0.8 million, \$0.9 million and \$0.8 million, respectively, of expense related to the Company's matching contributions to the 401(k) plan.

*Deferred Compensation Plan*

In July 2007, the Company implemented a deferred compensation plan. Under this plan, certain members of management and other highly compensated employees may elect to defer a portion of their annual compensation, subject to certain percentage limitations. The assets and liabilities of the

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**20. Employee Benefits (Continued)**

plan are consolidated within the Company's financial statements. The assets of the plan are specifically designated as available to the Company solely for the purpose of paying benefits under the Company's deferred compensation plan. However, in the event the Company became insolvent, the investments would be available to all unsecured general creditors. The deferred compensation liability relates to obligations due to participants under the plan.

The assets from the participant deferrals are invested by the Company, through a life insurance investment vehicle, in mutual funds and money market funds. The deferred compensation liability represents accumulated net participant deferrals and earnings thereon based on participant investment elections. The assets and liabilities are recorded at fair value, and any adjustments to the fair value are recorded in the consolidated statements of operations. The assets and liabilities of the plan are included in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets as follows:

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>(in millions)</b>	
Prepaid expenses and other (current assets) . . . . .	\$2.8	\$3.9
Accrued liabilities and other (current liabilities) . . . . .	\$2.8	\$3.9

**21. Commitments and Contingencies**

*Programming Contracts*

In the normal course of business, WOW enters into numerous contracts to purchase programming content where the payment obligations are fully contingent on the number of subscribers to whom it provides the content. The terms of the contracts typically have annual rate increases and expire in 2015 through 2017. The Company's programming expenses will continue to increase, more so to the extent we grow our subscriber base. Programming expenses are included in operating expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations.

*Legal and Other Contingencies*

The Company is party to various legal proceedings (including individual, class and putative class actions) arising in the normal course of its business covering a wide range of matters and types of claims including, but not limited to, general contracts, billing disputes, rights of access, programming, taxes, fees and surcharges, consumer protection, trademark and patent infringement, employment, regulatory, tort, claims of competitors and disputes with other carriers.

In accordance with GAAP, WOW accrues an expense for pending litigation when it determines that an unfavorable outcome is probable and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. Legal defense costs are expensed as incurred. None of the Company's existing accruals for pending matters is material. WOW is constantly monitoring its pending litigation for the purpose of adjusting its accruals and revising its disclosures accordingly, in accordance with GAAP, when required. Litigation is, however, subject to uncertainty, and the outcome of any particular matter is not predictable. The Company will vigorously defend its interest for pending litigation, and as of this date, WOW believes that the ultimate resolution of all such matters, after considering insurance coverage or other indemnities to which it is entitled, will not have a material adverse effect on the consolidated financial position, results of operations, or our cash flows.

**WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

**22. Related Party Transactions**

The Company pays a quarterly management fee plus travel and miscellaneous expenses, if any to Avista and Crestview. Such management fee is \$0.4 million per quarter. The management fee paid by the Company for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 amounted to \$1.9 million, \$1.7 million and \$1.7 million, respectively.

From time to time, the Company makes payments, primarily relating to income taxes, on behalf of the Parent and Members. The Company made distributions to its Parent and its members for 2015 estimated federal taxes and 2014 federal income taxes in the amount of \$5.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2015. As of December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, the receivable from the Parent and Members amounted to \$0.3 million for all periods presented.

On December 18, 2015, Crestview, a private equity firm based in New York, and Parent consummated a transaction whereby Crestview Partners III GP, L.P. became the beneficial owner of approximately 35% of Parent. Crestview has extensive experience in the telecommunications industry, and we believe this investment will help us capitalize on future growth opportunities.

**23. Quarterly Financial Information (Unaudited)**

The following is a summary of the Company's selected quarterly financial information for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014:

	Year ended December 31, 2015			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
	(in millions)			
Revenue . . . . .	\$312.3	\$305.8	\$297.7	\$301.3
Income from operations . . . . .	\$ 51.0	\$ 52.4	\$ 48.5	\$ 53.0
Net loss . . . . .	\$ (6.6)	\$ (27.5)	\$ (7.1)	\$ (1.5)
	Year ended December 31, 2014			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
	(in millions)			
Revenue . . . . .	\$312.1	\$319.8	\$323.2	\$309.2
Income from operations . . . . .	\$ 37.7	\$ 33.9	\$ 36.6	\$ 30.3
Net income (loss) . . . . .	\$ (20.3)	\$ (7.8)	\$ 31.7	\$ (26.8)

The Company recorded \$6.4 million of expense related to the Company's reduction of work force in the fourth quarter of 2014.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

### WIDOPENWEST FINANCE, LLC

March 17, 2016

By:                                 /s/ STEVEN COCHRAN                                  
Steven Cochran  
*Chief Executive Officer*

March 17, 2016

By:                                 /s/ RICHARD E. FISH, JR.                                  
Richard E. Fish, Jr.  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant on March 17, 2016, in the capacities indicated below.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>
<u>                                /s/ STEVEN COCHRAN                                </u> Steven Cochran	Chief Executive Officer
<u>                                /s/ RICHARD E. FISH, JR.                                </u> Richard E. Fish, Jr.	Chief Financial Officer (principal financial and accounting officer)
<u>                                /s/ COLLEEN ABDLOULAH                                </u> Colleen Abdoulah	Manager
<u>                                /s/ DAVID BURGSTAHLER                                </u> David Burgstahler	Manager
<u>                                /s/ BRIAN CASSIDY                                </u> Brian Cassidy	Manager
<u>                                /s/ DANIEL KILPATRICK                                </u> Daniel Kilpatrick	Manager

Signature

Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ JEFFREY MARCUS  
Jeffrey Marcus      Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ PHIL SESKIN  
Phil Seskin      Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ DUDLEY SLATER  
Dudley Slater      Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ JOSHUA TAMAROFF  
Joshua Tamaroff      Manager

## EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description	Form	Incorporated by Reference			Filed Herewith
			File No.	Exhibit	Filing Date	
2.1	Agreement and Plan of Merger, by and among WideOpenWest Finance, LLC, Kingston Merger Sub, Inc. and Knology, Inc., dated as of April 18, 2012	S-4	333-187850	2.1	4/10/2013	
3.1	Amended and Restated Articles of Organization of WideOpenWest Finance, LLC	S-4	333-187850	3.1	4/10/2013	
3.2	Second Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of WideOpenWest Finance, LLC, dated as of July 17, 2012	S-4	333-187850	3.2	4/10/2013	
4.1	Senior Note Indenture, dated as of July 17, 2012, by and among WideOpenWest Finance, LLC, WideOpenWest Capital Corp., and the guarantors specified therein, and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee and collateral agent	S-4	333-187850	4.1	4/10/2013	
4.2	Form of Senior Note (included in Exhibit 4.1)	S-4	333-187850	4.2	4/10/2013	
4.3	Senior Subordinated Note Indenture, dated as of July 17, 2011, by and among WideOpenWest Finance, LLC, WideOpenWest Capital Corp., and the guarantors specified therein, and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee and collateral agent	S-4	333-187850	4.3	4/10/2013	
4.4	Form of Senior Subordinated Note (included in Exhibit 4.3)	S-4	333-187850	4.4	4/10/2013	

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description	Form	Incorporated by Reference			Filed Herewith
			File No.	Exhibit	Filing Date	
4.5	Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of July 17, 2012, by and among WideOpenWest Finance, LLC, WideOpenWest Capital Corp., Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, RBC Capital Markets, LLC, SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc. and Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc.	S-4	333-187850	4.5	4/10/2013	
10.1	Letter Agreement of Employment, dated as of April 27, 2006, by and between Racecar Holdings, LLC and Cathy Kuo.	S-4	333-187850	10.3	4/10/2013	
10.2	Letter Agreement of Employment, dated as of May 1, 2006, by and between Racecar Holdings, LLC and Craig Martin.	S-4	333-187850	10.4	4/10/2013	
10.3	Letter Agreement of Employment, dated as of March 14, 2008, by and between WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Cash Hagen.	S-4	333-187850	10.5	4/10/2013	
10.4	First Amendment to Credit Agreement dated as of April 1, 2013, by and between WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Credit Suisse AG, Cayman Islands Branch, as Administrative Agent.	S-4	333-187850	10.11	4/10/2013	
10.5	Letter Agreement of Employment, dated as of January 7, 2013, by and between WideOpenWest Networks, LLC and Richard E. Fish, Jr.	S-4	333-187850	10.6	4/10/2013	
10.6	Second Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated as of April 1, 2013, by and between WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Credit Suisse AG, Cayman Islands Branch, as Administrative Agent.	10-K	333-187850	10.6	3/17/2014	
10.7	Chairwoman Agreement, dated as of February 3, 2014, by and among Racecar Holdings, LLC, WideOpenWest Networks, LLC and Colleen Abdoulah.	8-K	333-187850	10.1	2/5/2014	

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description	Form	Incorporated by Reference			Filed Herewith
			File No.	Exhibit	Filing Date	
10.8	Employment Agreement, dated as of February 3, 2014, by and among Racecar Holdings, LLC, WideOpenWest Networks, LLC and Steven Cochran	8-K	333-187850	10.2	2/5/2014	
10.9	Third Amendment to Credit Agreement dated as of May 21, 2015, by and between WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Credit Suisse AG, Cayman Islands Branch, as Administrative Agent	8-K	333-187850	10.1	5/26/2015	
10.10	Fourth Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated July 1, 2015, by and between WideOpenWest Finance, LLC and Credit Suisse AG, Cayman Islands Branch, as Administrative Agent	8-K	333-187850	10.1	7/26/2015	
21.1	List of Subsidiaries	S-4	333-187850	21.1	4/10/2013	
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 15 U.S.C. Section 10A, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002					*
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 15 U.S.C. Section 10A, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002					*
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002					*
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document					**
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document					**
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document					**
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document					**
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document					**



<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Exhibit Description</u>	<u>Form</u>	<u>Incorporated by Reference</u>			<u>Filed Herewith</u>
			<u>File No.</u>	<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document					**

\* Filed herewith.

\*\* Furnished herewith.

**Certification of Chief Executive Officer  
Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. Section 10A, as Adopted Pursuant to  
Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**

I, Steven Cochran, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of WideOpenWest Finance, LLC for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) for the registrant and have:

(a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

(b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

(c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

(d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting;

5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

(a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

(b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

March 17, 2016

By: /s/ STEVEN COCHRAN

Steven Cochran  
Chief Executive Officer

**Certification of Chief Financial Officer  
Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. Section 10A, as Adopted Pursuant to  
Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**

I, Richard E. Fish, Jr. certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of WideOpenWest Finance, LLC for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) for the registrant and have:

(a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

(b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

(c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

(d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting;

5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

(a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

(b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

March 17, 2016

By: /s/ RICHARD E. FISH, JR.

Richard E. Fish, Jr.  
*Chief Financial Officer*

**Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer  
Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to  
Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**

In connection with the Annual Report of WideOpenWest Finance, LLC (the “*Company*”) on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the “*Report*”), Steven Cochran, Chief Executive Officer and Richard E. Fish, Jr., Chief Financial Officer, of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, as adopted pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

March 17, 2016

By: /s/ STEVEN COCHRAN

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Steven Cochran  
*Chief Executive Officer*

By: /s/ RICHARD E. FISH, JR.

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Richard E. Fish, Jr.  
*Chief Financial Officer*