Filed by Ascendant Digital Acquisition Corp.
Pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act of 1933
and deemed filed pursuant to Rule 14a-12
under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Subject Company: Ascendant Digital Acquisition Corp.
Commission File No. 001-39405
Date: April 14, 2021



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This investor presentation (this "Presentation") is for informational purposes only to assist interested parties in making their own evaluation with respect to a proposed business combination (the "Business Combination") between Ascendant Digital Acquisition Corp. ("ACND") and Beacon Street Group, LLC (the "Company"). The information contained herein does not purport to be all-inclusive and none of ACND, the Company or their respective affiliates makes any representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, completeness or reliability of the information contained in this Presentation.

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Certain statements in this Presentation may be considered forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements generally relate to future events or ACND's or the Company's future financial or operating performance. For example, statements regarding anticipated growth in the industry in which the Company operates and anticipated growth in demand for the Company's products, and projections of the Company's future financial results and other metrics are forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as "may," "should," "expect," "intend," "will," "estimate," "articipate," "breitial," "predict," protential" or "continue," or the negatives of these terms or variations of them or similar terminology. Such forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties, and other factors which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward looking statements.

These forward-looking statements are based upon estimates and assumptions that, while considered reasonable by ACND and its management, and the Company and its management, as the case may be, are inherently uncertain. Factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from current expectations include, but are not limited to: the occurrence of any event, change or other circumstances that could give rise to the termination of negotiations and any subsequent definitive agreements with respect to the Business Combination; the combined company or others following the announcement of the Business Combination and any definitive agreements with respect thereto; the inability to complete the Business Combination or to satisfy other conditions to obtain approval of the shareholders of ACND, to obtain financing to complete the Business Combination in that may be required or appropriate as a result of applicable laws or regulations or as a condition to obtaining regulatory approval of the Business Combination; the ability to meet stock exchange listing standards following the consummation of the Business Combination of that may be regulated or appropriate as a result of applicable laws or regulations or as a condition to obtaining regulatory approval of the Business Combination; the ability to meet stock exchange listing standards following the consummation of the Business Combination; the ability to meet stock exchange listing standards following the consummation of the Business Combination; the ability to recognize the anticipated benefits of the Business Combination; which may be affected by a mong other things, competition, the ability of the combined company to grow and manage growth profitably, maintain relationships with customers and suppliess and profitable lists of the proposed structure of the Business Combination; changes in or compliance with the Company to provide and management and key employees; costs related to the Business Combination; changes in or compliance with the Company or provided or pro

Presentation should be regarded as a representation by any person that the forward-looking statements set forth herein will bents, which speak only as of the date they are made. Neither ACND nor the Company undertakes any duty to update these forv ents set forth herein will be achieved or that any of the contemplated results of such forward-looking statements will be achieved. You should not place undue reliance on forward-

The financial information and data contained in this Presentation is unaudited and does not conform to Regulation 5-X. Such information and data may not be included in, may be adjusted in or may be presented differently in the registration statement to be filed by ACND and the proxy statement/prospectus contained therein.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This Presentation also includes certain financial measures not presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") including, but not limited to, Adjusted CFFO, Adjusted CFFO conversion, Adjusted Free Cash Flow, and Adjusted Free Cash Flow Margin and certain ratios and other metrics derived therefrom. The Company defines Adjusted CFFO as net cash provided by operating activities plus profits distributions to Class B unithoiders included in stock based compensation. The Company defines Adjusted Free Cash Flow as Adjusted Free Cash Flow as Adjusted Free Cash Flow as Adjusted Free Cash Flow divided by Billings (i.e., amounts invoiced to customers). These financial expenditures on the measures are not measures of Innancial performance with CAAP and may exclude thems that are signation in understanding and assessing the Company's financial results. Therefore, these measures should not be considered in isolation or as an alternative to net income, cash flows from operations or other measures of profitability, liquidity or performance under GAAP. You should be aware that the Company's presentation of these measures may not be comparable to similarly-titled measures used by other companies.

The Company believes these non-GAAP measures of financial results provide useful information to management and investors regarding certain financial and business trends relating to the Company's financial condition and results of operations. The Company believes that the use of these non-GAAP financial measures provides an additional tool for investors to use in evaluating ongoing operating results and trends in and in comparing the Company's financial measures with other similar companies, many of which present similar non-GAAP financial measures to investors. These non-GAAP financial measures are subject to inherent limitations as they reflect the exercise of judgments by management about which expense and income are excluded or included in determining these non-GAAP financial measures. For a reconciliation of these non-GAAP figures to the nearest measure determined under GAAP, please see the appendix to this Presentation.

This Presentation also includes certain projections of non-GAAP financial measures. Due to the high variability and difficulty in making accurate forecasts and projections of some of the information excluded from these projected measures, together with some of the excluded information not being ascertainable or accessible, the Company is unable to quantify certain amounts that would be required to be included in the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures without unreasonable effort. Consequently, no disclosure of estimated comparable GAAP measures is included and no reconcilitation of the forward-looking non-GAAP financial measures is included.

Use of Projections and Estimates

This Presentation contains financial forecasts for the Company with respect to certain financial results for the Company's fiscal years 2021 and 2022. The Company's independent auditors have not audited, reviewed, compiled or performed any procedures with respect to the projections for the purpose of their inclusion in this Presentation, and accordingly, they did not express an opinion or provide any other form of assurance with respect thereto for the purpose of this Presentation. These projections are forward-looking statements and should not be relied upon as being necessarily indicative of future results. The assumptions and estimates underlying the prospective financial information are inherently uncertain and are subject to a wide variety of significant business, economic and competitive risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in the prospective financial information. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the prospectives of the future performance of the Company or that actual results will not differ materially from those presented in the prospective financial information in this Presentation should not be regarded as a representation by any person that the results contained in the prospective financial information will be achieved.

In this Presentation, ACND and the Company rely on and refer to certain information and statistics obtained from third-party sources which they believe to be reliable. Neither ACND nor the Company has independently verified the accuracy or completeness of any such third-party information.

Additional Information

ACND has filled with the SEC a registration statement on Form 5-4 with the SEC, which includes a proxy statement/prospectus, that is both the proxy statement to be distributed to holders of ACND's ordinary shares in connection with its solicitation of proxies with respect to the proposed Business Combination and other matters as may be described therein, as well as the prospectus relating to the offer and sale of the securities to be issued in the Business Combination. This Presentation does not contain all the information that should be considered concerning the proposed Business Combination and is not intended to form the basis of any investment decision or any other decision in respect of the Business Combination. ACND's shareholders and other for read, when available, the preliable, the preliable the proposed Business Combination and the amendments thereto and the definitive proxy statement/prospectus and other documents filed in connection with the proposed Business Combination, as these materials will contain important information about the Company, ACND and the Business Combination. When available, the definitive proxy statement/prospectus and other relevant materials for the proposed Business Combination will be a leaded to sharked or 4 ACND as of a record date to be established for voting on the proposed Business Combination will be able to obtain copies of the preliminary proxy statement, the definitive proxy statement and other documents filed with the SEC, without charge, once available, at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov, or by directing a request to: ACND at 667 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10065 or (212) 209-6126.

ACND and its directors and executive officers may be deemed participants in the solicitation of proxies from ACND's shareholders with respect to the proposed Business Combination. A list of the names of those directors and executive officers and a description of their interests in ACND is contained in the proxy statement/prospectus contained in ACND's registration statement on Form S-4, which was filed with the SEC and is available free of charge at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov.

The Company and its directors and executive officers may also be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the shareholders of ACND in connection with the proposed Business Combination. A list of the names of such directors and executive officers and information regarding their interests in the proposed Business Combination is included in the proxy statement/prospectus contained in ACND's registration statement on Form 5-4.

# PRESENTERS & MANAGEMENT

### **Beacon Street Group**



MARK
ARNOLD
CEO
EDWARDS
WILDWAN
Holland & Knight



DALE
LYNCH
CFO
LEHMAN
BROTHERS
FARMER MAC



MARCO GALSIM CIO Aol

### Ascendant













### ASCENDANT TEAM'S EXPERIENCE AND CAPITAL WILL BENEFIT BSG

### Achievements Running Jagex<sup>1</sup>

- Carefully curated and managed IP to create \$1 billion+ revenue long-term franchise
- Created a premier publisher and developer driven by community engagement
- Successfully introduced new sustainable monetization channels and methods
- Continued and sustained community engagement created >1M paying members
- · Generated significant long-term shareholder value

### Continuation of Exec Shareholder team's initiatives \$140 change post-departure New Exec team \$120 Revenue \$100 **X** EBIT running \$80 \$60 EBIT = \$59mm \$40 \$20 EBIT = \$3.5mm \$0 2008 2009 2010 2012 2013 2015 2011 2014

### Benefits to Beacon Street Group

- Embed a team of data scientists and AI specialists in addition to user acquisition, monetization, churn, predictive behavior and community building veterans
- Proven success in interactive digital experiences in very high traffic online environments and knowledge in conversion and sustaining community engagement can accelerate increase in scale
- Actively working on implementing leading-edge solutions and ROI improvement initiatives
- Help with prototyping and implementation of solutions along with recruitment of talent and upscaling and expanding internal capabilities for long-term sustainable knowledge gains
- International relationships, particularly in Europe and Asia, bring potential M&A and growth opportunities
- Additional capital infusion will help add editors and accelerate M&A activity to help build greater long-term shareholder value

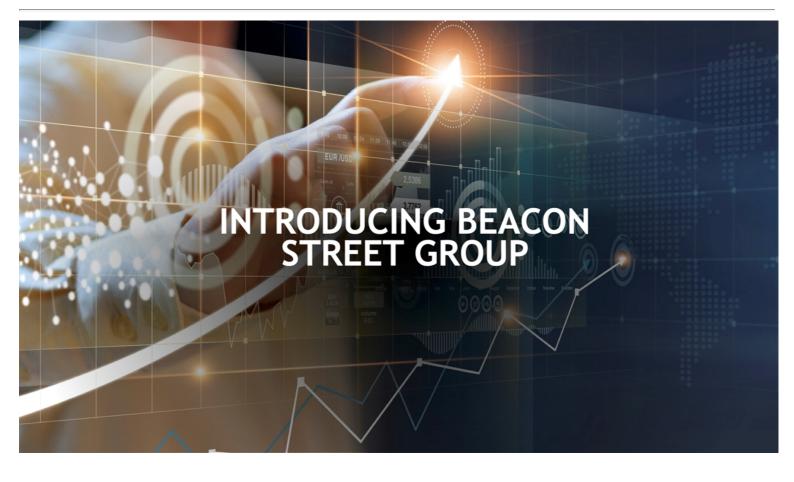
Sources: Jagex Ltd. UK public disclosures

1. Exec team leading Jagex from 2008 to 2015, except for the period following the sale of Jagex in 2011, when new management team ran business on behalf of purchasers. Past performance of the members of Ascendant's management team is not indicative of future performance 2. GBP to USD 1.26 as of 7/16/2020

# ASCENDANT WAS LOOKING FOR A GREAT ACQUISITION, IN THE ATTENTION ECONOMY

Significant and growing "attention economy" TAM	\$191B TAM with significant tailwinds, ripe for disruption
2 Scalable, digitally delivered IP	Market leading tech platform with scalable, high-value content, data & analytics
3 Large, thriving community	10M+ self-directed investors, growing 78% from 2018 to 2020
4 Diversified product suite	12 primary customer facing brands offering 160+ products
5 Best in class financial profile	"Adjusted Rule of 50" financial profile: Scale, Growth, Recurring Revenue, High Adjusted FCF2 (Low Capex)
6 Experienced leadership team	Deep, long-tenured & proven team
7 Sustained growth outlook	Multiple organic & inorganic avenues to potentially drive sustained profitable growth at scale

<sup>1.</sup> Adjusted Rule of 50 equals annual GAAP Revenue Growth Rate plus Adjusted FCF Margin. Adjusted FCF Margin = Adjusted FCF / Billings
2. Adjusted FCF is calculated as Adjusted CFFO (Cash Flow From Operations) - Capital Expenditures. Adjusted CFFO is calculated as net cash provided by operating activities plus profits distributions to Class B unitholders included in stock based compensation expense



Founded with a mission to level the playing field for self-directed investors

Today we are a Leading Subscription Services

Platform serving millions of self-directed
investors

A diverse portfolio of operating brands serving as a trusted source for financial research, education and actionable ideas

















# **BEACON STREET GROUP AT A GLANCE**

A market leader in delivering high-value and actionable financial research, easy-touse technology, as well as financial education and a social connection with worldclass experts to help selfdirected investors meet their financial goals

10M+ Digital Platform Members<sup>1</sup> at 12/31/20

Subscribers at 12/31/20

850K+

Paid Digital

\$759 Industry Leading 2020 ARPU<sup>2</sup>

\$549M 2020 Billings<sup>3</sup> +77% YoY Growth

24% 2020 Adjusted Free Cash Flow Margin⁴

99.8% 2020 Adjusted CFFO Conversion<sup>5</sup> (Low Capex)

<sup>1.</sup> Includes free and paid subscribers
2. Based on trailing four quarter net billings / average number of trailing four quarter paid subscribers
3. Billings represents amounts invoiced to customers
4. Adjusted FCF Margin = Adjusted FCF / Billings. Adjusted FCF is calculated as Adjusted CFFO - Capital Expenditures. Adjusted CFFO is calculated as net cash provided by operating activities plus profits distributions to Class B unitholders included in stock based compensation expense
5. Adjusted CFFO Conversion = (Adjusted CFFO - Capital Expenditures) / Adjusted CFFO

# **KEY DRIVERS OF OUR SUCCESS**



# POWERFUL CONTENT PLATFORM

- Compelling content fosters relationships between readers and editors, creates customer loyalty and brand goodwill
- Insightful and engaging content drives conversion users from free to paid subscribers
- Focus on proven formula to launch & scale new products in a low-risk capital way



### **CUSTOMER FOCUS**

- Customer centricity through every stage of a subscriber's journey
- Emphasis on developing long-term relationship with the subscriber
- Consistent 90%+ revenue retention



### SCALABLE MODEL

- Industry-leading ROI on new customer acquisition
- Upsell to higher ARPU products with almost all of the upsell revenues falling to the bottom line



### DATA / TECHNOLOGY

- Real-time campaign feedback, Al and rapid scalability
- Machine learning and advanced analytics drive increased upsell yield

# FINANCIAL WELLNESS SOLUTIONS HAVE A HUGE TAM



63M

2020 US Self-directed Investors<sup>4</sup>

19%

2017-2019 CAGR for Online Revenue from Global Self-directed Investors<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1.</sup> As per BMO research report, October 2018
2. Represents an estimated 33.3% of the 63M U.S. self-directed investors (Celent, U.S. Self-Directed Market Study, 2019) x BSG's 2020 ARPU of \$759. The remaining 67% is believed to be covered in the Asset Managers and Financial Information market sizes
3. Reflects addressable market of asset management customers becoming self-directed investors, based off of management fees for 2019 global active core and active specialties per BCG Global Asset Management Research Report, 2020
4. Celent, U.S. Self-Directed Market Study, 2019; 63M represents Celent's estimate for 2020
5. Maia Research, 2015-2027 Global Self-Directed Investors Implications for Wealth Managers Industry Market Research Report, Segment by Player, Type, Application, Marketing Channel, and Region

"...the markets are no longer reserved for institutional investors or HNWI. The goal of democratizing the financial markets is becoming a reality"

**CELENT** 



# PERSONAL INVESTING IS CHANGING IN FAVOR OF BSG

### AGING POPULATION

- 17% of U.S. population is 65+1
- 10,000 Americans retiring every day, creating consistent demand velocity<sup>2</sup>

### **VOLUME OF ACTIVITY**

 Retail investors now represent ~20% of trading on any given day, up from ~10% in 2010<sup>4</sup>

### **PERFORMANCE**

- Individual investors have a 3year return performance lag versus the S&P 500<sup>5</sup>
- Statista
- 2. Deutsche Bank
- Deloitte study
- Wall Street research
- 5. realinvestmentadvice.com

### **GROWING THE PIE**

- 72% of millennials identify as selfdirected investors<sup>3</sup> (-\$22T of net worth)<sup>3</sup>
- Rise of self-directed 'Robinhood' investors provides huge future upside

### **COMPLEXITY**

 Increasing number and complexity of investment instruments (e.g., ETFs, options, crypto, et al)

### **EDUCATION**

 Increased emphasis on financial literacy - knowledge & skill to effectively manage wealth

# BSG PROVIDES DIVERSE, ACTIONABLE & AFFORDABLE CONTENT

	BEACON STREET	INSTITUTIONAL INFO SERVICES	INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH	SPECIALTY FINANCIAL RESEARCH	ONLINE BROKERS	ONLINE NEWSLETTERS	GENERAL FINANCIAL PUBLICATIONS	ONLINE TOOLS	SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNITIES
ACTIONABLE CONTENT		•						$\bigcirc$	
DATA & INFO	•								
DIVERSIFIED PRODUCT OFFERING								$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
FULL RANGE OF PRICES		•							$\bigcirc$
		Bloomberg FACTSET  MANUSTA ERUTERS  S&PGlobal Side Platforms  MOODY'S	BCX Research  Wall Street Research	MORNINGSTAR A ZACKS	Robinhood /	Seeking Alpha <sup>CL</sup> The Mottey Fool	BARRON'S WSJ hyperodes Basseriss Dairy	yahoo! finance MarketWatch	reddit Stocktwits

# PREMIUM SUBSCRIPTION CONTENT, SOFTWARE AND TOOLS

### **ACTIONABLE IDEAS**

# **SPAC** Investor

# It's Time to Buy the World's Most Shareholder-Friendly SPAC

Update

Here's What You Need to Know About Blockchain Decentralization

O Portfolio Solv

**UNVEILING THE 2021 PORTFOLIOS** 

Finally, I'm following up more rewarding in our profession we've helped people build and see

THE MONTHLY BRIEFING, EXPLAINED

### **SOFTWARE & TOOLS**











# **BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AND HELPING SUBSCRIBERS**

MAINTAINING MARGIN OF SAFETY IN AN UNSAFE INVESTING WORLD

BY AUSTIN ROOT

For each of your increasance, which you can be a subject of the control of your increasance of your increasance of the control of your increasance of your increasance of the your increasance of your your increasance of the your increasance of the your

"You guys talk about 'life changing results'... I am actually taking pride in managing our investments. That is a big life change."

- Nick F.

"...you folks have become my teachers and a true resource... educating me on how to invest for the long term. WHAT A GIFT!"

- Joe D.

"You have each been instrumental in helping me build wealth... analyses are consistently meticulous, concise and on-point."

- David K.

"...your recommendations had a profound impact on my family and I am very much appreciative."

- Kyle B.

"Empire Financial research articles have taught me a lot and I truly believe that small investors like me have no place in the market without your financial research and investment ideas."

- Sandeep L.

"...despite the world imploding, [you] helped me keep a level head in the early days of the pandemic."

- Nick C.

# PROVEN, AGILE PLATFORM FOR LAUNCHING NEW PRODUCTS QUICKLY WITH LOW RISK

### DETECT

Detect new demand and investment trends in the financial marketplace through observation, research and analysis

### **ANALYZE**

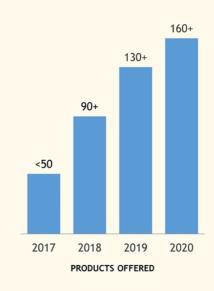
Identify a financial expert that has a personal passion for a specific area of growing customer interest and can provide unique insights

### LAUNCH

Launch new products within weeks. Target offers based on customer behavior and use AI to track and improve results



Grow content team in product area and cross-sell and upsell to build customer lifetime relationship

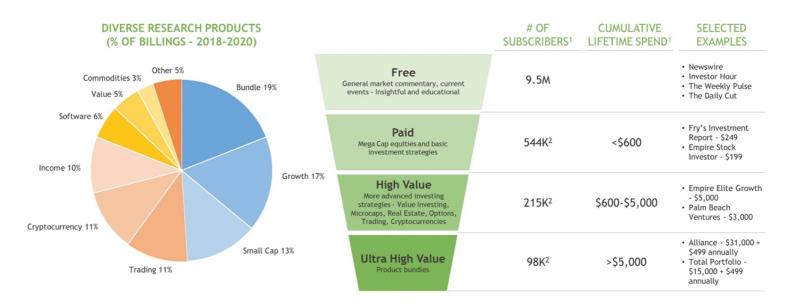


110+ New Products in 3 Years



Helped drive >\$300M of Billings

# DIVERSE RESEARCH PORTFOLIO ACROSS DIFFERENT ASSET CLASSES



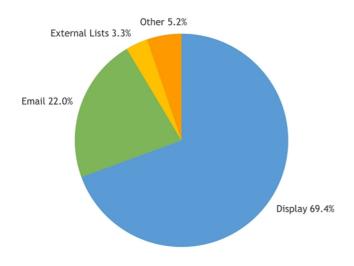
<sup>1.</sup> As of December 31, 2020

<sup>2.</sup> Number of subscribers indicated correspond with the cumulative lifetime spend to the right (e.g., 544K of the 856K+ total paid subscribers have less than \$600 of cumulative lifetime spend)

# **EXTERNAL MARKETING - CUSTOMER ACQUISITION**

### MULTI-CHANNEL MARKETING APPROACH

2020 EXTERNAL ORDERS GENERATED



1. Order form click-through rate for paid subscription campaigns is derived from total order form visits / total landing page visits 2. Order form conversion rate for paid subscription campaigns is derived from main & upsell orders / total order form visits

MARKETING CHANNEL MIX (2020)

58%

VS.

Direct to Paid

Free to Paid

SELECT DIRECT TO PAID DISPLAY CHANNELS

**Tab**<sup>©</sup>la

facebook



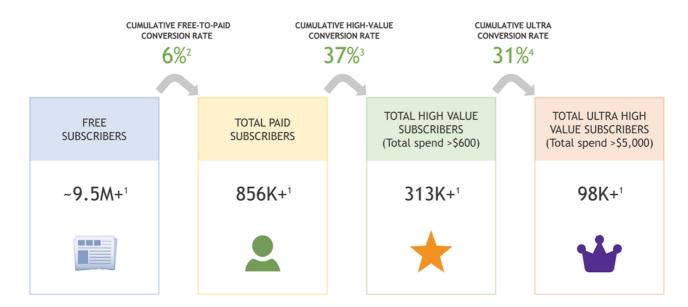
**CONVERSION STATS (2020)** 

10.1%

Order Form Clickthrough Rate<sup>1</sup>

**Order Form** Conversion Rate<sup>2</sup>

# BEST-IN-CLASS BUSINESS MODEL TAILORED FOR HIGH VALUE SUBSCRIBERS



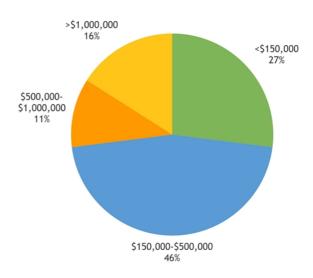
<sup>1.</sup> Subscriber figures shown as of December 31, 2020
2. Represents cumulative free-to-paid conversion rate for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020. Calculated as (number of free subscribers who purchased a subscription during the period) / (average number of free subscribers during the period)
3. Represents cumulative high-value conversion rate as of December 31, 2020. Calculated as (number of paid subscribers who have purchased > \$600 in aggregate over their lifetime as of December 31, 2020)/(number of paid subscribers as of December 31, 2020)
4. Represents cumulative ultra-value conversion rate as of December 31, 2020. Calculated as (number of paid subscribers who have purchased > \$5,000 in aggregate over their lifetime as of December 31, 2020)/(number of high value subscribers as of December 31, 2020)

# SUBSCRIBER DEMOGRAPHICS

### PAID SUBSCRIBERS BY GENERATION (AGE 25+)1

# Silent (25-40) Generation & 4.7% & Older (76+) 22.8% Baby Boomers (57-75) 52.8%

### PAID SUBSCRIBERS BY NET ASSETS<sup>1</sup>



20

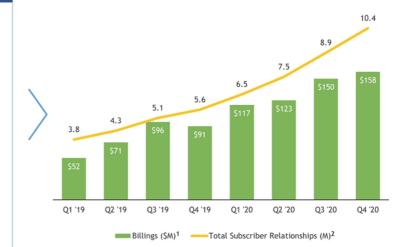
1. Source: Experian data



# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES ARE DRIVING AND ACCELERATING GROWTH

### DRAMATIC SCALING OF ENTERPRISE (PAST 3 YEARS)

- Strategic acquisitions (6 operating subsidiaries)
- Broadened product offerings, including adding 27+ editors & 110+ publications and built or acquired software and tools to complement premium content
- Upgraded corporate infrastructure with deployment of new systems & applications, including analytics and machine learning
- Improvement in marketing efficiency & customer satisfaction / retention
- Recruited and trained additional talent across organization



Billings represents amounts invoiced to customers
 Includes both free and paid subscribers

# **OUR VISION**

### TO BECOME THE DE-FACTO FINANCIAL WELLNESS SOLUTIONS PLATFORM FOR SELF-DIRECTED INVESTORS







Build/Buy Addt'l Content, Products & Brands



Invest in & Deepen Community Network



Invest in Brand Marketing



Invest in Technology, Data & Analytics



Expand Internationally



Establish Partnerships & M&A

# 1. EXPAND REACH AND DISCOVERABILITY

- Leverage existing financial education loop
- Expand and grow reach via additional channels including videos and live streaming
- · Expand marketing channels

# 2. BUILD DEEP NETWORK EFFECTS

- Provide BSG subscribers with a greater ability to cultivate deeper social connections and connect with fellow members
- Generate multi-sided platform with flywheel effects

# 3. ADD ENGINEERING & ML EXCELLENCE

- Focus areas include machine learning, performance marketing, and SaaS product development
- Deepen breadth and depth of targeted offerings

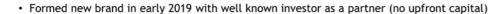
# 4. CONSOLIDATE A FRAGMENTED MARKET

- Opportunities to accelerate and expand product offering, customer base, international
- Drive accretive M&A using cash and public currency

# WE HAVE A TRACK RECORD OF EFFICIENT AND HIGHLY ACCRETIVE CAPITAL ALLOCATION

	YEAR	FOCUS AREA	BUILD OR BUY	ORIGINAL SALES (\$ MILLIONS)	2020 SALES (\$ MILLIONS)
PALM BEACH RESEARCH GROUP	2010	Macro	Build		\$120
TRADESMITH.	2013	Risk Allocation	Buy	\$1	\$30
BONNER & PARTNERS	2014	Macro	Buy	\$5	\$110
CASEY RESEARCH Personal Freedom Drough Francial Freedom	2015	Commodities	Buy	\$12	\$25
Omnia Research	2016	Trading	Build		\$30
<b>INVESTOR</b> PLACE	2017	Growth	Buy	\$28	\$67
EMPIRE FINANCIAL RESEARCH	2019	Growth / SPACs	Build		\$32
<b>Altimetry</b> POWERED BY VALENS RESEARCH	2019	Software	Build		\$7
CHAIKIN 1 ANALYTICS	2021	Software	Buy	\$3	Future
Total				\$49	\$421
				% of Total 2020 Net Sales	77%

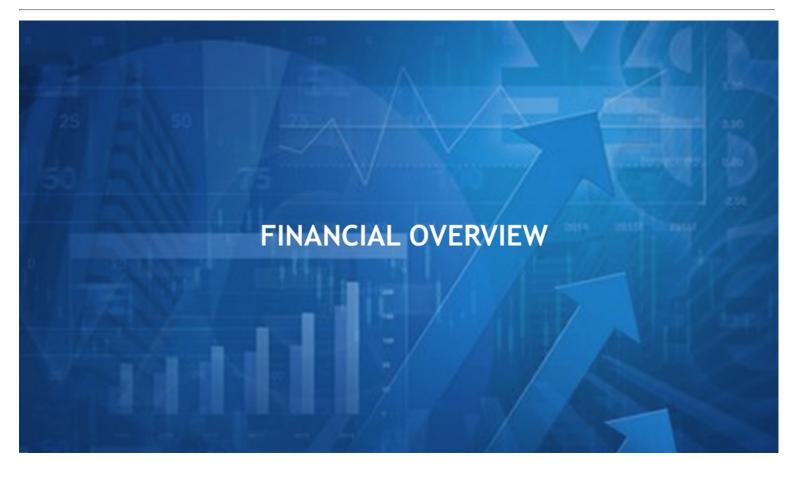
# **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CASE STUDY**





- First paid publication launched in April 2019
  - Launch generated \$11M in Net Revenue with approximately 3,000 paid subscribers
- Lower priced product launched in Dec 2019 paving the way to add subscribers to our sales funnel
- · Added two additional editors to launch additional products
- · One year post initiation, both lower priced and premium priced subscriptions fueled growth of paid list and revenues
- · Compelling content combined with effective/efficient marketing delivered outstanding results
- Business was breakeven in calendar year 2019 and turned a profit in 2020
- By the end of 2020, there were 3 editors and 6 paid products

	Launch	2019	2020
Net Revenues	\$11M	\$15M	\$32M
Paid Subscribers	3K	5K	83K
Free Subscribers	10K	10K	58K



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$549M 2020 Billings	<b>77%</b> 2020 Billings growth	\$759 >5x 2020 ARPU <sup>1</sup> LTV/CAC Ratio <sup>2</sup>
SCALE	TRACK RECORD OF GROWTH	INDUSTRY-LEADING UNIT ECONOMICS
<b>97%</b> 2018-2020 Subscription Billings	<b>24%</b> 2020 Adjusted Free Cash Flow Margin <sup>3</sup>	<b>99.8%</b> 2020 Adjusted CFFO Conversion <sup>4</sup> (Low Capex)
RECURRING REVENUE BASE	STRONG MARGIN PROFILE	PREMIER CASH FLOW CONVERSION (HIGHLY CAPITAL EFFICIENT)

<sup>1.</sup> Based on trailing four quarter net billings / average number of trailing four quarter paid subscribers
2. Based on average lifetime customer contribution margin divided by customer acquisition costs. Customer acquisition costs include direct marketing spend, external revenue share expense, retention and renewal expenses, copywriting and marketing salaries, tele-sales salaries and commissions and customer service commissions
3. Adjusted FCF Margin = Adjusted FCF / Billings. Adjusted FCF is calculated as Adjusted CFFO - Capital Expenditures. Adjusted CFFO is calculated as net cash provided by operating activities plus profits distributions to Class B unitholders included in stock based compensation expense
4. Adjusted CFFO Conversion = (Adjusted CFFO - Capital Expenditures) / Adjusted CFFO

# SUPERIOR UNIT ECONOMICS - 2020...

"....with an LTV/CAC ratio of 3 or higher, investing an incremental dollar in acquiring new customers has a greater expected return than retaining that dollar as profit..."



Avg. Customer Lifetime Billings \$2,700

High Variable Margin

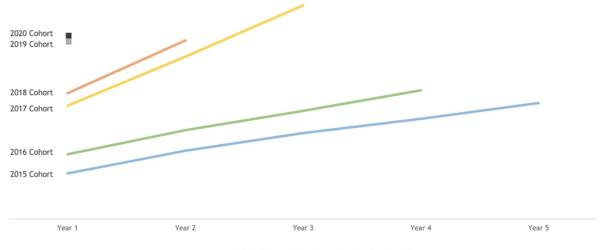
LTV/CAC¹ Ratio >5x

90 Days CPA<sup>2</sup> Breakeven

7-9 Months
CAC¹ Breakeven

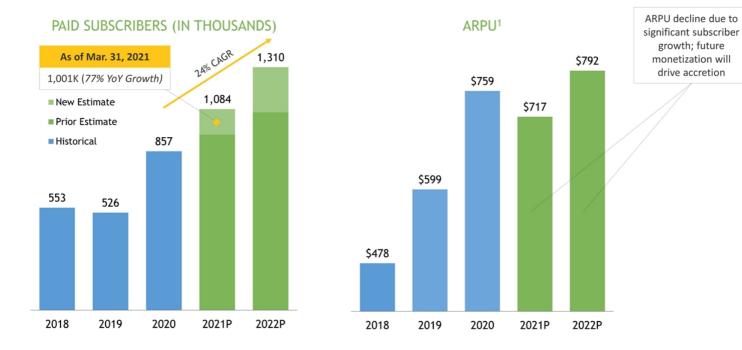
1. Customer Acquisition Costs include direct marketing spend, external revenue share expense, retention and renewal expenses, copywriting and marketing salaries, tele-sales salaries and commissions and customer service commissions 2. CPA - Cost per acquisition includes direct marketing spend only

# SUBSCRIBERS SPENDING MORE INITIALLY AND INCREASING THAT SPEND OVER TIME



CUMULATIVE SPEND BY COHORT OVER TIME

# FORECASTED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



 $1. Based \ on \ trailing \ four \ quarter \ net \ billings \ / average \ number \ of \ trailing \ four \ quarter \ paid \ subscribers$ 

# HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE LONG-TERM GROWTH AT SCALE



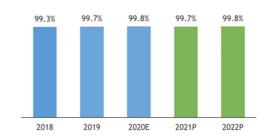
2020F

2021P

2022P







2018

2019

<sup>1.</sup> Billings represents amounts invoiced to customers
2. Adjusted FCF = Adjusted CFFO - Capital Expenditures. Adjusted CFFO is calculated as net cash provided by operating activities plus profits distributions to Class B unitholders included in stock based compensation expense. Adjusted FCF Margin = Adjusted CFFO - Capital Expenditures) / Adjusted CFFO Conversion = (Adjusted CFFO - Capital Expenditures) / Adjusted CFFO

### KEY FORECAST ASSUMPTIONS

### **Subscribers**

- · Continued strong new free and paid subscriber growth
- · Trend-like conversion rate inputs
- Revenue retention rate of 95%+ each year
- Trend-like subscriber count churn at ~1.7% per month
- · Stable product pricing
- GAAP revenue: ~35% to 38% of Billings each year, plus the current portion of deferred revenue
- · No M&A included; organic forecast only

### Margins

- Stable gross margins in 86% to 87% range
- Customer acquisition cost (CAC) returns to and exceeds pre-COVID levels
- Excluding stock-based compensation, G&A grows significantly in 2021 to support public company readiness
- Effective tax of 5% to 6%
- Capex of less than \$1 million annually

### Maintain "Rule of 50" Status

- 2021 projected GAAP revenue growth of 54% plus Adj FCF Margin of 28% = 82%
- Longer Term Target:
  - ➤ GAAP revenue growth 30% to 40%
  - > Adjusted FCF margin 28% to 33%

>> 50%



# LONG-TERM FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES

### KEY GROWTH DRIVERS

- · Paid marketing spend
- · New products/markets
- M&A

### KEY PROFITABILITY DRIVERS

- · Paid marketing spend
- Conversion/upsells
- ROIs



# SUSTAINED TARGET "ADJUSTED RULE OF 50" FINANCIAL PROFILE

1. Adjusted Rule of 50 equals annual GAAP Revenue Growth Rate plus Adjusted FCF Margin



# **TRANSACTION SUMMARY**

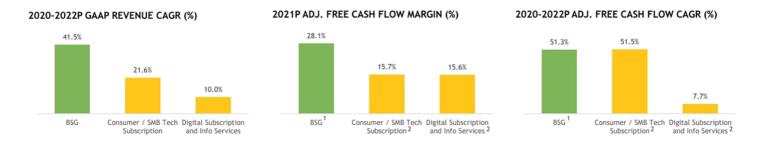
- ACND has agreed to combine with BSG in a transaction with an implied total enterprise value of \$3.024 billion
- This transaction represents an attractive pro forma multiple of 5.4x 2021P GAAP Revenue and 14.3x 2021P Adjusted Free Cash Flow
- Concurrent with this transaction, BSG and ACND has raised \$150 million in a PIPE offering at \$10.00 per share
- After giving effect to these transactions, pro forma company will have approximately \$150 million of cash on its balance sheet
- Lock-up: 6-12 months

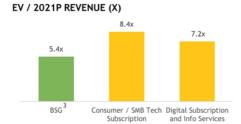
ILLUSTRATIVE SOURCES & USES (\$M)								
SOURCES		USES						
ACND Cash Held in Trust	\$414	Cash to Balance Sheet	\$150					
PIPE Raise Proceeds	150	Transaction Fees & Expenses	40					
Sellers' Equity Rollover	2,537	Cash to Sellers <sup>1</sup>	374					
		Sellers' Equity Rollover	2,537					
TOTAL	\$3,101	TOTAL	\$3,101					

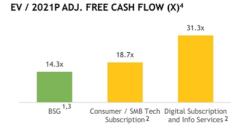


Assumes no redemption from ACND trust account
 Excludes ACND warrants and earnout shares and shares issuable pursuant to the combined company's equity incentive plans
 Includes approximately 18% that will be subject to a voting arrangement in favor of the board of directors of the combined company

# BSG VS. COMPS: BEST IN CLASS WITH SIGNIFICANT UPSIDE POTENTIAL







Sources: FactSet as of 1/29/2021, Wall Street research
Notes: Consumer / SMB Tech Subscription group includes: CHGG, DBX, GDDY, HUBS, MTCH, NFLX, SPOT, SQ, SVMK, WIX; Digital Subscription and Info Services group includes: CSGP, ENV, FDS, FORR, INFO, IT, MORN, MSCI, NYT

1. Adjusted Free Cash Flow = Adjusted CFFO - Capital Expenditures. Adjusted Free Cash Flow / Billings. Adjusted GFFO is calculated as net cash provided by operating activities plus profits distributions to Class B unitholders included in stock based compensation expense. Billings represents amounts invoiced to customers

2. Adjusted Free Cash Flow = Adjusted CFFO + Taxes - Capital Expenditures. Adjusted Free Cash Flow Margin = Adjusted Free Cash Flow / GAAP Revenue

3. Multiples based on pro forma Total Enterprise Value of \$3,024 million

4. Trading multiples greater than 45.0x are excluded

### PUBLIC COMPARABLES RATIONALE

### Consumer / SMB Tech Subscription

- BSG is a direct to consumer, tech-enabled, subscription-based business whose success is driven by its ability to directly connect with retail
  investors, get them interested enough to click through and to subscribe and whose value is ultimately driven by forming personal connections
  with these subscribers, providing high quality content, and converting them to this higher value content at higher price points
- · Target customers are primarily retail investors whose buying behavior closely resembles that of consumer subscription customers
- Free-to-paid business model aligns closely with many high performing consumer / SMB tech companies, with higher tiers for customers as they continue to see greater value
- BSG is at the most favorable end of the range of this peer group for all major categories of: i.) revenue growth, ii.) gross margins, iii.) ARPU, iv.) monthly churn, and v.) LTV / CAC

### Digital Subscription and Info Services

- BSG's content has similarities to many of the digital subscription and info services companies, although a number of the comps in the group are more focused on institutional customers as compared to consumers
- · This group is focused on digital publication of financial media content, which is similar to BSG's content and delivery medium
- BSG leads in all major categories versus this peer group (and is in line with the group in monthly churn): i.) revenue growth, ii.) gross margins, iii.) ARPU, iv.) monthly churn, and v.) LTV / CAC

# INDUSTRY LEADING COMPS - CONSUMER / SMB TECH SUBSCRIPTION

(\$ in millions, except per share data)

		Fina	ancial Metrics		Operational Metrics (Q4 2020)				
	Revenue Yo	Revenue YoY Growth		Gross M	argin	Annual	Monthly	LTV /	
Company	'20-'21	'21-'22	'20-'22	2020	2021E	ARPU	Churn	CAC	
Netflix, Inc.	20.1%	15.6%	17.8%	39.0%	40.4%	\$ 130.5	4.0%		
Square, Inc.	48.3%	19.7%	33.2%	29.2%	27.7%	41.0(1	-	-	
Spotify Technology S.A.	16.1%	19.5%	17.8%	25.3%	25.4%	60.8	3.9%	2.9x	
Match Group, Inc.	18.7%	17.2%	18.0%	73.5%	73.6%	226.3	-	-	
HubSpot, Inc.	34.1%	24.6%	29.3%	82.2%	82.5%	_ (2	-	-	
Wix.com Ltd.	31.5%	25.3%	28.4%	70.1%	63.2%	158.3	1.4%	-	
GoDaddy Inc.	12.0%	10.4%	11.2%	65.0%	65.3%	166.0	1.2%	>10x	
Chegg, Inc.	25.7%	21.6%	23.6%	68.3%	68.9%	160.0	-	-	
Dropbox, Inc.	10.4%	8.8%	9.6%	79.1%	80.1%	130.2	-	-	
SVMK Inc.	17.5%	20.1%	18.8%	80.4%	80.8%	494.0	-	-	
Mean:	23.4%	18.3%	20.8%	61.2%	60.8%				
Median:	19.4%	19.6%	18.4%	69.2%	67.1%				
Beacon Street Group	54.1%	29.9%	41.5%	85.7%	86.8%	\$ 759.0	1.8%	>5x	

Sources: FactSet, CapitaliQ, Wall Street research, public filings & transcripts
(1) Square ARPU represents Cash App
(2) HubSpot reports ARPU, but it was not included due to difference in customer type

# INDUSTRY LEADING COMPS - DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION AND INFO SERVICES

(\$ in millions, except per share data)

		Fina	Operational Metrics (Q4 2020)					
	Revenue Yo	Revenue YoY Growth		Gross M	argin	Annual	Monthly	LTV /
Company	'20-'21	'21-'22	'20-'22	2020	2021E	ARPU	Churn	CAC
MSCI Inc.	14.2%	10.1%	12.1%	82.9%	83.6%	-		
IHS Markit Ltd.	6.8%	6.5%	6.6%	62.5%	62.9%	-	-	
CoStar Group, Inc.	17.9%	15.7%	16.8%	81.2%	81.2%	-	-	
Gartner, Inc.	8.4%	13.7%	11.0%	66.4%	66.5%	-	1.6%(1)	
FactSet Research Systems Inc.	5.5%	NA	5.1%	NA	NA	-	0.9%	
Morningstar, Inc.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	-	-	
The New York Times Company	10.5%	7.6%	9.0%	NA	NA	-	-	3.7
Envestnet, Inc.	13.5%	10.5%	12.0%	69.3%	67.4%	-	-	
Forrester Research, Inc.	6.7%	8.4%	7.5%	59.7%	59.3%	-	3.5%	
Mean:	10.4%	10.3%	10.0%	70.3%	70.2%			
Median:	9.5%	10.1%	10.0%	67.9%	67.0%			
Beacon Street Group	54.1%	29.9%	41.5%	85.7%	86.8%	\$ 759.0	1.8%	>5x

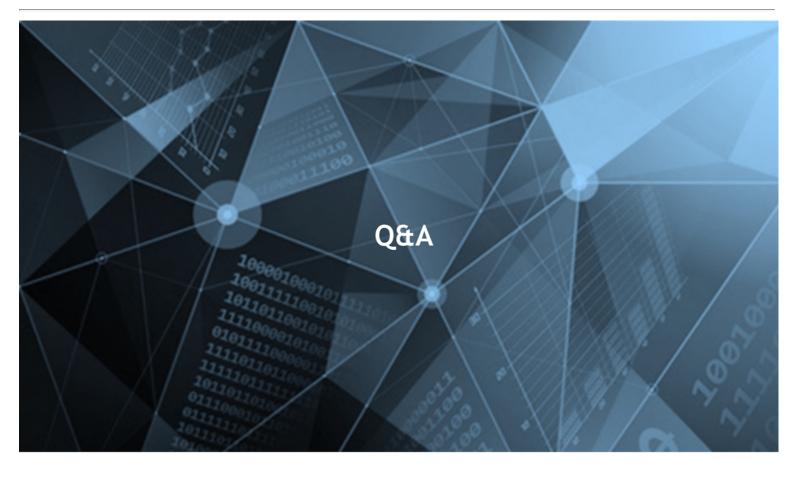
Sources: FactSet, CapitallQ, Wall Street research, public filings & transcripts (1) Gartner churn represents global technology sales

# **INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS**



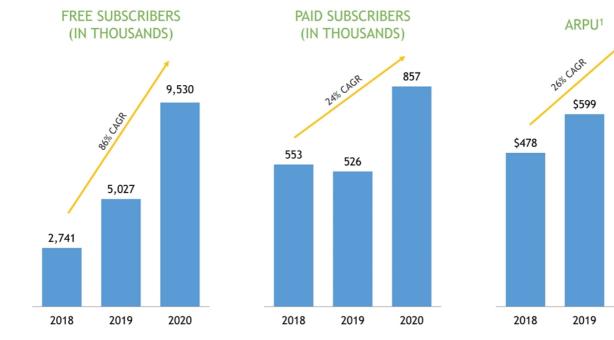
- Market leading tech platform with scalable high-value and proprietary content, data & analytics
- 10M+ self-directed investors, growing 78% from 2018 to 2020
- 12 primary customer facing brands offering 160+ products
- "Adjusted Rule of 50" financial profile: Scale, Growth, Recurring Revenue, High Adjusted FCF2 (Low Capex)
- Deep, long-tenured & proven team
- Multiple organic & inorganic avenues to potentially drive sustained profitable growth at scale

<sup>.</sup> Adjusted Rule of 50 equals annual GAAP Revenue Growth Rate plus Adjusted FCF Margin. Adjusted FCF Margin = Adjusted FCF / Billings
. Adjusted FCF is calculated as Adjusted CFFO (Cash Flow From Operations) - Capital Expenditures. Adjusted CFFO is calculated as net cash pr





# HISTORICAL KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



1. Based on trailing four quarter net billings / average number of trailing four quarter paid subscribers

43

\$759

# NON-GAAP RECONCILIATIONS

(\$ in 000's)	2018	2019	2020
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	76,493	54,201	55,875
Plus: Profits distributions to Class B unitholders included in stock based compensation expense	17,135	14,831	78,398
Adj. CFFO (Adjusted Cash Flow from Operations)	93,628	69,032	134,273

# **GAAP INCOME STATEMENT**

				% Vari	ance				
(\$ in 000's)	2018	2019	2020	'18 v '19	'19 v '20		2018	2019	2020
Total Revenue	238,449	272,223	364,179	14%	34%	Total Revenue	100%	100%	100%
Operating Expenses						Operating Expenses			
Cost of Revenue	57,643	42,553	154,605	-26%	263%	Cost of Revenue	24%	16%	42%
Sales and Marketing	97,332	106,094	214,257	9%	102%	Sales and Marketing	41%	39%	59%
General and Administrative	58,215	91,669	526,561	57%	474%	General and Administrative	24%	34%	145%
Depreciation and Amortization	2,534	2,334	2,553	-8%	9%	Depreciation and Amortization	1%	1%	1%
Research and Development	2,303	3,672	4,770	59%	30%	Research and Development	1%	1%	1%
Related Party Expenses	2,096	331	122	-84%	-63%	Related Party Expenses	1%	0%	0%
Total Operating Expenses	220,123	246,654	902,867	12%	266%	Total Operating Expenses	92%	91%	248%
Income (Loss) from Operations	18,326	25,569	(538,688)	40%	N/M	Income (Loss) from Operations	8%	9%	-148%
Other (Income) Expense, net	(278)	(865)	2,879	N/M	N/M	Other (Income) Expense, net	0%	0%	1%
Interest (Income) Expense, net	(67)	(1,558)	(477)	N/M	N/M	Interest (Income) Expense, net	0%	-1%	0%
Net Income (Loss)	18,671	27,993	(541,090)	50%	N/M	Net Income (Loss)	8%	10%	-149%
				% Vari	ance				
(\$ in 000's)	2018	2019	2020	'18 v '19	'19 v '20		2018	2019	2020
Stock Based Compensation Expense <sup>1</sup>						Stock Based Compensation Line Item Summary <sup>1</sup>			
Vested Class B Units & Change in Fair Value of Class B Liability Awards	11,077	5,608	475,202	-49%	8373%	Cost of Revenue	9%	2%	28%
Profits distribution to Class B Unitholders included in stock based compensation expense	17,135	14,831	78,398	-13%	429%	Sales and Marketing	3%	0%	3%
Total Stock Based Compensation Expense	28,212	20,439	553,600	-28%	2608%	General and Administrative	0%	6%	121%
						Total Stock Based Compensation Expense	12%	8%	152%
Stock Based Compensation Line Item Summary <sup>1</sup>									
Cost of Revenue	21,889	5,025	102,736	-77%	1944%				
Sales and Marketing	6,323		10,567	N/M	N/M				
General and Administrative	-	15,414	440,297	N/M	2756%				
Total Stock Based Compensation Expense	28,212	20,439	553,600	-28%	2608%				
•	,	,	,						

<sup>1.</sup> Within our expenses historically are stock-based compensation expenses related to the Class B Units. Because Beacon Street Group, LLC's current operating agreement includes puts and calls for the Class B units, these current Class B Units are classified as liabilities as opposed to equity and remeasured to fair value at the end of each reporting period until settlement into equity, with the change in value being charged to stock-based compensation expenses. As a result of the merger with Ascendant, in which all Class B Units are classified as liabilities on BSG's consolidated balance sheet, all profits distributions made to the holders of the Class B Units are considered to be stock-based compensation expenses. As a result of the merger with Ascendant, in which all Class B Units are considered to be stock-based compensation expenses. As a result of the merger with Ascendant, in which all Class B Units for periods after the consummation of this merger. While going forward BSG does not expect to incur the levels of stock-based compensation expense BSG has historically as a result the liability-award classification of the Class B Units, BSG does expect to incur much-reduced stock-based compensation expense in the ordinary course

# QUARTERLY METRICS

			2019			2020				
(\$ in 000's)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Full Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Full Year
GAAP Revenue	\$61,449	\$67,814	\$72,292	\$70,668	\$272,223	\$78,612	\$85,025	\$100,389	\$100,152	\$364,179
Billings <sup>1</sup>	51,705	71,054	96,307	90,994	310,060	117,454	123,113	149,907	158,362	548,835
Cash Flow from Operations	(26,314) <sup>2</sup>	12,269	45,254	22,992	54,201	(6,384)	31,795	47,813	(17,348)	55,875
Plus: Profit Distributions from Class B Units	6,229	1,044	7,301	256	14,831	32,313	5,757	7,241	33,087	78,398
Adjusted CFFO	(20,084) <sup>2</sup>	13,314	52,555	23,248	69,032	25,929	37,552	55,054	15,739	134,273
Adjusted CFFO	(20,084) <sup>2</sup>	13,314	52,555	23,248	69,032	25,929	37,552	55,054	15,739	134,273
Less: Capex	(43)	(50)	(63)	(21)	(177)	(184)	(30)	(15)	(61)	(290)
Adjusted FCF	( <b>20,127</b> ) <sup>2</sup>	13,264	52,492	23,226	68,856	25,745	37,522	55,039	15,678	133,984

			2019			2020				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Full Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Full Year
Free Subscribers	3,260,446	3,799,050	4,551,731	5,027,461	5,027,461	5,900,065	6,817,076	8,147,974	9,529,622	9,529,622
Paid Subscribers	521,797	511,168	512,921	526,018	526,018	566,917	683,593	785,539	856,826	856,826
Total Subscribers	3,782,243	4,310,218	5,064,652	5,553,479	5,553,479	6,466,982	7,500,669	8,933,513	10,386,448	10,386,448

<sup>1.</sup> Billings represents amounts invoiced to customer

<sup>2.</sup> Includes unusually large related party working capital impact; should not be recurring as related party working capital transactions are expected to be minimal going forward