

HouseValues, Inc.
Form 10-Q
May 05, 2005
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For The Quarter Ended March 31, 2005

OR

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

Commission File Number: 000-51032

HouseValues, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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Washington
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

91-1982679
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

11332 NE 122nd Way, Kirkland, WA 98034

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(425) 952-5500

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

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

As of April 18, 2005, there were outstanding 25,166,511 shares of the registrant's common stock, \$0.001 par value, which is the only class of common stock of the registrant.

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HOUSEVALUES, INC.

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Table of Contents**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Consolidated Financial Statements****HouseValues, Inc.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME****(In thousands, except per share data)****(unaudited)**

	Quarters ended	
	March 31,	
	2005	2004
	_____	_____
Revenues	\$ 17,619	\$ 9,323
Expenses:		
Sales and marketing	8,622	4,315
Technology and product development	1,234	723
General and administrative	2,770	1,323
Depreciation and amortization of property and equipment (1)	354	198
Amortization of intangible assets	152	163
Stock-based compensation (2)	297	21
	_____	_____
Total expenses	13,429	6,743
	_____	_____
Income from operations	4,190	2,580
Interest income	318	17
	_____	_____
Income before income tax expense	4,508	2,597
Income tax expense	1,578	913
	_____	_____
Net income	\$ 2,930	\$ 1,684
	_____	_____
Net income per share:		
Basic	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.09
	_____	_____
Diluted	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.08
	_____	_____

(1) Depreciation and amortization of property and equipment is allocated as follows:

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	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Technology and product development	\$ 113	\$ 91
General and administrative	241	107
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	\$ 354	\$ 198
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

(2) Stock-based compensation is allocated as follows:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Sales and marketing	\$ 66	\$ 6
Technology and product development	57	10
General and administrative	174	5
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	\$ 297	\$ 21
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**HouseValues, Inc.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****(In thousands, except share data)****(unaudited)**

	March 31,	December 31,
	2005	2004
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 58,010	\$ 57,562
Short-term investments	19,315	17,316
Accounts receivable, net of allowance of \$114 and \$95, respectively	349	84
Prepaid expenses and other assets	1,012	1,245
Deferred income taxes	483	222
Other current assets	1,495	1,605
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total current assets	80,664	78,034
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$2,398 and \$2,051	4,356	3,702
Goodwill	1,329	948
Intangible assets, net of accumulated amortization of \$1,378 and \$1,225	1,319	1,430
Other noncurrent assets	523	450
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total assets	\$ 88,191	\$ 84,564
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,294	\$ 1,167
Accrued compensation and benefits	2,205	2,407
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	2,876	3,706
Deferred rent, current portion	248	261
Deferred revenue	1,140	1,014
Income taxes payable	999	103
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total current liabilities	8,762	8,658
Deferred rent, less current portion	1,384	1,306
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total liabilities	10,146	9,964
Shareholders' equity:		
Common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, stated at amounts paid in; authorized 120,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 25,085,294 and 24,935,000 shares at March 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004, respectively	68,717	68,631
Deferred stock-based compensation	(4,195)	(4,624)
Retained earnings	13,523	10,593
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total shareholders' equity	78,045	74,600
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 88,191	\$ 84,564



See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**HouseValues, Inc.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(In thousands)****(unaudited)**

	Quarters ended	
	March 31,	
	2005	2004
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 2,930	\$ 1,684
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization of property and equipment	354	198
Amortization of intangible assets	152	163
Stock-based compensation	297	21
Deferred income tax benefit	(334)	(64)
Changes in certain assets and liabilities, net of SOAR Solutions, Inc. acquisition		
Accounts receivable	(265)	4
Prepaid expenses and other assets	233	(11)
Other current assets	110	
Accounts payable	44	(523)
Accrued compensation and benefits	(202)	(31)
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	(42)	13
Deferred rent	65	
Deferred revenue	126	194
Income taxes payable	896	412
	<u>4,364</u>	<u>2,060</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	4,364	2,060
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of short-term investments	(6,299)	
Sales of short-term investments	4,300	
Purchases of property and equipment	(1,476)	(153)
Purchases of intangible assets	(41)	
Acquisition of SOAR Solutions, Inc., net of cash acquired		(11)
	<u>(3,516)</u>	<u>(164)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	(3,516)	(164)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Issuance costs related to the sale of common stock	(618)	
Proceeds from exercises of stock options and warrants	218	179
Issuance of shareholder note for option exercise		(61)
	<u>(400)</u>	<u>118</u>
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(400)	118
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	448	2,014

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Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	<u>57,562</u>	<u>7,181</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>\$ 58,010</u>	<u>\$ 9,195</u>

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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HouseValues, Inc.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the quarters ended March 31, 2005 and 2004

(unaudited)

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of Operations

HouseValues, Inc. was incorporated in Washington in May 1999. HouseValues provides an innovative service offering that enables real estate professionals to capture and cultivate leads, and convert these leads into closed transactions. The integrated service offering combines leads generated from HouseValues.com and JustListed.com web sites with an online prospect management system and personalized coaching and training to help agent customers increase lead conversion.

Initial Public Offering

On December 9, 2004, the Company completed its initial public offering and its stock commenced trading on December 10, 2004.

Basis of Presentation

The consolidated financial statements are unaudited and include the financial statements of HouseValues, Inc. and its subsidiaries (collectively, the Company). All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004. The year end balance sheet data was derived from audited financial statements, but does not include all disclosures required by generally accepted accounting principles. In management's opinion all normal recurring adjustments which are necessary for the fair presentation of the results for the interim periods are reflected herein. Operating results for the quarter ended March 31, 2005 are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for a full year.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported and disclosed in the consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes. Actual results could differ materially from these estimates.

Stock-Based Compensation

The Company applies the intrinsic-value based method of accounting prescribed by Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25, *Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees*, and related interpretations including Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Interpretation No. 44, *Accounting for Certain Transactions Involving Stock Compensation, an Interpretation of APB Opinion 25*. Under this method, compensation expense related to employee stock options is recorded if, on the date of grant, the fair value of the underlying stock exceeds the exercise price. Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 123, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation*, established accounting and disclosure requirements using a fair-value based method of accounting for stock-based employee compensation plans. As allowed by SFAS No. 123 and SFAS No. 148, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation, Transition and Disclosure*, the Company has elected to continue to apply the intrinsic-value based method of accounting see *Recent Accounting Pronouncements*.

Table of Contents**HouseValues, Inc.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the quarters ended March 31, 2005 and 2004

(unaudited)

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont.)

The following table illustrates the effect on net income if the fair value based method as prescribed by SFAS No. 123 had been applied to all outstanding awards in each period (in thousands, except per share data):

	Quarters ended	
	March 31,	
	2005	2004
Net income, as reported	\$ 2,930	\$ 1,684
Add: Stock-based employee compensation included in reported net earnings, net of tax	203	21
Deduct: Stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, net of tax	(311)	(42)
Pro forma net income available to shareholders	\$ 2,822	\$ 1,663
Earnings per share		
Basic as reported	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.09
Diluted as reported	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.08
Basic pro forma	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.09
Diluted pro forma	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.08

The value of each employee option granted through March 31, 2005 was estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. The following weighted average assumptions were used for options granted during the quarter ended March 31, 2005: risk-free interest rate of 4.36%, expected volatility of 100%, expected life of 4 years and dividend yield of 0%. The weighted-average fair value of options granted during that quarter ended March 31, 2005 was \$9.34.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement Number 123 (revised 2004) (SFAS 123R), Share-Based Payments. SFAS 123R requires all entities to recognize compensation expense in an amount equal to the fair value of share-based payments, such as stock options granted to employees. The Company is required to apply SFAS 123R on a modified prospective method. Under this method, the Company is required to record compensation expense (as previous awards continue to vest) for the unvested portion of previously granted awards that remain outstanding at the date of adoption. In addition, the Company may elect to adopt SFAS 123R by restating previously

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issued financial statements, basing the amounts on the expense previously calculated and reported in their pro forma disclosures that had been required by SFAS 123. FAS 123R is effective for the Company in the first quarter of 2006, as recently permitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Management has not completed its evaluation of the effect that SFAS 123R will have, but believes that when adopted it will increase stock based compensation expense and reduce net income.

In March 2005, the SEC issued Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 107. SAB 107 expresses the views of the SEC staff regarding the interaction of FAS 123R and certain SEC rules and regulations and provides the SEC staff's view regarding the valuation of share-based payment arrangements for public companies. Management is assessing the impact of SAB 107 in conjunction with their evaluation of the impact of SFAS 123R.

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HouseValues, Inc.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the quarters ended March 31, 2005 and 2004

(unaudited)

Note 2 - Acquisitions

In June 2003, the Company acquired all of the outstanding stock of Soar Solutions, Inc., a real-estate services company, in exchange for \$985,000 in cash; an earn-out arrangement equal to 5% of specified gross customer receipts, net of any reserve for bad debt, through March 2006, payable quarterly; and contingent cash consideration of \$525,000 and 200,000 shares of unvested restricted common stock.

The contingent cash consideration of \$525,000 was placed in escrow and paid in installments when certain performance measures were met. As of December 31, 2004, the performance measures had been met and all escrow amounts had been released.

The restricted common stock vested quarterly as certain performance measures were met. As of June 30, 2004, the performance measures had been met and all shares were vested. The vested shares were recorded at the estimated fair value of the stock at the time such vesting occurred based on the following schedule:

Vesting date	Number of shares	Fair value per share	Total fair value (in thousands)
December 31, 2003	50,000	\$ 2.20	\$ 110
March 31, 2004	50,000	\$ 2.20	\$ 110
June 30, 2004	100,000	\$ 3.53	\$ 353
	200,000		\$ 573

The net assets acquired in the Soar acquisition were assigned values at the date of acquisition and subsequently adjusted for additional contingent consideration as follows (in thousands):

March 31, 2005	December 31, 2004	June 2003 (date of acquisition)
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Cash	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
Property and equipment	25	25	25
Intangible asset customer lists	636	636	636
Intangible asset vendor agreements	1,390	1,390	365
Note payable (paid July 2003)	(141)	(141)	(141)
Goodwill	1,329	948	
	<u>\$ 3,339</u>	<u>\$ 2,958</u>	<u>\$ 985</u>

The value of the acquired vendor agreements at the date of acquisition was determined to be \$1,390,000. As all contingent consideration relates to vendor agreement based milestones, the Company initially recorded the vendor agreements asset at less than fair value. As contingent consideration was earned, the amounts were first applied to increase the vendor agreements asset to fair value. Excess amounts are recorded as goodwill.

In December 2004, the Company acquired software from an individual who has become an employee of the company. The company paid \$37,500 in cash, agreed to pay \$112,500 payable in future installments provided that certain performance measures are met, issued options to purchase 50,000 shares of common stock and incurred \$10,000 of transaction expenses. Because of the uncertainty associated with the future installments, additional amounts will be recorded when the contingent consideration is earned. During the quarter ended March 31, 2005, contingent consideration of \$37,500 was earned. Including the contingent consideration earned and options granted in connection with the acquisition that were valued at approximately \$410,000, the intangible asset was valued at approximately \$493,000 at March 31, 2005.

Table of Contents**HouseValues, Inc.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the quarters ended March 31, 2005 and 2004

(unaudited)

Note 3 - Earnings per share

During most of 2004, the Company had two classes of equity securities; common stock and redeemable convertible preferred shares. Effective with the Company's initial public offering, all outstanding redeemable convertible preferred shares were converted to common shares.

Performance-based unvested restricted common shares pertaining to the Soar Solutions, Inc. acquisition were considered outstanding common shares and included in the computation of basic and diluted EPS as of the date that all necessary conditions of vesting were satisfied (see Note 2). Prior to satisfaction of all conditions of vesting, unvested restricted common shares were considered contingently issuable and were excluded from weighted average common shares outstanding.

The share count used to compute basic and diluted earnings per share is calculated as follows (in thousands):

	Quarters ended March 31,	
	2005	2004
Weighted average common shares outstanding	25,024	11,662
Less: Unvested restricted shares issued in connection with acquisition of Soar Solutions, Inc.		(150)
Weighted average shares outstanding used to compute basic earnings per share	25,024	11,512
Add: dilutive common equivalent shares		
Warrants		513
Stock options	2,223	1,633
Redeemable convertible preferred stock assuming conversion		6,923
Shares used to compute diluted earnings per share	27,247	20,581
Antidilutive stock options	126	1,061

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted EPS (in thousands, except per share data):

	Quarters ended March 31,	
	2005	2004
Calculation of basic earnings per share:		
Net income	\$ 2,930	\$ 1,684
Percent of earnings allocable to common shareholders (1)	100%	62%
<hr/>		
Undistributed earnings allocable to common shareholders	\$ 2,930	\$ 1,051
Weighted average common shares outstanding	25,024	11,512
<hr/>		
Basic earnings per share	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.09
<hr/>		
Calculation of diluted earnings per share:		
Net income	\$ 2,930	\$ 1,684
Weighted average diluted shares outstanding	27,247	20,581
<hr/>		
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.08
<hr/>		

(1) Calculation of percent of undistributed earnings allocable to common shareholders:

	Quarters ended March 31,	
	2005	2004
Weighted average common shares outstanding	25,024	11,512
Weighted average redeemable convertible preferred shares outstanding		6,923
<hr/>		
Weighted average common shares and redeemable convertible preferred shares outstanding	25,024	18,435
Percent of undistributed earnings allocable to common shareholders:	100%	62%

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HouseValues, Inc.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the quarters ended March 31, 2005 and 2004

(unaudited)

Note 4 - Commitments and Contingencies - B&O Taxes

The Company is the subject of an audit by the Washington State Department of Revenue. In late September 2004, the Company received correspondence from the Washington State Department of Revenue asserting preliminarily that all of the Company's revenues should be subject to the Washington state business and occupation tax. Although the Company intends to vigorously contest the Washington State Department of Revenue's initial assessment, the Company may be required to pay between \$1.9 million and \$2.1 million in additional B&O taxes related to revenues through March 31, 2005, including penalties and interest. As of March 31, 2005, the Company had accrued an aggregate of \$1.9 million for this potential exposure, representing the Company's best estimate and the low end of the estimated range. Furthermore, the Company may be required to record additional charges to operations in future periods.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

You should read the following discussion and analysis by our management of our financial condition and results of operations in conjunction with our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes included elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. This discussion and other parts of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contain forward looking statements relating to the Company's anticipated plans, products, services, and financial performance. The words believe, expect, anticipate, intend and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements, but their absence does not mean the statement is not forward looking. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated in the forward looking statements. Factors that could affect the Company's actual results include, but are not limited to, those discussed below in this Item 2 under the heading Factors that May Affect Our Business, Financial Condition and Future Results, as well as those described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for calendar year 2004 and in our other Securities and Exchange Commission filings. Given these risks and uncertainties, you should not place undue reliance on these forward looking statements. The forward looking statements are made as of today's date and the Company assumes no obligation to update any such statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof.

Overview

We provide an innovative service offering that enables residential real estate professionals to capture, cultivate and convert leads into closed transactions. Our integrated offering combines leads generated from our HouseValues.com and JustListed.com web sites with our online prospect management system and personalized coaching and training to help agent customers increase lead conversion. We have been profitable and cash flow positive since the end of 2001.

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On December 9, 2004, we completed our initial public offering and our stock began trading on December 10, 2004. We sold 4,166,667 shares of common stock and selling shareholders sold 2,083,333 shares at \$15.00 per share. We received net proceeds of approximately \$56.1 million, after underwriters' discounts of approximately \$4.4 million and offering expenses of approximately \$2.0 million.

We continue to see strong growth in our business during the first quarter of 2005. Revenue was a record \$17.6 million, up 89% compared to the first quarter of 2004. Additionally, net income increased 74% to \$2.9 million, when compared to first quarter 2004 net income. The first quarter of 2005 represents our 16th consecutive quarter of profitable operations.

Table of Contents**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (Cont.)****Results of Operations***Revenues*

	Quarters Ended March 31,			
	2005	2004	Increase	Percent Change
	(dollars in thousands)			
Revenues	\$ 17,619	\$ 9,323	\$ 8,296	89%

Demand for our services increased substantially as our agent customer count exceeded 13,000 at March 31, 2005. This represents an increase of 90% compared to the first quarter of 2004 and 18% compared to the fourth quarter of 2004. Our average monthly customer churn rate remained stable at 6.1% compared to 6.0% for the first quarter of 2004 and 5.9% for the fourth quarter of 2004. As a result of our increase in customer agents, first quarter 2005 revenues increased 89% over the same quarter last year. Our increase in agent customers is primarily attributable to the continued growth of our JustListed and HouseValues services, driven by a significantly expanded sales force.

While we anticipate that revenues will continue to increase in the future, our future growth rate may decline as a result of our larger customer base. In addition, our average revenue per customer may decline in the future as our business matures. Average revenue per customer may also decline if we are forced to discount our prices in response to competition or if we decide to discount our prices in an effort to accelerate our growth.

Sales and Marketing

	Quarters Ended March 31,			
	2005	2004	Increase	Percent Change
	(dollars in thousands)			
Sales and marketing	\$ 8,622	\$ 4,315	\$ 4,307	100%
Percentage of revenues	49%	46%		

Sales and marketing expenses grew as a percentage of revenue due to an increase in the number of sales and marketing employees. The number of sales and marketing employees at March 31, 2005 was 283, an increase of 130% when compared to 123 sales and marketing employees the end of the first quarter of 2004. Our investment in additional employees is intended to drive our revenue growth in 2005 and beyond. Commissions expense also increased as a result of our substantial growth in revenues. Finally, while we saw an increase in the total amount of advertising incurred to generate leads, those costs declined slightly as a percentage of revenues due to overall lower costs per lead coupled with more effective lead allocation across a larger customer base.

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We expect sales and marketing expenses to increase as a percentage of revenues during the remainder of 2005 as we continue to invest in our sales force, expand our business and generate more leads.

Technology and Product Development

	Quarters Ended March 31,			
	2005	2004	Increase	Percent Change
	(dollars in thousands)			
Technology and product development	\$ 1,234	\$ 723	\$ 511	71%
Percentage of revenues	7%	8%		

Technology and product development headcount increased to assist in the development of new services and features and the maintenance of our existing services and infrastructure, resulting in higher salary and related costs.

We expect technology and product development expenses to increase as a percentage of our growing revenue base as we hire more personnel to build and maintain the infrastructure required to support increased business levels and the development of new services.

Table of Contents**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (Cont.)***General and Administrative*

	Quarters Ended March 31,			Percent Change
	2005	2004	Increase	
	(dollars in thousands)			
General and administrative	\$ 2,770	\$ 1,323	\$ 1,447	109%
Percentage of revenues	16%	14%		

The increase in general and administrative expenses was due to several components:

increased costs of professional services and business insurance as a public company;

increased B&O tax accruals and credit card fees directly related to the increase in our revenues;

increased salaries and related expenses for additional staffing to support the growth in the business, as well as our operations as a public company; and

increased occupancy expenses required to support the growth in our workforce.

We expect general and administrative expenses to increase in absolute dollar amounts, but to be consistent with or decline slightly as a percentage of revenue in future quarters. Operating as a public company presents additional management and reporting requirements that will significantly increase our director and officers insurance premiums as well as general liability insurance premiums and professional fees. We also anticipate hiring additional personnel, including investor relations, financial management and reporting personnel, to help manage future growth and our operations as a public company.

Depreciation and Amortization of Property and Equipment

Depreciation and amortization of property and equipment increased year-over-year primarily due to additional depreciation expense on workstations purchased to accommodate our increased headcount, the relocation of office space and the change in phone systems.

Because of the significant investments in leasehold improvements at our new corporate headquarters and purchases of equipment made during 2004 and the first quarter of 2005, we expect depreciation expense to increase in absolute dollar amounts and remain consistent as a percentage of revenue.

Amortization of Intangible Assets

Amortization of intangible assets for the quarter ended March 31, 2005, remained consistent with the total expense recognized in the quarter ended March 31, 2004, while decreasing as a percent of sales.

Stock-Based Compensation

In 2004, our deferred stock-based compensation balance increased as a result of stock option grants at a price less than the reassessed value per share. As a result, stock-based compensation increased in 2005 due to the amortization of the higher deferred stock-based compensation balance. See *Recent Accounting Pronouncements* for discussion of the required change to the fair value method of accounting for stock options as described in the *Recent Accounting Pronouncements*.

Interest Income

Interest income increased year-over-year due to larger cash and investment balances. At March 31, 2005, we held \$77.3 million in cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments, compared to \$9.2 million at March 31, 2004. Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments increased primarily due to the receipt of proceeds from our initial public offering completed in December 2004.

Income Taxes

First quarter 2005 income tax expense increased as a result of higher pre-tax income. Our effective tax rate for the quarter ended March 31, 2005 was approximately 35.0%, compared to 35.1% for the quarter ended March 31, 2004.

Table of Contents**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (Cont.)****Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

Our financial statements are prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, costs and expenses and related disclosures. On an ongoing basis, we evaluate our estimates and assumptions. Accordingly, our actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. The critical accounting policies that involve significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements are disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004.

Quarterly Consolidated Statements of Income and Operational Data

The following tables present the unaudited consolidated statements of income data for the five quarters ended March 31, 2005 in dollars and as a percentage of revenues. This quarterly information has been prepared on the same basis as our audited consolidated financial statements and, in the opinion of our management, reflects all adjustments necessary for a fair representation of the information for the periods presented. This data should be read in conjunction with our audited consolidated financial statements and the related notes included in our 2004 Annual Report on Form 10-K. Operating results for any quarter apply to that quarter only and are not necessarily indicative of results for any future period.

	Mar. 31, 2004	June 30, 2004	Sept. 30, 2004	Dec. 31, 2004	Mar. 31, 2005
Consolidated Statements of Income Data:					
Revenues	\$ 9,323	\$ 11,150	\$ 12,805	\$ 14,413	\$ 17,619
Expenses:					
Sales and marketing	4,315	5,037	6,103	7,148	8,622
Technology and product development	723	783	940	1,304	1,234
General and administrative	1,323	1,376	2,663	2,317	2,770
Depreciation and amortization of property and equipment	198	191	211	350	354
Amortization of intangible assets	163	218	257	257	152
Stock-based compensation	21	55	145	284	297
Total expenses	6,743	7,660	10,319	11,660	13,429
Income from operations	2,580	3,490	2,486	2,753	4,190
Interest income	17	24	43	115	318
Income before income tax expense	2,597	3,514	2,529	2,868	4,508
Income tax expense	913	1,235	885	1,017	1,578
Net income	\$ 1,684	\$ 2,279	\$ 1,644	\$ 1,851	\$ 2,930
Reconciliation of GAAP Measurement to EBITDA:					
Net income	\$ 1,684	\$ 2,279	\$ 1,644	\$ 1,851	\$ 2,930
Less: Interest income	(17)	(24)	(43)	(115)	(318)
Add:					
Depreciation and amortization of property and equipment	198	191	211	350	354

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Amortization of intangible assets	163	218	257	257	152
Amortization of stock-based compensation	21	55	145	284	297
Income tax expense	913	1,235	885	1,017	1,578
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EBITDA	\$ 2,962	\$ 3,954	\$ 3,099	\$ 3,644	\$ 4,993
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Consolidated Statements of Income Data as a Percentage of Revenue:

Revenues	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Expenses:					
Sales and marketing	46	45	48	50	49
Technology and product development	8	7	7	9	7
General and administrative	14	12	21	16	16
Depreciation and amortization of property and equipment	2	2	1	2	2
Amortization of intangible assets	2	2	2	2	1
Stock-based compensation		1	1	2	1
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total expenses	72	69	80	81	76
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Income from operations	28	31	20	19	24
Interest income				1	2
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Income before income tax expense	28	31	20	20	26
Income tax expense	10	11	7	7	9
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net income	18%	20%	13%	13%	17%
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EBITDA	32%	35%	24%	25%	28%
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Table of Contents**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (Cont.)**

EBITDA is a non GAAP financial measure provided as a complement to results provided in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The term EBITDA refers to a financial measure that is defined as earnings before net interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization. EBITDA is not a substitute for measures determined in accordance with GAAP, and may not be comparable to EBITDA as reported by other companies. We believe EBITDA to be relevant and useful information to our investors as this measure is an integral part of our internal management reporting and planning process and is the primary measure used by our management to evaluate the operating performance of our operations. The components of EBITDA include the key revenue and expense items for which our operating managers are responsible and upon which we evaluate their performance, and we also use EBITDA for planning purposes and in presentations to our board of directors.

Key Operational Metrics

The following table presents operational data for the five quarters ended March 31, 2005:

	<u>Mar. 31,</u> <u>2004</u>	<u>June 30,</u> <u>2004</u>	<u>Sept. 30,</u> <u>2004</u>	<u>Dec. 31,</u> <u>2004</u>	<u>Mar. 31,</u> <u>2005</u>
Operational Data:					
Components of revenue (in thousands):					
Core revenue (1)	\$ 8,910	\$ 10,755	\$ 12,382	\$ 13,819	\$ 16,858
Other revenue (2)	413	395	423	594	761
Net Revenue	\$ 9,323	\$ 11,150	\$ 12,805	\$ 14,413	\$ 17,619
Average monthly churn rate (3)	6.0%	6.2%	6.7%	5.9%	6.1%
Average core customers in the quarter (4)	5,896	7,537	9,094	10,501	12,040
Average monthly revenue per core customer (5)	\$ 504	\$ 476	\$ 454	\$ 439	\$ 467

- (1) Core revenue consists of revenue for our primary service offerings, HouseValues and JustListed, that consist of a specified guaranteed number of exclusive leads on prospective home buyers or sellers, our Market Leader system and our coaching and training programs.
- (2) Other revenue consists of revenue related to SOAR services, sales of surplus leads to brokers with no minimum commitment, monthly fees for use of our tools, the sales of branded marketing collateral, seminar attendance fees, and advertising.
- (3) Average monthly churn is calculated by dividing the number of core customers who cancel during the quarter by the average core customers in the quarter, divided by the number of months in the quarter. Core customers are customers from whom we collect fees for our core revenues.
- (4) Average core customers in the quarter are calculated as the average of customers at the beginning and at the end of the quarter.
- (5) Average revenue per core customer is calculated as core revenue for the quarter divided by the average core customers in the quarter, divided by the number of months in the quarter.

Table of Contents**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (Cont.)****Liquidity and Capital Resources**

The following table presents summary cash flow data:

	<u>Quarters Ended March 31,</u>	
	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
	(dollars in thousands)	
Cash provided by operating activities	\$ 4,364	\$ 2,060
Cash used in investing activities	(3,516)	(164)
Cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(400)	118

Cash equivalents and short-term investments consist of money market funds and highly liquid, short-term, adjustable-rate insured municipal notes. These municipal notes are classified as short-term investments available for sale and are reported at fair value, which approximates cost.

Our principal sources of liquidity are our cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments, as well as the cash flow that we generate from our operations. We do not currently have any commercial debt or posted letters of credit.

Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities primarily consists of net income adjusted for certain non-cash items, including depreciation, amortization, stock-based compensation, and the effect of changes in working capital. Net cash provided by operating activities increased \$2.3 million for the first quarter of 2005 compared to the same quarter in 2004. This increase resulted primarily from an increase in net income after non-cash items and increases in our current liabilities.

Investing Activities

Cash used in investing activities for the quarter ended March 31, 2005 of \$3.5 million was primarily attributable to net investments in short-term, high-grade, tax-exempt municipal bonds of \$2.0 million, and capital expenditures of \$1.5 million generally for the purchase of leasehold improvements and office equipment. The source of cash for these investments consisted of cash generated from operations during the first quarter of 2005 and cash on hand as of December 31, 2004. We invest excess cash in money market funds and highly liquid debt instruments.

Financing Activities

Cash used in financing activities for the quarter ended March 31, 2005 was \$0.4 million, consisting primarily of \$0.6 million of additional expenses related to our initial public offering of common stock offset by \$0.2 million of proceeds from the exercise of stock options and warrants.

Cash provided by financing activities for the quarter ended March 31, 2004 consisted primarily of proceeds from the exercise of stock options.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement Number 123 (revised 2004) (SFAS 123R), Share-Based Payments. SFAS 123R requires all entities to recognize compensation expense in an amount equal to the fair value of share-based payments, such as stock options granted to employees. The Company is required to apply SFAS 123R on a modified prospective method. Under this method, the Company is required to record compensation expense (as previous awards continue to vest) for the unvested portion of previously granted awards that remain outstanding at the date of adoption. In addition, the Company may elect to adopt SFAS 123R by restating previously issued financial statements, basing the amounts on the expense previously calculated and reported in their pro forma disclosures that had been required by SFAS 123. FAS 123R is effective for the Company in the first quarter of 2006, as recently permitted by the SEC. Management has not completed its evaluation of the effect that SFAS 123R will have, but believes that when adopted it will increase stock based compensation expense and reduce net income.

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Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (Cont.)

In March 2005, the SEC issued Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 107. SAB 107 expresses the views of the SEC staff regarding the interaction of FAS 123R and certain SEC rules and regulations and provides the SEC staff's view regarding the valuation of share-based payment arrangements for public companies. Management is assessing the impact of SAB 107 in conjunction with their evaluation of the impact of SFAS 123R.

Factors That May Affect Our Business, Financial Condition and Future Results

You should carefully consider the following factors that may affect our business, future operating results and financial condition, as well as other information included in this Quarterly Report. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial also may impair our business operations. If any of the following risks actually occur, our business, financial condition and operating results could be materially adversely affected.

We have a limited operating history, our business model is new and evolving and our future operating results are unpredictable.

We were formed in May 1999 and therefore have a limited operating history upon which to evaluate our operations and future prospects. There is little significant historical basis to assess how we will respond to competitive, economic or technological challenges. Our business and prospects must be considered in light of the risks and uncertainties frequently encountered by companies in the early stages of development.

The success of our business model depends on our ability to attract new and retain existing agent customers and to efficiently generate leads from consumers visiting our web sites. Any failure to execute this strategy could harm our business. Our business model is relatively new and unproven and is still evolving. For example, we originally sold leads generated by visits to our HouseValues site to agent customers under an exclusive territory sales model, pursuant to which an agent customer received on an exclusive basis every lead we generated in his or her designated territory. We transitioned from the exclusive territory sales model in the second quarter of 2004, and began selling bundles of exclusive leads to one or more agent customers in a specific geographic area. If our agent customers are unsatisfied with this shift in our sales model, or with other changes we make as our business evolves, they may choose not to extend their contracts for our services.

We expect that we will continue to increase our expenses, in particular within sales and marketing, as we seek to expand our business. We cannot assure you that our strategies for growth will be successful or that our revenues will increase sufficiently to maintain our current margins or profitability on a quarterly or annual basis.

Our operating results are subject to fluctuations that may cause our stock price to decline.

Our operating results have fluctuated in the past and are likely to continue to do so in the future. Our revenues are unpredictable and may fluctuate from quarter to quarter due to changes in rates of agent customer adoption and retention, the cyclical nature of the real estate industry, variability in interest rates and other factors outside of our control. In addition, our expenses may fluctuate from quarter to quarter due to, among other factors, the timing of sales and marketing campaigns. We believe that period-to-period comparisons of our past operating results may not be good indicators of our future performance and should not be relied on to predict the future performance of our stock price. For example, we launched our JustListed.com business in January 2004 and experienced rapid revenue growth during 2004 and the first quarter of 2005 as a

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result. We do not expect that we will be able to sustain this revenue growth rate in future quarters as our business matures and the rate of customer growth declines.

It is possible that in the future our operating results will not meet the expectations of investors, causing the market price of our common stock to decline. In the past, companies that have experienced decreases in the market price of their stock have been subject to securities class action litigation. A securities class action lawsuit against us could result in substantial costs and divert our management's attention from other business concerns.

We may be unable to compete successfully with our current or future competitors.

We operate in a highly competitive environment and expect that competition will continue to be intense. The barriers to entry in our industry are low, making it possible for current or new competitors to adopt certain aspects of our business model without great financial expense, thereby reducing our ability to differentiate our services. All of our services, including online lead generation, online prospect management and agent coaching and training are provided separately by other companies, and it is possible that one or more of these companies, or a new market entrant, could adopt a business model that competes directly with us.

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Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (Cont.)

Our current and potential competitors include:

Traditional sellers of advertising to real estate professionals. We compete with traditional sellers of advertising, including local and regional newspapers, local magazines, and rack publications advertising homes for sale, for a share of the marketing dollars that residential real estate professionals spend to attract prospective home buyers and sellers. Real estate professionals may continue to view traditional advertising sources as the most effective means to reach prospective home buyers and sellers, leading to a lack of demand for our services. If we fail to persuade these agents to spend marketing dollars on our services, our business and operating results will suffer.

Internet media companies. We compete with large Internet media companies, such as AOL, Google, MSN and Yahoo! for residential real estate agents' marketing dollars. Some of the large Internet media companies are currently developing enhanced search products, including search products that would allow a user to find real estate related search results in a specific city or geographic area. If their existing or new products become a cost-effective way for real estate agents to generate leads, these products may become an attractive alternative to our services, which could decrease demand for our services or increase our online lead generation costs. Additionally, these companies, on which we rely in part for our own advertising and lead generation needs, may develop or acquire products and services that compete directly with our services. HomeStore, one of the largest Internet real estate sites, has recently entered into the lead generation business.

Online companies focused on real estate. We compete with a variety of online marketing and lead generation companies that focus exclusively on the real estate industry. Such companies include HomeGain, Homes.com, Homestore, ServiceMagic and IAC/InterActiveCorp and its LendingTree business, which includes Domania.com and RealEstate.com, all of which have established web sites and compete or may compete for real estate agent advertising expenditures. In addition, Richard Barton, the founder of Expedia.com and a previous director of IAC has recently announced the formation of a startup company named Zillow, that will focus on the residential real estate market.

In addition, consolidation driven by online service providers involved in the real estate industry and Internet media companies could create more potent competitors. For instance, IAC/InterActiveCorp recently acquired ServiceMagic, an online home services marketplace. Increased consolidation among online service providers in the residential real estate industry could result in additional competitors that have significantly greater resources or greater brand recognition than we do, and that are able to provide a broader and more attractive suite of services to real estate professionals than we can.

Real estate brokerage firms. Some real estate brokerage firms currently offer services similar to ours, and in the future these firms and other brokerage firms may become direct competitors. A significant percentage of residential real estate agents are affiliated with large national or regional brokerage firms. If these brokerage firms, or smaller independent brokerage firms, decide to provide their agents with a service offering or suite of service offerings similar to ours at a lower cost or free of charge, or if they attempt to restrict the ability of their agents to use our services, demand for our services by real estate agents could decrease.

Many of our existing and potential competitors have longer operating histories, greater name recognition, greater technological capabilities and greater financial, sales, marketing and human resources than we do. These competitors could:

develop services that are as effective as or superior to our services or that achieve greater market acceptance than do our services;

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devote greater resources to marketing or selling their services;

make more attractive offers to potential agent customers or otherwise more effectively attract real estate professionals;

withstand price competition more successfully than we can;

provide services similar to ours at no additional cost by bundling them with their other product and service offerings;

make more attractive offers to existing and potential employees than we do;

more effectively negotiate third-party arrangements; and

take advantage of investments, acquisitions or other opportunities more readily than we can.

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Any failure to increase the number of our customers would harm our business.

Our growth depends in large part on increasing the number of our agent customers. However, prospective agent customers may not be familiar with our services and may be accustomed to using traditional methods of advertising and marketing. To attract more customers, we must convince real estate professionals to spend a portion of their advertising and marketing budgets on our services. We cannot assure you that we will be successful in continuing to acquire more agent customers or that our future sales efforts will be effective. If we reach the point at which we have attempted to sell our services to the majority of residential real estate agents in the United States, our ability to further increase the number of agent customers could be limited. We may not know or be able to estimate when we have reached this point because we currently cannot reliably estimate the total number of residential real estate agents that are actively engaged in the industry during any particular period.

Any failure to retain agent customers could harm our business.

Our ability to retain agent customers will depend, in part, on our ability to generate leads from prospective home buyers and sellers in quantities demanded by our customers. In addition, our success will depend on our ability to enhance our existing services, develop new technologies that address the increasingly sophisticated and varied needs of agent customers, respond to technological advances and emerging industry standards and practices in a timely manner and on a cost-effective basis. Our customer contracts require us to deliver a guaranteed minimum number of leads per month to each agent customer. We occasionally fail to deliver the number of leads we are required to deliver to a customer in a given month. For example, during the quarter ended March 31, 2005, we were unable to deliver approximately 1.2% of our total lead obligations to customers. When we fail to deliver leads, we often will give our agent customers a discount on future services. These discounts totaled approximately \$262,000 and \$44,000 for the quarters ended March 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively. If we regularly fail to deliver the number of leads we are required to deliver to a customer, that customer will likely become dissatisfied with our services. In addition, if we do not maintain adequate technical support levels, or continue to improve the ease of use, functionality and features of our Market Leader prospect management system, agent coaching and training offerings, or if agent customers are dissatisfied with the quality of the leads that we provide, our agent customers may choose not to extend their contracts for our services.

Agents remain customers typically only for a limited period of time, and we have limited ability to predict how long agents will remain customers.

Our customer contracts typically have an initial term of twelve months, with automatic one-month extensions unless terminated by either party. Some customers have decided not to extend their contracts due to their inability to convert the leads we have provided into closed transactions or dissatisfaction with our services. Our average monthly churn rate for the quarter ended March 31, 2005 was 6.1%, compared to 6.0% for the quarter ended March 31, 2004. We calculate average monthly churn by dividing the number of core customers who cancel during the quarter by the average core customers in the quarter, divided by the number of months in the quarter.

We cannot accurately predict how long agents will remain customers. If our churn rate increases, our revenue will decline and our business will suffer.

We have experienced rapid growth which we may not be able to successfully manage.

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We have experienced rapid growth in our revenues, expenses and employee headcount. Since October 2003, we have added a number of key managerial, technical and operations personnel, including our Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Sales, and we expect to add additional key personnel in the near future. In addition, our overall employee base has grown from 155 employees as of December 31, 2003 to 356 employees as of March 31, 2005. This expansion has placed, and is expected to continue to place, a significant strain on our managerial, operational and financial resources.

To manage the anticipated continued growth of our operations and personnel, we will need to further expand our finance, accounting, administrative, sales and operations staff. We cannot assure you that management will be able to hire, train, retain, motivate and manage required personnel. If we are unable to manage growth effectively, our business could be harmed.

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Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (Cont.)

We are evaluating our system of internal controls over financial reporting and making enhancements where appropriate, which may require significant resources.

Effective internal controls are necessary for us to provide reliable financial reports and effectively prevent fraud. We are in the process of instituting changes to our internal procedures to satisfy the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which require management and our auditors to evaluate and assess the effectiveness of our internal controls. Implementing these changes may take a significant amount of time, money, and management resources and may require specific compliance training of our directors, officers and other personnel. We are continuing to evaluate and, where appropriate, enhance our policies, procedures and internal controls. If we fail to maintain the adequacy of our internal controls, as such standards are modified, supplemented or amended from time to time, we could be subject to regulatory scrutiny and investors could lose confidence in the accuracy and completeness of our financial reports. Given the potential significance of resources required for compliance, we cannot assure you that we will be able to complete the work necessary to fully comply with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act or that management or our auditors will conclude that our internal controls are effective.

We rely almost entirely on advertising to generate leads for agent customers.

We rely on advertising to attract prospective home buyers and sellers to our web sites and to generate leads. We advertise primarily through online media and television commercials.

Risks associated with online advertising. We rely on online media to attract a significant percentage of the prospective home buyers and sellers visiting our web sites. Prices for online advertising could increase as a result of increased demand for advertising inventory, which would cause our expenses to increase and could result in lower margins. Our advertising contracts with online search engines are typically short-term. If one or more search engines on which we rely for advertising modifies or terminates its relationship with us, our expenses could increase, the number of leads we generate could decrease and our revenues or margins could decline.

Risks associated with television advertising. Television advertising rates depend on a number of factors, including the strength of the national economy and regional economies and the strength of certain industries that advertise frequently. Advertising rates are also subject to cyclical and seasonal fluctuations; for example, rates tend to be higher in election years and during major sporting events. If television advertising prices increase significantly, in the absence of more efficient ways to generate leads, our marketing expenses will also increase, which would harm our results of operations.

As the number of leads that we are required to deliver has increased, we have increased the levels of advertising to meet those requirements. We cannot assure you that increases in advertising will result in increases in leads. If the effectiveness of our advertising declines, our business will suffer.

Our business depends on the real estate industry, which is cyclical.

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The success of our business depends on the health of the residential real estate market, which historically has been subject to economic cycles. An economic slowdown or recession, adverse tax policies, lower availability of credit, increased unemployment, lower consumer confidence, lower wage and salary levels, war or terrorist attacks or the public perception that any of these conditions may occur could decrease demand for residential real estate. Trends in the real estate industry are unpredictable; therefore, our operating results, to the extent they reflect changes in the broader real estate industry, may be subject to significant fluctuations.

A sustained increase in interest rates could result in decreased use of our services by prospective home buyers and sellers and real estate professionals.

The amount of a homeowner's monthly mortgage payment is significantly dependent on interest rate levels. Interest rates have begun to rise from their recent historical lows and many economists predict that interest rates will continue to rise in the near future. Increases in interest rates could make housing less affordable and negatively affect the housing market, which could decrease consumer interest in the services offered through our web sites. A decrease in demand for residential real estate or a decrease in housing affordability could result in a decrease in the number of active real estate professionals and a decrease in the amount these agents are willing to spend on services such as ours.

Our business depends on the continued adoption and use of the Internet and email by real estate professionals.

Our business model relies on the adoption and ongoing use of the Internet and email by real estate professionals. We believe many real estate professionals still rely primarily on other forms of communication, such as telephones, mobile phones, fax machines and mail service, to communicate with clients. A broader population of real estate professionals must adopt the Internet and email in their businesses for us to significantly expand our business and increase our revenues.

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Prospective home buyers and sellers may be reluctant to sign up for our services due to general privacy concerns.

Concern among prospective home buyers and sellers regarding our use of personal information collected on our web sites, such as email addresses, home addresses and geographic preferences, could keep them from using our web sites and thereby reduce the number of leads we generate. Industry-wide events or events with respect to our web sites, including misappropriation of third-party information, security breaches, or changes in industry standards, regulations or laws could deter people from using the Internet or our web sites to conduct transactions that involve the transmission of confidential information, which could harm our business.

We collect personally identifiable information from prospective home buyers and sellers and evaluate the use of our Market Leader prospect management system by agent customers, which could result in additional costs or claims.

We rely on the collection, use and disclosure of personally identifiable information from prospective home buyers and sellers and from agent customers to conduct our business. We disclose our information collection and dissemination practices in a published privacy statement on our web sites, which we may modify from time to time to meet operational needs or changes in the law or industry best practices. We may be subject to legal claims, government action and damage to our reputation if we act or are perceived to be acting inconsistently with the terms of our privacy statement, customer expectations or the law. In addition, concern among real estate professionals or potential home buyers or sellers about our privacy practices could keep them from using our services and require us to alter our business practices or incur significant expenses to educate them about how we use this information. In accordance with our privacy policy, in certain instances we have provided personally identifiable information about potential home buyers and sellers to third parties for purposes of analyzing our audience demographics, audience size and other audience characteristics, such as the pages web users spend the most time viewing on our site, the times of day or night that users visit our site, and the order in which users navigate through our site.

The value of our services could be diminished if anti-spam software filters out emails we send.

Our Market Leader prospect management system includes a feature that automatically sends out personalized email messages to prospective home buyers and sellers on behalf of agent customers. In addition, we send a large amount of email to real estate professionals as part of our agent customer acquisition strategy, some of which is unsolicited. In the past, anti-spam software used by Internet service providers and personal computer users has filtered out these email messages as unsolicited email, or spam. If this problem persists or becomes more pervasive, the value of our Market Leader system to agent customers, and our ability to attract new agent customers, could be reduced, both of which would harm our business. In addition, it is possible that we may not currently or in the future fully comply with anti-spam legislation, and any failure to comply with such laws could result in penalties or damage our reputation.

Our JustListed service is enhanced by our access to real estate multiple listing services provided by third parties that we do not control.

In selected markets, including most of the major metropolitan markets in the United States, we provide JustListed agent customers with a feature that allows them to automatically email their prospective clients information about newly available homes that meet the prospective clients criteria. This automated feature works only in markets in which our subsidiary, Soar Solutions, has a relationship with the local multiple listing service, or MLS. Listings must be sent manually by an agent customer in markets in which Soar Solutions does not have MLS relationships. Soar Solutions' agreements with MLSs to display property listings have short terms, or can be terminated by the MLSs with little notice. The

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success of our JustListed service depends in part on our continued ability to provide agent customers with an automated listing email tool and our ability to expand access to the tool in markets in which it is not currently available.

Decreases in agent acquisition or retention may not be immediately reflected in our operating results.

The effect of significant decreases in the number of active agent customers may not be fully reflected in our results of operations until future periods. Much of the revenue we report in each quarter is from agreements entered into during previous quarters. Consequently, a decline in new customer contracts or an increase in cancellations in any one quarter will not necessarily be fully reflected in the revenue reported until the following quarter and may negatively affect our revenue in future quarters. In addition, we may be unable to adjust our cost structure in a timely manner to reflect these reduced revenues.

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If we fail to comply with the various laws and regulations that govern the real estate industry, our business may be harmed.

Our business is governed by various federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the real estate industry, including the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), the Fair Housing Act, state and local real estate broker licensing laws, federal and state laws prohibiting unfair and deceptive acts and practices, and federal and state advertising laws. We may not have always been and may not always be in compliance with each of these requirements. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in, among other things, revocation of required licenses, indemnification liability to contract counterparties, class action lawsuits, administrative enforcement actions and civil and criminal liability.

Due to the geographic scope of our operations and the nature of the services we provide, we may be required to obtain and maintain real estate or mortgage brokerage licenses in certain states in which we operate. In connection with such licenses, we are required to designate individual licensed brokers of record. Currently, we maintain a real estate brokerage license in the state of Washington and intend to obtain licenses in other states that we determine are necessary for our business. We cannot assure you that we are, and will remain at all times, in full compliance with state real estate or mortgage licensing laws and regulations and we may be subject to fines or penalties in the event of any non-compliance. If in the future a state agency were to determine that we are required to obtain a real estate or mortgage brokerage license in that state in order to receive payments or commissions from real estate agents, or if we lose the services of a designated broker, we may be subject to fines or legal penalties or our business operations in that state may be suspended until we obtain the license or replace the designated broker. Any failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations may limit our ability to expand into new markets, offer new products or continue to operate in one or more of our current markets.

Changes in real estate laws and regulations and the rules of industry organizations could restrict our activities, significantly increase our compliance costs and result in increased competition.

States, regulatory organizations and industry participants could enact legislation, regulatory or other policies in the future that could restrict our activities or significantly increase our compliance costs. Moreover, the provision of real estate-related services over the Internet is a new and evolving business, and legislators, regulators and industry participants may advocate additional legislative or regulatory initiatives governing the conduct of our business. If new laws or regulations are adopted, or regulatory interpretations are changed, we may be subject to additional legal requirements and incur significant compliance costs, and we could be precluded from certain activities. In addition, federal banking regulators have proposed to include real estate brokerage as an activity that is financial in nature, a definitional change that would permit major financial institutions to enter the real estate brokerage business. Because national banks are already explicitly permitted to engage in web-linking activities, if this proposal is finalized, we could face competition from significant, well-capitalized competitors.

We may be limited in the way in which we market our business or generate revenue by federal law prohibiting referral fees in real estate transactions.

RESPA generally prohibits the payment or receipt of fees or any other thing of value for the referral of business related to a residential real estate settlement service, including real estate brokerage services. RESPA also prohibits fee shares or splits or unearned fees in connection with the provision of residential real estate settlement services. Notwithstanding these prohibitions, RESPA expressly permits payments pursuant to cooperative brokerage and referral arrangements or agreements between real estate agents and brokers. In addition, RESPA permits payments for goods or facilities furnished or for services actually performed, so long as those payments bear a reasonable relationship to the market value of the goods or facilities furnished or the services performed, excluding the value of any referrals that may be provided in connection with such

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goods, facilities or services. Failure to comply with RESPA may result in, among other things, administrative enforcement actions, class action lawsuits, and civil and criminal liability.

There has been limited guidance by the appropriate federal regulator or the courts regarding the applicability of RESPA to online marketing relationships or real estate services, such as those we provide. Nonetheless, RESPA may restrict our ability to enter into marketing and distribution arrangements with third parties, particularly to the extent that such arrangements may be characterized as involving payments for the referral of residential real estate settlement service business.

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