

Bankrate, Inc.
Form PREM14A
July 28, 2017
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material under § 240.14a-12

BANKRATE, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

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No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies: Bankrate, Inc. common stock, par value \$0.01 per share.

- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies: The maximum number of shares of common stock to which this transaction applies is estimated to be 94,757,260, which consists of (a) 89,695,515 shares of common stock outstanding, including 747,914 shares in respect of outstanding restricted stock awards; (b) 25,000 shares of common stock issuable pursuant to outstanding options with exercise prices below the per share merger consideration of \$14.00; and (c) 5,036,745 shares of common stock underlying restricted stock unit awards entitled to receive the per share merger consideration of \$14.00, in each case as of July 24, 2017.

- (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined): Solely for the purpose of calculating the filing fee, the underlying value of the transaction was calculated based on the sum of (a) the product of 89,695,515 shares of common stock and the per share merger consideration of \$14.00; (b) the product of (i) 25,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options to purchase shares of common stock with exercise prices below the per share merger consideration of \$14.00 and (ii) the difference between \$14.00 and the weighted average exercise price of such options of \$12.76; and (c) the product of 5,036,745 shares of common stock underlying restricted stock unit awards and the per share merger consideration of \$14.00.

- (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction: \$1,326,282,640

- (5) Total fee paid: \$153,716

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the

Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

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PRELIMINARY PROXY STATEMENT SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JULY 28, 2017

[]

Dear Fellow Stockholders:

You are cordially invited to attend a special meeting of the stockholders of Bankrate, Inc., which we will hold at [], on [], at [] a.m. local time.

At the special meeting, our stockholders will be asked to consider and vote on a proposal to adopt the Agreement and Plan of Merger that we entered into on July 2, 2017, which we refer to as the merger agreement, providing for the acquisition of Bankrate, Inc. by Red Ventures Holdco, LP in a transaction that we refer to as the merger. If the merger agreement is adopted and the merger is completed, each share of our common stock (other than certain shares specified in the merger agreement) will be converted into the right to receive \$14.00 per share in cash, without interest and subject to required withholding taxes, representing a premium of approximately 31% over the average closing share price of our common stock for the three-month period ended June 30, 2017.

The Bankrate board of directors unanimously recommends that our stockholders vote **FOR** the proposal to adopt the merger agreement and **FOR** the other matters to be considered at the special meeting.

The enclosed proxy statement describes the merger agreement, the merger and related matters, and attaches a copy of the merger agreement. We urge stockholders to read the entire proxy statement carefully, as it sets forth the details of the merger agreement and other important information related to the merger.

Your vote is very important. The merger cannot be completed unless a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting vote in favor of the proposal to adopt the merger agreement. If you fail to vote in person or by proxy, or fail to instruct your broker on how to vote, it will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

On behalf of the entire board of directors, I want to thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

[]

Kenneth S. Esterow

President and Chief Executive Officer

Neither the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities regulatory agency has approved or disapproved the merger, passed upon the merits or fairness of the merger, the merger agreement or the other transactions contemplated thereby or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of the disclosure in this document. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This proxy statement is dated [] and is first being mailed to stockholders on or about [].

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BANKRATE, INC.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Date: []

Time: [] local time

Place: []

Record Date: []

Meeting Agenda:

To consider and vote upon the following proposals:

1. to adopt the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 2, 2017 (as it may be amended from time to time, referred to in this proxy statement as the merger agreement), by and among Bankrate, Inc., a Delaware corporation (referred to in this proxy statement as the Company), Red Ventures Holdco, LP, a North Carolina limited partnership (referred to in this proxy statement as Red Ventures), and Baton Merger Corp., a Delaware corporation and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Red Ventures (referred to in this proxy statement as Merger Sub), pursuant to which Merger Sub will be merged with and into the Company (referred to in this proxy statement as the merger);
2. to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the Company s named executive officers in connection with the merger; and
3. to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including to solicit additional proxies if there are insufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the proposal to adopt the merger agreement or in the absence of a quorum.

Please vote your shares.

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote in the following ways:

We encourage stockholders to vote promptly. **If you fail to vote, the effect will be the same as a vote AGAINST the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.**

By Telephone

In the U.S. or Canada you can vote by calling [].

By Internet

You can vote online at www.proxyvote.com. You will need the 12-digit control number on the proxy

By Mail

You can vote by mail by marking, dating and signing your proxy card and returning it in the postage-paid

In Person

You can vote in person at the special meeting. Please refer to the section of this proxy statement

card.

envelope.

entitled *The Special Meeting Date, Time and Place of the Special Meeting* for further information regarding attending the special meeting.

If your shares of common stock are held by a broker, bank or other nominee on your behalf in street name, your broker, bank or other nominee will send you instructions as to how to provide voting instructions for your shares. Many brokerage firms and banks have a process for their customers to provide voting instructions by telephone or via the Internet, in addition to providing voting instructions by a voting instruction form.

The Bankrate board of directors has unanimously determined that the merger is fair to, and in the best interests of, the Company and its stockholders, and unanimously approved and declared advisable the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. **The Bankrate board of directors unanimously recommends that the stockholders of Bankrate vote (1) FOR the proposal to**

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adopt the merger agreement, (2) FOR the advisory (non-binding) proposal to approve certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the named executive officers of the Company in connection with the merger, and (3) FOR the proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including to solicit additional proxies or in the absence of a quorum. If you sign, date and return your proxy card without indicating how you wish to vote on a proposal, your proxy will be voted **FOR** each of the foregoing proposals in accordance with the recommendation of the Bankrate board of directors.

Your vote is important, regardless of the number of shares of common stock you own. The adoption of the merger agreement requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting and is a condition to the completion of the merger. The approval of the advisory (non-binding) proposal to approve certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the named executive officers of the Company in connection with the merger and the approval of the proposal to adjourn the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including to solicit additional proxies or in the absence of a quorum, each requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and entitled to vote thereon, but approval of these two proposals is not a condition to the completion of the merger. **If you fail to vote in person or by proxy, or fail to instruct your broker, bank or other nominee on how to vote, the shares of common stock that you own will not be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the special meeting, which will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.**

Under Delaware law, stockholders who do not vote in favor of the proposal to adopt the merger agreement will have the right to seek appraisal of the fair value of their shares of the Company as determined by the Delaware Court of Chancery if the merger is completed, but only if they submit a written demand for an appraisal before the vote on the proposal to adopt the merger agreement and comply with the other Delaware law procedures explained in the accompanying proxy statement. See the section of this proxy statement entitled *Appraisal Rights*.

You may revoke your proxy at any time before the vote at the special meeting by following the procedures outlined in the accompanying proxy statement.

Only holders of record of Bankrate common stock as of the close of business on [], the record date for the special meeting, are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the special meeting.

Before voting your shares, we urge you to, and you should, read the entire proxy statement carefully, including its annexes and the documents incorporated by reference in the proxy statement. If you have any questions or need assistance in submitting a proxy or your voting instructions, please call our proxy solicitor, Georgeson LLC, toll-free at (800) 261-1052.

By order of the Board of Directors,

[]

James R. Gilmartin

Senior Vice President, General Counsel and

Corporate Secretary

New York, New York

[]

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SUMMARY

*This summary highlights selected information contained in this proxy statement, including with respect to the merger agreement and the merger. We encourage you to, and you should, read carefully this entire proxy statement, its annexes and the documents referred to or incorporated by reference in this proxy statement, as this summary may not contain all of the information that may be important to you in determining how to vote. We have included page references to direct you to a more complete description of the topics presented in this summary. You may obtain the information incorporated by reference into this proxy statement without charge by following the instructions under the section of this proxy statement entitled *Where You Can Find Additional Information*.*

The Companies (page 23)

Bankrate, Inc.

Bankrate, Inc., referred to as Bankrate, the Company, we, our or us, is a Delaware corporation. Bankrate (NYSE: RATE) is a leading online publisher, aggregator and distributor of personal finance content. The Company's vision is to help consumers Maximize Your Money when they borrow, save or invest. With this in mind, Bankrate aggregates large scale audiences of in-market consumers by providing them with proprietary, fully researched, comprehensive, independent and objective personal finance and related editorial content across multiple vertical categories, including credit cards, mortgages, deposits, senior care and other categories, such as personal and auto loans retirement and taxes. Bankrate's flagship sites CreditCards.com, Bankrate.com and Caring.com are leading destinations in each of their respective verticals and connect their vast audiences with financial service and senior care providers and other contextually relevant advertisers. Bankrate also owns and operates a number of specialist sites, apps and social platforms, including NextAdvisor.com, The Points Guy, Interest.com, Quizzle.com and Walla.by. Bankrate also develops and provides content, tools, web services and co-branded websites to over 100 online partners, including MSN, Realtor.com, MarketWatch and Bloomberg. In addition, Bankrate licenses editorial content to leading news organizations such as Yahoo! and Tribune News Service.

Additional information about Bankrate is contained in its public filings, which are incorporated by reference herein. See the sections of this proxy statement entitled *Where You Can Find Additional Information* and *The Companies - Bankrate, Inc.*

Red Ventures Holdco, LP

Red Ventures Holdco, LP, referred to as Red Ventures, is a leading digital consumer choice platform based in Fort Mill, South Carolina. Through deeply integrated brand partnerships and consumer-facing assets, Red Ventures connects online customers with products and services across high-growth industries including home services, financial services and healthcare. Founded in 2000, Red Ventures has more than 2,700 employees in offices across the Carolinas, Seattle, Washington and Sao Paulo, Brazil. See the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Companies - Red Ventures Holdco, LP*.

Baton Merger Corp.

Baton Merger Corp., referred to as Merger Sub, is a Delaware corporation and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Red Ventures that will function as the merger subsidiary in the merger. Merger Sub was formed solely for the purpose of acquiring us and it has not carried on any activities on or prior to the date of this proxy statement except for activities incidental to its formation and activities in connection with Red Ventures' acquisition of Bankrate. Upon completion of the merger, Merger Sub will merge with and into Bankrate and will cease to exist. See the section of

this proxy statement entitled *The Companies Baton Merger Corp.*

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The Special Meeting (page 24)

Date, Time and Place of the Special Meeting

The special meeting of stockholders of Bankrate (referred to in this proxy statement as the special meeting) will be held at [], on [], at [] a.m. local time.

Purposes of the Special Meeting

At the special meeting, Bankrate stockholders will be asked to consider and vote on the following proposals:

to adopt the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 2, 2017, by and among the Company, Red Ventures and Merger Sub, which, as it may be amended from time to time, is referred to in this proxy statement as the merger agreement ;

to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the Company's named executive officers in connection with the merger, the value of which is disclosed in the table in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Interests of the Company's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger Quantification of Payments and Benefits to the Company's Named Executive Officers* ; and

to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including to solicit additional proxies if there are insufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the proposal to adopt the merger agreement or in the absence of a quorum.

Our stockholders must adopt the merger agreement for the merger to occur. If our stockholders fail to adopt the merger agreement, the merger will not occur. See the sections of this proxy statement entitled *The Special Meeting* and *The Merger Agreement*.

We do not expect that any matters other than the proposals set forth above will be brought before the special meeting. If, however, such a matter is properly presented at the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof, the persons appointed as proxies will have discretionary authority to vote the shares represented by duly executed proxies.

Record Date, Notice and Quorum

The holders of record of Bankrate common stock as of the close of business on [], the record date for the special meeting, are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the special meeting. At the close of business on the record date, [] shares of Company common stock were outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting.

The presence at the special meeting, in person or represented by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the voting power of the shares of capital stock of the Company issued and outstanding on the record date will constitute a quorum for purposes of the special meeting. A quorum is necessary to transact business at the special meeting. If a quorum is not present at the special meeting, we expect that the special meeting will be adjourned to a later date.

Abstentions will be counted as shares present for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. If your shares are held in street name by your broker, bank or other nominee and you do not instruct the nominee how to vote your shares, your broker, bank or other nominee will not vote on your behalf with respect to any of the proposals, and your shares will not be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present for the transaction of business at the special meeting.

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Required Vote

Each share of common stock outstanding at the close of business on the record date is entitled to one vote on each of the proposals to be considered at the special meeting.

For the Company to complete the merger, Bankrate stockholders holding a majority of the shares of Company common stock outstanding at the close of business on the record date must vote **FOR** the proposal to adopt the merger agreement. An abstention with respect to the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, or a failure to vote your shares of common stock (including a failure to instruct your broker, bank or other nominee to vote shares held on your behalf), will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** this proposal.

Approval of each of (1) the advisory (non-binding) proposal to approve certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the named executive officers of the Company in connection with the merger and (2) the proposal to adjourn the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including to solicit additional proxies or in the absence of a quorum, requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and entitled to vote thereon, but is not a condition to the completion of the merger. An abstention with respect to either proposal will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** these proposals. A failure to return your proxy card or otherwise vote your shares of common stock (including a failure of your broker, bank or other nominee to vote shares held on your behalf) will have no effect on these proposals, assuming a quorum is present.

The Company's directors and executive officers have informed us that they intend to vote their shares of Company common stock in favor of the proposal to adopt the merger agreement and the other proposals to be considered at the special meeting, although they have no obligation to do so. As of the record date, our directors and executive officers owned and were entitled to vote, in the aggregate, approximately [] shares of Company common stock, or approximately []% of the outstanding shares of Company common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting.

Proxies; Revocation

Any Bankrate stockholder of record entitled to vote at the special meeting may submit a proxy by telephone or over the Internet, by returning the enclosed proxy card, or by attending the special meeting and voting in person. If your shares of common stock are held in street name by your broker, bank or other nominee, you should instruct your broker, bank or other nominee on how to vote your shares using the instructions provided by your broker, bank or other nominee.

Any proxy may be revoked at any time prior to its exercise by submitting a properly executed, later-dated proxy through any of the methods available to you, by giving written notice of revocation to our Corporate Secretary at Bankrate, Inc., 1675 Broadway, 22nd Floor, New York, New York 10019, or by attending the special meeting and voting in person.

The Merger (page 29)

You will be asked to consider and vote upon the proposal to adopt the merger agreement. A copy of the merger agreement is attached to this proxy statement as Annex A. The merger agreement provides, among other things, that at the effective time of the merger (referred to in this proxy statement as the effective time), Merger Sub will be merged with and into the Company, with the Company surviving the merger (referred to in this proxy statement as the surviving corporation). In the merger, each share of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the Company (referred to in this proxy statement as the common stock, the Company common stock or the Bankrate common stock)

issued and outstanding immediately before the effective time (other than certain

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shares specified in the merger agreement) will be converted into the right to receive \$14.00 per share in cash (referred to in this proxy statement as the merger consideration), without interest and subject to required withholding taxes. Upon completion of the merger, the Company will be a wholly owned subsidiary of Red Ventures, the Company common stock will no longer be publicly traded and the Company's existing stockholders will cease to have any ownership interest in the Company.

Treatment of Company Equity Awards (page 60)

Stock Options. Except as otherwise agreed to in writing prior to the effective time by Red Ventures and a holder of any option to acquire shares of common stock (referred to in this proxy statement as a Company stock option), each Company stock option, whether vested or unvested, that is outstanding and unexercised immediately prior to the effective time will, as of the effective time, become fully vested (to the extent unvested) and be converted into the right to receive an amount in cash equal to the product of (1) the excess, if any, of the merger consideration over the exercise price per share of such Company stock option, multiplied by (2) the total number of shares subject to such Company stock option. Any Company stock option that has an exercise price per share that is greater than or equal to the merger consideration will be cancelled for no consideration.

Restricted Stock Awards. Except as otherwise agreed to in writing prior to the effective time by Red Ventures and a holder of any award in respect of a share of common stock subject to vesting, repurchase or other lapse restriction (referred to in this proxy statement as a Company restricted stock award), each Company restricted stock award that is outstanding immediately prior to the effective time will, as of the effective time, either (1) become fully vested, in the case of any Company restricted stock award that vests solely based on continued service, or (2) become vested to the extent provided for in the award agreement applicable to such Company restricted stock award, in the case of any Company restricted stock award that vests in whole or in part based on performance conditions and for which the applicable performance period is not complete as of immediately prior to the effective time, and will be cancelled and converted automatically into the right to receive an amount in cash equal to the merger consideration in respect of each vested share of common stock subject to such Company restricted stock award. For purposes of clause (2) above, the determination of actual performance and the number of shares underlying the Company restricted stock award that vest as of the effective time will be made by the Bankrate board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) prior to the effective time.

Restricted Stock Unit Awards. Except as otherwise agreed to in writing prior to the effective time by Red Ventures and a holder of any restricted stock unit award in respect of a share of common stock (referred to in this proxy statement as a Company RSU award), each Company RSU award that is outstanding immediately prior to the effective time will, as of the effective time, either (1) become fully vested, in the case of any Company RSU award that vests solely based on continued service, or (2) become vested to the extent provided for in the award agreement applicable to such Company RSU award, in the case of any Company RSU award that vests in whole or in part based on performance conditions and for which the applicable performance period is not complete as of immediately prior to the effective time, and will be cancelled and converted automatically into the right to receive an amount in cash equal to the merger consideration in respect of each vested share of common stock subject to such Company RSU award. For purposes of clause (2) above, the determination of actual performance and the number of shares underlying the Company RSU award that vest as of the effective time will be made by the Bankrate board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) prior to the effective time.

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Conditions to Completion of the Merger (page 75)

Each party's obligation to complete the merger is subject to the satisfaction or waiver at or prior to the effective time of the following conditions:

the adoption of the merger agreement by a majority of the outstanding shares of Bankrate common stock entitled to vote thereon (referred to in this proxy statement as the company stockholder approval);

the expiration or termination of the waiting period applicable to the completion of the merger under the HSR Act; and

no law or order having been enacted, issued, promulgated, enforced or entered by a court or other governmental entity of competent jurisdiction that is in effect and that restrains, enjoins or otherwise prohibits the completion of the merger.

The respective obligations of Red Ventures and Merger Sub to complete the merger are subject to the satisfaction or waiver by Red Ventures at or prior to the effective time of the following additional conditions:

the accuracy of the representations and warranties of the Company as of the closing date (except for any representations and warranties made as of a particular date, which representations and warranties must be true and correct only as of that date), generally subject to a company material adverse effect or other qualification provided in the merger agreement;

the performance by the Company in all material respects of the agreements and covenants required to be performed or complied with by it under the merger agreement at or prior to the effective time;

the absence of a company material adverse effect after the date of the merger agreement; and

the receipt by Red Ventures of a certificate signed by an executive officer of the Company, dated the closing date, to the effect that the conditions set forth in the three preceding bullet points have been satisfied.

The obligation of the Company to complete the merger is subject to the satisfaction or waiver by the Company at or prior to the effective time of the following additional conditions:

the accuracy of the representations and warranties of Red Ventures and Merger Sub as of the closing date (except for any representations and warranties made as of a particular date, which representations and warranties must be true and correct only as of that date), generally subject to a parent material adverse effect or other qualification provided in the merger agreement;

the performance by each of Red Ventures and Merger Sub in all material respects of the agreements and covenants required to be performed or complied with by it under the merger agreement at or prior to the effective time; and

the receipt by the Company of a certificate signed by an executive officer of Red Ventures, dated the closing date, to the effect that the conditions set forth in the two preceding bullet points have been satisfied.

No party may rely, either as a basis for not completing the merger or any of the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement or terminating the merger agreement and abandoning the merger, on the failure of a condition set forth in the merger agreement to be satisfied if such failure was caused by such party's failure to act in good faith or to use the efforts to cause the closing to occur as required by the merger agreement.

Recommendation of the Bankrate Board of Directors (page 36)

After careful consideration, the Bankrate board of directors unanimously determined that the merger is fair to, and in the best interests of, the Company and its stockholders, and unanimously approved and declared

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advisable the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. **The Bankrate board of directors unanimously recommends that Bankrate stockholders vote FOR the proposal to adopt the merger agreement at the special meeting and FOR the other proposals to be considered at the special meeting.**

Reasons for the Merger (page 36)

For a description of the reasons considered by the Bankrate board of directors in resolving to recommend in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement, see the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger – Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of the Bankrate Board of Directors*.

Opinion of Bankrate’s Financial Advisor (page 43)

In connection with the merger, at the meeting of the Bankrate board of directors on July 2, 2017, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC (referred to in this proxy statement as “J.P. Morgan”) rendered its oral opinion to the Bankrate board of directors, confirmed by delivery of a written opinion, dated July 2, 2017, that as of such date and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth in its opinion, the consideration to be paid to the holders of the Company common stock in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to such holders.

The full text of the written opinion of J.P. Morgan, dated July 2, 2017, which sets forth the assumptions made, matters considered and limits on the review undertaken, is attached as Annex B to this proxy statement and is incorporated herein by reference. The summary of the opinion of J.P. Morgan set forth in this proxy statement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such opinion. The Company’s stockholders are urged to read the opinion in its entirety. J.P. Morgan’s written opinion was addressed to the Bankrate board of directors (in its capacity as such) in connection with and for the purposes of its evaluation of the merger, was directed only to the consideration to be paid in the merger and did not address any other aspect of the merger. The opinion does not constitute a recommendation to any stockholder of the Company as to how such stockholder should vote with respect to the merger or any other matter.

For further information, see the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger – Opinion of Bankrate’s Financial Advisor – Opinion of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC* and the full text of the written opinion of J.P. Morgan attached as Annex B to this proxy statement.

Interests of the Company’s Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger (page 50)

In considering the recommendation of the Bankrate board of directors that Bankrate stockholders vote in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement, Bankrate stockholders should be aware that the directors and executive officers of Bankrate have potential interests in the merger that may be different from or in addition to the interests of Bankrate stockholders generally. The Bankrate board of directors was aware of these interests and considered them, among other matters, in making its recommendation that Bankrate stockholders vote in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement. These interests include the following:

Effective as of the effective time, each Company stock option, Company restricted stock award and Company RSU award that is outstanding immediately prior to the effective time, including those held by our directors and executive officers, will (unless otherwise agreed by the holder thereof and Red Ventures) automatically become fully vested and non-forfeitable, and all such awards will be cashed out as specified in

the merger agreement.

The Company's executive officers are parties to employment agreements or retention letter agreements that provide for severance benefits in the event of certain qualifying terminations of employment in connection with a change in control such as the merger.

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The merger agreement provides that the Company will pay prorated annual bonuses in respect of the year in which the closing occurs to eligible employees, including executive officers, upon completion of the merger.

The Company's directors and executive officers are entitled to continued indemnification and insurance coverage under indemnification agreements and the merger agreement.

For a more complete description of these interests, see *The Merger Interests of the Company's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger*.

Voting Agreement (page 54)

On July 2, 2017, Ben Holding S.à r.l., a stockholder of the Company, entered into a voting agreement with Red Ventures, pursuant to which Ben Holding S.à r.l. agreed, among other things, to vote the shares of Company common stock over which it has voting power in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby. As of [], the record date for the special meeting, Ben Holding S.à r.l. owned [] shares, or approximately []% of the shares of Company common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting. The aggregate number of shares covered by the voting obligations set forth in the voting agreement will automatically be reduced (on a pro rata basis with each other stockholder of the Company who executes a similar voting agreement with Red Ventures in connection with the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, if any) to the extent necessary in order that the aggregate number of shares subject to the voting agreement, together with all other shares of Company common stock subject to such other voting agreements, if any, represents no more than 39.9% of the shares of Company common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting. The voting agreement also contains certain restrictions on the transfer of shares of common stock by Ben Holding S.à r.l. See the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Voting Agreement*.

Financing (page 50)

In connection with the execution of the merger agreement, Red Ventures entered into a commitment letter, dated July 2, 2017 (referred to in this proxy statement as the debt commitment letter), with Bank of America, N.A. (referred to in this proxy statement as Bank of America), Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Barclays Bank PLC (referred to in this proxy statement as Barclays), Citigroup Global Markets Inc. (referred to in this proxy statement as Citi), Credit Suisse AG, Cayman Islands Branch (referred to in this proxy statement as CS), Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, Fifth Third Bank (referred to in this proxy statement as Fifth Third), The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd. (referred to in this proxy statement as MUFG), PNC Bank, National Association (referred to in this proxy statement as PNC Bank) and PNC Capital Markets LLC (collectively referred to in this proxy statement as the commitment parties), pursuant to which each of Bank of America, Barclays, Citi, CS, Fifth Third, MUFG and PNC Bank committed, upon certain terms and subject to certain conditions, to lend Red Ventures \$2.4 billion in connection with the financing of the amounts payable pursuant to the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and the refinancing of certain debt by Red Ventures.

We have agreed to use our reasonable best efforts to provide, and to use our reasonable best efforts to cause our subsidiaries and our and our subsidiaries representatives to provide, all cooperation reasonably requested by Red Ventures in connection with Red Ventures efforts to arrange the financing contemplated by the debt commitment letter. For more information, see *The Merger Agreement Financing and Financing Cooperation*.

Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger (page 54)

The receipt of cash in exchange for shares of common stock pursuant to the merger will generally be a taxable transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and may also be a taxable transaction under applicable

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state, local or foreign income or other tax laws. In general, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a U.S. holder (as defined in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger – Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger*) who receives cash in exchange for shares of common stock pursuant to the merger will recognize capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between (1) the amount of cash received and (2) the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in such shares. You should consult your own tax advisor regarding the particular tax consequences to you of the exchange of shares of common stock for cash pursuant to the merger in light of your particular circumstances (including the application and effect of any state, local or foreign income and other tax laws). See the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger – Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger*.

Regulatory Approvals (page 56)

HSR Clearance. Under the HSR Act and related rules, certain transactions, including the merger, may not be completed until notifications have been given and information furnished to the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice (referred to in this proxy statement as the *Antitrust Division*) and the United States Federal Trade Commission (referred to in this proxy statement as the *FTC*) and all statutory waiting period requirements have been satisfied. Completion of the merger is subject to the expiration or termination of the applicable waiting period under the HSR Act. The Company and Red Ventures have filed their respective Notification and Report Forms with the Antitrust Division and the FTC.

Commitments to Obtain Approvals. Bankrate and Red Ventures are each required to use reasonable best efforts to take all actions necessary to complete the merger, including cooperating to obtain antitrust approvals. This includes, if required by regulatory authorities, (1) agreeing to sell, divest or dispose of any assets or businesses of Red Ventures, Bankrate or their respective subsidiaries and (2) taking or agreeing to take other actions that after the closing date limit Red Ventures' or its subsidiaries' freedom of action with respect to, or its ability to retain, one or more businesses, product lines or assets of Red Ventures or its subsidiaries. However, Bankrate need only take such actions if they are binding on Bankrate only in the event that the closing of the merger occurs. See the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement – Efforts to Complete the Merger – Antitrust Matters*.

Appraisal Rights (page 86)

Under Section 262 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (referred to in this proxy statement as the *DGCL*), Bankrate stockholders who do not vote for the adoption of the merger agreement will have the right to seek appraisal of the fair value of their shares in cash as determined by the Delaware Court of Chancery, but only if they comply fully with all of the applicable requirements of the *DGCL*, which are summarized in this proxy statement. Any appraisal amount determined by the court could be more than, the same as, or less than the value of the merger consideration. Any stockholder intending to exercise appraisal rights must, among other things, submit a written demand for appraisal to the Company before the vote on the adoption of the merger agreement and must not vote or otherwise submit a proxy in favor of adoption of the merger agreement. Failure to follow exactly the procedures specified under the *DGCL* will result in the loss of appraisal rights. Because of the complexity of the *DGCL* relating to appraisal rights, if you are considering exercising your appraisal rights, we encourage you to seek the advice of your own legal counsel. The discussion of appraisal rights contained in this proxy statement is not a full summary of the law pertaining to appraisal rights under the *DGCL* and is qualified in its entirety by the full text of Section 262 of the *DGCL* that is attached to this proxy statement as Annex C.

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Delisting and Deregistration of Company Common Stock (page 56)

If the merger is completed, the Company common stock will be delisted from the New York Stock Exchange (referred to in this proxy statement as the NYSE) and deregistered under the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (referred to in this proxy statement as the Exchange Act).

Acquisition Proposals; No Solicitation (page 66)

Pursuant to the merger agreement, the Company must not, and must cause its subsidiaries and its and its subsidiaries directors, officers and employees not to, and must use its reasonable best efforts to cause its and its subsidiaries affiliates and other representatives not to, directly or indirectly:

initiate, solicit or knowingly facilitate or knowingly encourage any inquiries, discussions or requests with respect to or the making of any proposal or offer that constitutes, or would reasonably be expected to lead to, an acquisition proposal, as described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement Acquisition Proposals; No Solicitation* ;

enter into, continue or otherwise engage or participate in any discussions or negotiations regarding an acquisition proposal or inquiry, as described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement Acquisition Proposals; No Solicitation*, or that would reasonably be expected to lead to an acquisition proposal, or provide access to its properties, books or records or any non-public information to any person relating to the Company or any of its subsidiaries in connection with the foregoing;

enter into any other acquisition agreement, option agreement, joint venture agreement, partnership agreement, letter of intent, term sheet, merger agreement or similar agreement (other than an acceptable confidentiality agreement) with respect to an acquisition proposal;

approve, endorse, declare advisable or recommend any acquisition proposal;

take any action to make the provisions of any takeover statute or any restrictive provision of any applicable anti-takeover provision in the certificate of incorporation or bylaws of the Company inapplicable to any transactions contemplated by any acquisition proposal; or

authorize, commit to, agree or publicly propose to do any of the foregoing.

However, before the company stockholder approval is obtained, if Bankrate receives a written, unsolicited, *bona fide* acquisition proposal that did not result from a breach of the provisions of the merger agreement described above, then Bankrate and its representatives may contact the person or group of persons making the written acquisition proposal to request clarification of the terms and conditions thereof so as to determine whether it constitutes or could reasonably be expected to result in a superior proposal, as described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement Acquisition Proposals; No Solicitation Receipt of Acquisition Proposals*, and, if the Bankrate board of directors determines in good faith after consultation (1) with its financial advisor and outside legal counsel that the

acquisition proposal constitutes, or would reasonably be expected to result in, a superior proposal and (2) with its outside legal counsel that failure to take the actions described below would be reasonably likely to be inconsistent with its fiduciary obligations under applicable law, then Bankrate and its representatives may:

provide information to such person or group of persons if Bankrate has entered into a confidentiality agreement containing terms not materially less favorable to Bankrate than those contained in the confidentiality agreement to which Red Ventures is subject, except that it need not contain any standstill or similar provision, provided that Bankrate must substantially concurrently (and in any event, within 24 hours) make available to Red Ventures and Merger Sub any non-public information

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concerning Bankrate or its subsidiaries that is provided to any such person or group of persons and that was not previously made available to Red Ventures or Merger Sub; and

engage or participate in any discussions or negotiations with that person or group of persons.

Change in Board Recommendation (page 68)

The Bankrate board of directors has unanimously recommended that Bankrate stockholders vote **FOR** the proposal to adopt the merger agreement. The merger agreement permits the Bankrate board of directors to effect a change of recommendation (as described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement Acquisition Proposals; No Solicitation Change in Board Recommendation*) in certain circumstances, as described below.

Before the company stockholder approval is obtained, the Bankrate board of directors may (1) make a change of recommendation if the Bankrate board of directors has received an unsolicited, written *bona fide* acquisition proposal after July 2, 2017 that the Bankrate board of directors has determined in good faith, after consultation with its outside legal counsel and financial advisor, constitutes a superior proposal and did not result from a material breach by the Company of the provisions of the merger agreement described above, or (2) outside the context of an acquisition proposal, make a change of recommendation if, upon the occurrence of an intervening event (as defined below), the Bankrate board of directors has determined in good faith, after consultation with its outside legal counsel, that the failure to do so would be reasonably likely to be inconsistent with its fiduciary obligations under applicable law, provided that:

Bankrate must have given Red Ventures at least three business days prior written notice that it intends to make a change of recommendation (referred to in this proxy statement as a notice of change of recommendation), which notice must specify in reasonable detail the basis for the change of recommendation and, if the proposed change of recommendation is in response to a superior proposal, the identity of the person or group of persons making the superior proposal and the material terms thereof or, if the proposed change of recommendation is in response to an intervening event, reasonable detail regarding the intervening event;

after providing such notice and prior to making a change of recommendation, Bankrate must have negotiated in good faith with Red Ventures and Merger Sub (to the extent Red Ventures and Merger Sub desire to negotiate) during the three-business day notice period to make adjustments to the terms and conditions of the merger agreement so that (1) the superior proposal ceases to be a superior proposal or (2) the change of recommendation in response to the intervening event is no longer applicable; and

at the end of the three-business day notice period, the Bankrate board of directors must have determined in good faith, after consultation with its outside legal counsel and, with respect to a superior proposal giving rise to the notice of change of recommendation, its financial advisor, taking into account any changes to the merger agreement proposed in writing by Red Ventures in response to the notice of change of recommendation, that (1) the superior proposal giving rise to the notice of change of recommendation continues to be a superior proposal or (2) in the case of an intervening event, the failure of the Bankrate board of directors to make a change of recommendation would continue to be reasonably likely to be inconsistent with its fiduciary obligations under applicable law.

See the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement Acquisition Proposals; No Solicitation Change in Board Recommendation*.

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Termination (page 76)

The merger agreement may be terminated and the merger may be abandoned at any time prior to the effective time in the following circumstances:

by the mutual written consent of Bankrate and Red Ventures;

by either Bankrate or Red Ventures, if:

the merger has not been completed on or before December 21, 2017 (referred to in this proxy statement as the termination date); provided that the right to terminate the merger agreement pursuant to the termination provision referred to in this bullet point will not be available to a party if the failure of the merger to have been completed on or before the termination date was primarily caused by the failure of such party to perform any of its obligations under the merger agreement; or

the Bankrate stockholders meeting has been duly held and completed and the company stockholder approval has not been obtained at the Bankrate stockholders meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof at which a vote on the adoption of the merger agreement is taken; or

an order by a court or other governmental entity of competent jurisdiction permanently restraining, enjoining or otherwise prohibiting the completion of the merger has become final and nonappealable; provided that the right to terminate the merger agreement pursuant to the termination provision referred to in this bullet point will not be available to a party if the enactment, issuance, promulgation, enforcement or entry of such order, or the order becoming final and nonappealable, was primarily caused by the failure of such party to perform any of its obligations under the merger agreement; or

by Bankrate, if:

Red Ventures or Merger Sub has breached any of its representations, warranties, covenants or agreements in the merger agreement, which breach (1) would give rise to the failure of a condition to the obligation of Bankrate to complete the merger related to Red Ventures or Merger Sub s representations, warranties, covenants and agreements in the merger agreement and (2) is either not curable before the termination date or is not cured within 30 business days following receipt of written notice from Bankrate of such breach or any shorter period of time that remains between the date of such notice and the day prior to the termination date; provided that Bankrate does not have the right to terminate the merger agreement pursuant to the termination provision referred to in this bullet point if it is in breach of any of its representations, warranties, covenants or agreements in the merger agreement, such that any condition to the obligations of Red Ventures or Merger Sub to complete the merger related to Bankrate s representations, warranties, covenants and agreements in the merger agreement would not be satisfied if the closing date were the date of such termination; or

the marketing period (as described below in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement When the Merger Becomes Effective*) has ended and all of the conditions to the obligation of Red Ventures to complete the merger have been satisfied or waived (other than those conditions that by their nature are to be satisfied at the closing of the merger, each of which is capable of being satisfied if the closing date were the date of such termination), Red Ventures does not complete the merger on or prior to the day the closing is required to occur pursuant to the merger agreement and Bankrate has irrevocably confirmed in writing to Red Ventures that it is ready, willing and able to complete the merger and Red Ventures fails to complete the merger within three business days following delivery of such confirmation; or

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by Red Ventures:

prior to the time the company stockholder approval is obtained, if the Bankrate board of directors (or any committee thereof) has made a change of recommendation or allowed Bankrate or any of its subsidiaries to enter into an alternative acquisition agreement (other than an acceptable confidentiality agreement); or

if Bankrate has breached any of its representations, warranties, covenants or agreements in the merger agreement, which breach (1) would give rise to the failure of a condition to the obligations of Red Ventures and Merger Sub to complete the merger related to Bankrate's representations, warranties, covenants and agreements in the merger agreement and (2) is either not curable before the termination date or is not cured within 30 business days following receipt of written notice from Red Ventures of such breach or any shorter period of time that remains between the date of such notice and the day prior to the termination date; provided that Red Ventures does not have the right to terminate the merger agreement pursuant to the termination provision referred to in this bullet point if it or Merger Sub is in breach of any of their representations, warranties, covenants or agreements in the merger agreement, such that any condition to the obligation of Bankrate to complete the merger related to Red Ventures or Merger Sub's representations, warranties, covenants and agreements in the merger agreement would not be satisfied if the closing date were the date of such termination.

Company Termination Fee (page 77)

Bankrate will pay Red Ventures a termination fee in an amount equal to \$37,675,000 (referred to in this proxy statement as the company termination fee) in the following circumstances:

if all three of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) the merger agreement is terminated by (i) either Bankrate or Red Ventures because the merger has not been completed on or before the termination date or because the company stockholder approval has not been obtained or (ii) Red Ventures as a result of a breach by Bankrate of any representation, warranty, covenant or agreement in the merger agreement, which breach (x) gives rise to the failure of a condition to the obligations of Red Ventures and Merger Sub to complete the merger related to Bankrate's representations, warranties, covenants and agreements in the merger agreement and (y) is either not curable before the termination date or is not cured within 30 business days following receipt of written notice from Red Ventures of such breach or any shorter period of time that remains between the date of such notice and the day prior to the termination date, and in each case at the time of the termination, the company stockholder approval has not been obtained, and
- (2) an acquisition proposal has been made to Bankrate's management or the Bankrate board of directors (or any committee thereof) after the date of the merger agreement and prior to the Bankrate stockholders' meeting and has not been withdrawn (in the case of clause (1)(i), at least two business days prior to the Bankrate stockholders' meeting, and in the case of clause (1)(ii), prior to the breach that forms the basis of the termination), and
- (3) within 12 months after the termination, Bankrate completes an acquisition proposal or enters into a definitive agreement for an acquisition proposal that is subsequently completed (even if after such 12-month period)

(provided that, for purposes of the provision referred to in this bullet point, the references to 20% and 80% in the definition of acquisition proposal are deemed to be references to 50%); or

if the merger agreement is terminated by Red Ventures because the Bankrate board of directors (or any committee thereof) has made a change of recommendation or allowed Bankrate or any of its

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subsidiaries to enter into an alternative acquisition agreement (other than an acceptable confidentiality agreement).

Parent Termination Fee (page 78)

Red Ventures will pay Bankrate a termination fee in an amount equal to \$87,909,000 (referred to in this proxy statement as the parent termination fee) if the merger agreement is terminated by Bankrate because the marketing period has ended and all of the conditions to the obligation of Red Ventures to complete the merger have been satisfied or waived (other than those conditions that by their nature are to be satisfied at the closing of the merger, each of which is capable of being satisfied if the closing date were the date of such termination), Red Ventures does not complete the merger on or prior to the day the closing is required to occur pursuant to the merger agreement and Bankrate has irrevocably confirmed in writing to Red Ventures that it is ready, willing and able to complete the merger and Red Ventures fails to complete the merger within three business days following delivery of such confirmation.

Market Price of the Company Common Stock (page 83)

The Company common stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol RATE. The closing sale price of our common stock on June 30, 2017, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the entry into the merger agreement, was \$12.85 per share. On [], the most recent practicable date before the filing of this proxy statement, the closing price for our common stock was \$[] per share. You are encouraged to obtain current market quotations for our common stock in connection with voting your shares of common stock.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE SPECIAL MEETING AND THE MERGER

The following questions and answers address briefly some questions you may have regarding the special meeting and the proposals to be voted on at the special meeting. These questions and answers may not address all of the questions that may be important to you as a stockholder of the Company. Please refer to the more detailed information contained elsewhere in this proxy statement, the annexes to this proxy statement and the documents referred to or incorporated by reference in this proxy statement, which you should read carefully and in their entirety. You may obtain the documents incorporated by reference into this proxy statement without charge by following the instructions under the section of this proxy statement entitled Where You Can Find Additional Information.

Q: Why am I receiving this proxy statement?

A: On July 2, 2017, the Company entered into a merger agreement providing for the acquisition of the Company by Red Ventures in a merger for a price of \$14.00 per share in cash, without interest and subject to required withholding taxes. You are receiving this proxy statement in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Bankrate board of directors in favor of the proposal to adopt the merger agreement and to approve the other related proposals to be voted on at the special meeting.

Q: As a stockholder of Bankrate, what will I receive in the merger?

A: If the merger is completed you will receive \$14.00 in cash, without interest and subject to required withholding taxes, for each outstanding share of common stock that you own immediately prior to the effective time unless you have properly exercised your appraisal rights in accordance with Section 262 of the DGCL with respect to such shares.

Q: When and where is the special meeting?

A: The special meeting will be held at [], on [], at [] a.m. local time.

Q: Who is entitled to vote at the special meeting?

A: Only holders of record of Bankrate common stock as of the close of business on [], the record date for the special meeting, are entitled to receive these proxy materials and to vote their shares at the special meeting. Each share of Bankrate common stock issued and outstanding as of the record date will be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote at the special meeting.

Q: What matters will be voted on at the special meeting?

A: At the special meeting, you will be asked to consider and vote on the following proposals:

to adopt the merger agreement;

to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the named executive officers of the Company in connection with the merger; and

to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including to solicit additional proxies if there are insufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the proposal to adopt the merger agreement or in the absence of a quorum.

Q: How do I attend the special meeting?

A: If you plan to attend the special meeting in person, you must provide proof of ownership of Bankrate common stock as of the record date, such as an account statement indicating ownership on that date, and a

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form of personal identification for admission to the meeting. If you hold your shares in street name, and you also wish to be able to vote at the meeting, you must obtain a legal proxy, executed in your favor, from your bank or broker.

Q: How many shares are needed to constitute a quorum?

A: A quorum will be present if holders of a majority of the voting power of the shares of capital stock of the Company issued and outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting are present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting. If a quorum is not present at the special meeting, the special meeting may be adjourned or postponed from time to time until a quorum is obtained.

As of the close of business on [], the record date for the special meeting, there were [] shares of common stock outstanding.

If you submit a proxy but fail to provide voting instructions or abstain on any of the proposals listed on the proxy card, your shares will be counted for the purpose of determining whether a quorum is present at the special meeting.

If your shares are held in street name by your broker, bank or other nominee and you do not instruct the nominee how to vote your shares, your broker, bank or other nominee will not vote on your behalf with respect to any of the proposals, and your shares will not be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present for the transaction of business at the special meeting.

Q: What vote of Bankrate stockholders is required to adopt the merger agreement?

A: Adoption of the merger agreement requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock outstanding at the close of business on the record date for the special meeting.

An abstention with respect to the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, or a failure to vote your shares of common stock (including a failure to instruct your broker, bank or other nominee to vote shares held on your behalf), will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** this proposal.

Q: What vote of Bankrate stockholders is required to approve the other proposals to be voted upon at the special meeting?

A: Each of (1) the advisory (non-binding) proposal to approve certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the named executive officers of the Company in connection with the merger and (2) the proposal to adjourn the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including to solicit additional proxies or in the absence of a quorum, requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and entitled to vote thereon.

An abstention with respect to either proposal will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** these proposals. A failure to return your proxy card or otherwise vote your shares of common stock (including a failure of your broker, bank or other nominee to vote shares held on your behalf), will have no effect on these proposals, assuming a quorum is

present.

Q: How does the Bankrate board of directors recommend that I vote?

A: The Bankrate board of directors unanimously recommends that Bankrate stockholders vote:

FOR the proposal to adopt the merger agreement;

FOR the advisory (non-binding) proposal to approve certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the named executive officers of the Company in connection with the merger; and

FOR the proposal regarding adjournment of the special meeting.

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For a discussion of the factors that the Bankrate board of directors considered in determining to recommend in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement, see the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of the Bankrate Board of Directors*. In addition, in considering the recommendation of the Bankrate board of directors with respect to the merger agreement, you should be aware that some of our directors and executive officers have interests that may be different from, or in addition to, the interests of Bankrate stockholders generally. For a discussion of these interests, see the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Interests of the Company's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger*.

Q: How do Bankrate's directors and officers intend to vote?

A: The Company's directors and executive officers have informed us that they intend to vote their shares of Company common stock in favor of the proposal to adopt the merger agreement and the other proposals to be considered at the special meeting, although they have no obligation to do so. As of the record date, our directors and executive officers owned and were entitled to vote, in the aggregate, approximately [] shares of Company common stock, or approximately []% of the outstanding shares of Company common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting.

Q: Have any stockholders already agreed to approve the merger?

A: Yes. On July 2, 2017, Ben Holding S.à r.l., a stockholder of the Company, entered into a voting agreement with Red Ventures, pursuant to which Ben Holding S.à r.l. agreed, among other things, to vote the shares of Company common stock over which it has voting power in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby. As of [], the record date for the special meeting, Ben Holding S.à r.l. owned [] shares, or approximately []% of the shares of Company common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting. The aggregate number of shares covered by the voting obligations set forth in the voting agreement will automatically be reduced (on a pro rata basis with each other stockholder of the Company who executes a similar voting agreement with Red Ventures in connection with the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, if any) to the extent necessary in order that the aggregate number of shares subject to the voting agreement, together with all other shares of Company common stock subject to such other voting agreements, if any, represents no more than 39.9% of the shares of Company common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting. See the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Voting Agreement*.

Q: Am I entitled to rights of appraisal under the DGCL?

A: If the merger is completed, stockholders who do not vote in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement and who properly demand appraisal of their shares will be entitled to appraisal rights in connection with the merger under Section 262 of the DGCL. This means that holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to have their shares appraised by the Delaware Court of Chancery and to receive payment in cash of the fair value of their shares of common stock, exclusive of any elements of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger, together with interest on the amount determined to be fair value, if any, as determined by the court.

Stockholders who wish to seek appraisal of their shares are in any case encouraged to seek the advice of legal counsel with respect to the exercise of appraisal rights due to the complexity of the appraisal process. The DGCL requirements for exercising appraisal rights are described in additional detail in this proxy statement, and the relevant section of the DGCL regarding appraisal rights is reproduced in Annex C to this proxy statement. See the section of this proxy statement entitled *Appraisal Rights*.

Q: When is the merger expected to be completed?

A: As of the date of this proxy statement, we expect to complete the merger by the end of 2017. However, completion of the merger is subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the conditions to the completion of the

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merger, which are described in this proxy statement, and we cannot be certain when or if the conditions to the merger will be satisfied or, to the extent permitted, waived.

Q: What happens if the merger is not completed?

A: If the merger agreement is not adopted by the Company's stockholders, or if the merger is not completed for any other reason, the Company's stockholders will not receive any payment for their shares of common stock in connection with the merger. Instead, the Company will remain a public company, and shares of our common stock will continue to be registered under the Exchange Act, as well as listed and traded on the NYSE. In the event that either Bankrate or Red Ventures terminates the merger agreement, then, in certain specified circumstances, Bankrate may be required to pay Red Ventures a termination fee in an amount equal to \$37,675,000 or Red Ventures may be required to pay Bankrate a termination fee in an amount equal to \$87,909,000. See the sections of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement - Company Termination Fee* and *The Merger Agreement - Parent Termination Fee*.

Q: Why am I being asked to consider and cast a vote on the advisory (non-binding) proposal on certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the Company's named executive officers in connection with the merger? What will happen if stockholders do not approve this proposal?

A: The inclusion of this proposal is required by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (referred to in this proxy statement as the "SEC"); however, the approval of this proposal is not a condition to the completion of the merger and the vote on this proposal is an advisory vote by stockholders and will not be binding on the Company or Red Ventures. If the merger agreement is adopted by the Company's stockholders and the merger is completed, the merger-related compensation will be paid to the Company's named executive officers in accordance with the terms of their compensation agreements and arrangements even if stockholders fail to approve this proposal.

Q: How does the merger consideration compare to the market price of the Company common stock?

A: The merger consideration of \$14.00 per share represents a premium of approximately 31% over the average closing share price of our common stock for the three-month period ended June 30, 2017, and represents a premium of approximately 9% over the closing price of our common stock of \$12.85 per share on June 30, 2017, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the entry into the merger agreement.

Q: What do I need to do now? How do I vote my shares of common stock?

A: We urge you to, and you should, read this entire proxy statement carefully, including its annexes and the documents incorporated by reference in this proxy statement, and to consider how the merger affects you. Your vote is important, regardless of the number of shares of common stock you own.

Voting in Person

Stockholders of record will be able to vote in person at the special meeting. If you are not a stockholder of record but instead hold your shares of common stock in street name through a broker, bank or other nominee, you must provide a legal proxy executed in your favor from your broker, bank or other nominee in order to be able to vote in person at the special meeting.

It is not necessary to attend the special meeting in order to vote your shares. To ensure that your shares of common stock are voted at the special meeting, we recommend that you provide voting instructions promptly by proxy, even if you plan to attend the special meeting in person.

Attending the special meeting in person does not itself constitute a vote on any proposal.

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Shares of Common Stock Held by Record Holder

You can ensure that your shares are voted at the special meeting by submitting your proxy via:

mail, by completing, signing and dating the enclosed proxy card and returning it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope;

telephone, by using the toll-free number []; or

the Internet, at www.proxyvote.com.

The telephone and Internet voting facilities for stockholders of record will close at [] on [].

If you sign, date and return your proxy card without indicating how you wish to vote, your proxy will be voted **FOR** (1) the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, (2) the advisory (non-binding) proposal to approve certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the named executive officers of the Company in connection with the merger and (3) the proposal to adjourn the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including to solicit additional proxies if there are insufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the proposal to adopt the merger agreement or in the absence of a quorum.

We encourage you to vote by proxy even if you plan on attending the special meeting.

A failure to vote or an abstention will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** the adoption of the merger agreement.

Shares of Common Stock Held in Street Name

If you hold your shares in street name through a broker, bank or other nominee, you should follow the directions provided by your broker, bank or other nominee regarding how to instruct your broker, bank or other nominee to vote your shares. Without those instructions, your shares will not be voted, which will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

Q: Can I revoke my proxy?

A: Yes. You can revoke your proxy before the vote is taken at the special meeting. If you are a stockholder of record, you may revoke your proxy by notifying the Company's Corporate Secretary in writing to the Company, in care of the Corporate Secretary, at Bankrate, Inc., 1675 Broadway, 22nd Floor, New York, New York 10019, or by submitting a new proxy with a later date, by using the telephone or Internet proxy submission procedures described above at any time up to [] on [], or by completing, signing, dating and returning a new proxy card by mail to the Company. In addition, you may revoke your proxy by attending the special meeting and voting in person; however, simply attending the special meeting will not cause your proxy to be revoked. Please note that if you want to revoke your proxy by mailing a new proxy card to the Company or by

sending a written notice of revocation to the Company, you should ensure that you send your new proxy card or written notice of revocation in sufficient time for it to be received by the Company before the special meeting. If you hold your shares in street name and you have instructed a broker, bank or other nominee to vote your shares, you should instead follow the instructions received from your broker, bank or other nominee to revoke your prior voting instructions. If you hold your shares in street name, you may also revoke a prior proxy by voting in person at the special meeting if you obtain a legal proxy executed in your favor from your broker, bank or other nominee in order to be able to vote in person at the special meeting.

Q: What happens if I do not vote or if I abstain from voting on the proposals?

A: The requisite number of shares to approve the proposal to adopt the merger agreement is based on the total number of shares of Company common stock outstanding on the record date, not just the shares that are

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voted. If you do not vote, or abstain from voting, on the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, or if you hold your shares in street name and fail to give voting instructions to your broker, bank or other nominee, it will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

The requisite number of shares to approve the other two proposals is based on the total number of shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and entitled to vote thereon. If you abstain from voting on (1) the advisory (non-binding) proposal to approve certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the named executive officers of the Company in connection with the merger and (2) the proposal regarding adjournment of the special meeting, it will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** these proposals. If you do not return your proxy card or otherwise fail to vote your shares of common stock (including a failure of your broker, bank or other nominee to vote shares held on your behalf), it will have no effect on these proposals, assuming a quorum is present.

Q: Will my shares of common stock held in street name or held in another form of record ownership be combined for voting purposes with shares I hold of record?

A: No. Because any shares of common stock you may hold in street name will be deemed to be held by a different stockholder (that is, your broker, bank, or other nominee) than any shares of common stock you hold of record, any shares of common stock held in street name will not be combined for voting purposes with shares of common stock held of record. Similarly, if you own shares of common stock in various registered forms, such as jointly with your spouse, as trustee of a trust or as custodian for a minor, you will receive, and will need to sign and return, a separate proxy card for those shares of common stock because they are held in a different form of record ownership. Shares of common stock held by a corporation or business entity must be voted by an authorized officer of the entity. Please indicate title or authority when completing and signing the proxy card.

Q: What does it mean if I get more than one proxy card or voting instruction card?

A: If your shares of common stock are registered differently or are held in more than one account, you will receive more than one proxy card or voting instruction card. Please complete and return all of the proxy cards and voting instruction cards you receive (or submit each of your proxies by telephone or the Internet) to ensure that all of your shares of common stock are voted.

Q: What happens if I sell my shares of common stock before completion of the merger?

A: In order to receive the merger consideration, you must hold your shares of common stock through completion of the merger. Consequently, if you transfer your shares of common stock before completion of the merger, you will have transferred your right to receive the merger consideration.

The record date for stockholders entitled to vote at the special meeting is earlier than the completion of the merger. If you transfer your shares of common stock after the record date but before the closing of the merger, you will have the right to vote at the special meeting but not the right to receive the merger consideration.

Q: If the merger is completed, how do I obtain the merger consideration for my shares of common stock?

A: Following the completion of the merger, your shares of common stock will automatically be converted into the right to receive your portion of the merger consideration. After the merger is completed, you will receive a letter of transmittal and related materials from the paying agent for the merger with detailed written instructions for exchanging your shares of common stock evidenced by stock certificates for the merger consideration. If your shares of common stock are held in street name by your broker, bank or other nominee, you may receive instructions from your broker, bank or other nominee as to what action, if any, you need to take to effect the surrender of your street name shares in exchange for the merger consideration.

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Q: Should I send in my stock certificates or other evidence of ownership now?

A: No. **You should not return your stock certificates or send in other documents evidencing ownership of common stock with the proxy card.** If the merger is completed, the paying agent for the merger will send you a letter of transmittal and related materials and instructions for exchanging your shares of common stock for the merger consideration.

Q: Is the merger expected to be taxable to me?

A: The receipt of cash by U.S. holders in exchange for shares of common stock pursuant to the merger will generally be a taxable transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and may also be a taxable transaction under applicable state, local or foreign income or other tax laws. In general, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a U.S. holder who receives cash in exchange for shares of common stock pursuant to the merger will recognize capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between (1) the amount of cash received and (2) the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in such shares. In addition, under certain circumstances, we may be required to withhold a portion of your merger consideration under applicable tax laws. See *The Merger Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger* for a more complete discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger. Tax matters can be complicated, and the tax consequences of the merger to you will depend on your particular tax situation. We encourage you to consult with your tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of the merger to you.

Q: What is householding and how does it affect me?

A: The SEC permits companies to send a single set of proxy materials to any household at which two or more stockholders reside, unless contrary instructions have been received, but only if the company provides advance notice and follows certain procedures. In such cases, each stockholder continues to receive a separate notice of the meeting and proxy card. Certain brokerage firms may have instituted householding for beneficial owners of common stock held through brokerage firms. If your family has multiple accounts holding common stock, you may have already received a householding notification from your broker. Please contact your broker directly if you have any questions or require additional copies of this proxy statement. The broker will arrange for delivery of a separate copy of this proxy statement promptly upon your written or oral request. You may decide at any time to revoke your decision to household, and thereby receive multiple copies.

Q: Where can I find more information about Bankrate?

A: You can find more information about us from various sources described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *Where You Can Find Additional Information*.

Q: Who will solicit and pay the costs of soliciting proxies?

A: The Bankrate board of directors is soliciting your proxy, and the Company will bear the costs of this solicitation. This includes the charges and expenses of brokerage firms and others for forwarding solicitation material to beneficial owners of Bankrate's outstanding common stock. The Company has retained Georgeson LLC, a proxy solicitation firm, to assist the Bankrate board of directors in the solicitation of proxies for the special meeting, and we expect to pay Georgeson LLC approximately \$7,500, plus reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses. Proxies may be solicited by mail, personal interview, e-mail, telephone or via the Internet or, without additional compensation, by certain of the Company's directors, officers and employees.

Q: Who can help answer my other questions?

A: If you have more questions about the merger, or require assistance in submitting your proxy or voting your shares or need additional copies of the proxy statement or the enclosed proxy card, please contact Georgeson LLC,

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which is acting as the proxy solicitation agent for the Company in connection with the merger, at the telephone numbers, email address or address below.

1290 Avenue of the Americas, 9th Floor

New York, NY 10104

Stockholders, Banks and Brokers

Call Toll Free: (800) 261-1052

Via Email: Bankrate@Georgeson.com

If your broker, bank or other nominee holds your shares, you should also call your broker, bank or other nominee for additional information.

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This proxy statement, the documents incorporated by reference in this proxy statement and the documents we subsequently file with the SEC and incorporate by reference in this proxy statement, include forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include, among other things, any statement that is not based on historical fact, including statements containing the words believe, may, could, would, might, possible, will, should, expect, plan, anticipate or continue, and similar expressions. All forward-looking statements are based on current expectations regarding important risk factors and should not be regarded as a representation by the Company or any other person that the results expressed therein will be achieved. Bankrate assumes no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements for any reason, except as required by law. In addition to other factors and matters contained in or incorporated by reference in this document, we believe the following factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements:

the failure to obtain the company stockholder approval;

the possibility that the closing conditions to the merger may not be satisfied or waived;

delay in closing the merger or the possibility that the merger may not be completed at all;

the occurrence of any event that could give rise to the termination of the merger agreement;

risks related to the disruption of management's attention from ongoing operations due to the merger;

limitations placed on Bankrate's ability to operate its business under the merger agreement;

the effect of the announcement of the merger on Bankrate's ability to retain and hire key personnel and maintain relationships with customers, providers, advertisers, partners and other third parties;

the risk that stockholder litigation in connection with the merger may affect the timing or occurrence of the merger or result in significant costs of defense, indemnification and liability;

risks relating to competition in the industries in which the Company operates;

challenges to the Company's ability to protect its intellectual property rights;

changes in domestic or international economic, political and market conditions;

risks associated with operations in foreign markets;

interruption, failure or compromise of Bankrate's systems, websites or mobile applications; and other risks detailed in our filings with the SEC, including the Company's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, and in the Company's other documents filed with the SEC thereafter. See the section of this proxy statement entitled *Where You Can Find Additional Information*.

Many of the factors that will determine our future results are beyond our ability to control or predict. In light of the significant uncertainties inherent in the forward-looking statements contained herein, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they are made. We cannot guarantee any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements.

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THE COMPANIES

Bankrate, Inc.

Bankrate is a Delaware corporation. Bankrate (NYSE: RATE) is a leading online publisher, aggregator and distributor of personal finance content. The Company's vision is to help consumers Maximize Your Money when they borrow, save or invest. With this in mind, Bankrate aggregates large scale audiences of in-market consumers by providing them with proprietary, fully researched, comprehensive, independent and objective personal finance and related editorial content across multiple vertical categories including credit cards, mortgages, deposits, senior care and other categories, such as personal and auto loans retirement and taxes. Bankrate's flagship sites CreditCards.com, Bankrate.com and Caring.com are leading destinations in each of their respective verticals and connect their vast audiences with financial service and senior care providers and other contextually relevant advertisers. Bankrate also owns and operates a number of specialist sites, apps and social platforms, including NextAdvisor.com, The Points Guy, Interest.com, Quizzle.com and Walla.by. Bankrate also develops and provides content, tools, web services and co-branded websites to over 100 online partners, including MSN, Realtor.com, MarketWatch and Bloomberg. In addition, Bankrate licenses editorial content to leading news organizations such as Yahoo! and Tribune News Service.

Bankrate's principal executive offices are located at 1675 Broadway, 22nd Floor, New York, New York 10019, and its telephone number is (917) 368-8600.

A detailed description of the Company's business is contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, which is incorporated by reference into this proxy statement. See the section of this proxy statement entitled *Where You Can Find Additional Information*.

Red Ventures Holdco, LP

Red Ventures is a leading digital consumer choice platform based in Fort Mill, South Carolina. Through deeply integrated brand partnerships and consumer-facing assets, Red Ventures connects online customers with products and services across high-growth industries including home services, financial services and healthcare. Founded in 2000, Red Ventures has more than 2,700 employees in offices across the Carolinas, Seattle, Washington and Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Red Ventures' principal executive offices are located at 1423 Red Ventures Drive, Fort Mill, South Carolina 29707, and its telephone number is (704) 971-2300.

Baton Merger Corp.

Merger Sub is a Delaware corporation and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Red Ventures that will function as the merger subsidiary in the merger.

Merger Sub is a Delaware corporation and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Red Ventures that will function as the merger subsidiary in the merger. Merger Sub was formed solely for the purpose of acquiring us and it has not carried on any activities on or prior to the date of this proxy statement except for activities incidental to its formation and activities in connection with Red Ventures' acquisition of Bankrate. Upon completion of the merger, Merger Sub will merge with and into Bankrate and will cease to exist.

Merger Sub's principal executive offices are located at 1423 Red Ventures Drive, Fort Mill, South Carolina 29707, and its telephone number is (704) 971-2300.

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THE SPECIAL MEETING

We are furnishing this proxy statement to the Company's stockholders as part of the solicitation of proxies by the Bankrate board of directors for use at the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. This proxy statement provides the Company's stockholders with the information they need to know to be able to vote or instruct their vote to be cast at the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Date, Time and Place of the Special Meeting

This proxy statement is being furnished to our stockholders as part of the solicitation of proxies by the Bankrate board of directors for use at the special meeting to be held at [], on [], at [] a.m. local time, or at any adjournment or postponement thereof.

For information regarding attending the special meeting, see *The Special Meeting – Voting; Proxies; Revocation – Attendance*.

Purposes of the Special Meeting

At the special meeting, Bankrate stockholders will be asked to consider and vote on the following proposals:

to adopt the merger agreement, dated as of July 2, 2017, by and among the Company, Red Ventures and Merger Sub (as it may be amended from time to time);

to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the Company's named executive officers in connection with the merger, the value of which is disclosed in the table in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger – Interests of the Company's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger – Quantification of Payments and Benefits to the Company's Named Executive Officers*; and

to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including to solicit additional proxies if there are insufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the proposal to adopt the merger agreement or in the absence of a quorum.

Our stockholders must adopt the merger agreement for the merger to occur. If our stockholders fail to adopt the merger agreement, the merger will not occur. A copy of the merger agreement is attached to this proxy statement as Annex A, and certain provisions of the merger agreement are described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement*.

The vote on the named executive officer merger-related compensation proposal is a vote separate and apart from the vote on the proposal to adopt the merger agreement. Accordingly, you may vote to adopt the merger agreement and vote not to approve the named executive officer merger-related compensation proposal and vice versa. Because the vote on the named executive officer merger-related compensation proposal is advisory only, it will not be binding on either Bankrate or Red Ventures. Accordingly, if the merger agreement is adopted and the merger is completed, the compensation will be payable, subject only to the conditions applicable thereto under the applicable compensation agreements and arrangements, regardless of the outcome of the non-binding, advisory vote of Bankrate's stockholders.

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We do not expect that any matters other than the proposals set forth above will be brought before the special meeting. If, however, such a matter is properly presented at the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof, the persons appointed as proxies will have discretionary authority to vote the shares represented by duly executed proxies.

This proxy statement and the enclosed form of proxy are first being mailed to our stockholders on or about [].

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Record Date, Notice and Quorum

The holders of record of Bankrate common stock as of the close of business on [], the record date for the special meeting, are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the special meeting. At the close of business on the record date, [] shares of common stock were outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting.

The presence at the special meeting, in person or represented by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the voting power of the shares of capital stock of the Company issued and outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting at the close of business on the record date will constitute a quorum. Once a share is represented at the special meeting, it will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the special meeting. However, if a new record date is set for an adjourned special meeting, a new quorum will have to be established. Proxies received but marked as abstentions will be included in the calculation of the number of shares considered to be present at the special meeting.

Required Vote

Each share of common stock outstanding at the close of business on the record date is entitled to one vote on each of the proposals to be considered at the special meeting.

For the Company to complete the merger, Bankrate stockholders holding a majority of the shares of common stock outstanding at the close of business on the record date must vote **FOR** the proposal to adopt the merger agreement. An abstention with respect to the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, or a failure to vote your shares of common stock (including a failure to instruct your broker, bank or other nominee to vote shares held on your behalf), will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** this proposal.

Approval of each of (1) the advisory (non-binding) proposal on certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the Company's named executive officers in connection with the merger and (2) the adjournment proposal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and entitled to vote thereon, but is not a condition to the completion of the merger. An abstention with respect to either proposal will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** these proposals. A failure to return your proxy card or otherwise vote your shares of common stock (including a failure to instruct your broker, bank or other nominee to vote shares held on your behalf), will have no effect on these proposals, assuming a quorum is present.

Stock Ownership and Interests of Certain Persons

Voting by the Company's Directors and Executive Officers

At the close of business on the record date, directors and executive officers of the Company were entitled to vote approximately [] shares of common stock, or approximately []% of the shares of common stock issued and outstanding on that date and entitled to vote at the special meeting. The Company's directors and executive officers have informed us that they intend to vote their shares in favor of the proposal to adopt the merger agreement and the other proposals to be considered at the special meeting, although they have no obligation to do so.

Voting Agreement

On July 2, 2017, Red Ventures entered into a voting agreement with Ben Holding S.à r.l., a stockholder of the Company, pursuant to which Ben Holding S.à r.l. agreed, among other things, to vote the shares of common stock over which it has voting power in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions

contemplated by the merger agreement. As of [], the record date for the special meeting, Ben Holding S.à r.l. owned [] shares, or approximately []% of the shares of Company common stock

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outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting. The aggregate number of shares covered by the voting obligations set forth in the voting agreement will automatically be reduced (on a pro rata basis with each other stockholder of the Company who executes a similar voting agreement with Red Ventures in connection with the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, if any) to the extent necessary in order that the aggregate number of shares subject to the voting agreement, together with all other shares of Company common stock subject to such other voting agreements, if any, represents no more than 39.9% of the shares of Company common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting. The voting agreement also contains certain restrictions on the transfer of shares of common stock by Ben Holding S.à r.l.

Voting; Proxies; Revocation

Attendance

All holders of shares of common stock as of the close of business on [], the record date, including stockholders of record and beneficial owners of common stock registered in the street name of a broker, bank or other nominee, are invited to attend the special meeting.

To attend the special meeting in person, you must provide proof of ownership of Bankrate common stock as of the record date, such as an account statement indicating ownership on that date, and a form of personal identification for admission to the meeting. If you hold your shares in street name, and you also wish to be able to vote at the meeting, you must obtain a legal proxy, executed in your favor, from your bank, broker or other nominee.

Voting in Person

Stockholders of record will be able to vote in person at the special meeting. If you are not a stockholder of record, but instead hold your shares of common stock in street name through a broker, bank or other nominee, you must provide a legal proxy executed in your favor from your broker, bank or other nominee in order to be able to vote in person at the special meeting. Attending the special meeting in person does not itself constitute a vote on any proposal.

Providing Voting Instructions by Proxy

To ensure that your shares of common stock are voted at the special meeting, we recommend that you provide voting instructions promptly by proxy, even if you plan to attend the special meeting in person.

Shares of Common Stock Held by Record Holder

If you are a stockholder of record, you may provide voting instructions by proxy using one of the methods described below.

Submit a Proxy by Telephone or via the Internet. This proxy statement is accompanied by a proxy card with instructions for submitting voting instructions. You may vote by telephone by calling the toll-free number or via the Internet by accessing the Internet address specified on the enclosed proxy card. Your shares of common stock will be voted as you direct in the same manner as if you had completed, signed, dated and returned your proxy card, as described below.

Submit a Proxy Card. If you complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card by mail so that it is received in time for the special meeting, your shares of common stock will be voted in the manner directed by you on your proxy card.

If you sign, date and return your proxy card without indicating how you wish to vote, your proxy will be voted in favor of each of the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, the advisory (non-binding) proposal to

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approve certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the named executive officers of the Company in connection with the merger, and the proposal to adjourn the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including to solicit additional proxies if there are insufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the proposal to adopt the merger agreement or in the absence of a quorum. If you fail to return your proxy card or vote by telephone or via the Internet, and you are a holder of record on the record date, unless you attend the special meeting and vote in person, your shares of common stock will not be considered present at the special meeting for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the special meeting, which will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** the proposal to adopt the merger agreement and, assuming a quorum is present, will have no effect on the advisory (non-binding) proposal to approve certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the named executive officers of the Company in connection with the merger, or the vote regarding the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including to solicit additional proxies or in the absence of a quorum.

Shares of Common Stock Held in Street Name

If your shares of common stock are held by a broker, bank or other nominee on your behalf in street name, your broker, bank or other nominee will send you instructions as to how to provide voting instructions for your shares. Many brokerage firms and banks have a process for their customers to provide voting instructions by telephone or via the Internet, in addition to providing voting instructions by a voting instruction form.

In accordance with applicable stock exchange rules, brokers, banks and other nominees that hold shares of common stock in street name for their customers do not have discretionary authority to vote the shares with respect to (1) the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, (2) the advisory (non-binding) proposal to approve certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the named executive officers of the Company in connection with the merger, or (3) the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including to solicit additional proxies or in the absence of a quorum. Accordingly, if brokers, banks or other nominees do not receive specific voting instructions from the beneficial owner of such shares, they cannot vote such shares with respect to these proposals. Therefore, unless you attend the special meeting in person with a properly executed legal proxy from your broker, bank or other nominee, your failure to provide instructions to your broker, bank or other nominee will result in your shares of Bankrate common stock not being present at the meeting and not being voted on any of the proposals. As a result, a failure to vote your shares of common stock (including a failure to instruct your broker, bank or other nominee to vote shares held on your behalf) will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, but it will have no effect on the other proposals, assuming a quorum is present.

Revocation of Proxies

Any person giving a proxy pursuant to this solicitation has the power to revoke and change it before it is voted. If you are a stockholder of record, you may revoke your proxy before the vote is taken at the special meeting by:

submitting a new proxy with a later date, by using the telephone or Internet proxy submission procedures described above at any time up to [] on [], or by completing, signing, dating and returning a new proxy card by mail to the Company;

attending the special meeting and voting in person; or

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delivering a written notice of revocation by mail to the Company, in care of the Corporate Secretary, at Bankrate, Inc., 1675 Broadway, 22nd Floor, New York, New York 10019.

Please note, however, that only your last-dated proxy will count. Attending the special meeting without taking one of the actions described above will not in itself revoke your proxy. Please note that if you want to revoke your proxy by mailing a new proxy card to the Company or by sending a written notice of revocation to the Company, you should ensure that you send your new proxy card or written notice of revocation in sufficient time for it to be received by the Company before the special meeting.

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If you hold your shares in street name through a broker, bank or other nominee, you will need to follow the instructions provided to you by your broker, bank or other nominee in order to revoke your proxy or submit new voting instructions. If you hold your shares in street name, you may also revoke a prior proxy by voting in person at the special meeting if you obtain a legal proxy executed in your favor from your broker, bank or other nominee in order to be able to vote in person at the special meeting.

Abstentions

An abstention occurs when a stockholder attends the special meeting, either in person or represented by proxy, but abstains from voting. Abstentions will be included in the calculation of the number of shares of common stock present or represented at the special meeting for purposes of determining whether a quorum has been achieved.

Abstaining from voting will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, a vote **AGAINST** the advisory (non-binding) proposal on certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to the named executive officers of the Company in connection with the merger and a vote **AGAINST** the proposal regarding the adjournment of the special meeting.

Solicitation of Proxies

The Bankrate board of directors is soliciting your proxy, and the Company will bear the costs of this solicitation. This includes the charges and expenses of brokerage firms and others for forwarding solicitation material to beneficial owners of Bankrate's outstanding common stock. The Company has retained Georgeson LLC, a proxy solicitation firm, to assist the Bankrate board of directors in the solicitation of proxies for the special meeting, and we expect to pay Georgeson LLC approximately \$7,500, plus reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses. Proxies may be solicited by mail, personal interview, e-mail, telephone or via the Internet or, without additional compensation, by certain of the Company's directors, officers and employees.

Adjournments and Postponements

Although it is not currently expected, the special meeting may be adjourned or postponed if necessary or appropriate, including to solicit additional proxies if there are insufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the proposal to adopt the merger agreement or in the absence of a quorum.

Holders of a majority of shares present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting, whether or not constituting a quorum, and entitled to vote may adjourn the special meeting. Any adjournment may be made without notice (provided the adjournment is not for more than 30 days) by an announcement at the special meeting of the time, date and place of the adjourned meeting. If the adjournment is for more than 30 days, or if after the adjournment a new record date is fixed for the adjourned meeting, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given to each stockholder of record entitled to vote at the meeting. In addition, at any time prior to convening the special meeting, the Bankrate board of directors may postpone the special meeting. Adjournments and postponements are subject to certain restrictions in the merger agreement, including that the special meeting may not be adjourned or postponed to a date that is more than 30 days after the date on which the special meeting was originally scheduled to be held without Red Ventures' prior written consent.

Other Information

You should not return your stock certificates or send in other documents evidencing ownership of common stock with the proxy card. If the merger is completed, the paying agent for the merger will send you a letter of

transmittal and related materials and instructions for exchanging your shares of common stock for the merger consideration.

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THE MERGER

The description of the merger in this section and elsewhere in this proxy statement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the complete text of the merger agreement, a copy of which is attached as Annex A and is incorporated by reference into this proxy statement. This summary does not purport to be complete and may not contain all of the information about the merger that is important to you. You are encouraged to read the merger agreement carefully and in its entirety.

Certain Effects of the Merger

Pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement, if the merger agreement is adopted by the Company's stockholders and the other conditions to the closing of the merger are satisfied or waived, Merger Sub will be merged with and into the Company, with the Company surviving the merger as a wholly owned subsidiary of Red Ventures.

Upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the merger agreement, at the effective time, each share of common stock issued and outstanding immediately before the effective time (other than shares owned by the Company, Red Ventures, Merger Sub or any wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, and shares that are owned by stockholders who have properly demanded and not withdrawn a demand for, or lost their right to, appraisal rights pursuant to Section 262 of the DGCL) will be converted into the right to receive the merger consideration of \$14.00 per share in cash, without interest and subject to required withholding taxes.

The Company common stock is currently registered under the Exchange Act and is listed on the NYSE under the symbol RATE. As a result of the merger, the Company will cease to be a publicly traded company and will be indirectly wholly owned by Red Ventures. Following the completion of the merger, the Company common stock will be delisted from the NYSE and deregistered under the Exchange Act, following which the Company will no longer be required to file periodic reports with the SEC with respect to its common stock in accordance with applicable law, rules and regulations.

Background of the Merger

As part of its ongoing consideration and evaluation of its long-term prospects and strategies, the Bankrate board of directors and senior management have regularly and formally reviewed and assessed the Company's business strategies, objectives and key initiatives, including strategic opportunities and challenges, and have considered various strategic options potentially available to the Company, all with the goal of enhancing value for the Company's stockholders. The strategic considerations have focused on, among other things, the business environment facing the Company and its industry as well as the Company's business prospects. In recent years, these strategic opportunities have from time to time included consideration of potential business combination transactions.

In the summer of 2016, the Chief Executive Officer of a strategic party (Party A) contacted Kenneth S. Esterow, the Company's Chief Executive Officer, to express interest in a potential business combination transaction with the Company. At meetings of the Bankrate board of directors held on July 28, 2016 and August 8, 2016, Mr. Esterow updated the Bankrate board of directors on his preliminary conversations with Party A's Chief Executive Officer. The Bankrate board of directors directed Mr. Esterow to convey to Party A's Chief Executive Officer that the Bankrate board of directors was not engaged in a sale process and did not intend to take further action with respect to Party A's general expression of interest, but if Party A were to make a specific, actionable proposal the Bankrate board of directors would consider and review it.

On August 24, 2016, Party A submitted to the Company an unsolicited, non-binding indication of interest to acquire the Company for consideration in the range of \$9.50 to \$10.00 per share, comprised of \$2.50 per share in cash and the remaining consideration in Party A's common stock. Party A's non-binding indication of interest was subject to due diligence and to the Company entering into an agreement to negotiate exclusively with Party A for a 30-day period.

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On August 29, 2016, a special telephonic meeting of the Bankrate board of directors was held to discuss Party A's indication of interest, which was attended by representatives of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz ("Wachtell Lipton"), the Company's legal counsel, and J.P. Morgan, which had served as the Company's financial advisor in connection with a recent acquisition. Mr. Esterow reviewed for the Bankrate board of directors the terms of Party A's proposal and representatives of J.P. Morgan discussed with the Bankrate board of directors its preliminary financial analyses with respect to a potential transaction with Party A. Representatives of Wachtell Lipton discussed the board of directors' fiduciary duties in connection with its evaluation of the proposal and other strategic alternatives. The Bankrate board of directors determined to reconvene to discuss Party A's proposal in further detail at its next meeting.

On September 19, 2016, another special telephonic meeting of the Bankrate board of directors was held, which representatives of Wachtell Lipton and J.P. Morgan attended. At the meeting, the Bankrate board of directors determined to retain J.P. Morgan as the Company's financial advisor in connection with the board of directors' review of Party A's proposal. Representatives of J.P. Morgan, together with Mr. Esterow and representatives of Wachtell Lipton, then reviewed with the Bankrate board of directors the terms of Party A's preliminary indication of interest and discussed both the opportunities and challenges of pursuing a strategic business combination transaction with Party A at that time. Representatives of J.P. Morgan also discussed with the Bankrate board of directors that other potential transaction partners might be interested in a transaction with the Company. Representatives of J.P. Morgan also provided certain customary disclosures regarding prior engagements between J.P. Morgan and Party A. Following discussion among the Company's board of directors, senior management and representatives of J.P. Morgan and Wachtell Lipton, including with respect to the Company's business prospects as a standalone company, the board of directors determined that Party A's proposal was inadequate and not in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders, and directed Mr. Esterow to inform Party A's Chief Executive Officer that the Company was not interested in pursuing a strategic business combination transaction with Party A on the terms set forth in its non-binding indication of interest.

Following the meeting, Mr. Esterow conveyed the Bankrate board of directors' determination to Party A's Chief Executive Officer. Thereafter, the Company did not receive any further formal communications from Party A regarding its proposal, or any further or revised proposals from Party A. Thereafter, the Company continued to execute on its standalone plan.

On January 19, 2017, a regularly scheduled meeting of the Bankrate board of directors was held to review the Company's financial performance during the fourth quarter of 2016 and full fiscal year as well as the Company's proposed 2017 budget. The Company's senior management discussed with the board of directors a variety of topics relating to the Company's strategic direction as part of management's review, including trends and strategic options in certain key segments of the Company's business, the competitive landscape facing the Company, trends, opportunities, challenges, and risks that the Company faced, the Company's financial performance, strategic initiatives, and alternatives for the creation of stockholder value. In connection with its discussion of the opportunities and risks presented by the Company's current strategic plan, the board of directors also discussed with the Company's management the exploration of alternative potential strategic options available to the Company, including a potential strategic business combination transaction. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Bankrate board of directors determined to request J.P. Morgan, which had previously been engaged pursuant to an engagement letter dated September 27, 2016 in connection with the Company's review of Party A's preliminary indication of interest, to assist the Bankrate board of directors in exploring and evaluating potential strategic transactions that might be available to the Company in an effort to maximize value for the Company and its stockholders.

At a special telephonic meeting of the Bankrate board of directors on March 2, 2017, representatives of J.P. Morgan, together with the Company's senior management, discussed with the Bankrate board of directors potential strategic alternatives available to the Company and the process and timeline for pursuing a strategic business combination

transaction in the event the board of directors determined to consider such a transaction. The Bankrate board of directors discussed with the Company's senior management and representatives of

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J.P. Morgan the potential parties that might be interested in a strategic transaction with the Company, which included both private equity firms and strategic companies identified by J.P. Morgan in conjunction with the Company's senior management and directors. The Bankrate board of directors and management also discussed the need to design a process that would enable the Company to solicit value maximizing proposals from potentially interested parties, maintain confidentiality, minimize any distraction of management from the day-to-day operation of the business, and preserve flexibility to modify or terminate the exploratory process if later determined by the board of directors to be in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders, including based on a review of any proposals received by the Company. After discussion, the Bankrate board of directors determined to proceed with soliciting interest from potential parties with respect to a strategic business combination, with the first round of diligence limited to management presentations, accompanied by select financial and operating data, with a small number of members of the Company's senior management team in order to minimize the risk of unnecessary distraction of the Company's employees, disclosure of competitively sensitive information, or a potential leak. The Bankrate board of directors instructed management and J.P. Morgan to finalize and report back to the directors the list of potentially interested business combination partners and then to proceed to gauge their potential interest in a transaction and arrange preliminary management meetings with interested parties.

In consultation with J.P. Morgan, the board of directors and the Company's senior management finalized the preliminary list of potential acquirors and business combination partners and, beginning on March 14, 2017, representatives of J.P. Morgan conducted outreach to those parties. From March 14, 2017 through April 2017, a total of 24 potential buyers comprised of both strategic parties and financial sponsors were contacted. J.P. Morgan scheduled initial in-person or telephonic meetings between representatives of the Company's senior management team and J.P. Morgan and 18 of the potential bidders, with the remaining parties declining to participate in the process. During the management meetings, potential bidders were provided with an overview of the Company's business and operations and certain financial information and other preliminary due diligence materials regarding the Company. Prior to participating in the management meetings, each such potential bidder executed a confidentiality agreement with the Company containing customary provisions, including a customary standstill provision. Each such standstill provision permitted confidential requests to the Company seeking a waiver or amendment of the standstill restrictions.

On April 20, 2017, a regularly scheduled meeting of the Bankrate board of directors was held to review the Company's financial performance during the first quarter of 2017 and Company initiatives for the second quarter of 2017. At that meeting, the board of directors also received an update on the Company's exploratory process, which was attended by representatives of J.P. Morgan and Wachtell Lipton. Representatives of J.P. Morgan and Mr. Esterow discussed with the Bankrate board of directors the management meetings that had been held up to that point and preliminary feedback received from potential bidders. Representatives of J.P. Morgan and Wachtell Lipton then discussed with the Bankrate board of directors a proposed timeline for soliciting preliminary indications of interest from interested bidders. In view of the Company's upcoming first quarter earnings release scheduled for May 4, 2017, it was agreed that first round indications of interest should be solicited a reasonable amount of time after the scheduled earnings release in order to allow potential bidders adequate time to analyze the Company's first quarter results. The Bankrate board of directors instructed management and J.P. Morgan to solicit initial indications of interest by May 15, 2017, after which the board of directors planned to convene to assess any proposals that might be received and to determine whether any such proposals merited further consideration and a continuation of the Company's exploratory process.

On May 1, 2017, an affiliate of Silver Lake Partners (Silver Lake) executed a confidentiality agreement with the Company. The confidentiality agreement was substantially similar in all material respects to the other confidentiality agreements executed by the Company, and specifically permitted Silver Lake to share information regarding the Company with Red Ventures and General Atlantic, LLC (General Atlantic). Silver Lake and General Atlantic are both minority shareholders of Red Ventures, each with one board seat at Red Ventures. On May 2, 2017, representatives of Red Ventures, Silver Lake and General Atlantic attended a management meeting with members of the Company's

senior and operating management teams and representatives of J.P. Morgan.

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Beginning on April 21, 2017, at the direction of the Bankrate board of directors, J.P. Morgan sent process letters to the potential bidders with whom management meetings were held, including a process letter sent to representatives of Red Ventures on May 2, 2017. The process letters outlined the timing and process for submitting initial indications of interest, and provided for a first round bid deadline of May 15, 2017.

On May 15, 2017, Red Ventures submitted to the Company a non-binding indication of interest to acquire 100% of the outstanding common stock of the Company (the May 15 Proposal). The May 15 Proposal was submitted by Red Ventures and indicated that the proposal had the support of both Silver Lake and General Atlantic. The May 15 Proposal did not provide for a precise purchase price but stated that Red Ventures was prepared to offer consideration in the area of \$14 per share in cash, subject to the completion of due diligence and the negotiation of definitive transaction documentation.

On May 19, 2017, a special telephonic meeting of the Bankrate board of directors was held to review the May 15 Proposal from Red Ventures and discuss the Company's process to date, which was attended by representatives of J.P. Morgan and Wachtell Lipton. During the meeting, representatives of J.P. Morgan provided an overview of the Company's process leading up to the May 15 initial bid deadline and, together with representatives of Wachtell Lipton, reviewed the proposed terms set forth in Red Ventures' May 15 Proposal. Representatives of J.P. Morgan explained that while one other strategic party (Party B) had expressed preliminary interest in the Company's banking business, Red Ventures was the only party to submit an indication of interest. Following discussion of the May 15 Proposal among the Bankrate board of directors, members of the Company's senior management and representatives of J.P. Morgan and Wachtell Lipton, the Bankrate board of directors determined that the preliminary terms, including the price range, set forth in the May 15 Proposal represented a potentially compelling opportunity and value proposition for the Company and its stockholders and directed the Company's senior management and representatives of J.P. Morgan to continue discussions with Red Ventures, including providing Red Ventures with additional due diligence information and, at the appropriate time, a proposed form of merger agreement to enable it to submit a final proposal reflecting a specific purchase price and more definitive transaction terms, and to set a final bid deadline for the submission of such a proposal. The Bankrate board of directors also instructed the Company's senior management and J.P. Morgan to inquire as to whether any of the potential bidders that had declined to submit an indication of interest to acquire the Company might instead be interested in acquiring the non-banking businesses of the Company such that they could potentially be partnered with Party B to collectively consider an entire company transaction. The Bankrate board of directors also discussed with the Company's senior management and representatives of J.P. Morgan the likelihood that Party A, which on account of confidentiality and competitive concerns had not been invited to participate in the Company's process up to that point, would have the financial capacity or interest to submit a proposal that could be competitive with Red Ventures' May 15 Proposal. In this regard, the Bankrate board of directors discussed with members of the Company's senior management and representatives of J.P. Morgan the fact that Red Ventures' May 15 Proposal offered substantially greater value to the Company and its stockholders than Party A's August 2016 proposal. After discussion, the Bankrate board of directors instructed management and J.P. Morgan to approach Party A prior to the final bid deadline to solicit its interest in participating in the Company's process.

Over the next several weeks, the Company made available to Red Ventures and its representatives additional due diligence materials and Red Ventures continued its due diligence review of the Company through both in-person and telephonic meetings with members of the Company's management and a review of documents provided by the Company in an electronic data room.

On May 24, 2017, at the direction of the Bankrate board of directors, Mr. Esterow reached out to Party A's Chief Executive Officer to inform him of the Company's process and solicit Party A's interest in participating. In early June 2017, representatives of J.P. Morgan also contacted Party A's financial advisor to discuss whether Party A would be interested in a strategic business combination with the Company, as well as Party A's financial capacity to pursue any

such transaction.

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On June 7, 2017, at the direction of the Bankrate board of directors, J.P. Morgan sent a second round process letter to representatives of Red Ventures outlining the timing and process for submitting a final proposal to acquire the Company, and requesting that Red Ventures submit a final definitive proposal by June 28, 2017. On June 12, 2017, representatives of Wachtell Lipton distributed to representatives of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP (Simpson Thacher), Red Ventures legal counsel, a draft merger agreement.

During this period, at the direction of the Bankrate board of directors, representatives of J.P. Morgan engaged in additional discussions with three potential bidders, two of which had previously expressed some interest in the non-banking businesses of the Company and one of which was a new party, to determine whether they would be interested in acquiring any or all of the Company's non-banking businesses to potentially facilitate a partnership with Party B, which had expressed preliminary interest in the Company's banking business. Each such party declined to move forward in the Company's process either on a standalone basis or in partnership with another potential bidder. Representatives of J.P. Morgan also had discussions with two financial sponsors, one of which had participated in the Company's process but declined to submit an initial indication of interest, and another that had contacted J.P. Morgan to inquire as to the Company's process. After preliminary discussions with the two financial sponsors, the first such sponsor stated that its interest was limited to a small business line of the Company, and the second sponsor indicated that it had significant financing constraints with respect to a strategic transaction with the Company. Neither party pursued any further conversations with J.P. Morgan or the Company following these initial discussions or expressed any further interest in delivering an actionable proposal for a strategic business combination transaction involving the Company.

On June 21, 2017, Party A's Chief Executive Officer informed Mr. Esterow that Party A declined to participate in the Company's process and would not be submitting a proposal for a business combination transaction with the Company. Other than its August 2016 preliminary proposal of \$9.50 to \$10.00 per share described above, no proposal or indication of interest was ever received from Party A.

On June 21, 2017, representatives of Simpson Thacher submitted a revised draft merger agreement to representatives of Wachtell Lipton. The revised draft merger agreement provided that, as a condition to Red Ventures entering into a definitive merger agreement, it would be requesting that Ben Holding S.à r.l. enter into a voting agreement with Red Ventures agreeing to, among other things, vote in favor of the transaction and against alternative acquisition proposals.

On June 23, 2017, in advance of the final bid deadline set forth in the process letter distributed by J.P. Morgan, Red Ventures submitted a revised non-binding proposal to acquire 100% of the outstanding common stock of the Company for \$13.10 per share in cash (the June 23 Proposal). The June 23 Proposal was accompanied by executed debt commitment letters with respect to the financing of the consideration payable in the transaction as well as the refinancing of certain existing debt in connection with the transaction. The June 23 Proposal was subject to the completion of limited remaining due diligence and the finalization of definitive transaction agreements.

On June 26, 2017, a special telephonic meeting of the Bankrate board of directors was held to review Red Ventures June 23 Proposal and update the Bankrate board of directors on the discussions with Party A and other potential bidders since the last meeting of the Bankrate board of directors. Representatives of J.P. Morgan and Wachtell Lipton attended the meeting. Representatives of J.P. Morgan, together with Mr. Esterow, reviewed with the Bankrate board of directors the additional discussions that the Company and J.P. Morgan had with each of Party A and the other potential bidders and reported to the board of directors that each such party had declined to submit an actionable proposal for a business combination transaction with the Company. Representatives of J.P. Morgan then reviewed for the Bankrate board of directors the terms of Red Ventures June 23 Proposal and discussed with the Bankrate board of directors its preliminary financial analyses with respect to the June 23 Proposal. Representatives of J.P. Morgan and

the Company's senior management also discussed recent trends in the trading of the Company's common stock, including the possibility that the Company's recent stock price gains might be the result of certain unconfirmed press speculation in the market regarding a potential transaction

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involving the Company. Representatives of Wachtell Lipton reviewed with the Bankrate board of directors the revisions to the draft merger agreement received from Simpson Thacher on June 21, 2017. Following discussion among members of the Bankrate board of directors, the Company's senior management and representatives of J.P. Morgan and Wachtell Lipton, the Bankrate board of directors determined to communicate to Red Ventures that the terms set forth in the June 23 Proposal were inadequate, that the Bankrate board of directors would not support a transaction on those terms, and that any updated proposal would need to provide for consideration to the Company's stockholders of no less than \$14.00 per share. The Bankrate board of directors then instructed representatives of the Company and J.P. Morgan to convey the Bankrate board of directors' view to Red Ventures and to request Red Ventures to submit a revised final proposal on or about the previously communicated bid deadline of June 28, 2017, and to pursue obtaining consideration in excess of \$14.00 per share.

On June 26, 2017, representatives of the Company and J.P. Morgan communicated the Bankrate board of directors' view to representatives of Red Ventures.

On June 27, 2017, unconfirmed press speculation was published regarding a potential transaction involving Bankrate.

On June 28, 2017, Mr. Esterow met with Ric Elias, Red Ventures' Chief Executive Officer, at the offices of Wachtell Lipton to discuss the Company's business and prospects, industry trends and outlook and the potential benefits of a proposed business combination transaction between the two companies.

On the morning of June 29, 2017, Red Ventures submitted a revised final proposal to acquire 100% of the outstanding shares of common stock of the Company for \$14.00 per share in cash (the June 29 Proposal). The June 29 Proposal stated that the proposed terms represented Red Ventures' best and final offer. In connection with the submission of the June 29 Proposal, a representative of Red Ventures separately confirmed to representatives of J.P. Morgan that the \$14.00 per share consideration reflected in the June 29 Proposal represented the maximum price that Red Ventures was willing to pay to acquire the Company and that Red Ventures could not support any purchase price above \$14.00 per share.

On June 29, 2017, a special telephonic meeting of the Bankrate board of directors was held to review Red Ventures' June 29 Proposal, which representatives of J.P. Morgan and Wachtell Lipton attended. Representatives of J.P. Morgan outlined the terms of Red Ventures' proposal, and discussed with the Bankrate board of directors its preliminary financial analyses with respect to the June 29 Proposal. Representatives of Wachtell Lipton then reviewed with the Bankrate board of directors the status of the transaction documents, including the draft merger agreement and the fact that Red Ventures had requested a voting agreement from Ben Holding S.à r.l. as a pre-condition to entering into a transaction with the Company. Representatives of Wachtell Lipton, together with members of the Compensation Committee of the Bankrate board of directors, also discussed certain revisions to the existing employment agreements with each of the members of the Company's senior leadership team that the Compensation Committee proposed to adopt, including certain revisions that were previously reviewed and considered by the Compensation Committee. Representatives of Wachtell Lipton reviewed with the Bankrate board of directors, as they had previously done, the board of directors' fiduciary duties under Delaware law in the context of the board of directors' contemplation of a sale of the Company and the legal standards applicable to the board of directors' decisions and actions. Following discussion, the Bankrate board of directors authorized the Company's senior management and representatives of J.P. Morgan and Wachtell Lipton to proceed with the negotiation and finalization of definitive transaction documentation for a transaction on the terms set forth in the June 29 Proposal, but instructed representatives of the Company and J.P. Morgan to again pursue obtaining a purchase price above \$14.00 per share.

Later in the day on June 29, 2017, representatives of Wachtell Lipton provided a revised draft of the merger agreement to representatives of Simpson Thacher as well as a draft voting agreement to be entered into between Ben

Holding S.à r.l. and Red Ventures, the terms of which had been reviewed by representatives of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, outside counsel to Ben Holding S.à r.l.

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On June 30, 2017, representatives of the Company and J.P. Morgan discussed with representatives of Red Ventures the terms set forth in the June 29 Proposal. During the discussion, representatives of Red Ventures confirmed that, while Red Ventures was willing to negotiate the terms of the transaction documents, Red Ventures was not able to increase its proposed purchase price above \$14.00 per share, that such price represented its best and final offer and that if Bankrate insisted on consideration in excess of that level then Red Ventures would not proceed with a transaction.

From June 30, 2017 through the afternoon of July 2, 2017, representatives of Wachtell Lipton and Simpson Thacher exchanged drafts of the merger agreement and the other transaction documents and negotiated the final terms of such documents.

On July 2, 2017, a special telephonic meeting of the Bankrate board of directors was held to review Red Ventures June 29 Proposal and the final proposed terms of the transaction documents. Representatives of J.P. Morgan and Wachtell Lipton attended the meeting. Representatives of J.P. Morgan updated the Bankrate board of directors on the outcome of discussions with Red Ventures following the board of directors' previous meeting on June 29, 2017, and reported that Red Ventures had again confirmed that it was not willing to increase its proposal above \$14.00 per share, and that the June 29 Proposal represented its best and final proposal. Representatives of Wachtell Lipton then reviewed for the Bankrate board of directors the final terms of the proposed transaction documents, including the merger agreement and the voting agreement to be entered into between Ben Holding S.à r.l. and Red Ventures, and again reviewed with the Bankrate board of directors, as it had previously done, their fiduciary duties under Delaware law and the legal standards applicable to the Bankrate board of directors' decisions and actions with respect to the proposed transaction. Representatives of J.P. Morgan then discussed with the Bankrate board of directors certain disclosures which had previously been provided to the Bankrate board of directors at its request regarding prior engagements between J.P. Morgan and Red Ventures and the Red Ventures Shareholders and fees received by J.P. Morgan in connection therewith, including that J.P. Morgan had not received any fees from Red Ventures from April 2015 through March 2017, and during that period had received fees unrelated to Red Ventures in respect of general corporate finance services from portfolio companies of General Atlantic of between approximately \$60 million and \$65 million and from portfolio companies of Silver Lake of between approximately \$200 million and \$300 million. Representatives of J.P. Morgan presented financial analyses with respect to the \$14.00 per share merger consideration to be paid to the holders of the Company common stock in the merger. J.P. Morgan then rendered its oral opinion to the Bankrate board of directors, which was confirmed by delivery of a written opinion, dated July 2, 2017, that, as of such date and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth in its opinion, the consideration to be paid to the holders of the Company common stock in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to such holders.

After careful consideration and discussion, and taking into consideration the matters discussed during the meeting and prior meetings of the Bankrate board of directors, including the factors described under *Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of the Bankrate Board of Directors*, the Bankrate board of directors then unanimously approved the merger agreement, declared the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, to be advisable and in the best interests of, and fair to, the Company and its stockholders, directed that the adoption of the merger agreement be submitted to a vote at a meeting of the stockholders of the Company, and recommended that the stockholders of the Company vote for the adoption of the merger agreement and the other proposals set forth in this proxy statement. The Bankrate board of directors and the Compensation Committee of the Bankrate board of directors also unanimously approved certain amendments to the employment agreements of the Company's senior leadership team.

On July 2, 2017, following the meeting of the Bankrate board of directors, representatives of Wachtell Lipton and Simpson Thacher finalized the merger agreement and other transaction documents, and on the evening of July 2, 2017

the merger agreement and related transaction documents were executed and delivered by the parties.

On the morning of July 3, 2017, the Company and Red Ventures publicly announced the entry into the merger agreement via a joint press release.

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Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of the Bankrate Board of Directors

The Bankrate board of directors, with the assistance of its financial and legal advisors, evaluated the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, unanimously determined that the merger is fair to, and in the best interests of, the Company and its stockholders, and unanimously approved and declared advisable the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. Accordingly, on July 2, 2017, the Bankrate board of directors unanimously resolved to recommend that the stockholders of Bankrate approve the adoption of the merger agreement and the other transactions contemplated thereby.

In the course of reaching its recommendation, the Bankrate board of directors considered a number of positive factors relating to the merger agreement and the merger, each of which the Bankrate board of directors believed supported its decision, including the following:

Attractive Value. The Bankrate board of directors considered that the \$14.00 per share price provides stockholders with attractive value for their shares of Bankrate common stock. The Bankrate board of directors considered the current and historical market prices of Bankrate common stock, including the fact that \$14.00 per share in cash represented a premium of approximately 31% over Bankrate's average closing share price for the three-month period ended June 30, 2017, a premium of approximately 9% over Bankrate's closing share price on June 30, 2017, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the entry into the merger agreement, a premium of approximately 14% over Bankrate's approximate intra-day share price on June 27, 2017 prior to unconfirmed press speculation regarding a potential transaction involving Bankrate, and a multiple of enterprise value to Bankrate's Adjusted EBITDA for the 12 months ended March 31, 2017 of 12.0x. In this regard, the Bankrate board of directors also considered the fact that Bankrate's closing share price on June 30, 2017 represented the highest closing share price of Bankrate common stock at any time during the preceding 52 weeks, and the possibility that the recent increases in Bankrate's share price might be the result of certain speculation in the market regarding a potential transaction involving Bankrate. The Bankrate board of directors also considered the merger consideration in light of the current environment in the personal finance technology industry sector, including but not limited to certain risk factors detailed in the Company's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, as well as broader macroeconomic trends affecting the Company's financial results.

Best Alternative for Maximizing Stockholder Value. The Bankrate board of directors considered that the merger consideration was more favorable to Bankrate stockholders than the potential value that would reasonably be expected to result from other alternatives reasonably available to Bankrate, including the continued operation of Bankrate on a standalone basis, taking into account its strategic alternatives and financing plans on an ongoing basis, in light of a number of factors, including:

the Bankrate board of directors' assessment of Bankrate's business, assets and prospects, its competitive position and historical and projected financial performance, and the nature of the industries in which Bankrate operates, including recent industry trends and changing competitive dynamics;

the strategic alternatives reasonably available to Bankrate, on both a standalone basis and with a third party, including the results of the process undertaken by the Company with the assistance of its financial advisor with respect to a potential strategic business combination transaction involving the Company described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Background of the Merger*, and the risks and uncertainties associated with those alternatives, which did not result in an actionable proposal that was deemed likely to result in value to Bankrate stockholders that would exceed, on a present value basis, the value of the merger consideration;

the Bankrate board of directors' belief, following consultation with the Company's financial advisor, that Red Ventures would be the potential transaction partner most likely to offer the best combination of value and closing certainty to Bankrate stockholders and the fact that no other

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strategic party or financial sponsor contacted by the Company or its financial advisor had made an actionable proposal for a strategic business combination transaction involving the Company;

the course and history of the negotiations between Red Ventures and Bankrate, as described under *The Merger Background of the Merger*, and Red Ventures' consistent communication that \$14.00 per share was its best and final offer, and the Bankrate board of directors' belief that it had obtained Red Ventures' best and final offer;

the anticipated future trading prices of the Company common stock on a standalone basis, based on management estimates and adjusted for different scenarios, and the risks and uncertainties of continuing on a standalone basis as an independent public company; and

the Bankrate board of directors' belief that the terms of the merger agreement, taken as a whole, are reasonable.

Greater Certainty of Value. The Bankrate board of directors considered that the merger consideration is a fixed all-cash amount, thereby providing Bankrate stockholders with certainty of value and liquidity for their shares upon the closing of the merger, especially when viewed against the risks and uncertainties inherent in Bankrate's business, including risks associated with Bankrate's standalone strategy in light of recent industry trends and changing competitive dynamics, the cyclical nature of the industries in which Bankrate operates, and risks relating to the execution of management's standalone plan.

Receipt of Fairness Opinion from J.P. Morgan. The Bankrate board of directors considered the oral opinion of J.P. Morgan rendered to the Bankrate board of directors at the meeting of the Bankrate board of directors on July 2, 2017, confirmed by delivery of a written opinion, dated July 2, 2017, that as of such date and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth in such opinion, the consideration to be paid to the holders of the Company common stock in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to such holders. The full text of the written opinion of J.P. Morgan is attached as Annex B to this proxy statement and is incorporated by reference in this proxy statement in its entirety. The opinion of J.P. Morgan is more fully described below under the caption *The Merger Opinion of Bankrate's Financial Advisor*.

Likelihood of Completion. The Bankrate board of directors considered the likelihood of completion of the merger to be significant, in light of, among other things:

the limited overlaps between the businesses of Bankrate and Red Ventures relative to those that could be present in transactions with certain other industry participants;

the commitment of Red Ventures in the merger agreement to use its reasonable best efforts to complete the merger as soon as practicable (see the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement Efforts to Complete the Merger*);

the commitment of Red Ventures in the merger agreement to pay the Company a termination fee in an amount equal to \$87,909,000 in certain circumstances in the event that the merger is not completed (see the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement - Parent Termination Fee*);

the fact that Red Ventures has entered into a debt commitment letter pursuant to which the commitment parties have committed, upon certain terms and subject to certain conditions, to lend \$2.4 billion in connection with the financing of the amounts payable pursuant to the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and the refinancing of certain debt by Red Ventures, and the representations and covenants of Red Ventures in the merger agreement as to its financing (see the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger - Financing*); and

the conditions to closing contained in the merger agreement, which the Bankrate board of directors believed are reasonable and customary in number and scope, and which, in the case of

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the condition related to the accuracy of Bankrate's representations and warranties, are generally subject to a company material adverse effect qualification (see the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement - Conditions to Completion of the Merger*).

Opportunity to Receive Alternative Acquisition Proposals and to Change Recommendation in Response to a Superior Proposal or Intervening Event. The Bankrate board of directors considered the terms of the merger agreement relating to Bankrate's ability to respond to unsolicited acquisition proposals, and the other terms of the merger agreement, including:

Bankrate's right, subject to certain conditions, to provide information in response to, and to discuss and negotiate, certain unsolicited acquisition proposals made before the company stockholder approval is obtained (see the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement - Acquisition Proposals; No Solicitation*);

the provision of the merger agreement allowing the Bankrate board of directors to make a change of recommendation prior to obtaining the company stockholder approval in specified circumstances relating to a superior proposal or intervening event, subject to Red Ventures' right to terminate the merger agreement and receive payment of a termination fee of \$37,675,000, which amount the Bankrate board of directors believed to be reasonable under the circumstances given the size of the transaction and taking into account the range of such termination fees in similar transactions, and further taking into account the fact that the Company had commenced a formal process more than three months in advance of entering into the merger agreement in order to evaluate strategic alternatives that included a possible sale of the Company (see the sections of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement - Acquisition Proposals; No Solicitation*, *The Merger Agreement - Termination* and *The Merger Agreement - Company Termination Fee*); and

the fact that the voting agreement entered into between Red Ventures and Ben Holding S.à r.l., a stockholder of the Company, would automatically terminate upon a change of recommendation of the Bankrate board of directors in connection with a superior proposal pursuant to the merger agreement, thereby releasing Ben Holding S.à r.l. of its obligation to vote in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement in such circumstances.

Opportunity for Bankrate Stockholders to Vote. The Bankrate board of directors also considered the fact that the merger would be subject to the approval of the Company's stockholders, and the Company's stockholders would be free to evaluate the merger and vote for or against the adoption of the merger agreement at the Bankrate stockholders' meeting.

In the course of reaching its recommendation, the Bankrate board of directors also considered certain risks and potentially adverse factors relating to the merger agreement and the merger, including:

that Bankrate stockholders will have no ongoing equity participation in Bankrate following the merger, and that such stockholders will therefore cease to participate in Bankrate's future earnings or growth, if any, or to

benefit from increases, if any, in the value of the Company common stock or resulting from the merger;

the provisions of the merger agreement that restrict the Company's ability to solicit or participate in discussions or negotiations regarding alternative acquisition proposals, subject to certain exceptions, and that restrict the Company from entering into alternative acquisition agreements;

the possibility that the merger is not completed in a timely manner or at all for any reason, as well as the risks and costs to Bankrate if the merger is not completed or if there is uncertainty about the likelihood, timing or effects of completion of the merger, including uncertainty about the effect of the merger on Bankrate's employees, customers, providers, advertisers, partners and other third parties, which could impair Bankrate's ability to attract, retain and motivate key personnel and could cause third parties to seek to terminate, change or not enter into business relationships with Bankrate, as well

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as the risk of management distraction as a result of the merger, and the effect on the trading price of the Company common stock if the merger agreement is terminated or the merger is not completed for any reason;

the merger agreement's restrictions on the conduct of Bankrate's business before completion of the merger, generally requiring Bankrate to use commercially reasonable efforts to conduct its business in all material respects in the ordinary course and prohibiting Bankrate from taking specified actions, which could delay or prevent Bankrate from undertaking certain business opportunities that arise pending completion of the merger (as more fully described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement - Conduct of Business Pending the Merger*);

the possibility that Bankrate could be required under the terms of the merger agreement to pay a termination fee of \$37,675,000 under certain circumstances (as more fully described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement - Company Termination Fee*), and that such termination fee could discourage other potential bidders from making a competing bid to acquire us;

that the receipt of cash by Bankrate stockholders in exchange for their shares of common stock pursuant to the merger will be a taxable transaction to Bankrate stockholders for U.S. federal income tax purposes (as more fully described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger*); and

that some of the Company's directors and executive officers have interests that may be different from, or in addition to, the interests of Bankrate stockholders generally, as described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger - Interests of the Company's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger*.

The foregoing discussion of the information and factors considered by the Bankrate board of directors includes the material factors considered by the Bankrate board of directors but is not intended to be exhaustive and does not necessarily include all of the factors considered by the Bankrate board of directors. In view of the complexity and variety of factors considered in connection with its evaluation of the merger agreement and the merger, the Bankrate board of directors did not find it practicable to, and did not, quantify or otherwise assign relative weights to the specific factors considered in reaching its determination and recommendation. In addition, individual directors may have given different weights to different factors. The above factors are not presented in any order of priority. The explanation of the factors and reasoning set forth above contain forward-looking statements that should be read in conjunction with the section of this proxy statement entitled *Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements*.

The Bankrate board of directors unanimously resolved to recommend that the stockholders of Bankrate approve the merger and adopt the merger agreement based upon the totality of information it considered.

Certain Bankrate Unaudited Prospective Financial Information

In connection with the merger, Bankrate's management prepared financial projections for fiscal years 2017 through 2026 for three alternative scenarios, the Base Case, the High Sensitivity Case and the Low Sensitivity Case (in each case, as defined below, and together, referred to in this proxy statement as the *Bankrate Projections*). The Bankrate Projections were provided to the Bankrate board of directors and/or Bankrate's financial advisor in connection with

their respective consideration and evaluation of the merger, and the Base Case for fiscal years 2017 through 2019 was provided to Red Ventures in connection with its consideration and evaluation of the merger.

Except for quarterly and annual guidance, Bankrate does not as a matter of course make public projections as to future performance, and is especially wary of making projections for extended periods, due to, among other

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reasons, the inherent difficulty of accurately predicting financial performance for future periods and the uncertainty of underlying assumptions and estimates. However, Bankrate is including in this proxy statement a summary of certain limited unaudited prospective financial information for Bankrate on a standalone basis, without giving effect to the merger, solely because such financial information was given to the Bankrate board of directors, Bankrate's financial advisor and/or Red Ventures for purposes of considering and evaluating the merger. The inclusion of the Bankrate Projections should not be regarded as an indication that the Bankrate board of directors, Bankrate's financial advisor, Bankrate or its management, Red Ventures, Merger Sub or any other recipient of this information considered, or now considers, it to be an assurance of the achievement of future results or an accurate prediction of future results, and they should not be relied on as such.

The Bankrate Projections and the underlying assumptions upon which the Bankrate Projections were based are subjective in many respects, and subject to multiple interpretations and frequent revisions attributable to the cyclicity of Bankrate's industry and based on actual experience and business developments. The Bankrate Projections, while presented with numerical specificity, reflect numerous assumptions with respect to company performance, industry performance, general business, economic, regulatory, market and financial conditions and other matters, many of which are difficult to predict, subject to significant economic and competitive uncertainties and beyond Bankrate's control. Multiple factors, including those described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements*, could cause the Bankrate Projections or the underlying assumptions to be inaccurate. As a result, there can be no assurance that the Bankrate Projections will be realized or that actual results will not be significantly higher or lower than projected. Because the Bankrate Projections cover multiple years, such information by its nature becomes less reliable with each successive year. The Bankrate Projections do not take into account any circumstances or events occurring after the date on which they were prepared, including the merger. Economic and business environments can and do change quickly, which adds an additional significant level of uncertainty as to whether the results portrayed in the Bankrate Projections will be achieved. As a result, the inclusion of the Bankrate Projections in this proxy statement does not constitute an admission or representation by Bankrate, J.P. Morgan or any other person that the information is material. Bankrate made no representation to Red Ventures, Merger Sub or any other person, in the merger agreement or otherwise, concerning the Bankrate Projections. The summary of the Bankrate Projections is not provided to influence Bankrate stockholders' decisions regarding whether to vote for the merger proposal or any other proposal. The financial projections should be evaluated, if at all, in conjunction with the historical financial statements and other information contained in Bankrate's public filings with the SEC.

The Bankrate Projections were not prepared with a view toward public disclosure or toward compliance with United States generally accepted accounting principles (referred to in this proxy statement as "GAAP"), published guidelines of the SEC or the guidelines established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for preparation and presentation of prospective financial information. Neither Grant Thornton LLP (referred to in this proxy statement as "Grant Thornton"), Bankrate's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016, nor Deloitte & Touche LLP (referred to in this proxy statement as "Deloitte"), Bankrate's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017, nor any other accounting firm, has examined, compiled or performed any procedures with respect to the Bankrate Projections, and accordingly, neither Grant Thornton nor Deloitte expresses an opinion or any other form of assurance with respect thereto. The Grant Thornton report incorporated by reference in this proxy statement relates to Bankrate's historical financial information. It does not extend to the prospective financial information contained herein and should not be read to do so.

The Bankrate Projections

Bankrate's management prepared three sets of non-public, unaudited financial forecasts with respect to Bankrate's business, as a standalone company, for fiscal years 2017 through 2026, which are referred to as the "Base Case," the

High Sensitivity Case and the Low Sensitivity Case.

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The Base Case for fiscal years 2017 through 2019 is based on the information contained in Bankrate's financial model, which was prepared by Bankrate's management from financial models used in connection with annual internal planning processes, and was provided to Bankrate's financial advisor and Red Ventures and, with respect to projections relating to revenue and adjusted EBITDA, the Bankrate board of directors.

Bankrate's management also extended certain projections in the Base Case beyond fiscal year 2019 to fiscal year 2026. Although Bankrate's management does not as a matter of course prepare a financial model that extends beyond three fiscal years, Bankrate's management prepared the Base Case projections relating to revenue and adjusted EBITDA through fiscal year 2026 based on certain assumptions and extrapolations in order to assist the Bankrate board of directors and Bankrate's financial advisor in evaluating the merger and various strategic alternatives potentially available to the Company, including remaining a standalone company.

Finally, Bankrate's management prepared the High Sensitivity Case and the Low Sensitivity Case based on the Base Case, modified to reflect different assumptions regarding Bankrate's future financial performance, including revenue and expense growth assumptions. The High Sensitivity Case and the Low Sensitivity Case were provided to the Bankrate board of directors and Bankrate's financial advisor to assist the Bankrate board of directors and Bankrate's financial advisor in evaluating the merger and various strategic alternatives potentially available to the Company, including remaining a standalone company. Bankrate's management directed J.P. Morgan to use the Base Case, rather than the High Sensitivity Case or the Low Sensitivity Case, for purposes of its opinion described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger – Opinion of Bankrate's Financial Advisor – Opinion of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC* based on Bankrate's management's view that the Base Case projections were significantly more likely to reflect the future business performance of the Company on a standalone basis than would the High Sensitivity Case or the Low Sensitivity Case.

The following is a summary of the Bankrate Projections:

Summary of the Base Case for Fiscal Years 2017 through 2019

(dollars in millions)

	2017	2018	2019
<i>Base Case</i>			
Revenue	\$ 516	\$ 607	\$ 720
Adjusted EBITDA ⁽¹⁾	\$ 131	\$ 145	\$ 175
Operating Income (Loss) ⁽²⁾	\$ 96	\$ 109	\$ 137
Net Income (Loss) ⁽²⁾	\$ 20	\$ 42	\$ 59

- (1) Adjusted EBITDA adds back interest and other expense; income tax (benefit) expense; depreciation and amortization; net income (loss) from discontinued operation; changes in fair value of contingent acquisition consideration; acquisition, disposition, offering and related expenses; restructuring charges; impairment charges; Next Advisor contingent deferred compensation for the acquisition; costs related to the restatement of certain historical financial statements, the internal review, governmental investigations and related litigation and indemnification obligations; purchase accounting adjustments; stock-based compensation; legal settlements; and the results of the operations in China as the Company is winding them down and ceasing the operations. This measure is different from measures determined in accordance with GAAP and may not be comparable to similar

measures used by other companies.

- (2) Subsequent to providing the Base Case to Red Ventures, Bankrate's management made certain minor revisions to the Base Case, including operating income (loss) of \$111 million in 2018 and \$140 million in 2019 and net income (loss) of \$43 million in 2018 and \$61 million in 2019, which were reflected in the updated Base Case projections provided to J.P. Morgan that Bankrate's management directed J.P. Morgan to use for purposes of its opinion.

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	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Base Case										
Revenue	\$ 516	\$ 607	\$ 720	\$ 845	\$ 971	\$ 1,098	\$ 1,233	\$ 1,357	\$ 1,485	\$ 1,616
Adjusted EBITDA ⁽¹⁾	\$ 131	\$ 145	\$ 175	\$ 203	\$ 238	\$ 265	\$ 301	\$ 319	\$ 354	\$ 390
High Sensitivity Case										
Revenue	\$ 516	\$ 619	\$ 738	\$ 866	\$ 1,001	\$ 1,140	\$ 1,295	\$ 1,444	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,749
Adjusted EBITDA ⁽¹⁾	\$ 131	\$ 155	\$ 192	\$ 209	\$ 247	\$ 283	\$ 326	\$ 366	\$ 411	\$ 455
Low Sensitivity Case										
Revenue	\$ 516	\$ 585	\$ 686	\$ 806	\$ 893	\$ 1,005	\$ 1,129	\$ 1,222	\$ 1,315	\$ 1,400
Adjusted EBITDA ⁽¹⁾	\$ 131	\$ 125	\$ 145	\$ 192	\$ 192	\$ 232	\$ 265	\$ 267	\$ 309	\$ 333

- (1) Adjusted EBITDA adds back interest and other expense; income tax (benefit) expense; depreciation and amortization; net income (loss) from discontinued operation; changes in fair value of contingent acquisition consideration; acquisition, disposition, offering and related expenses; restructuring charges; impairment charges; Next Advisor contingent deferred compensation for the acquisition; costs related to the restatement of certain historical financial statements, the internal review, governmental investigations and related litigation and indemnification obligations; purchase accounting adjustments; stock-based compensation; legal settlements; and the results of the operations in China as the Company is winding them down and ceasing the operations. This measure is different from measures determined in accordance with GAAP and may not be comparable to similar measures used by other companies.

A reconciliation of net income to Adjusted EBITDA is not provided because the Company cannot, without unreasonable effort, estimate or predict with reasonable certainty various components of net income, including acquisition or disposition related costs, changes in fair value in contingent acquisition consideration, discrete tax items, and expenses related to governmental investigations and related litigation and indemnification obligations, which components could significantly impact that financial measure. In addition, when planning, forecasting and analyzing future periods, the Company does so primarily on a non-GAAP basis without preparing a GAAP analysis, as that would require estimates for various reconciling items that would be difficult to predict with reasonable accuracy. As a result, the Company does not believe that a GAAP reconciliation to forward-looking non-GAAP financial measures would provide meaningful supplemental information about the Company's outlook.

The Bankrate Projections do not take into account the possible financial and other effects on Bankrate of the merger and do not attempt to predict or suggest future results of the combined company. The Bankrate Projections do not give effect to the merger, including the impact of negotiating or executing the merger agreement, the expenses that may be incurred in connection with completing the merger, the potential synergies that may be achieved by the combined company as a result of the merger, the effect on Bankrate of any business or strategic decision or action that has been or will be taken as a result of the merger agreement having been executed, or the effect of any business or strategic decisions or actions that would likely have been taken if the merger agreement had not been executed, but that were instead altered, accelerated, postponed or not taken in anticipation of the merger. Further, the Bankrate Projections do not take into account the effect on Bankrate of any possible failure of the merger to occur.

For the foregoing reasons, and considering that the special meeting will be held several months after the Bankrate Projections were prepared, as well as the uncertainties inherent in any forecasting information, readers of this proxy statement are cautioned not to place unwarranted reliance on the Bankrate Projections set forth above. No one has made or makes any representation to any investor or stockholder regarding the information included in the Bankrate Projections. Bankrate urges all Bankrate stockholders to review its most recent SEC filings for a description of its reported financial results. See the section of this proxy statement entitled *Where You Can Find Additional Information*.

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In addition, the Bankrate Projections have not been updated or revised to reflect information or results after the date the Bankrate Projections were prepared or as of date of this proxy statement, and except as required by applicable securities laws, Bankrate does not intend to update or otherwise revise the Bankrate Projections or the specific portions presented to reflect circumstances existing after the date when made or to reflect the occurrence of future events, even in the event that any or all of the assumptions are shown to be in error.

Opinion of Bankrate's Financial Advisor

Pursuant to an engagement letter dated September 27, 2016, the Company retained J.P. Morgan Securities LLC as its financial advisor in connection with a potential acquisition of the Company, and pursuant to such engagement letter, J.P. Morgan delivered a fairness opinion in connection with the merger.

At the meeting of the Bankrate board of directors on July 2, 2017, J.P. Morgan rendered its oral opinion to the Bankrate board of directors that, as of such date and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth in its opinion, the consideration to be paid to the holders of the Company common stock in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to such holders. J.P. Morgan confirmed its July 2, 2017 oral opinion by delivering its written opinion to the Bankrate board of directors, dated July 2, 2017, that, as of such date, the consideration to be paid to the holders of the Company common stock in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to such holders. The full text of the written opinion of J.P. Morgan, which sets forth the assumptions made, matters considered and limits on the review undertaken, is attached as Annex B to this proxy statement and is incorporated herein by reference. The summary of the opinion of J.P. Morgan set forth in this proxy statement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such opinion. The Company's stockholders are urged to read the opinion in its entirety. J.P. Morgan's written opinion was addressed to the Bankrate board of directors (in its capacity as such) in connection with and for the purposes of its evaluation of the merger, was directed only to the consideration to be paid to the holders of the Company common stock in the merger and did not address any other aspect of the merger. J.P. Morgan expressed no opinion as to the fairness of the consideration to the holders of any other class of securities, to creditors or to other constituencies of the Company or as to the underlying decision by the Company to engage in the merger. The issuance of J.P. Morgan's opinion was approved by a fairness committee of J.P. Morgan. The opinion does not constitute a recommendation to any stockholder of the Company as to how such stockholder should vote with respect to the merger or any other matter.

In arriving at its opinion, J.P. Morgan, among other things:

reviewed the merger agreement;

reviewed certain publicly available business and financial information concerning the Company and the industries in which it operates;

compared the proposed financial terms of the merger with the publicly available financial terms of certain transactions involving companies J.P. Morgan deemed relevant and the consideration paid for such companies;

compared the financial and operating performance of the Company with publicly available information concerning certain other companies J.P. Morgan deemed relevant and reviewed the current and historical market prices of the Company common stock and certain publicly traded securities of such other companies;

reviewed certain internal financial analyses and forecasts prepared by the management of the Company relating to its business; and

performed such other financial studies and analyses and considered such other information as J.P. Morgan deemed appropriate for the purposes of its opinion.

In addition, J.P. Morgan held discussions with certain members of the management of the Company with respect to certain aspects of the merger, the past and current business operations of the Company, the financial

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condition and future prospects and operations of the Company and certain other matters J.P. Morgan believed necessary or appropriate to its inquiry.

In giving its opinion, J.P. Morgan relied upon and assumed the accuracy and completeness of all information that was publicly available or was furnished to or discussed with J.P. Morgan by the Company or otherwise reviewed by or for J.P. Morgan, and J.P. Morgan did not independently verify (and did not assume any obligation for independently verifying) any such information or its accuracy or completeness. J.P. Morgan did not conduct and was not provided with any valuation or appraisal of any assets or liabilities, and J.P. Morgan did not evaluate the solvency of the Company or Red Ventures under any state or federal laws relating to bankruptcy, insolvency or similar matters. In relying on financial analyses and forecasts provided to J.P. Morgan or derived therefrom, J.P. Morgan assumed that they were reasonably prepared based on assumptions reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments by management as to the expected future results of operations and financial condition of the Company to which such analyses or forecasts relate. J.P. Morgan expressed no view as to such analyses or forecasts or the assumptions on which they were based. J.P. Morgan also assumed that the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement will be consummated as described in the merger agreement. J.P. Morgan also assumed that the representations and warranties made by the Company, Red Ventures and Merger Sub in the merger agreement and the related agreements were and will be true and correct in all respects material to its analysis. J.P. Morgan is not a legal, regulatory or tax expert and relied on the assessments made by advisors to the Company with respect to such issues. J.P. Morgan further assumed that all material governmental, regulatory or other consents and approvals necessary for the consummation of the merger will be obtained without any adverse effect on the Company or on the contemplated benefits of the merger.

In connection with the merger, the Company's management prepared the Bankrate Projections, including the Base Case, the High Sensitivity Case and the Low Sensitivity Case. The Bankrate Projections were provided to J.P. Morgan in connection with its consideration and evaluation of the merger, and J.P. Morgan was directed by the Company's management to use the Base Case, rather than the High Sensitivity Case or the Low Sensitivity Case, for purposes of its opinion based on the Company's management's view that the Base Case projections were significantly more likely to reflect the future business performance of the Company on a standalone basis than would the High Sensitivity Case or the Low Sensitivity Case. Except for quarterly and annual guidance, the Company does not as a matter of course make public projections as to future performance, and is especially wary of making projections for extended periods, due to, among other reasons, the inherent difficulty of accurately predicting financial performance for future periods and the uncertainty of underlying assumptions and estimates. The Bankrate Projections were not prepared with a view toward public disclosure or toward compliance with GAAP, published guidelines of the SEC or the guidelines established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for preparation and presentation of prospective financial information. The Bankrate Projections, while presented with numerical specificity, reflect numerous assumptions with respect to company performance, industry performance, general business, economic, regulatory, market and financial conditions and other matters, many of which are difficult to predict, subject to significant economic and competitive uncertainties and beyond the Company's control. Multiple factors, including those described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements*, could cause the Bankrate Projections or the underlying assumptions to be inaccurate. As a result, there can be no assurance that the Bankrate Projections will be realized or that actual results will not be significantly higher or lower than projected. For more information regarding the use of the Bankrate Projections, see the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger - Certain Bankrate Unaudited Prospective Financial Information*.

J.P. Morgan's opinion was necessarily based on economic, market and other conditions as in effect on, and the information made available to J.P. Morgan as of, the date of such opinion. J.P. Morgan's opinion noted that subsequent developments may affect J.P. Morgan's opinion, and that J.P. Morgan does not have any obligation to update, revise or reaffirm such opinion. J.P. Morgan's opinion is limited to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the

consideration to be paid to the Company's common stockholders in the merger. Furthermore, J.P. Morgan expressed no opinion with respect to the amount or nature of any compensation to any officers, directors or employees of any party to the merger, or any class of such persons relative to the consideration in the merger

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or with respect to the fairness of any such compensation. J.P. Morgan expressed no opinion as to the price at which the Company common stock will trade at any future time.

The terms of the merger agreement, including the merger consideration, were determined through arm's length negotiations between the Company, Red Ventures and Merger Sub, and the decision to enter into the merger agreement was solely that of the Bankrate board of directors. J.P. Morgan's opinion and financial analyses were only one of the many factors considered by the Bankrate board of directors in its evaluation of the merger and should not be viewed as determinative of the views of the Bankrate board of directors or the Company's management with respect to the merger or the merger consideration.

The following is a summary of certain material financial analyses provided by J.P. Morgan to the Bankrate board of directors in connection with J.P. Morgan rendering its opinion described above. The following summary, however, does not purport to be a complete description of the analyses or data presented by J.P. Morgan, nor does the order of analyses described represent the relative importance or weight given to those analyses by J.P. Morgan. In accordance with customary investment banking practice, J.P. Morgan employed generally accepted valuation methodology in rendering its opinion to the Bankrate board of directors on July 2, 2017 and contained in the presentation delivered to the Bankrate board of directors on such date in connection with the rendering of such opinion and the following does not purport to be a complete description of the analyses or data presented by J.P. Morgan. Some of the summaries of the financial analyses include information presented in tabular format. The tables are not intended to stand alone, and in order to more fully understand the financial analyses used by J.P. Morgan, the tables must be read together with the full text of each summary. Considering the data set forth below without considering the full narrative description of the financial analyses, including the methodologies and assumptions underlying the analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of J.P. Morgan's analyses.

Public Trading Multiples

Using publicly available information, J.P. Morgan compared selected financial data of the Company with similar data for the following selected vertical content and other content and marketplace publicly traded companies:

Vertical Content:

IAC/InteractiveCorp

LendingTree, Inc.

Match Group, Inc.

Moneysupermarket.com Group PLC

TripAdvisor, Inc.

TrueCar, Inc.

WebMD Health Corp.

XO Group Inc.

Other Content and Marketplaces:

Angie's List, Inc.

Care.com, Inc.

Expedia, Inc.

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Groupon, Inc.

The Priceline Group Inc.

QuinStreet, Inc.

Yelp Inc.

Zillow Group, Inc.

These companies were selected, among other reasons, because they are publicly traded companies with operations and businesses that, for purposes of J.P. Morgan's analyses, were, in J.P. Morgan's judgment, considered sufficiently similar to that of the Company based on business sector participation, operational characteristics and financial metrics. None of the selected companies reviewed is identical to the Company and certain of these companies may have characteristics that are materially different from those of the Company. The analyses necessarily involve complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operational characteristics of the companies involved and other factors that could affect the companies differently than would affect the Company.

For each of the selected companies, J.P. Morgan calculated multiples and ratios based on closing stock prices on June 30, 2017 (the last full trading day prior to the delivery by J.P. Morgan of its opinion to the Bankrate board of directors). For each of the following analyses performed by J.P. Morgan, estimated financial data for the selected companies was based on information J.P. Morgan obtained from SEC filings, FactSet Research Systems and other Wall Street research. The multiples and ratios for each of the selected companies were based on such information. Among other calculations, with respect to the Company and the selected companies, J.P. Morgan calculated the multiple of enterprise value (which is referred to in this section as "EV") to estimated adjusted EBITDA for calendar year 2018 (which is referred to in this section as "EV / 2018E EBITDA"). For the Company, EV includes adjustments for estimated net proceeds from the sale of the Insurance business of the Company and estimated earn-out liability with respect to the Company's acquisition of NextAdvisor, Inc. as adjusted for the estimated present value of associated tax-deductible amortization. The following table represents the results of this analysis:

Selected Vertical Content Company	EV / 2018E EBITDA⁽¹⁾
IAC/InteractiveCorp ⁽²⁾	10.4x
LendingTree, Inc. ⁽³⁾	18.4x
Match Group, Inc.	10.6x
Moneysupermarket.com Group PLC	13.3x
TripAdvisor, Inc.	14.8x
TrueCar, Inc.	nm
WebMD Health Corp. ⁽⁴⁾	7.7x
XO Group Inc.	9.7x
Selected Other Content and Marketplaces Company	
Angie's List, Inc. ⁽²⁾	10.4x
Care.com, Inc.	17.8x

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Expedia, Inc.	11.3x
Groupon, Inc.	6.4x
The Priceline Group Inc.	15.1x
QuinStreet, Inc.	5.4x
Yelp Inc.	12.5x
Zillow Group, Inc.	nm

- (1) Multiples over 25.0x or below 0.0x are considered nm.
- (2) Prior to rumored and announced sale of Angie's List, Inc. to IAC/InteractiveCorp.

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(3) Pro forma for the Iron Horse Holdings, LLC (doing business as CompareCards) acquisition completed on November 16, 2016.

(4) Prior to announcement of strategic alternatives on February 16, 2017.

Based on this analysis, J.P. Morgan then derived a multiple reference range of 9.0x to 13.0x for the EV / 2018E EBITDA multiple. After applying such range to Bankrate's Adjusted EBITDA for calendar year 2018, as set forth in the Base Case provided by the Company to J.P. Morgan, the analysis indicated a range of implied per share equity values of \$12.25 to \$18.50 per share (in each case, rounded to the nearest \$0.25), as compared to the merger consideration of \$14.00 per share.

Selected Transaction Analysis

Using publicly available information from SEC filings, Merger Market, FactSet Research Systems, 451 Group and other Wall Street research, J.P. Morgan examined selected transactions involving companies engaged in businesses which J.P. Morgan judged to be sufficiently analogous to the business of the Company or aspects thereof. For each of the selected transactions, J.P. Morgan calculated the EV implied for the target company as a multiple of the target company's one-year forward estimated EBITDA at the time of the transaction announcement (which is referred to as EV / 1-year forward EBITDA). The transactions considered are as follows:

Announcement Date	Target	Acquiror	EV / 1-year forward EBITDA
February 21, 2017	Operating business of Yahoo! Inc. ⁽¹⁾	Verizon Communications Inc.	5.7x
October 25, 2016	Everyday Health, Inc.	Ziff Davis, LLC	7.7x
July 25, 2016	Operating business of Yahoo! Inc. ⁽²⁾	Verizon Communications Inc.	7.3x
April 1, 2016	Ancestry.com Inc. ⁽³⁾	Silver Lake Partners	9.8x
November 5, 2015	Insurance business of Bankrate, Inc.	All Web Leads, Inc.	7.5x
May 12, 2015	AOL Inc.	Verizon Communications Inc.	8.5x
September 30, 2014	Move, Inc.	News Corp.	24.5x
September 11, 2014	Conversant Inc.	Alliance Data Systems Corp.	10.0x
August 5, 2014	Classified Ventures, LLC (Cars.com) ⁽⁴⁾	Gannett Co., Inc.	11.6x
March 3, 2014	Apartments.com business of Classified Ventures, LLC	CoStar Group, Inc.	16.6x
October 22, 2012	Ancestry.com Inc.	Permira	8.1x
August 26, 2012	About Group	IAC/InteractiveCorp	8.6x

(1) Based on renegotiated transaction value announced on February 21, 2017.

(2) Based on original transaction value announced on July 25, 2016.

(3) Based on EBITDA for the 12 months ended March 31, 2016.

(4) Based on expected revenue and EBITDA for 2014 at the time of the announcement.

Based on the results of this analysis and other factors that J.P. Morgan considered appropriate, J.P. Morgan applied an EV / 1-year forward EBITDA multiple range of 7.5x to 11.5x to the appropriate metric of the Company, which was based on the estimated Adjusted EBITDA for the 12 months ended June 30, 2018 from the Base Case as provided by

the Company to J.P. Morgan. This analysis produced a range of implied equity values of \$9.50 to \$15.25 per share (in each case, rounded to the nearest \$0.25), as compared to the merger consideration of \$14.00 per share.

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None of the selected companies, businesses or transactions reviewed is identical to the Company or the merger and certain of these companies, businesses or transactions may have characteristics that are materially different from those of the Company or the merger. The analyses necessarily involve complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of the companies, businesses or transactions involved, market conditions and other factors that could affect the companies, businesses or transactions differently than would affect the Company and the merger.

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis

J.P. Morgan conducted a discounted cash flow analysis for the purpose of determining an implied fully diluted equity value per share for the Company. J.P. Morgan calculated the present value of unlevered free cash flows that the Company is expected to generate during the remainder of 2017 (applying a valuation date as of March 31, 2017 by using 2017E unlevered free cash flows that did not include the Company's actual results for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2017) and calendar years 2018 through 2026 as derived from the Base Case. J.P. Morgan also calculated a range of terminal values for the Company at December 31, 2026 by applying perpetual growth rates ranging from 2.5% to 3.5% for unlevered free cash flows for the Base Case. The unlevered free cash flows and the range of terminal values were then discounted to present values using a discount rate range of 10.5% to 12.5% for the Base Case, which was chosen by J.P. Morgan based upon an analysis of the weighted average cost of capital of the Company. The present value of the unlevered free cash flows and the range of terminal values were then adjusted by subtracting an estimated net debt balance of \$118 million to indicate a range of implied fully diluted equity values per share for the Base Case of \$12.00 to \$17.50 per share (in each case, rounded to the nearest \$0.25), as compared to the merger consideration of \$14.00 per share.

Other Information

J.P. Morgan presented the historical trading range and analyst price targets analyses described below to the Bankrate board of directors for reference purposes only and did not rely upon them for valuation purposes.

Historical Trading Range. J.P. Morgan reviewed the 52-week trading range of the Company's share prices for the period ending June 30, 2017, which was \$7.20 per share to \$12.85 per share, and compared that to the closing price of \$12.85 as of June 30, 2017, the last full trading day prior to the delivery by J.P. Morgan of its opinion to the Bankrate board of directors. J.P. Morgan compared the trading range to the merger consideration of \$14.00 per share.

Analyst Price Targets. J.P. Morgan reviewed the price targets of public equity research analysts for the Company, which provided a reference range of \$10.00 per share to \$15.00 per share for the period ending June 30, 2017, the last full trading day prior to the delivery by J.P. Morgan of its opinion to the Bankrate board of directors. J.P. Morgan compared the analyst price targets analysis to the merger consideration of \$14.00 per share.

Miscellaneous

The foregoing summary of certain material financial analyses does not purport to be a complete description of the analyses or data presented by J.P. Morgan. The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process and is not necessarily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. J.P. Morgan believes that the foregoing summary and its analyses must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of the foregoing summary and these analyses, without considering all of its analyses as a whole, could create an incomplete view of the processes underlying the analyses and its opinion. As a result, the ranges of valuations resulting from any particular analysis or combination of analyses described above were utilized to create points of reference for analytical purposes and should not be taken to be the view of J.P. Morgan with respect to the actual value of the Company. The order of analyses

described does not represent the relative importance or weight given to those

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analyses by J.P. Morgan. In arriving at its opinion, J.P. Morgan did not attribute any particular weight to any analyses or factors considered by it and did not form an opinion as to whether any individual analysis or factor (positive or negative), considered in isolation, supported or failed to support its opinion. Rather, J.P. Morgan considered the totality of the factors and analyses performed in determining its opinion.

Analyses based upon forecasts of future results are inherently uncertain, as they are subject to numerous factors or events beyond the control of the parties and their advisors. Accordingly, forecasts and analyses used or made by J.P. Morgan are not necessarily indicative of actual future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than suggested by those analyses. Moreover, J.P. Morgan's analyses are not and do not purport to be appraisals or otherwise reflective of the prices at which businesses actually could be acquired or sold. None of the selected companies reviewed as described in the above summary is identical to the Company, and none of the selected transactions reviewed was identical to the merger. However, the companies selected were chosen because they are publicly traded companies with operations and businesses that, for purposes of J.P. Morgan's analysis, may be considered similar to those of the Company. The transactions selected were similarly chosen because their participants, size and other factors, for purposes of J.P. Morgan's analysis, may be considered similar to the merger. The analyses necessarily involve complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operational characteristics of the companies involved and other factors that could affect the companies compared to the Company and the transactions compared to the merger.

As a part of its investment banking business, J.P. Morgan and its affiliates are continually engaged in the valuation of businesses and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, investments for passive and control purposes, negotiated underwritings, secondary distributions of listed and unlisted securities, private placements, and valuations for corporate and other purposes. J.P. Morgan was selected to advise the Company with respect to the merger and to deliver an opinion to the Bankrate board of directors with respect to the merger on the basis of, among other things, such experience and its qualifications and reputation in connection with such matters and its familiarity with the Company and the industries in which it operates.

For services rendered in connection with the merger and the delivery of its opinion, the Company has agreed to pay J.P. Morgan a fee of approximately \$16.8 million, \$2.0 million of which was payable following delivery of J.P. Morgan's opinion and the remainder of which is payable upon completion of the merger. In addition, the Company has agreed to reimburse J.P. Morgan for its reasonable expenses incurred in connection with its services, including the reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel, and will indemnify J.P. Morgan against certain liabilities arising out of J.P. Morgan's engagement. During the two years preceding the date of J.P. Morgan's opinion, J.P. Morgan and its affiliates have had commercial or investment banking relationships with the Company and Red Ventures for which J.P. Morgan and such affiliates have received customary compensation. Such services during such period have included acting as financial advisor to the Company on its acquisition of NextAdvisor, Inc. in June 2016, and as lead arranger on Red Ventures' syndicated credit facility in April 2017. In addition, during such two-year period, J.P. Morgan and its affiliates have provided loan syndication, financial advisory, and debt and equity underwriting services to portfolio companies of each of Apex Partners (a material stockholder of the Company) and Silver Lake Partners and General Atlantic (material shareholders of Red Ventures), which portfolio companies are, in each case, unrelated to the merger. In addition, during such period, J.P. Morgan's commercial banking affiliate was an agent bank and a lender under outstanding credit facilities of such portfolio companies of each of Apex Partners and Silver Lake Partners and General Atlantic, for which it received customary compensation or other financial benefits. In addition, as of the date of its opinion, neither J.P. Morgan nor its affiliates held, on a proprietary basis, any shares of the outstanding common stock of the Company or Red Ventures. During the two year period preceding delivery of its opinion on July 2, 2017, J.P. Morgan received less than \$10,000 in fees from Red Ventures and received \$0.6 million in aggregate fees from the Company. In the ordinary course of their businesses, J.P. Morgan and its affiliates may actively trade the debt and equity securities or financial instruments (including derivatives, bank loans or other

obligations) of the Company or Red Ventures for their own accounts or for the accounts of customers and, accordingly, they may at any time hold long or short positions in such securities or other financial instruments.

Table of Contents**Financing**

In connection with the execution of the merger agreement, Red Ventures entered into the debt commitment letter, pursuant to which each of Bank of America, Barclays, Citi, CS, Fifth Third, MUFG and PNC Bank committed, upon certain terms and subject to certain conditions, to lend Red Ventures \$2.4 billion in connection with the financing of the amounts payable pursuant to the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and the refinancing of certain debt by Red Ventures. We have agreed to use our reasonable best efforts to provide, and to use our reasonable best efforts to cause our subsidiaries and our and our subsidiaries' representatives to provide, all cooperation reasonably requested by Red Ventures in connection with Red Ventures' efforts to arrange the financing contemplated by the debt commitment letter. For more information, see *The Merger Agreement Financing and Financing Cooperation*.

Interests of the Company's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger

In considering the recommendations of the Bankrate board of directors with respect to the merger, Bankrate's stockholders should be aware that the directors and executive officers of Bankrate have certain interests, including financial interests, in the merger that may be different from, or in addition to, the interests of Bankrate's stockholders generally. The Bankrate board of directors was aware of these interests and considered them, among other matters, in approving the merger agreement, and in making its recommendation that Bankrate's stockholders adopt the merger agreement. See the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Background of the Merger* and the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of the Bankrate Board of Directors*. These interests are described in more detail below, and certain of them are quantified in the narrative and the tables below.

Treatment of Company Equity Awards

Stock Options. Except as otherwise agreed to in writing prior to the effective time by Red Ventures and a holder of any Company stock option, each Company stock option, whether vested or unvested, that is outstanding and unexercised immediately prior to the effective time will, as of the effective time, become fully vested (to the extent unvested) and be converted into the right to receive an amount in cash equal to the product of (i) the excess, if any, of the merger consideration over the exercise price per share of such Company stock option, multiplied by (ii) the total number of shares subject to such Company stock option. Any Company stock option that has an exercise price per share that is greater than or equal to the merger consideration will be cancelled for no consideration.

Restricted Stock Awards. Except as otherwise agreed to in writing prior to the effective time by Red Ventures and a holder of any Company restricted stock award, each Company restricted stock award that is outstanding immediately prior to the effective time will, as of the effective time, either (i) become fully vested, in the case of any Company restricted stock award that vests solely based on continued service, or (ii) become vested to the extent provided for in the award agreement applicable to such Company restricted stock award, in the case of any Company restricted stock award that vests in whole or in part based on performance conditions and for which the applicable performance period is not complete as of immediately prior to the effective time, and will be cancelled and converted automatically into the right to receive an amount in cash equal to the merger consideration in respect of each vested share of common stock subject to such Company restricted stock award. For purposes of clause (ii) above, the determination of actual performance and the number of shares underlying the Company restricted stock award that vest as of the effective time will be made by the Bankrate board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) prior to the effective time.

Restricted Stock Unit Awards. Except as otherwise agreed to in writing prior to the effective time by Red Ventures and a holder of any Company RSU award, each Company RSU award that is outstanding immediately prior to the

effective time will, as of the effective time, either (i) become fully vested, in the case of any Company RSU award that vests solely based on continued service, or (ii) become vested to the extent provided

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for in the award agreement applicable to such Company RSU award, in the case of any Company RSU award that vests in whole or in part based on performance conditions and for which the applicable performance period is not complete as of immediately prior to the effective time, and will be cancelled and converted automatically into the right to receive an amount in cash equal to the merger consideration in respect of each vested share of common stock subject to such Company RSU award. For purposes of clause (ii) above, the determination of actual performance and the number of shares underlying the Company RSU award that vest as of the effective time will be made by the Bankrate board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) prior to the effective time.

Quantification of Payments. For an estimate of the amounts that would be payable to each of the Company's named executive officers on settlement of their unvested Company equity awards, see *Quantification of Payments and Benefits to the Company's Named Executive Officers* below. The estimated amount that would be payable to Janet M. Gunzburg, the Company's Vice President, Corporate Controller (and the one executive officer of the Company who is not a named executive officer) in settlement of her unvested equity-based awards if the effective time occurred on July 28, 2017 is \$755,622. The estimated aggregate amount that would be payable to the Company's seven non-employee directors for their unvested Company equity awards if the effective time occurred on July 28, 2017 is \$1,037,050.

Employment Agreements with Named Executive Officers

Each of the Company's named executive officers is a party to an amended and restated employment agreement with the Company, dated as of July 2, 2017, that provides for enhanced severance benefits in the event of a termination of the officer's employment by the Company without cause or by the executive officer with good reason (each as defined in the applicable employment agreement), in each case, within the two-year period following a change in control (referred to in this proxy statement as a qualifying termination for each such officer). The merger will constitute a change in control for purposes of the employment agreements.

The employment agreements provide that, upon a qualifying termination, the applicable officer would be entitled to:

an amount in cash equal to the product of 1.5 (2.0, in the case of Kenneth S. Esterow, the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer) multiplied by the sum of the officer's base salary and target bonus opportunity;

a prorated annual bonus for the year of termination based on target performance;

an amount in cash equal to the product of 1.67 multiplied by the employer portion of the monthly cost of providing health benefits to the officer multiplied by 18 (24, in the case of Mr. Esterow); and

outplacement services not to exceed \$20,000.

Payments and benefits under the employment agreement are subject to the applicable officer's execution and non-revocation of a general release of claims in favor of the Company. Each of the employment agreements also provides for tax equalization payments for excise taxes incurred under Section 4999 of the Code.

In consideration of the payments and benefits under the employment agreements, the agreements include restrictive covenants in the Company's favor, including one-year post-termination restrictions on competitive activities and solicitation of Company clients and employees, as well as customary confidentiality covenants of perpetual duration.

For an estimate of the value of the payments and benefits described above that would be payable to the Company's named executive officers upon a qualifying termination in connection with the merger, see *Quantification of Payments and Benefits to the Company's Named Executive Officers* below.

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Retention Letter with Janet M. Gunzburg

Ms. Gunzburg is party to a retention letter agreement with the Company that provides for severance benefits in the event of a termination of the Ms. Gunzburg's employment by the Company without cause or by Ms. Gunzburg with good reason (each as defined in the retention letter agreement), in each case, within the one-year period following a change in control that occurs prior to June 5, 2018 (referred to in this proxy statement as a "qualifying termination" for such executive officer). The merger will constitute a change in control for purposes of the retention letter agreement.

The retention letter agreement provides that, upon a qualifying termination, Ms. Gunzburg would be entitled to:

an amount in cash equal to the sum of her base salary and target bonus opportunity;

a prorated annual bonus for the year of termination based on target performance; and

an amount in cash equal to the product of 1.67 multiplied by the employer portion of the monthly cost of providing health benefits to her multiplied by 12.

Payments and benefits under the retention letter agreement are subject to Ms. Gunzburg's execution and non-revocation of a general release of claims in favor of the Company.

The estimated aggregate amount that would be payable to Ms. Gunzburg under her retention letter agreement if the merger were to be completed and she were to experience a qualifying termination on July 28, 2017 is \$341,086.

2017 Fiscal Year Annual Bonus

Under the merger agreement, the Company has the right to pay each employee, including each executive officer, of the Company who is employed as of immediately prior to the effective time and who participates in any bonus or incentive plans maintained by the Company a prorated bonus for the year of closing based on the greater of actual performance through the closing and target performance. For additional information, see *The Merger Agreement - Employee Matters*.

For an estimate of the value of the prorated bonus that would be payable to the Company's named executive officers in connection with the merger, see *Quantification of Payments and Benefits to the Company's Named Executive Officers* below. The estimated prorated bonus that would be payable to Ms. Gunzburg if the merger were to be completed on July 28, 2017 is \$39,810.

Indemnification; Directors and Officers Insurance

The Company is party to indemnification agreements with each of its directors and executive officers that require the Company, among other things, to indemnify the directors and executive officers against certain liabilities that may arise by reason of their status or service as directors or officers.

In addition, pursuant to the merger agreement, from and after the effective time, Red Ventures will indemnify certain persons, including Bankrate's directors and executive officers. In addition, for a period of not less than six years from the effective time, Red Ventures will maintain an insurance and indemnification policy for the benefit of certain

persons, including Bankrate's directors and executive officers. For additional information, see *The Merger Agreement - Indemnification and Insurance*.

Quantification of Payments and Benefits to the Company's Named Executive Officers

The table below sets forth the amount of payments and benefits that each of the Company's named executive officers would receive in connection with the merger, assuming that the merger were completed and

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each such named executive officer experienced a qualifying termination on July 28, 2017. The amounts below are determined using the merger consideration per share of Company common stock of \$14.00, and are based on multiple assumptions that may or may not actually occur or be accurate on the relevant date, including the assumptions described in the footnotes to the table. As a result of the foregoing assumptions, the actual amounts, if any, to be received by a named executive officer may materially differ from the amounts set forth below.

Name	Golden Parachute Compensation				Total (\$)
	Cash (\$) ⁽¹⁾	Equity (\$) ⁽²⁾	Perquisites/ Benefits (\$) ⁽³⁾	Tax Reimbursement (\$) ⁽⁴⁾	
Kenneth S. Esterow	2,656,425	9,897,132	115,900	3,939,365	16,608,822
Steven D. Barnhart	1,389,013	6,038,704	92,035	1,651,308	9,171,060
James R. Gilmartin	997,319	3,064,740	91,861	1,179,780	5,333,700
K. Scott Kim	1,264,544	4,850,174	92,035	1,598,422	7,805,175
Christopher J. Speltz	1,264,544	4,379,032	92,035	1,263,146	6,998,757

- (1) The cash payments payable to each named executive officer consist of (a) a severance payment in an amount equal to 1.5 (2.0, in the case of Mr. Esterow) times the sum of the named executive officer's annual base salary and target bonus opportunity; and (b) a prorated bonus for the fiscal year in which the qualifying termination occurs (based on target performance). The severance payments are double-trigger (i.e., payable upon a qualifying termination following the occurrence of a change in control), while the prorated bonus payment is single-trigger (i.e., payable upon the occurrence of a change in control). Set forth below are the separate values of each of the severance payment and the prorated bonus payment.

Name	Severance Payment (\$)	Prorated Bonus Payment (\$)
Kenneth S. Esterow	2,310,000	346,425
Steven D. Barnhart	1,193,720	195,293
James R. Gilmartin	865,898	131,421
K. Scott Kim	1,086,751	177,793
Christopher J. Speltz	1,086,751	177,793

- (2) As described above, all unvested Company equity-based awards held by the named executive officers will become vested and will be settled at the effective time (i.e., single-trigger vesting), unless otherwise agreed between Red Ventures and a holder of an award. Set forth below are the values of each type of unvested equity-based award that would be payable upon the effective time, based on the merger consideration per share of Company common stock of \$14.00, assuming applicable performance criteria are achieved at target performance levels, and less the applicable exercise price in the case of unvested stock options.

Name

	Company Stock Options (\$)	Company Restricted Stock Awards (\$)	Company RSU Awards (\$)
Kenneth S. Esterow		389,732	9,507,400
Steven D. Barnhart		799,554	5,239,150
James R. Gilmartin		105,588	2,959,152
K. Scott Kim		618,954	4,231,220
Christopher J. Speltz		147,812	4,231,220

- (3) The amount in the table consists of (a) 1.67 times the employer portion of the monthly cost of providing health benefits to the named executive officer for 18 months (24 months, in the case of Mr. Esterow) and (b) \$20,000 in outplacement services. All such benefits are double-trigger.

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- (4) Each of the named executive officers is entitled to a tax equalization payments for excise taxes incurred under Section 4999 of the Code. Estimated excise tax reimbursements are subject to change based on the actual effective time, date of termination of employment (if any) of the named executive officer, interest rates then in effect, and certain other assumptions used in the calculations.

Voting Agreement

On July 2, 2017, Ben Holding S.à r.l., a stockholder of the Company, entered into a voting agreement with Red Ventures, pursuant to which Ben Holding S.à r.l. agreed, among other things, to vote the shares of Company common stock over which it has voting power in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, against alternative acquisition proposals and against any other action or agreement that would be reasonably expected to result in a material breach of the merger agreement by the Company or prevent, materially impair or materially delay the completion of the merger. As of [], the record date for the special meeting, Ben Holding S.à r.l. owned [] shares, or approximately []% of the outstanding shares of Company common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting. The aggregate number of shares covered by the voting obligations set forth in the voting agreement will automatically be reduced (on a pro rata basis with each other stockholder of the Company who executes a similar voting agreement with Red Ventures in connection with the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, if any) to the extent necessary in order that the aggregate number of shares subject to the voting agreement, together with all other shares of Company common stock subject to such other voting agreements, if any, represents no more than 39.9% of the shares of Company common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting. The voting agreement also contains certain restrictions on the transfer of shares of common stock by Ben Holding S.à r.l. The voting agreement will terminate upon the earlier of the completion of the merger, the termination of the merger agreement in accordance with its terms or a change of recommendation by the Bankrate board of directors in connection with a superior proposal (as described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement Acquisition Proposals; No Solicitation Receipt of Acquisition Proposals*) pursuant to the merger agreement.

The foregoing description of the voting agreement does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such agreement, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A to the merger agreement attached as Annex A to this proxy statement, which you should read in its entirety.

Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger

The following is a discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger to U.S. holders (as defined below) of common stock whose shares are exchanged for cash pursuant to the merger. This discussion is based on the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (referred to in this proxy statement as the Code), applicable U.S. Treasury Regulations, judicial opinions and administrative rulings and published positions of the Internal Revenue Service (referred to in this proxy statement as the IRS), each as in effect as of the date hereof. These authorities are subject to change or differing interpretations, possibly with a retroactive basis, and any such change or interpretation could affect the accuracy of the statements and conclusions set forth in this discussion. This discussion does not address any tax consequences arising under the unearned income Medicare contribution tax pursuant to the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, nor does it address any tax considerations under state, local or foreign laws or U.S. federal laws other than those pertaining to the U.S. federal income tax.

For purposes of this discussion, the term U.S. holder means a beneficial owner of common stock that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

a citizen or individual resident of the United States;

a corporation, or other entity classified as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof, or the District of Columbia;

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a trust if (1) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration, and one or more U.S. persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) such trust has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury Regulations to be treated as a U.S. person; or

an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source.

This discussion applies only to U.S. holders of shares of common stock who hold such shares as a capital asset under the Code (generally, property held for investment). Further, this discussion does not purport to address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to a U.S. holder in light of its particular circumstances, or that may apply to U.S. holders subject to special treatment under U.S. federal income tax laws (including, for example, insurance companies, dealers or brokers in securities or foreign currencies, traders in securities who elect to apply the mark-to-market method of accounting, holders subject to the alternative minimum tax, U.S. holders that have a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar, tax-exempt organizations, tax-qualified retirement plans, banks and other financial institutions, mutual funds, certain former citizens or former long-term residents of the United States, partnerships or other entities or arrangements treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes or other flow-through entities (and investors therein), S corporations, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, U.S. holders who hold shares of common stock as part of a hedge, straddle, constructive sale, conversion or other integrated transaction, and U.S. holders who acquired their shares of common stock through the exercise of employee stock options or other compensation arrangements). This discussion also does not address the U.S. federal income tax consequences to holders of shares of common stock who exercise appraisal rights in connection with the merger under the DGCL.

If a partnership (including for this purpose any entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds shares of common stock, the tax treatment of a partner in such partnership will generally depend on the status of the partners and the activities of the partnership. If you are, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a partner in a partnership holding shares of common stock, you should consult your tax advisor.

Holders of common stock are urged to consult their own tax advisors to determine the particular tax consequences to them of the merger, including the applicability and effect of the alternative minimum tax, the unearned income Medicare contribution tax and any other U.S. federal, or state, local, foreign or other tax laws.

The receipt of cash by U.S. holders in exchange for shares of common stock pursuant to the merger will be a taxable transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In general, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a U.S. holder who receives cash in exchange for shares of common stock pursuant to the merger will recognize capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between (1) the amount of cash received and (2) the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in such shares (which generally will equal the price the U.S. holder paid for such shares).

Any such gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if a U.S. holder's holding period in the shares of common stock surrendered in the merger is greater than one year as of the date of the merger. Long-term capital gains of certain non-corporate holders, including individuals, are generally subject to U.S. federal income tax at preferential rates. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. If a U.S. holder acquired different blocks of common stock at different times and different prices, such U.S. holder must determine its adjusted tax basis, gain or loss and holding period separately with respect to each block of common stock.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Payments made in exchange for shares of common stock pursuant to the merger may be subject, under certain circumstances, to information reporting and backup withholding (currently at a rate of 28%). To avoid

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backup withholding, a U.S. holder that does not otherwise establish an exemption should complete and return to the applicable withholding agent a properly completed and executed IRS Form W-9, certifying that such U.S. holder is a U.S. person, that the taxpayer identification number provided is correct, and that such U.S. holder is not subject to backup withholding.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be refunded or credited against a holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, provided that such holder furnishes the required information to the IRS in a timely manner.

Regulatory Approvals

Under the HSR Act and related rules, certain transactions, including the merger, may not be completed until notifications have been given and information furnished to the Antitrust Division and the FTC and all statutory waiting period requirements have been satisfied. Completion of the merger is subject to the expiration or termination of the applicable waiting period under the HSR Act. The Company and Red Ventures have filed their respective Notification and Report Forms with the Antitrust Division and the FTC.

At any time before or after the expiration of the statutory waiting periods under the HSR Act, the Antitrust Division or the FTC may take action under the antitrust laws, including seeking to enjoin the completion of the merger, to rescind the merger or to conditionally permit completion of the merger subject to regulatory conditions or other remedies. In addition, non-U.S. regulatory bodies and U.S. state attorneys general could take action under the antitrust laws as they deem necessary or desirable in the public interest, including, without limitation, seeking to enjoin the completion of the merger or permitting completion subject to regulatory conditions. Private parties may also seek to take legal action under the antitrust laws under some circumstances. There can be no assurance that a challenge to the merger on antitrust grounds will not be made or, if such a challenge is made, that it would not be successful.

Bankrate and Red Ventures are each required to use reasonable best efforts to take all actions necessary to complete the merger, including cooperating to obtain antitrust approvals. This includes, if required by regulatory authorities, (1) agreeing to sell, divest or dispose of any assets or businesses of Red Ventures, Bankrate or their respective subsidiaries and (2) taking or agreeing to take other actions that after the closing date limit Red Ventures' or its subsidiaries' freedom of action with respect to, or its ability to retain, one or more businesses, product lines or assets of Red Ventures or its subsidiaries. However, Bankrate need only take such actions if they are binding on Bankrate only in the event that the closing of the merger occurs. See the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Agreement - Efforts to Complete the Merger - Antitrust Matters*.

There can be no assurance that regulatory authorities will not impose conditions on the completion of the merger or require changes to the terms of the transaction.

Delisting and Deregistration of Company Common Stock

If the merger is completed, the Company common stock will be delisted from the NYSE and deregistered under the Exchange Act.

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THE MERGER AGREEMENT

The following is a summary of the material provisions of the merger agreement, a copy of which is attached to this proxy statement as Annex A and which is incorporated by reference into this proxy statement. This summary does not purport to be complete and may not contain all of the information about the merger agreement that is important to you. We encourage you to read carefully the merger agreement in its entirety, as the rights and obligations of the parties thereto are governed by the express terms of the merger agreement and not by this summary or any other information contained in this proxy statement.

Explanatory Note Regarding the Merger Agreement

The following summary of the merger agreement, and the copy of the merger agreement attached as Annex A to this proxy statement, are intended to provide information regarding the terms of the merger agreement and are not intended to provide any factual information about Bankrate or modify or supplement any factual disclosures about Bankrate in its public reports filed with the SEC. In particular, the merger agreement and the related summary are not intended to be, and should not be relied upon as, disclosures regarding the actual state of any facts and circumstances relating to Bankrate. The merger agreement contains representations and warranties by and covenants of Bankrate, Red Ventures and Merger Sub, and they were made only for purposes of the merger agreement and as of specified dates. The representations, warranties and covenants in the merger agreement were made solely for the benefit of the parties to the merger agreement, may be subject to limitations agreed upon by the contracting parties, including being qualified by confidential disclosures made for the purposes of allocating contractual risk between the parties to the merger agreement instead of establishing these matters as facts, and may be subject to contractual standards of materiality or material adverse effect applicable to the contracting parties that generally differ from those applicable to investors. In addition, information concerning the subject matter of the representations, warranties and covenants may change after the date of the merger agreement, which subsequent information may or may not be fully reflected in Bankrate's public disclosures. The representations, warranties and covenants in the merger agreement and any descriptions thereof should be read in conjunction with the disclosures in Bankrate's periodic and current reports, proxy statements and other documents filed with the SEC. See the section of this proxy statement entitled *Where You Can Find Additional Information*. Moreover, the description of the merger agreement below does not purport to describe all of the terms of such agreement and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto as Annex A and is incorporated herein by reference.

Additional information about Bankrate may be found elsewhere in this proxy statement and Bankrate's other public filings. See the section of this proxy statement entitled *Where You Can Find Additional Information*.

Structure of the Merger; Certificate of Incorporation; Bylaws; Directors and Officers

At the effective time, Merger Sub will merge with and into Bankrate, and the separate corporate existence of Merger Sub will cease. Bankrate will be the surviving corporation in the merger and will continue its corporate existence as a Delaware corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of Red Ventures. At the effective time, the certificate of incorporation of the surviving corporation will be amended and restated in its entirety to be in the form attached as Exhibit B to the merger agreement. At the effective time, the bylaws of the surviving corporation will be amended and restated in their entirety to be in the form of the bylaws of Merger Sub, except that the name of the surviving corporation will be Bankrate, Inc.

The individuals holding positions as directors of Merger Sub immediately prior to the effective time will become the initial directors of the surviving corporation. The individuals holding positions as officers of Bankrate immediately prior to the effective time will become the initial officers of the surviving corporation.

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When the Merger Becomes Effective

The closing of the merger will take place (1) at 9:00 a.m., New York City time, no later than the third business day following the satisfaction or waiver of all of the conditions set forth in the merger agreement (other than those conditions that by their nature are to be satisfied at the closing of the merger, but subject to the satisfaction or waiver of those conditions at the closing), unless the marketing period (as defined below) has not ended at or prior to when the closing would have otherwise been required to occur, in which case the closing will not take place until the earlier of (i) a business day during the marketing period specified by Red Ventures on at least three business days' written notice to Bankrate and (ii) the first business day following the last day of the marketing period (subject in each case to the satisfaction or waiver of all of the conditions set forth in the merger agreement (other than those conditions that by their nature are to be satisfied at the closing of the merger, but subject to the satisfaction or waiver of those conditions at the closing)), or (2) at another date and time mutually agreed upon in writing between Bankrate and Red Ventures. For purposes of the merger agreement, "business day" refers to any day except a Saturday, a Sunday or any other day on which commercial banks are required or authorized to close in New York, New York.

On the closing date, Bankrate and Red Ventures will file a certificate of merger with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware. The merger will become effective at the time when the certificate of merger has been duly filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, or at such later time as may be agreed by the parties in writing and specified in the certificate of merger.

As of the date of this proxy statement, we expect to complete the merger by the end of 2017. However, completion of the merger is subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the conditions to the completion of the merger, which are described below and include various regulatory clearances and approvals, and it is possible that the merger will not be completed until a later time, or at all.

For purposes of the merger agreement, "marketing period" means the first period of 15 consecutive business days commencing after the date of the merger agreement throughout which (1) Red Ventures must have the required financial information (as defined below) and such required financial information (which must be the same information throughout the period) is compliant (as defined below), (2) the conditions to Red Ventures' obligation to effect the merger (set forth in sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the merger agreement) must have been satisfied (other than the conditions relating to stockholder approval and the expiration or termination of the waiting period applicable to the completion of the merger under the HSR Act and those conditions that by their nature are to be satisfied at the closing), assuming that the closing date were to be scheduled for any time during such 15 consecutive business day period, or (to the extent permitted by applicable law) waived, and (3) during the last five business days of such 15 consecutive business day period, the conditions relating to stockholder approval and the expiration or termination of the waiting period applicable to the completion of the merger under the HSR Act must have been satisfied; provided, however, that (i) neither July 3, 2017 nor November 22 through 24, 2017 (inclusive) will constitute business days for purposes of the 15 consecutive business day period (though such exclusions will not restart such period), (ii) if such 15 consecutive business day period has not been completed on or prior to August 18, 2017, then such period will be deemed to have not commenced prior to September 5, 2017, (iii) if such 15 consecutive business day period has not been completed on or prior to December 21, 2017, then such period will be deemed to have not commenced prior to January 2, 2018, and (iv) the marketing period will be deemed not to have commenced if, after the date of the merger agreement and prior to the completion of such 15 consecutive business day period, (A) the independent auditors of Bankrate will have withdrawn its audit opinion with respect to any year-end audited financial statements of Bankrate and its subsidiaries included in the required financial information, in which case the marketing period will be deemed not to commence unless and until such independent auditors or another nationally recognized independent accounting firm reasonably acceptable to Red Ventures has issued an unqualified audit opinion with respect to such financial statements or (B) any of the financial statements of Bankrate and its subsidiaries included in the required financial

information will have been restated or Bankrate will have determined or publicly announced that a restatement of any financial statements of Bankrate and its subsidiaries included in the required financial

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information is required, in which case the marketing period will be deemed not to commence unless and until such restatement has been completed and the required financial information has subsequently been amended and delivered to Red Ventures or Bankrate has determined in writing or publicly announced, as applicable, that no such restatement will be required; provided, that if Bankrate in good faith reasonably believes that it has provided the required financial information and that such required financial information is compliant, it may deliver to Red Ventures a written notice to that effect (stating the date upon which it believes it completed such delivery or provided such access to required financial information that is compliant), in which case (subject to satisfaction of any other conditions, and compliance with the terms of each other provision, of this definition (including the requirement that required financial information be the same information throughout the period)) such 15 consecutive business day period referred to above will be deemed to have commenced on the date such notice is delivered to Red Ventures unless Red Ventures in good faith reasonably believes Bankrate has not provided the required financial information that is compliant or that clauses (2) or (3) of this definition have not been satisfied and, within five business days after Bankrate's giving of such notice, gives a written notice to Bankrate to that effect (stating with specificity any elements of noncompliance and/or nonsatisfaction). Notwithstanding anything in this definition to the contrary, the marketing period will end on any date earlier than the date indicated in the definition above if Red Ventures' debt financing is consummated and the full proceeds thereof received on such earlier date.

For purposes of the merger agreement, required financial information means certain financial statements of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries that is required by the debt commitment letter.

For purposes of the merger agreement, compliant means, with respect to the required financial information, that such required financial information, when taken as a whole, does not, in each case, with respect to Bankrate and its subsidiaries, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact necessary in order to make such required financial information not materially misleading in the light of the circumstances under which it was furnished.

Effect of the Merger on the Common Stock

At the effective time, each share of Company common stock issued and outstanding immediately before the effective time (other than (1) shares held by Bankrate in treasury or by Red Ventures or Merger Sub (referred to in this proxy statement as cancelled shares), (2) shares held by any wholly owned subsidiary of Bankrate (referred to in this proxy statement as converted shares) and (3) shares held by stockholders of the Company who have not voted in favor of, or consented in writing to, the adoption of the merger agreement and who have properly exercised appraisal rights with respect to their shares in compliance with Section 262 of the DGCL (referred to in this proxy statement as dissenting shares, and the shares referred to in clauses (1), (2) and (3), excluded shares)) will automatically be cancelled and converted into the right to receive the merger consideration, upon surrender of certificates or book-entry shares. The merger consideration will be \$14.00 per share in cash, without interest and subject to required withholding taxes.

At the effective time, each of the cancelled shares will automatically be cancelled without payment of any consideration and will cease to exist. In addition, at the effective time, each of the converted shares will automatically be converted into shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the surviving corporation, such that each Bankrate subsidiary's ownership percentage of the surviving corporation immediately after the effective time will equal its ownership percentage in Bankrate immediately prior to the effective time. As of the date hereof, there are not expected to be any converted shares.

At the effective time, each share of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of Merger Sub issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time will be converted into one fully paid and nonassessable share of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the surviving corporation.

Table of Contents**Treatment of Company Equity Awards**

Stock Options. Except as otherwise agreed to in writing prior to the effective time by Red Ventures and a holder of any Company stock option, each Company stock option, whether vested or unvested, that is outstanding and unexercised immediately prior to the effective time will, as of the effective time, become fully vested (to the extent unvested) and be converted into the right to receive an amount in cash equal to the product of (1) the excess, if any, of the merger consideration over the exercise price per share of such Company stock option, multiplied by (2) the total number of shares subject to such Company stock option. Any Company stock option that has an exercise price per share that is greater than or equal to the merger consideration will be cancelled for no consideration.

Restricted Stock Awards. Except as otherwise agreed to in writing prior to the effective time by Red Ventures and a holder of any Company restricted stock award, each Company restricted stock award that is outstanding immediately prior to the effective time will, as of the effective time, either (1) become fully vested, in the case of any Company restricted stock award that vests solely based on continued service, or (2) become vested to the extent provided for in the award agreement applicable to such Company restricted stock award, in the case of any Company restricted stock award that vests in whole or in part based on performance conditions and for which the applicable performance period is not complete as of immediately prior to the effective time, and will be cancelled and converted automatically into the right to receive an amount in cash equal to the merger consideration in respect of each vested share of common stock subject to such Company restricted stock award. For purposes of clause (2) above, the determination of actual performance and the number of shares underlying the Company restricted stock award that vest as of the effective time will be made by the Bankrate board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) prior to the effective time.

Restricted Stock Unit Awards. Except as otherwise agreed to in writing prior to the effective time by Red Ventures and a holder of any Company RSU award, each Company RSU award that is outstanding immediately prior to the effective time will, as of the effective time, either (1) become fully vested, in the case of any Company RSU award that vests solely based on continued service, or (2) become vested to the extent provided for in the award agreement applicable to such Company RSU award, in the case of any Company RSU award that vests in whole or in part based on performance conditions and for which the applicable performance period is not complete as of immediately prior to the effective time, and will be cancelled and converted automatically into the right to receive an amount in cash equal to the merger consideration in respect of each vested share of common stock subject to such Company RSU award. For purposes of clause (2) above, the determination of actual performance and the number of shares underlying the Company RSU award that vest as of the effective time will be made by the Bankrate board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) prior to the effective time.

Payment for Common Stock in the Merger

At or prior to the effective time, Red Ventures will deposit, or cause to be deposited, with a paying agent in trust for the benefit of holders of shares cash sufficient to pay the aggregate merger consideration. As soon as reasonably practicable (and no later than five business days) after the effective time, Red Ventures will, or will cause the surviving corporation to, cause the paying agent to mail to each holder of record of shares of Company common stock (other than excluded shares) (1) a letter of transmittal and (2) instructions for effecting the surrender of certificates or book-entry shares to the paying agent in exchange for payment of the merger consideration. Upon surrender to the paying agent of certificates or book-entry shares, as applicable, together with, in the case of share certificates, the letter of transmittal, duly completed and validly executed, or, in the case of book-entry shares, receipt of an agent's message by the paying agent, and such other customary documents as may be reasonably required, the holder of such certificates or book-entry shares will be entitled to receive payment of the merger consideration which the holder is entitled to pursuant to the merger agreement (after giving effect to any required tax withholding).

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Representations and Warranties

The merger agreement contains representations and warranties of Bankrate, subject to certain exceptions in the merger agreement, in the company disclosure schedule delivered in connection with the merger agreement and in Bankrate's public filings, as to, among other things:

organization and power to do business;

subsidiaries;

capitalization;

corporate power and authority relating to the execution, delivery and performance of the merger agreement;

consents and approvals relating to the execution, delivery and performance of the merger agreement and the absence of certain violations;

the forms, reports, statements, certifications, schedules and other documents required to be filed or furnished with the SEC, compliance of the consolidated financial statements of the Company included in such documents, the establishment and maintenance of certain disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting, the absence of known material complaints, allegations, assertions or claims regarding the Company's accounting practices and material compliance with applicable listing and corporate governance rules and regulations of the NYSE;

the absence of certain changes or events;

the accuracy of the information supplied for the purposes of this proxy statement;

compliance with applicable laws and the provisions of anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws and export and sanctions regulations;

tax returns and other tax matters;

the absence of certain liabilities;

the absence of certain actions, proceedings or orders;

employee benefit plans and other agreements, plans and policies with or concerning employees;

intellectual property and information technology assets;

material contracts;

real property matters;

the absence of certain liabilities relating to, and violations of, environmental laws;

insurance policies;

the opinion of the Company's financial advisor;

broker's fees;

takeover statutes and absence of anti-takeover agreements and plans; and

related party transactions.

The merger agreement also contains representations and warranties of Red Ventures and Merger Sub, subject to certain exceptions in the merger agreement and the parent disclosure schedule delivered in connection with the merger agreement, as to, among other things:

organization and power to do business;

capitalization and activities of Merger Sub;

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corporate power and authority relating to the execution, delivery and performance of the merger agreement;

consents and approvals relating to the execution, delivery and performance of the merger agreement and the absence of certain violations;

the accuracy of the information supplied for the purposes of this proxy statement;

the absence of certain actions, proceedings or orders;

the executed debt commitment letter providing for a commitment to provide debt financing to Red Ventures, and the sufficiency of the proceeds to be disbursed under the debt commitment letter, together with other sources of financing available to Red Ventures, to pay the aggregate merger consideration and the other amounts payable under the merger agreement, and the enforceability of that debt commitment letter;

the absence of beneficial ownership of Company shares by Red Ventures and its subsidiaries;

broker's fees; and

solvency.

Some of the representations and warranties in the merger agreement are qualified by materiality qualifications or a company material adverse effect or parent material adverse effect qualification, as discussed below.

For purposes of the merger agreement, a company material adverse effect means any fact, circumstance, change, event, occurrence or effect that (1) has had, or would reasonably be expected to have, individually or in the aggregate, a material adverse effect on the financial condition, business or results of operations of Bankrate and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole or (2) materially impairs, materially delays or prevents, or would reasonably be expected to materially impair, materially delay or prevent, Bankrate from completing the merger. However, for the purposes of clause (1), none of the following, and no effect arising out of, relating to or resulting from the following, will constitute or be taken into account in determining whether a material adverse effect has occurred or would reasonably be expected to occur:

any facts, circumstances, changes, events, occurrences or effects generally affecting (a) the industries in which Bankrate or any of its subsidiaries operate or (b) the economy, credit, debt, securities or financial or capital markets in the United States or elsewhere in the world, including changes in interest or exchange rates or deterioration of the credit markets generally; or

any facts, circumstances, changes, events, occurrences or effects, to the extent arising out of, resulting from or attributable to (a) changes or prospective changes in law, in GAAP or other accounting standards, or any

changes or prospective changes in the interpretation or enforcement of any of the foregoing, (b) entry into, consummation and performance of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and public announcement thereof, including the impact thereof on relationships with customers, suppliers, distributors, partners, employees, regulators or third parties (except with respect to Bankrate's representations and warranties and the related closing condition relating to consents and approvals relating to the execution, delivery and performance of the merger agreement and the absence of certain violations), (c) acts of war (whether or not declared) or any outbreaks of hostilities, sabotage or terrorism, or escalations or worsening thereof, (d) weather, pandemics, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, natural disasters, climatic conditions or other acts of god, whether or not weather-related, (e) regulatory and political conditions or developments, (f) any legal proceedings made or brought by any current or former stockholders of Bankrate (on their own behalf or on behalf of Bankrate), but in any event only in their capacities as current or former stockholders, or otherwise under the DGCL or other applicable law, arising out of or related to the merger agreement or the transactions contemplated thereby, (g) actions or omissions of Bankrate or any of its subsidiaries

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requested in writing by Red Ventures or expressly required by the merger agreement, (h) any decline in the market price, or change in trading volume of the common stock of Bankrate (or the volatility thereof) or (i) any failure to meet any internal or public projections, forecasts or estimates of revenue, earnings, cash flow or cash position or other metrics.

However, with respect to the matters described in the first bullet point above and in clauses (a), (c), (d) and (e) of the second bullet point above, such facts, circumstances, changes, events occurrences or effects may be taken into account to the extent that they have a disproportionate adverse effect on Bankrate and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, in relation to others in the industries of Bankrate and its subsidiaries, but only to the extent of the incremental disproportionate impact on Bankrate and its subsidiaries. In addition, the underlying cause of any decline, change or failure referred to in clauses (h) and (i) of the second bullet point above may be taken into account unless the underlying clause is otherwise excluded by the merger agreement. For purposes of the merger agreement, a parent material adverse effect means any fact, circumstance, change, event occurrence or effect that, individually or in the aggregate, materially impairs, materially delays or prevents, or would reasonably be expected to materially impair, materially delay or prevent, Red Ventures or Merger Sub from completing the merger.

Conduct of Business Pending the Merger

The merger agreement provides that, from and after July 2, 2017 and prior to the effective time or termination of the merger agreement, except with Red Ventures prior written consent (which may not be unreasonably withheld, delayed or conditioned), as required by applicable law, as expressly contemplated by the merger agreement or as set forth in the disclosure schedules to the merger agreement, Bankrate will, and will cause its subsidiaries to, carry on its business in all material respects in the ordinary course and use commercially reasonable efforts to preserve its business organization intact and maintain existing relations with key customers, suppliers and other third parties with whom Bankrate and its subsidiaries have significant business relationships, and will not and will cause its subsidiaries not to, take any of the following actions:

declare, set aside or pay any dividends on, or make any other distributions in respect of, any of its capital stock or equity interests, except for dividends or distributions by a subsidiary of the Company to the Company or to another wholly owned subsidiary of the Company;

other than in the case of wholly owned subsidiaries, split, combine, subdivide, adjust amend the terms of or reclassify any of its capital stock or equity interests;

issue, deliver, sell, pledge, grant, transfer or otherwise encumber any shares of its capital stock or other equity securities or any option, warrant or other right to acquire or receive shares of its capital stock or other equity securities, or redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire any shares of its capital stock or other equity securities, other than (1) in connection with the exercise, vesting or settlement of Company stock options, or the vesting or settlement of Company equity awards, in each case, outstanding as of July 2, 2017 or granted in accordance with the merger agreement, (2) the issuance of any shares of capital stock or equity interests to the Company or any of its wholly owned subsidiaries and (3) the grant of any liens to secure obligations of the Company or any of its subsidiaries in respect of any indebtedness permitted under the eighth bullet point in this section;

amend or otherwise change the certificate of incorporation or bylaws of the Company or amend or otherwise change other similar organizational documents of any subsidiary of the Company, except, in the case of subsidiaries, for amendments that would not be materially adverse to the Company or adversely impact the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement;

other than (1) acquisitions of inventory, raw materials and other property in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, (2) pursuant to transactions that would be permissible under the seventh bullet point in this section or (3) in transactions among wholly owned subsidiaries of the Company, acquire (by merger, consolidation, purchase of stock or assets or otherwise) any entity,

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business or assets that constitute a business or division of any person or make any investments in or loans or capital contributions to any other person (other than the Company or any of its subsidiaries), in each case for an amount in excess of \$2 million individually or \$5 million in the aggregate;

make or incur any financial commitment to make any capital expenditures that exceed \$3 million in the aggregate, other than capital expenditures contemplated by the Company's capital budget, made available to Red Ventures before execution of the merger agreement;

other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice or in transactions among wholly owned subsidiaries of the Company, sell, lease, license, encumber (other than liens securing any indebtedness permitted under the eighth bullet point of this section), allow the expiration or lapse of (with respect to intellectual property registration or applications) or otherwise dispose of (by merger, consolidation, sale of stock or assets or otherwise) any entity, business, property or assets for a purchase price or (if no purchase price is received) with a value in excess of \$2 million individually or \$5 million in the aggregate;

create, incur, assume, suffer to exist or otherwise be liable with respect to, or modify the terms of, any indebtedness for borrowed money in an amount in excess of \$2 million individually or \$5 million in the aggregate, excluding (1) indebtedness solely between or among the Company and one or more of its wholly owned subsidiaries or (2) borrowings under the Company's revolving credit facility incurred in the ordinary course of business, provided that any indebtedness incurred in accordance with this bullet point is not reasonably expected to adversely affect the ability of Red Ventures or Merger Sub to consummate the debt financing;

issue or sell any debt securities or warrants or other rights to acquire any debt securities of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, guarantee any debt securities of another person (other than the Company or any of its subsidiaries) or enter into any agreement having the economic effect of any of the foregoing;

other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, enter into, renew or extend, materially amend, or terminate or materially waive any material right, remedy or default under certain material contracts, other than entering into any contract solely to the extent effecting a capital expenditure, acquisition, disposition or other transaction permitted by this section;

merge, combine or consolidate the Company or any of its subsidiaries with and into any other person, other than, in the case of any subsidiary of the Company, to effect any acquisition permitted by the fifth bullet point of this section or any disposition permitted by the seventh bullet point of this section and other than transactions solely among wholly owned subsidiaries of the Company;

adopt or enter into a plan of complete or partial liquidation, dissolution, restructuring, capitalization or reorganization (other than with respect to or among wholly owned subsidiaries of the Company);

other than actions in connection with, arising from or relating to the merger agreement or the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, waive, settle or compromise or agree to settle any pending or threatened action against the Company or any of its subsidiaries, other than waivers, settlements or agreements (1) for an amount less than or equal to \$2 million in the aggregate (excluding amounts to be paid under existing insurance policies or renewals thereof) and (2) that do not impose any material restrictions on the operations or businesses of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, or any equitable relief on, or the admission of wrongdoing by, the Company or any of its subsidiaries;

except as required by any Company benefit plan, (1) increase the compensation or severance benefits of any director, officer, employee or individual independent contractor of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, except for increases in base salary (and corresponding increases in target annual bonus) for employees of the Company and any of its subsidiaries (other than members of the Company's Senior Leadership Team), and payments of annual bonuses, in each case, in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, (2) adopt any new employee benefit plan or arrangement or

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amend, modify or terminate any existing Company benefit plan, other than (a) as would not increase the cost to the Company or its subsidiaries by more than a *de minimis* amount or (b) at-will offer letters that are entered into in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice with newly hired employees and that do not provide for any severance benefits, (3) take any action to accelerate the vesting or payment, or the funding of any payment or benefit under, any Company benefit plan, (4) recognize any union or other labor organization as the representative of any of the employees of the Company or any of its subsidiaries or enter into any collective bargaining agreements, or (5) hire or terminate the employment or services of any employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries with a total target cash compensation in excess of \$250,000 per annum, other than a termination for cause or due to permanent disability;

make any change in financial accounting methods, principles, policies or practices of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, except insofar as may be required by GAAP (or any interpretation or enforcement thereof) or applicable law;

(1) make, change or revoke any material tax election, (2) enter into any settlement or compromise of any material tax liability, (3) file any material amended tax return that would result in a change in tax liability, taxable income or loss, (4) adopt or change any method of tax accounting or annual tax accounting period, (5) enter into any closing agreement relating to any material tax liability, (6) agree to extend the statute of limitation in respect of any material amount of taxes or (7) surrender any right to claim a material tax refund;

enter into any new line of business outside of the Company's and its subsidiaries' existing businesses on July 2, 2017, or change its material operating policies in any material respects;

adopt a shareholder rights plan or poison pill ;

(1) enter into or amend in any manner any contract with any former or present director or officer of the Company or any of its subsidiaries or with any affiliate or any of the foregoing persons or any other person covered under Item 404 of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (referred to in this proxy statement as the Securities Act) or (2) make any payment to any affiliate of the Company or any other person that is required to be disclosed under Item 404 of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act (other than any payments pursuant to contracts made available to Red Ventures or as expressly permitted under the fourteenth bullet point of this section);

conduct or announce any facility closure, layoffs, reduction in force or other employment terminations involving or affecting employees of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, in each case sufficient in number to trigger the application of any law requiring advance notice of such action; or

agree to take, make any commitment to take, or adopt any resolutions of Bankrate's board of directors in support of, any of the foregoing.

In addition, Bankrate, Red Ventures and Merger Sub have agreed that, except as contemplated by the merger agreement, they will not, and will not permit their respective subsidiaries to, take any action that could reasonably be expected to prevent or to impede, interfere with, hinder or delay in any material respect the completion of the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

Access

Subject to certain exceptions and limitations, from and after July 2, 2017 and prior to the effective time or earlier termination of the merger agreement, upon reasonable prior written notice, Bankrate is required to, and required to cause its subsidiaries to, (1) afford to Red Ventures, Merger Sub and each of their representatives (including, to the extent requested by Red Ventures, the commitment parties) reasonable access, during normal business hours, to Bankrate's officers, employees, properties, offices and other facilities, books, contracts and records and (2) furnish or cause to be furnished such information concerning the business, properties, contracts,

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assets, liabilities, personnel and other aspects of Bankrate and its subsidiaries as Red Ventures, Merger Sub or their representatives (including, to the extent requested by Red Ventures, the commitment parties) may reasonably request. However, (1) any information concerning acquisition proposals, inquiries or transactions competing with or alternative to the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement is governed by the section below entitled *The Merger Agreement Acquisition Proposals; No Solicitation*, (2) no investigation made in accordance with the foregoing will affect or be deemed to modify any of Bankrate's representations or warranties under the merger agreement, (3) Bankrate and its subsidiaries are not required to permit access to (i) any inspection or information that would violate any of its confidentiality obligations which were in effect as of July 2, 2017, (ii) any information subject to attorney-client privilege or other privilege or trade secret protection or the work product doctrine or (iii) information that, in Bankrate's reasonable opinion, would result in a material breach of a contract to which Bankrate or any of its subsidiaries were bound as of July 2, 2017 and (4) any such investigation must be conducted in a manner so as not to unreasonably interfere with the normal business operations of Bankrate or its subsidiaries or otherwise result in any unreasonable burden with respect to the prompt and timely discharge of their respective employees' normal duties, provided that Bankrate will use its reasonable best efforts to allow for any access or disclosure in a manner that does not result in the effects in clauses (i)-(iii), including by making appropriate substitute arrangements. In addition, Bankrate and Red Ventures are required to promptly notify the other (1) of any notice or communication received from any governmental entity in connection with the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement or from any person alleging that such person's consent is or may be required in connection with the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, if such communication or failure to obtain such consent would reasonably be expected to be material to Bankrate, the surviving corporation or Red Ventures, (ii) of any actions commenced against such Bankrate, Red Ventures or any of their affiliates in connection with, arising from or relating to the merger agreement or the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement or (iii) if Bankrate or Red Ventures becomes aware of the occurrence or non-occurrence of any event that, individually or in the aggregate, would reasonably be expected to cause any condition to the merger or the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement not to be satisfied.

Acquisition Proposals; No Solicitation

Except as permitted by the merger agreement, the Company must not, and must cause its subsidiaries and its and its subsidiaries' directors, officers and employees not to, and must use its reasonable best efforts to cause its and its subsidiaries' affiliates and other representatives not to, directly or indirectly:

initiate, solicit or knowingly facilitate or knowingly encourage any inquiries, discussions or requests with respect to or the making of any proposal or offer that constitutes, or would reasonably be expected to lead to, an acquisition proposal (as defined below) (referred to in this proxy statement as an "inquiry");

enter into, continue or otherwise engage or participate in any discussions or negotiations regarding an acquisition proposal or inquiry or that would reasonably be expected to lead to an acquisition proposal, or provide access to its properties, books or records or any non-public information to any person relating to the Company or any of its subsidiaries in connection with the foregoing;

enter into any other acquisition agreement, option agreement, joint venture agreement, partnership agreement, letter of intent, term sheet, merger agreement or similar agreement (other than an acceptable confidentiality agreement) with respect to an acquisition proposal (referred to in this proxy statement as an

alternative acquisition agreement);

approve, endorse, declare advisable or recommend any acquisition proposal;

take any action to make the provisions of any takeover statute or any restrictive provision of any applicable anti-takeover provision in the certificate of incorporation or bylaws of the Company inapplicable to any transactions contemplated by any acquisition proposal; or

authorize, commit to, agree or publicly propose to do any of the foregoing.

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Pursuant to the merger agreement, an acquisition proposal means any inquiry, proposal or offer from any person (other than Red Ventures, its subsidiaries) relating to, in a single transaction or series of transactions:

a merger, consolidation, dissolution, liquidation, recapitalization, share exchange, business combination or similar transaction involving Bankrate as a result of which the stockholders of Bankrate immediately prior to the transaction would cease to own at least 80% of the total voting power of Bankrate or any surviving entity (or any direct or indirect parent thereof) immediately following the transaction;

the acquisition by any person or group of persons (other than Apax (as defined in the merger agreement) but only to the extent of its approximately 42% ownership of Company common stock as of July 2, 2017) of more than 20% of the total voting power represented by the outstanding voting securities of Bankrate or of any of its subsidiaries whose assets constitute over 20% of the fair market value of the consolidated assets of Bankrate and its subsidiaries;

a tender offer or exchange offer or other transaction which, if consummated, would result in a direct or indirect acquisition by any person or group of persons (other than Apax (as defined in the merger agreement) but only to the extent of its approximately 42% ownership of Company common stock as of July 2, 2017) of more than 20% of the total voting power represented by the outstanding voting securities of Bankrate or any of its subsidiaries whose assets constitute over 20% of the fair market value of the consolidated assets of Bankrate and its subsidiaries; or

the acquisition in any manner, directly or indirectly, of over 20% of the fair market value of the consolidated assets of Bankrate and its subsidiaries, in each case other than the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

Existing Discussions or Negotiations

Pursuant to the merger agreement, Bankrate has agreed to, and to cause its subsidiaries and its and its subsidiaries directors, officers and employees to, and to instruct its affiliates and other representatives to, (1) immediately cease all solicitations, discussions and negotiations with any other persons that were ongoing with respect to an acquisition proposal as of July 2, 2017 and request that each such person promptly return or destroy all confidential information furnished to such person by or on behalf of Bankrate in connection with any acquisition proposal and (2) not terminate, amend, release or modify any provision of any standstill agreement to which Bankrate or any of its subsidiaries is a party, except that Bankrate may grant a limited waiver, amendment or release under any confidentiality or standstill agreement to the extent necessary to allow for a confidential acquisition proposal to be made to Bankrate or Bankrate's board of directors as long as Bankrate promptly (and in any event within 24 hours thereafter) notifies Red Venture thereof (including the identity of such counterparty (except to the extent prohibited by any contract in effect as of July 2, 2017)) after granting such limited waiver, amendment or release as provided below.

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Receipt of Acquisition Proposals

Notwithstanding certain provisions of the merger agreement described above, at any time following July 2, 2017 and prior to the time the company stockholder approval is obtained, if Bankrate receives a written, unsolicited, *bona fide* acquisition proposal that did not result from a breach of the provisions of the merger agreement described above, then Bankrate and its representatives may contact in writing the person or group of persons making the written acquisition proposal to request clarification of the terms and conditions thereof so as to determine whether it constitutes or could reasonably be expected to result in a superior proposal (as defined below) and, if the Bankrate board of directors determines in good faith after consultation (1) with its financial advisor and outside legal counsel that the acquisition proposal constitutes, or would reasonably be expected to result in, a superior proposal and (2) with its outside legal counsel that failure to take the actions described below would be reasonably likely to be inconsistent with its fiduciary obligations under applicable law, then Bankrate and its representatives may:

provide information to such person or group of persons if Bankrate has entered into a confidentiality agreement containing terms not materially less favorable to Bankrate than those contained in the confidentiality agreement to which Red Ventures is subject, except that it need not contain any standstill or similar provision, provided that Bankrate must substantially concurrently (and in any event, within 24 hours) make available to Red Ventures and Merger Sub any non-public information concerning Bankrate or its subsidiaries that is provided to any such person or group of persons and that was not previously made available to Red Ventures or Merger Sub; and

engage or participate in any discussions or negotiations with that person or group of persons.

Pursuant to the merger agreement, a superior proposal means a *bona fide* written acquisition proposal that the Bankrate board of directors has determined in its good faith judgment, after consultation with its financial advisor and outside legal counsel, and taking into consideration all legal, financial, regulatory, timing and other aspects and risks of the proposal (including required conditions) and the person making the proposal would result, if consummated, in a transaction that is more favorable to Bankrate's stockholders from a financial point of view than the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement (including, if applicable, any revisions to the merger agreement made or proposed in writing by Red Ventures pursuant to the merger agreement); provided, that for purposes of the definition of superior proposal, the references to 20% and 80% in the definition of acquisition proposal will be deemed to be references to 50%.

Change in Board Recommendation

The Bankrate board of directors has unanimously recommended that Bankrate stockholders vote **FOR** the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

Except as expressly permitted by the merger agreement, neither the Bankrate board of directors (nor any committee thereof) may:

withhold, withdraw, qualify or modify (or publicly propose to withhold, withdraw, qualify or modify), in each case in a manner adverse to Red Ventures, the recommendation of the Bankrate board of directors that the Company's stockholders adopt the merger agreement (referred to in this proxy statement as the company

recommendation);

fail to include the company recommendation in this proxy statement;

adopt, approve, recommend, endorse or otherwise declare advisable, any acquisition proposal;

publicly propose to adopt, approve, recommend, endorse or otherwise declare advisable, any acquisition proposal;

fail to publicly reaffirm the company recommendation within 10 business days of the public disclosure of an acquisition proposal (other than of the type referred to in the following bullet point) with any

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person other than Red Ventures or Merger Sub (provided that if the stockholders meeting is scheduled to be held within 10 business days of such public disclosure, promptly and in any event prior to two business days before the date the stockholders meeting is scheduled to be held); or

fail to recommend, in a Solicitation/Recommendation Statement on Schedule 14D-9 under the Exchange Act, against any acquisition proposal that is a tender offer or exchange offer subject to Regulation 14D promulgated under the Exchange Act within 10 business days after the commencement of the tender offer or exchange offer (or, if the stockholders meeting is scheduled to be held within 10 business days from the date of the commencement, promptly and in any event prior to two business days before the date the stockholders meeting is scheduled to be held).

The actions described in the bullet points above are referred to in this proxy statement as a change of recommendation, except that any stop-look-and-listen or similar communication described below or the failure by the Bankrate board of directors to take a position with respect to an acquisition proposal referred to in the fifth bullet point above or a tender offer or exchange offer referred to in the sixth bullet point above will not be deemed a change of recommendation if the communication is made or the position is taken prior to the tenth business day after the commencement of the tender offer or exchange offer or the public disclosure of the acquisition proposal, as applicable.

However, before the company stockholder approval is obtained, the Bankrate board of directors may (1) make a change of recommendation if the Bankrate board of directors has received an unsolicited, written *bona fide* acquisition proposal after July 2, 2017 that the Bankrate board of directors has determined in good faith, after consultation with its outside legal counsel and financial advisor, constitutes a superior proposal and did not result from a material breach by the Company of the provisions of the merger agreement described above, or (2) make a change of recommendation contemplated by the first and second bullet points above if, upon the occurrence of an intervening event (as defined below), the Bankrate board of directors has determined in good faith, after consultation with its outside legal counsel, that the failure to do so would be reasonably likely to be inconsistent with its fiduciary obligations under applicable law, provided that:

Bankrate must have given Red Ventures at least three business days prior written notice that it intends to make a change of recommendation (referred to in this proxy statement as a notice of change of recommendation), which notice must specify in reasonable detail the basis for the change of recommendation and, if the proposed change of recommendation is in response to a superior proposal, the identity of the person or group of persons making the superior proposal and the material terms thereof or, if the proposed change of recommendation is in response to an intervening event, reasonable detail regarding the intervening event;

after providing such notice and prior to making a change of recommendation, Bankrate must have negotiated in good faith with Red Ventures and Merger Sub (to the extent Red Ventures and Merger Sub desire to negotiate) during the three-business day notice period to make adjustments to the terms and conditions of the merger agreement so that (1) the superior proposal ceases to be a superior proposal or (2) the change of recommendation in response to the intervening event is no longer applicable; and

at the end of the three-business day notice period, the Bankrate board of directors must have determined in good faith, after consultation with its outside legal counsel and, with respect to a superior proposal giving rise to the notice of change of recommendation, its financial advisor, taking into account any changes to the merger agreement proposed in writing by Red Ventures in response to the notice of change of recommendation, that (1) the superior proposal giving rise to the notice of change of recommendation continues to be a superior proposal or (2) in the case of an intervening event, the failure of the Bankrate board of directors to make a change of recommendation would continue to be reasonably likely to be inconsistent with its fiduciary obligations under applicable law.

Any amendment to the financial terms or any other material change to the terms of a superior proposal requires Bankrate to deliver a new notice of change of recommendation and to comply with the requirements in

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the bullets above, provided that the subsequent notice period will only be two business days instead of three business days.

Under the merger agreement, an **intervening event** means a material event, development or change in circumstances with respect to Bankrate and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, that occurred or arose after July 2, 2017, which was unknown to, nor reasonably foreseeable by, the Bankrate board of directors as of July 2, 2017 and becomes known to or by the Bankrate board of directors before the time stockholder approval is obtained, provided that the following do not constitute, and will not be considered in determining whether there has been, an intervening event: (1) the receipt, existence of or terms of an inquiry or acquisition proposal or any matter relating thereto or consequence thereof and (2) changes in the market price or trading volume of the shares of Bankrate or the fact that Bankrate meets or exceeds internal or published projections, budgets, forecasts or estimates of revenues, earnings or other financial results for any period (provided that the underlying causes of such change or fact will not be excluded by clause (2)).

The merger agreement does not prohibit Bankrate or the Bankrate board of directors (or any committee thereof) from (1) complying with its disclosure obligations under applicable law or the NYSE, including taking and disclosing to its stockholders a position contemplated by Rule 14d-9 or Rule 14e-2(a) under the Exchange Act (or any similar communication to stockholders) or (2) making any **stop, look and listen** communication to stockholders of Bankrate pursuant to Rule 14d-9(f) under the Exchange Act (or any similar communications to stockholders, including any similar communication in response to an acquisition proposal that is not a tender offer or exchange offer), provided that (i) except as provided in the next sentence, any disclosure made as permitted under clause (1) (other than any **stop-look-and-listen** or similar communication) that relates to an acquisition proposal will be deemed a change of recommendation unless the Bankrate board of directors expressly publicly reaffirms the company recommendation in connection with such disclosure and (ii) neither Bankrate nor the Bankrate board of directors (nor any committee thereof) will be permitted to recommend any acquisition proposal (including that the Bankrate stockholders tender any securities in connection with any tender offer or exchange offer that is an acquisition proposal) or otherwise make a change of recommendation with respect thereto, except as permitted as described above. Any **stop-look-and-listen** or similar communication permitted under clause (2) above made prior to the tenth business day after the commencement of such tender or exchange offer (or, if earlier, no fewer than two business days prior to the date on which the stockholders meeting is scheduled to be held) will not constitute a change of recommendation or otherwise constitute a basis for Red Ventures to terminate the merger agreement.

Bankrate must promptly (and in any event within 24 hours) notify Red Ventures orally and in writing if any acquisition proposal or inquiry (including any request for non-public information in connection therewith) is received by Bankrate, any of its subsidiaries or any of its representatives, indicating (except to the extent prohibited by any contract in effect as of July 2, 2017) the identity of the person or group of persons making the acquisition proposal, inquiry or request and the material terms and conditions of any such acquisition proposal (including, if applicable, copies of any written inquiries and any proposed agreements related thereto), and thereafter must keep Red Ventures reasonably informed of the status and material terms of any such acquisition proposal inquiry or request (including any material amendments thereto). Bankrate must promptly (and in any event within 24 hours) notify Red Ventures orally and in writing (1) if Bankrate determines to begin providing non-public information or to engage in negotiations or discussions concerning an acquisition proposal and (2) thereafter of any change to the financial and other material terms and conditions of any acquisition proposal and otherwise keep Red Ventures reasonably informed of the status and material terms of any such inquiry, acquisition proposal, discussions or negotiations on a reasonably current basis, including by providing a copy of all proposals, offers or drafts of proposed agreements. Bankrate and its subsidiaries may not enter into any confidentiality or similar agreement that would prohibit them from providing such information to Red Ventures.

Bankrate Stockholders Meeting

Bankrate has agreed to take all action necessary to convene a meeting of the holders of Bankrate common stock (which meeting, together with any adjournment or postponement, is referred to in this proxy statement as

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the Bankrate stockholders meeting) as reasonably promptly as practicable after the SEC confirms that it has no further comments on this proxy statement, to consider and vote upon the adoption of the merger agreement and to cause such vote to be taken. Bankrate is not permitted to postpone or adjourn the Bankrate stockholders meeting without Red Ventures written consent (which may not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed), except if required by applicable law, and except that Bankrate may adjourn or postpone the Bankrate stockholders meeting to allow reasonable additional time to solicit additional proxies to the extent Bankrate reasonably believes necessary in order to obtain the company stockholder approval or to allow reasonable time additional for the filing and dissemination of any supplemental or amended disclosure and the review of such disclosure by the Company s stockholders in advance of the Bankrate stockholders meeting to the extent so determined to be necessary, or in the absence of a quorum. However, unless agreed by Red Ventures, the Bankrate stockholders meeting will not be postponed or adjourned to a date that is more than 30 days after the date on which such meeting was originally scheduled.

Subject to the Bankrate board of directors right to make a change of recommendation, as described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *Change in Board Recommendation*, the Bankrate board of directors must include the company recommendation in this proxy statement and must use its reasonable best efforts to obtain the company stockholder approval, including actively soliciting proxies in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement at the Bankrate stockholders meeting.

In the event that the Bankrate board of directors makes a change of recommendation, Bankrate will be required to submit the merger agreement to holders of Bankrate common stock to obtain the company stockholder approval at the Bankrate stockholders meeting unless the merger agreement is terminated in accordance with its terms. In addition, Bankrate is not permitted to submit to the vote of its stockholders any other acquisition proposal unless the merger agreement is terminated in accordance with its terms.

Financing and Financing Cooperation

Prior to the execution of the merger agreement, Red Ventures delivered to Bankrate (1) a copy of the fully executed debt commitment letter, pursuant to which each of Bank of America, Barclays, Citi, CS, Fifth Third, MUFG and PNC Bank have committed, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth therein, to lend Red Ventures \$2.4 billion in connection with the financing of the amounts payable pursuant to the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and the refinancing of certain debt by Red Ventures (referred to in this proxy statement as the debt financing) and (2) a redacted copy of the related fee letter.

Red Ventures and Merger Sub have agreed to use reasonable best efforts to take, or cause to be taken, all actions and to do, or cause to be done, all things necessary, proper or advisable to obtain the proceeds of the debt financing and any replacement financing on the terms and conditions described in the debt commitment letter or replacement financing documents, as applicable, as promptly as possible but in any event prior to the date upon which the merger is required to be completed pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement. Bankrate is required to use reasonable best efforts to provide, and to cause its subsidiaries and its and their representatives to provide, all cooperation reasonably requested by Red Ventures necessary and customary for the arrangement of the debt financing, subject to certain limitations.

Employee Matters

For a period of not less than 12 months following the closing date, Red Ventures will, or will cause its applicable subsidiary to, provide each employee of the Company and its subsidiaries who continues in employment with Red Ventures, the surviving corporation or their subsidiaries following the effective time with (1) a base salary or regular hourly wage (whichever is applicable) no lower than that in effect for the applicable continuing employee as of

immediately prior to the effective time, (2) an annual target cash incentive compensation opportunity that is no less favorable than the annual target cash incentive compensation opportunity in effect for the applicable continuing employee as of immediately prior to the effective time, and

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(3) other compensation opportunities and employee benefits that are, in each case, no less favorable in the aggregate than the other compensation opportunities and employee benefits, respectively, provided to the applicable continuing employee as of immediately prior to the effective time; however, the surviving corporation may provide cash incentive compensation opportunities in lieu of equity compensation awards. Red Ventures has also agreed that, during the 12-month period following the closing date, the surviving corporation will provide each continuing employee whose employment is terminated by Red Ventures or one of its subsidiaries with severance in amounts and on terms and conditions that are no less favorable than the severance protections provided to each such continuing employee under the applicable Company benefit plans as of July 2, 2017 (or, if greater, those applicable to similarly situated employees of Red Ventures).

Under the merger agreement, Red Ventures will cause the employee benefit plans of Red Ventures and its subsidiaries in which the continuing employees are entitled to participate after the closing date to take into account for purposes of eligibility, vesting and benefit accruals (other than benefit accruals under any defined benefit pension plan, for purposes of any retiree medical or retiree life insurance plan, or as would result in a duplication of benefits), service prior to the effective time by such employees to the Company and its subsidiaries (and any predecessors) as if such service were with Red Ventures or its subsidiaries. In addition, with respect to any employee benefit plans maintained by Red Ventures and its subsidiaries for the benefit of the continuing employees following the closing date, Red Ventures will, and will cause its subsidiaries to, (1) waive any eligibility requirements or pre-existing condition limitations or waiting period requirements with respect to any such plan providing medical, dental, pharmaceutical or vision benefits to any continuing employee to the same extent waived under the analogous Company benefit plan prior to the closing date, and (2) give effect, in determining any deductible, co-insurance and maximum out-of-pocket limitations, to any eligible expenses paid by such employees during the calendar year in which the effective time occurs under analogous Company benefit plans.

The merger agreement also provides that, immediately prior to the effective time, the Company will pay to each employee of the Company who is employed as of immediately prior to the effective time and who is then participating in any bonus plans or incentive plans maintained by the Company with respect to the Company's fiscal year during which the closing occurs a prorated bonus for the period from the beginning of such fiscal year through the closing date equal to the greater of (1) such employee's bonus entitlement for such period based on the actual level of achievement of the applicable performance goals for the period beginning on the first day of such fiscal year and ending as of the end of the month immediately preceding the month in which the effective time occurs (excluding costs relating to the merger, as applicable), as determined by the Bankrate board of directors in its sole discretion, and (2) such employee's target bonus entitlement. The surviving corporation will also establish bonus plans or incentive plans with respect to the remainder of the fiscal year in which the effective time occurs on terms consistent with the merger agreement.

Efforts to Complete the Merger

Bankrate and Red Ventures have agreed to, and to cause their respective subsidiaries to, each use its reasonable best efforts to promptly take, or cause to be taken, all actions, and to do, or to cause to be done, and to assist and cooperate with the other in doing all things necessary, proper or advisable under the merger agreement or applicable law or otherwise complete and make effective the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement as soon as practicable, including to (1) obtain from any governmental entities and any third parties any actions, non-actions, clearances, waivers, consents, approvals, expirations or terminations of waiting periods, permits or orders required to be obtained by Bankrate, Red Ventures or any of their respective affiliates in connection with the authorization, execution, delivery and performance of the merger agreement and the completion of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, (2) make all registrations, filings, notifications or submissions which are necessary or advisable with respect to the merger and merger agreement under (i) any applicable federal or state securities law, (ii) the HSR Act

and any other applicable regulatory law and (iii) any other applicable law, (3) defend against any lawsuits or other legal proceedings, whether judicial or administrative, challenging the merger agreement or the completion of the merger and the other transactions

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contemplated by the merger agreement and (4) execute and deliver any additional instruments necessary to complete the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. However, Bankrate and its subsidiaries will not be required to pay prior to the effective time any fee, penalty or other consideration to any third party to obtain consent or approval required for the completion of the merger under any contract. Further, without Red Ventures' prior written consent, neither Bankrate nor its subsidiaries may pay or commit to pay any third party (other than fees for the filings described in clause (2) above) whose consent or approval is being solicited any amount of cash or other consideration, or make any commitment or incur any liability or other obligation in connection therewith.

Bankrate, Red Ventures and Merger Sub must (1) subject to any restrictions under any regulatory law, promptly notify each other of any communication to that party from any governmental entity with respect to the merger agreement and the transactions and other agreements contemplated by the merger agreement and permit the other parties to review in advance any proposed substantive communication to any governmental entity, (2) unless required by applicable law, not agree to participate in any meeting or teleconference with any governmental entity in respect of any filing, investigation or other inquiry with respect to the merger agreement and the transactions and other agreements contemplated by the merger agreement unless it consults with the other parties in advance and, to the extent permitted by such governmental entity, gives the other parties the opportunity to attend and participate thereat, (3) subject to any restrictions under any regulatory law, furnish the other parties with copies of all correspondence, filings and communications (and memoranda setting forth the substance thereof) between it and its subsidiaries and their respective representatives on the one hand, and any governmental entity or members of its staff on the other hand, with respect to the merger agreement and the transactions and other agreements contemplated by the merger agreement (excluding documents and communications subject to the attorney client privilege or other privilege or trade secret protection or the work product doctrine), and (4) furnish the other parties with such necessary information and reasonable assistance as such other parties may reasonably request in connection with their preparation of necessary filings, registrations or submissions of information to any governmental entity in connection with the merger agreement and the transactions and other agreements contemplated by the merger agreement, including any filings necessary or appropriate under the provisions of any regulatory law; provided that Bankrate, Red Ventures and Merger Sub may each reasonably designate competitively sensitive material as outside counsel only material. Materials provided to the other party or its counsel pursuant to the foregoing may be redacted to remove references concerning the valuation of Bankrate, privileged communications or other competitively sensitive material.

Antitrust Matters

Bankrate, Red Ventures and Merger Sub have agreed to make, or cause to be made, an appropriate filing of a Notification and Report Form pursuant to the HSR Act with respect to the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement as promptly as practicable after July 2, 2017 (and in any event, within 15 business days), and to make, or cause to be made, all filings and authorizations, if any, required under any other applicable regulatory law as promptly as reasonably practicable any additional information and documentary material that may be requested by a governmental entity pursuant to any regulatory law. In furtherance of the foregoing, Bankrate, Red Ventures and Merger Sub must request and use reasonable best efforts to obtain early termination of the waiting period under the HSR Act, and no party may agree to extend any waiting period under any regulatory law applicable to, or commit not to complete any of the transactions contemplated by, the merger agreement without the prior written consent of all other parties to the merger agreement.

Bankrate and Red Ventures must, and must cause their respective subsidiaries to, each use its reasonable best efforts to resolve any objections that may be asserted with respect to the transactions contemplated under the merger agreement under any regulatory law. If any action, including any action by a private party, is instituted (or threatened to be instituted) challenging the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement as violative of any regulatory law, Bankrate and Red Ventures must, and must cause their respective subsidiaries to, cooperate in all respects and use its

reasonable best efforts to contest and resist any such action and have vacated, lifted, reversed or overturned any order (whether temporary, preliminary or permanent) that is in effect and that

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restricts, prevents or prohibits completion of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, including by pursuing all reasonable avenues of administrative and judicial appeal. Bankrate and Red Ventures must, and must cause their respective subsidiaries to, (1) negotiate, commit to and effect, by consent decree, hold separate order or otherwise, the sale, divestiture or disposition of any assets or businesses of Red Ventures or any of its subsidiaries, or of Bankrate or any of its subsidiaries, and (2) otherwise take or commit to take any actions that after the closing date limit Red Ventures or its subsidiaries (including the surviving corporation s) freedom of action with respect to, or its ability to retain, one or more businesses, product lines or assets of Red Ventures or any of its subsidiaries (including the surviving corporation), in each case as may be required in order to avoid the entry of, or to effect the dissolution of, any order which would otherwise have the effect of preventing the closing, materially delaying the closing or delaying the closing beyond the termination date. However, Bankrate and its subsidiaries will only be required to take or commit to take any such action, or agree to any such condition or restriction, if such action, commitment, agreement, condition or restriction is binding on Bankrate and its subsidiaries only in the event the closing occurs.

Indemnification and Insurance

Red Ventures must cause the surviving corporation to, and the surviving corporation must, (1) indemnify and hold harmless, to the fullest extent permitted under applicable law, each present and former director and officer of Bankrate and its subsidiaries and each fiduciary of a company benefit plan (collectively referred to in this proxy statement, together with such person s heirs, executors or administrators, as the indemnified parties), against any costs or expenses (including reasonable attorneys fees), judgments, fines, losses, claims, damages, liabilities and amounts paid in settlement incurred in connection with any actual or threatened action, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, arising out of, related to or in connection with any action or omission occurring or alleged to have occurred whether before or at the effective time (including in connection with such indemnified parties service as a director or officer of the company or any of its subsidiaries or a fiduciary of a company benefit plan), whether asserted or claimed prior to, at or after the effective time, including, in connection with (1) the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement and (2) actions to enforce the provision of the merger agreement described here or any other indemnification, exculpation or advancement right of any indemnified party. For a period of six years from and after the effective time, Red Ventures is required to cause, unless otherwise required by applicable law, the certificate of incorporation and bylaws of the surviving corporation to contain provisions no less favorable to the indemnified parties with respect to limitation of liabilities of directors and officers and indemnification than those set forth as of July 2, 2017 in the certificate of incorporation and bylaws of Bankrate, and not to amend, repeal or otherwise modify those provisions in a manner that would adversely affect the rights of the indemnified parties. In addition, from and after the effective time, each of Red Ventures and the surviving corporation must advance costs and expenses (including attorneys fees) as incurred by any indemnified party promptly (and in any event within 10 days after receipt by Red Ventures of a written request for such advance to the fullest extent permitted under applicable law, provided that any person to whom expenses are advanced provides an undertaking to repay the advances if it is ultimately determined by final adjudication that such person is not entitled to indemnification.

In addition, prior to the effective time, Bankrate must obtain (and, following the effective time, the surviving corporation must, and Red Ventures must cause the surviving corporation to, maintain with reputable and financially sound carriers) and fully pre-pay the premium for the extension of (1) the directors and officers liability coverage of Bankrate s existing directors and officers insurance policies and (2) Bankrate s existing fiduciary liability insurance policies, in each case for a claims reporting or discovery period (whichever is greater) of six years from and after the effective time with respect to any claim arising from facts or events that existed or occurred at or prior to the effective time (referred to in this proxy statement as D&O insurance) with terms, conditions, retentions, coverage limits and limits of liability that are at least as favorable as the coverage provided under Bankrate s existing policies in effect on July 2, 2017. In lieu of the foregoing, at Red Ventures election and in its sole discretion, the surviving corporation may, and Red Ventures will cause the surviving corporation to, purchase comparable D&O insurance for such six-year

period with terms, conditions, retentions and limits of liability that are at least as favorable as the coverage provided under Bankrate's existing policies as

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of July 2, 2017. In no event will Bankrate or the surviving corporation be required to expend for any such policies pursuant to the foregoing an annual premium amount in excess of 300% of the current aggregate annual premium paid by Bankrate for such insurance and, if the annual premiums of such insurance coverage exceeds such maximum amount, Bankrate or the surviving corporation will obtain a policy with the greatest coverage available for such maximum amount.

Coordination on Transaction Litigation

Bankrate and Red Ventures have agreed, subject to the preservation of attorney-client or other applicable privilege and the provisions of the merger agreement governing the use and disclosure of confidential information, to keep the other party reasonably informed on a current basis with respect to any actions commenced against it or any of its affiliates arising from or relating to the merger agreement or the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement (referred to in this proxy statement as *transaction litigation*), to reasonably consult with the other party and give consideration to the other's advice regarding transaction litigation, and to give the other party the opportunity to participate in the defense, settlement or prosecution of any transaction litigation, provided that the Company will in any event control any such defense, settlement or prosecution. Bankrate and Red Ventures have agreed not to settle any transaction litigation without the written consent of the other party (which may not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed).

Other Covenants and Agreements

The merger agreement also contains additional covenants, including covenants relating to (1) the filing of this proxy statement, (2) the termination of Bankrate's commitments under its credit agreement and the discharge of its existing notes, (3) public announcements with respect to the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, (4) other actions related to takeover statutes and reporting requirements under Section 16 of the Exchange Act and (5) the conduct prior to the effective time of Red Ventures and Merger Sub.

Conditions to Completion of the Merger

Each party's obligation to complete the merger is subject to the satisfaction or waiver at or prior to the effective time of the following conditions:

the adoption of the merger agreement by a majority of the outstanding shares of Bankrate common stock entitled to vote thereon;

the expiration or termination of the waiting period applicable to the completion of the merger under the HSR Act; and

no law or order having been enacted, issued, promulgated, enforced or entered by a court or other governmental entity of competent jurisdiction that is in effect and that restrains, enjoins or otherwise prohibits the completion of the merger.

The respective obligations of Red Ventures and Merger Sub to complete the merger are subject to the satisfaction or waiver by Red Ventures at or prior to the effective time of the following additional conditions:

the accuracy of the representations and warranties of the Company as of the closing date (except for any representations and warranties made as of a particular date, which representations and warranties must be true and correct only as of that date), generally subject to a company material adverse effect or other qualification provided in the merger agreement;

the performance by the Company in all material respects of the agreements and covenants required to be performed or complied with by it under the merger agreement at or prior to the effective time;

the absence of a company material adverse effect after the date of the merger agreement; and

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the receipt by Red Ventures of a certificate signed by an executive officer of the Company, dated the closing date, to the effect that the conditions set forth in the three preceding bullet points have been satisfied. The obligation of the Company to complete the merger is subject to the satisfaction or waiver by the Company at or prior to the effective time of the following additional conditions:

the accuracy of the representations and warranties of Red Ventures and Merger Sub as of the closing date (except for any representations and warranties made as of a particular date, which representations and warranties must be true and correct only as of that date), generally subject to a parent material adverse effect or other qualification provided in the merger agreement;

the performance by each of Red Ventures and Merger Sub in all material respects of the agreements and covenants required to be performed or complied with by it under the merger agreement at or prior to the effective time; and

the receipt by the Company of a certificate signed by an executive officer of Red Ventures, dated the closing date, to the effect that the conditions set forth in the two preceding bullet points have been satisfied. No party may rely, either as a basis for not completing the merger or any of the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement or terminating the merger agreement and abandoning the merger, on the failure of a condition set forth in the merger agreement to be satisfied if such failure was caused by such party's failure to act in good faith or to use the efforts to cause the closing to occur as required by the merger agreement.

Termination

The merger agreement may be terminated and the merger may be abandoned at any time prior to the effective time in the following circumstances:

by the mutual written consent of Bankrate and Red Ventures;

by either Bankrate or Red Ventures, if:

the merger has not been completed on or before December 21, 2017 (referred to in this proxy statement as the termination date); provided that the right to terminate the merger agreement pursuant to the termination provision referred to in this bullet point will not be available to a party if the failure of the merger to have been completed on or before the termination date was primarily caused by the failure of such party to perform any of its obligations under the merger agreement; or

the Bankrate stockholders' meeting has been duly held and completed and the company stockholder approval has not been obtained at the Bankrate stockholders' meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof at which a vote on the adoption of the merger agreement is taken; or

an order by a court or other governmental entity of competent jurisdiction permanently restraining, enjoining or otherwise prohibiting the completion of the merger has become final and nonappealable; provided that the right to terminate the merger agreement pursuant to the termination provision referred to in this bullet point will not be available to a party if the enactment, issuance, promulgation, enforcement or entry of such order, or the order becoming final and nonappealable, was primarily caused by the failure of such party to perform any of its obligations under the merger agreement; or

by Bankrate, if:

Red Ventures or Merger Sub has breached any of its representations, warranties, covenants or agreements in the merger agreement, which breach (1) would give rise to the failure of a condition

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to the obligation of Bankrate to complete the merger related to Red Ventures or Merger Sub's representations, warranties, covenants and agreements in the merger agreement and (2) is either not curable before the termination date or is not cured within 30 business days following receipt of written notice from Bankrate of such breach or any shorter period of time that remains between the date of such notice and the day prior to the termination date; provided that Bankrate does not have the right to terminate the merger agreement pursuant to the termination provision referred to in this bullet point if it is in breach of any of its representations, warranties, covenants or agreements in the merger agreement, such that any condition to the obligations of Red Ventures or Merger Sub to complete the merger related to Bankrate's representations, warranties, covenants and agreements in the merger agreement would not be satisfied if the closing date were the date of such termination; or

the marketing period has ended and all of the conditions to the obligation of Red Ventures to complete the merger have been satisfied or waived (other than those conditions that by their nature are to be satisfied at the closing of the merger, each of which is capable of being satisfied if the closing date were the date of such termination), Red Ventures does not complete the merger on or prior to the day the closing is required to occur pursuant to the merger agreement and Bankrate has irrevocably confirmed in writing to Red Ventures that it is ready, willing and able to complete the merger and Red Ventures fails to complete the merger within three business days following delivery of such confirmation; or

by Red Ventures:

prior to the time the company stockholder approval is obtained, if the Bankrate board of directors (or any committee thereof) has made a change of recommendation or allowed Bankrate or any of its subsidiaries to enter into an alternative acquisition agreement (other than an acceptable confidentiality agreement); or

if Bankrate has breached any of its representations, warranties, covenants or agreements in the merger agreement, which breach (1) would give rise to the failure of a condition to the obligations of Red Ventures and Merger Sub to complete the merger related to Bankrate's representations, warranties, covenants and agreements in the merger agreement and (2) is either not curable before the termination date or is not cured within 30 business days following receipt of written notice from Red Ventures of such breach or any shorter period of time that remains between the date of such notice and the day prior to the termination date; provided that Red Ventures does not have the right to terminate the merger agreement pursuant to the termination provision referred to in this bullet point if it or Merger Sub is in breach of any of their representations, warranties, covenants or agreements in the merger agreement, such that any condition to the obligation of Bankrate to complete the merger related to Red Ventures or Merger Sub's representations, warranties, covenants and agreements in the merger agreement would not be satisfied if the closing date were the date of such termination.

Company Termination Fee

Bankrate will pay Red Ventures the company termination fee in an amount equal to \$37,675,000 in the following circumstances:

if all three of the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) the merger agreement is terminated by (i) either Bankrate or Red Ventures because the merger has not been completed on or before the termination date or because the company stockholder approval has not been obtained or (ii) Red Ventures as a result of a breach by Bankrate of any representation, warranty, covenant or agreement in the merger agreement, which breach (x) gives rise to the failure of a condition to the obligations of Red Ventures and Merger Sub to complete the merger related to Bankrate's representations, warranties, covenants and agreements in the

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merger agreement and (y) is either not curable before the termination date or is not cured within 30 business days following receipt of written notice from Red Ventures of such breach or any shorter period of time that remains between the date of such notice and the day prior to the termination date, and in each case at the time of the termination, the company stockholder approval has not been obtained, and

(2) an acquisition proposal has been made to Bankrate's management or the Bankrate board of directors (or any committee thereof) after the date of the merger agreement and prior to the Bankrate stockholders' meeting and has not been withdrawn (in the case of clause (1)(i), at least two business days prior to the Bankrate stockholders' meeting, and in the case of clause (1)(ii), prior to the breach that forms the basis of the termination), and

(3) within 12 months after the termination, Bankrate completes an acquisition proposal or enters into a definitive agreement for an acquisition proposal that is subsequently completed (even if after such 12-month period)

(provided that, for purposes of the provision referred to in this bullet point, the references to 20% and 80% in the definition of "acquisition proposal" are deemed to be references to 50%); or

if the merger agreement is terminated by Red Ventures because the Bankrate board of directors (or any committee thereof) has made a change of recommendation or allowed Bankrate or any of its subsidiaries to enter into an alternative acquisition agreement (other than an acceptable confidentiality agreement).

In no event will Bankrate be required to pay the company termination fee on more than one occasion or be subject to monetary damages for a willful and material breach by Bankrate of its obligations under the merger agreement in an amount in excess of \$87,909,000 (referred to in this proxy statement as the "company damage cap") in the aggregate (including any payment of the company termination fee). In addition, in no event will Red Ventures be entitled to (1) both payment of monetary damages and the company termination fee in a combined amount in excess of the company damage cap or (2) both payment of any monetary damages or the company termination fee and a grant of specific performance of the merger agreement or any other equitable remedy against Bankrate that results in the closing of the merger.

Parent Termination Fee

Red Ventures will pay Bankrate the parent termination fee in an amount equal to \$87,909,000 if the merger agreement is terminated by Bankrate because the marketing period has ended and all of the conditions to the obligation of Red Ventures to complete the merger have been satisfied or waived (other than those conditions that by their nature are to be satisfied at the closing of the merger, each of which is capable of being satisfied if the closing date were the date of such termination), Red Ventures does not complete the merger on or prior to the day the closing is required to occur pursuant to the merger agreement and Bankrate has irrevocably confirmed in writing to Red Ventures that it is ready, willing and able to complete the merger and Red Ventures fails to complete the merger within three business days following delivery of such confirmation.

In no event will Red Ventures be obligated to pay the parent termination fee on more than one occasion or be subject to monetary damages for a willful and material breach by Red Ventures or Merger Sub of their obligations under the merger agreement in an amount in excess of the parent termination fee in the aggregate. In addition, in no event will Bankrate be entitled to (1) both payment of monetary damages and the parent termination fee, or (2) both payment of any monetary damages or the parent termination fee and a grant of specific performance of the merger agreement or any other equitable remedy against Red Ventures or Merger Sub that results in the closing of the merger.

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Limitation on Remedies

In the event of the termination of the merger agreement and the abandonment of the merger in accordance with the provisions described in the section of this proxy statement entitled *Termination*, the merger agreement will become void and of no effect with no liability to any person on the part of Bankrate, Red Ventures or Merger Sub or their respective affiliates, directors, officers, employees or stockholders, except that no such termination shall relieve (1) Bankrate of any liability to pay the company termination fee or Red Ventures of any liability to pay the parent termination fee, in each case to the extent required pursuant to the merger agreement, or (2) Bankrate, Red Ventures or Merger Sub of any liability for any willful and material breach of the merger agreement prior to such termination. In addition, certain sections of the merger agreement, including sections relating to termination, termination fees and expenses, will survive termination.

Expenses

Except as otherwise provided in the merger agreement, whether or not the merger is completed, all costs and expenses incurred in connection with the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement will be paid by the party incurring such expense.

Amendment and Modification

Subject to the provisions of applicable law, at any time prior to the effective time, the merger agreement may be amended, modified or waived if the amendment, modification or waiver is in writing and signed, in the case of an amendment or modification, by Red Ventures, Merger Sub and Bankrate, or in the case of a waiver, by the party against whom the waiver is to be effective, except that (1) after receipt of the company stockholder approval, no amendment may be made which by applicable law requires further approval by the holders of Bankrate common stock without obtaining that further approval and (2) to the extent any modification, waiver or termination of certain provisions in the merger agreement relating to financing is sought that would be materially adverse to any lender under the debt commitment letter or any of its representatives, the prior written consent of the applicable lender will be required.

Jurisdiction; Specific Enforcement

Under the merger agreement, each of the parties has agreed that it will bring any action or proceeding in respect of any claim arising out of or relating to the merger agreement or the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement exclusively in the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware or, if that court does not have jurisdiction, another federal or state court located in the State of Delaware. However, each of the parties has agreed that it will not bring or support any action or claim against the commitment parties or their representatives arising out of or relating to the merger agreement or any of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement in any forum other than any state or federal court sitting in the Borough of Manhattan in the City of New York.

Each of the parties has agreed that if for any reason any of the provisions of the merger agreement are not performed in accordance with their specific terms or are otherwise breached or threatened to be breached, irreparable damage would occur for which monetary damages would not be an adequate remedy. Accordingly, in addition to any other available remedies a party may have in equity or at law, each party will be entitled to an injunction, specific performance and other equitable relief to prevent breaches or threatened breaches of the merger agreement and to enforce specifically the terms and provisions of the merger agreement. Pursuant to the merger agreement, each of the parties has agreed that it will not oppose the granting of an injunction, specific performance and other equitable relief on the basis that there is adequate remedy at law or that an award of specific performance is not an appropriate

remedy. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Bankrate will be entitled to specific performance or any other equitable remedy to cause Red Ventures or Merger Sub to complete the merger only if all of the conditions to Red Ventures obligation to effect the merger (set forth in sections 6.1 and 6.2 of

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the merger agreement) have been satisfied or waived (other than those conditions that by their nature are to be satisfied at the closing of the merger, provided that those conditions would be satisfied if the closing were on such date), Red Ventures' debt financing has been funded or would be funded following delivery of a drawdown notice by Red Ventures, and the Company has confirmed in writing to Red Ventures that if specific performance is granted and the debt financing is funded, the closing of the merger will occur.

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ADVISORY VOTE ON NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICER MERGER-RELATED COMPENSATION

As required by Section 14A of the Exchange Act and the applicable SEC rules issued thereunder, Bankrate is providing its stockholders with a separate advisory (non-binding) vote to approve certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to its named executive officers in connection with the merger, as described in the table in the section of this proxy statement entitled *The Merger Interests of the Company's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger Quantification of Payments and Benefits to the Company's Named Executive Officers*, including the footnotes to the table and related narrative discussion beginning on page 52 of this proxy statement.

The Bankrate board of directors unanimously recommends that the stockholders of Bankrate approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the compensation that may be paid or become payable to Bankrate's named executive officers in connection with the merger, and the agreement or understandings pursuant to which such compensation may be paid or become payable, in each case, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402(t) of Regulation S-K in the table in the section of this proxy statement entitled The Merger Interests of the Company's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger Quantification of Payments and Benefits to the Company's Named Executive Officers, including the footnotes to the table and the related narrative discussion, is hereby APPROVED.

The vote on the named executive officer merger-related compensation proposal is a vote separate and apart from the vote on the proposal to adopt the merger agreement. Accordingly, you may vote to adopt the merger agreement and vote not to approve the named executive officer merger-related compensation proposal and vice versa. Because the vote on the named executive officer merger-related compensation proposal is advisory only, it will not be binding on either Bankrate or Red Ventures. Accordingly, if the merger agreement is adopted and the merger is completed, the compensation will be payable, subject only to the conditions applicable thereto under the applicable compensation agreements and arrangements, regardless of the outcome of the non-binding, advisory vote of Bankrate's stockholders.

The above resolution approving the merger-related compensation of Bankrate's named executive officers on an advisory (non-binding) basis requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and entitled to vote thereon.

The Bankrate board of directors unanimously recommends that the stockholders of Bankrate vote FOR the named executive officer merger-related compensation proposal.

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VOTE ON ADJOURNMENT

The Company's stockholders are being asked to approve a proposal that will give the Bankrate board of directors authority to adjourn the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including to solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, if there are insufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the proposal to adopt the merger agreement or in the absence of a quorum. If this adjournment proposal is approved, the special meeting could be adjourned by the Bankrate board of directors to any date (subject to certain restrictions in the merger agreement, including that the special meeting may not be held, without Red Ventures' consent, on a date that is more than 30 days after the date on which the special meeting was originally scheduled). In addition, the Bankrate board of directors could postpone the special meeting before it commences. If the special meeting is adjourned for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies, stockholders who have already submitted their proxies will be able to revoke them at any time before their use. If you sign and return a proxy and do not indicate how you wish to vote on any proposal, or if you sign and return a proxy and you indicate that you wish to vote in favor of the proposal to adopt the merger agreement but do not indicate a choice on the adjournment proposal, your shares of common stock will be voted in favor of the adjournment proposal.

The Company does not anticipate calling a vote on this proposal if the proposal to adopt the merger agreement is approved by the requisite number of shares of Bankrate common stock at the special meeting.

The vote on the adjournment proposal is a vote separate and apart from the vote on the proposal to adopt the merger agreement. Accordingly, you may vote to approve the proposal to adopt the merger agreement and vote not to approve the adjournment proposal and vice versa.

Approval of the adjournment proposal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and entitled to vote thereon.

The Bankrate board of directors unanimously recommends that the stockholders of Bankrate vote FOR the adjournment proposal, if a vote on the adjournment proposal is called.

Table of Contents**MARKET PRICE OF THE COMPANY COMMON STOCK**

Bankrate's common stock is traded on the NYSE under the symbol RATE. On [], there were approximately [] holders of record of our common stock. Certain shares of our common stock are held in street name and accordingly, the number of beneficial owners of such shares is not known or included in the foregoing number.

The following table sets forth for the periods indicated the high and low sales prices per share for our common stock on the NYSE. We have never paid cash dividends on our common stock.

	Market Price	
	Low	High
<u>Fiscal 2015</u>		
First Quarter	\$ 11.09	\$ 13.57
Second Quarter	\$ 10.48	\$ 13.92
Third Quarter	\$ 8.87	\$ 11.52
Fourth Quarter	\$ 10.20	\$ 15.80
<u>Fiscal 2016</u>		
First Quarter	\$ 6.59	\$ 13.12
Second Quarter	\$ 7.11	\$ 9.71
Third Quarter	\$ 6.91	\$ 8.73
Fourth Quarter	\$ 7.10	\$ 11.60
<u>Fiscal 2017</u>		
First Quarter	\$ 9.20	\$ 11.90
Second Quarter	\$ 9.45	\$ 12.95
Third Quarter (through [], 2017)	\$ []	\$ []

The approximate intra-day share price of our common stock on June 27, 2017 prior to unconfirmed press speculation regarding a potential transaction involving Bankrate was \$12.30 per share. The closing sale price of our common stock on June 30, 2017, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the entry into the merger agreement, was \$12.85 per share. On [], 2017, the most recent practicable date before the filing of this proxy statement, the closing price for our common stock was \$[] per share. You are encouraged to obtain current market quotations for our common stock in connection with voting your shares of common stock.

Table of Contents**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

Except as noted below, the following table sets forth the amount and percent of shares of our common stock that as of July 24, 2017, are deemed under the rules of the SEC to be beneficially owned by each member of the Bankrate board of directors, by each of our named executive officers, by all of our directors and executive officers as a group, and by any person or group (as that term is used in the Exchange Act) known to us to be a beneficial owner of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of our common stock as of that date. The information concerning the beneficial ownership of our directors and officers is based solely on information provided by those individuals. Unless otherwise stated, the beneficial owner has sole voting and investment power over the listed common stock or shares such power with his or her spouse.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Common Stock Beneficially Owned ⁽¹⁾	
	Number of Shares of Common Stock	Percentage of Class
Ben Holding S.à r.l. ⁽²⁾	37,703,694	42.0%
Peter C. Morse ⁽³⁾	3,327,689	3.7%
Kenneth S. Esterow ⁽³⁾	481,813	*
Seth Brody ⁽³⁾		
Michael J. Kelly ⁽³⁾	94,873	*
Sree Kotay ⁽³⁾	54,738	*
Christine Petersen ⁽³⁾	54,738	*
Richard J. Pinola ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	138,573	*
Mitch Truwit ⁽³⁾		
Steven D. Barnhart ⁽³⁾	128,219	*
James R. Gilmartin ⁽³⁾	121,349	*
Kenneth Scott Kim ⁽³⁾	44,211	*
Christopher J. Speltz ⁽³⁾	244,390	*
All current executive officers and directors as a group (13 persons) ⁽⁴⁾	4,698,951	5.2%

* Less than 1% of our outstanding common stock

(1) The percentage of shares owned is based on 89,695,515 shares of Company common stock outstanding as of July 24, 2017.

Shares of restricted stock are considered to be outstanding and beneficially owned by the person holding such restricted stock. Shares of Company common stock issuable by us (i) pursuant to options held by the respective persons which may be exercised within 60 days following July 24, 2017 and (ii) upon vesting of restricted stock units or performance share units that vest by their terms within 60 days after July 24, 2017, are deemed to be outstanding and to be beneficially owned by the person holding such stock options, restricted stock units and/or performance share units for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of such person, but are not treated as outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person. The shares of Company common stock issuable by us pursuant to options exercisable within 60 days include: Mr. Esterow, 250,000 shares; Mr. Gilmartin, 75,000 shares; Mr. Speltz, 100,000 shares; Mr. Kelly, 20,000 shares; and Mr. Pinola, 30,000 shares; and all executive officers and directors as a group, 475,000 shares, of which 455,000 shares had an exercise price in excess of the \$14.00 per

share merger consideration on July 24, 2017. There were no shares of Company common stock issuable pursuant to vesting of restricted stock units or performance share units within 60 days after July 24, 2017.

- (2) Ben Holding S.à r.l. is beneficially owned by Apax US VII, L.P. (referred to in this proxy statement as Apax US VII Fund) and Apax Europe VII-A, L.P., Apax Europe VII-B, L.P. and Apax Europe VII-1, L.P. (referred to in this proxy statement as the Apax Europe VII Funds and, together, with Apax US VII Fund, are referred to in this proxy statement as the Apax VII Funds). Apax Partners, L.P. is an investment advisor to Apax US VII Fund under an investment advisory agreement with Apax US VII Fund. Apax

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Partners LLP is an investment advisor to Apax Europe VII GP L.P. Inc., a Guernsey incorporated limited partnership.

Apax Europe VII GP L.P. Inc., a Guernsey limited partnership, is the general partner of each of the Apax Europe VII Funds. Apax Europe VII GP Co. Limited, a Guernsey company, is the general partner of Apax Europe VII GP L.P. Inc. Apax Europe VII GP Co. Limited is responsible for the investments and general administration of the Apax Europe VII Funds. The directors of Apax Europe VII GP Co. Limited are Messrs. Andrew Guille, David Staples, Simon Cresswell, Martin Halusa, Nicholas Kershaw and Ms. Trina Le Noury.

Apax US VII GP, L.P., a Cayman Islands exempted limited partnership, is the general partner of the Apax US Fund. Apax US VII GP, Ltd., a Cayman Islands exempted limited company, is the general partner of Apax US VII GP, L.P. Apax Guernsey (Holdco) PCC Limited, as a result of a transfer of John F. Megrue's 100% equity interests in Apax US VII GP, Ltd., owns 100% of the equity interest of Apax US VII GP, Ltd.

The address of Ben Holding S.à r.l. 1-3 Boulevard de la Foire, 1-1528 Luxembourg; the address of Apax Europe VII GP Co. Limited, Apax Europe VII GP L.P. Inc. and the Apax Europe VII Funds is Third Floor, Royal Bank Palace, 1 Glatigny Esplanade, St. Peter Port, Guernsey X0 GY1 2HY; the address of Apax US VII Fund, Apax US VII GP, L.P. and Apax US VII GP, Ltd. is P.O. Box 908GT, Georgetown, Grand Cayman E9 KY1-9002.

- (3) The address of each director and executive officer of Bankrate is c/o Bankrate, Inc., 1675 Broadway, 22nd Floor, New York, New York 10019.
- (4) Includes 9,034 shares held by Mr. Pinola's spouse.

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APPRAISAL RIGHTS

Under the DGCL, you have the right to dissent from the merger and to receive payment in cash for the fair value of your shares of common stock as determined by the Delaware Court of Chancery, together with interest, if any, as determined by the Court, in lieu of the consideration you would otherwise be entitled to pursuant to the merger agreement. These rights are known as appraisal rights. Stockholders electing to exercise appraisal rights must comply with the provisions of Section 262 of the DGCL in order to perfect their rights. Strict compliance with the statutory procedures is required to perfect appraisal rights under Delaware law.

The following is intended as a brief summary of the material provisions of the Delaware statutory procedures required to be followed by a stockholder in order to dissent from the merger and perfect appraisal rights. This summary, however, is not a complete statement of all applicable requirements and is qualified in its entirety by reference to Section 262 of the DGCL, the full text of which appears in Annex C to this proxy statement. Failure to precisely follow any of the statutory procedures set forth in Section 262 of the DGCL may result in the loss or waiver of your appraisal rights. All references in this summary to a stockholder are to the record holder of shares of common stock of the Company unless otherwise indicated.

Beneficial owners of shares of common stock who do not also hold such shares of record may have the registered owner, such as a broker, bank or other nominee, submit the required demand in respect of those shares. If shares of common stock are owned of record in a fiduciary capacity, such as by a trustee, guardian or custodian, execution of a demand for appraisal should be made in that capacity, and if the shares of common stock are owned of record by more than one person, as in a joint tenancy or tenancy in common, the demand should be executed by or for all joint owners. An authorized agent, including an authorized agent for two or more joint owners, may execute the demand for appraisal on behalf of a stockholder of record; however, the agent must identify the record owner or owners and expressly disclose the fact that, in executing the demand, he or she is acting as agent for the record owner. In the event a record owner, such as a broker, who holds shares of common stock as a nominee for others, exercises his or her right of appraisal with respect to the shares of common stock held for one or more beneficial owners, while not exercising this right for other beneficial owners, we recommend that the written demand state the number of shares of common stock as to which appraisal is sought. Where no number of shares is expressly mentioned, we will presume that the demand covers all shares held in the name of the record owner. If you hold your shares of common stock in a brokerage account or in other nominee form and you wish to exercise appraisal rights, you should consult with your broker or the other nominee to determine the appropriate procedures for the making of a demand for appraisal by the nominee.

Section 262 of the DGCL requires that stockholders for whom appraisal rights are available be notified not less than 20 days before the stockholders meeting to vote on the merger in connection with which appraisal rights will be available. A copy of Section 262 of the DGCL must be included with such notice. This proxy statement constitutes our notice to the Company's stockholders of the availability of appraisal rights in connection with the merger in compliance with the requirements of Section 262 of the DGCL and a copy of the full text of Section 262 of the DGCL is attached hereto as Annex C. If you wish to consider exercising your appraisal rights, you should carefully review the text of Section 262 of the DGCL contained in Annex C to this proxy statement since failure to timely and properly comply with the requirements of Section 262 of the DGCL will result in the loss of your appraisal rights under the DGCL.

If you elect to demand appraisal of your shares, you must satisfy each of the following conditions:

You must deliver to us a written demand for appraisal of your shares before the vote with respect to the merger is taken. This written demand for appraisal must be in addition to and separate from any proxy or vote abstaining from or voting against the adoption and approval of the merger agreement and the merger. Voting against or failing to vote for the adoption and approval of the merger agreement and the merger by itself does not constitute a demand for appraisal within the meaning of Section 262 of the DGCL. The demand must reasonably inform us of the identity of the stockholder and the intention of the stockholder to demand appraisal of his, her or its shares. A stockholder's failure to make a written demand before the vote with respect to the merger is taken will constitute a waiver of appraisal rights.

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You must not vote in favor of, or consent in writing to, the adoption and approval of the merger agreement and the merger. A vote in favor of the adoption and approval of the merger agreement and merger, by proxy submitted by mail, over the Internet, by telephone or in person, will constitute a waiver of your appraisal rights in respect of the shares so voted and will nullify any previously filed written demands for appraisal. A proxy which does not contain voting instructions will, unless revoked, be voted in favor of the adoption and approval of the merger agreement and the merger. Therefore, a stockholder who votes by proxy and who wishes to exercise appraisal rights must vote against the merger agreement and the merger or abstain from voting on the merger agreement and the merger.

You must continue to hold your shares of common stock from the date of making the demand through the effective date of the merger. Therefore, a stockholder who is the record holder of shares of common stock on the date the written demand for appraisal is made but who thereafter transfers the shares before the effective date of the merger will lose any right to appraisal with respect to such shares.

You must otherwise comply with the procedures set forth in Section 262.

If you fail to comply with any of these conditions and the merger is completed, you will be entitled to receive the merger consideration, but you will have no appraisal rights with respect to your shares of common stock.

All demands for appraisal pursuant to Section 262 of the DGCL should be addressed to the Company, in care of the Corporate Secretary, at Bankrate, Inc., 1675 Broadway, 22nd Floor, New York, New York 10019, and must be delivered before the vote on the merger agreement is taken at the special meeting and should be executed by, or on behalf of, the record holder of the shares of common stock.

Within 10 days after the effective date of the merger, the surviving corporation (*i.e.*, Bankrate, Inc.) must give written notice that the merger has become effective to each stockholder who has properly filed a written demand for appraisal and who did not vote in favor of the merger agreement and the merger. At any time within 60 days after the effective date of the merger, any stockholder who has demanded an appraisal, and who has not commenced an appraisal proceeding or joined that proceeding as a named party, has the right to withdraw such stockholder's demand for appraisal and to accept the merger consideration specified by the merger agreement for his or her shares of common stock; after this period, the stockholder may withdraw such demand for appraisal only with the consent of the surviving corporation. Within 120 days after the effective date of the merger, any stockholder who has complied with Section 262 of the DGCL will, upon written request to the surviving corporation, be entitled to receive a written statement setting forth the aggregate number of shares not voted in favor of the merger agreement and the merger and with respect to which demands for appraisal rights have been received and the aggregate number of holders of such shares. A person who is the beneficial owner of shares of common stock held in a voting trust or by a nominee on behalf of such person may, in such person's own name, request from the corporation the statement described in the previous sentence. Such written statement will be mailed to the requesting stockholder within 10 days after such written request is received by the surviving corporation or within 10 days after expiration of the period for delivery of demands for appraisal, whichever is later. Within 120 days after the effective time, but not thereafter, either the surviving corporation or any stockholder who has complied with the requirements of Section 262 of the DGCL and who is otherwise entitled to appraisal rights may file a petition in the Delaware Court of Chancery demanding a determination of the fair value of the shares held by all stockholders entitled to appraisal. A person who is the beneficial owner of shares of common stock held in a voting trust or by a nominee on behalf of such person may, in such person's own name, file the petition described in the previous sentence. Upon the filing of the petition by a stockholder, service of a copy of such petition shall be made upon the Company, as the surviving corporation. If no such petition is filed within that 120-day period, appraisal rights will be lost for all holders of shares who had

previously demanded appraisal of their shares. The surviving corporation has no obligation to file such a petition in the event there are dissenting stockholders. Accordingly, the failure of a stockholder to file such a petition within the period specified could nullify the stockholder's previously written demand for appraisal. There is no present intent on the part of the Company to file an appraisal petition, and stockholders seeking to exercise appraisal

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rights should not assume that the Company will file such a petition or that the Company will initiate any negotiations with respect to the fair value of such shares. Accordingly, stockholders who desire to have their shares appraised should initiate any petitions necessary for the perfection of their appraisal rights within the time periods and in the manner prescribed in Section 262 of the DGCL.

If a petition for appraisal is duly filed by a stockholder and a copy of the petition is delivered to the surviving corporation, the surviving corporation will then be obligated, within 20 days after receiving service of a copy of the petition, to file in the office of the Register in Chancery in which the petition was filed a duly verified list containing the names and addresses of all stockholders who have demanded payment for their shares and with whom agreements as to the value of their shares have not been reached by the surviving corporation. The Register in Chancery, if so ordered by the Delaware Court of Chancery, must give notice of the time and place fixed for the hearing of such petition by registered or certified mail to the surviving corporation and to the stockholders shown on the list at the addresses therein stated. Such notice must also be given by one or more publications at least one week before the day of the hearing, in a newspaper of general circulation published in the City of Wilmington, Delaware or such publication as the Delaware Court of Chancery deems advisable. The forms of the notices by mail and by publication must be approved by the Delaware Court of Chancery, and the costs thereof will be borne by the surviving corporation. At the hearing on such petition, the Delaware Court of Chancery will determine the stockholders who have complied with Section 262 of the DGCL and who have become entitled to appraisal rights. The Delaware Court of Chancery may require the stockholders who have demanded appraisal for their shares and who hold stock represented by certificates to submit their stock certificates to the Register in Chancery for notation thereon of the pendency of the appraisal proceedings; if any stockholder fails to comply with that direction, the Delaware Court of Chancery may dismiss the proceedings as to that stockholder. If immediately before the merger the shares of the class or series of stock as to which appraisal rights are available were listed on a national securities exchange, the Delaware Court of Chancery will dismiss the proceedings as to all holders of such shares who are otherwise entitled to appraisal rights unless (1) the total number of shares entitled to appraisal exceeds 1% of the outstanding shares of the class or series eligible for appraisal, (2) the value of the consideration provided in the merger for such total number of shares exceeds \$1 million or (3) the merger was approved pursuant to Sections 253 or 267 of the DGCL.

After determination of the stockholders entitled to appraisal of their shares of common stock, the Delaware Court of Chancery will appraise the shares, determining their fair value exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger, together with interest, if any. Unless the Delaware Court of Chancery in its discretion determines otherwise for good cause shown, and except as otherwise provided in Section 262, interest from the effective date of the merger through the date of payment of the judgment will be compounded quarterly and will accrue at 5% over the Federal Reserve discount rate (including any surcharge) as established from time to time during the period between the effective date of the merger and the date of payment of the judgment. At any time before the entry of judgment in the proceedings, the surviving corporation may pay to each stockholder entitled to appraisal an amount in cash, in which case interest shall accrue thereafter only upon the sum of (1) the difference, if any, between the amount paid and the fair value of the shares as determined by the Delaware Court of Chancery, and (2) interest theretofore accrued, unless paid at that time. Upon application by the surviving corporation or by any stockholder entitled to participate in the appraisal proceeding, the Delaware Court of Chancery may, in its discretion, proceed to trial upon the appraisal before the final determination of the stockholders entitled to an appraisal. Any stockholder whose name appears on the list filed by the surviving corporation and who has submitted such stockholder's certificates of stock to the Register in Chancery, if such is required, may participate fully in all proceedings until it is finally determined that such stockholder is not entitled to appraisal rights under Section 262 of the DGCL. When the fair value is determined, the Delaware Court of Chancery will direct the payment of such value, with interest thereon, if any, by the surviving corporation to the stockholders entitled to receive the same, in the case of holders of uncertificated stock forthwith, and in the case of holders of shares represented by certificates upon the surrender to the surviving corporation of the certificates representing such stock.

In determining the fair value of the shares of common stock and, if applicable, interest, the Delaware Court of Chancery is required to take into account all relevant factors. In *Weinberger v. UOP, Inc.*, the Delaware

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Supreme Court discussed the factors that could be considered in determining fair value in an appraisal proceeding, stating that proof of value by any techniques or methods which are generally considered acceptable in the financial community and otherwise admissible in court should be considered, and that [f]air price obviously requires consideration of all relevant factors involving the value of a company.

The Delaware Supreme Court has stated that in making this determination of fair value, the court must consider market value, asset value, dividends, earnings prospects, the nature of the enterprise and any other facts that could be ascertained as of the date of the merger that throw any light on future prospects of the merged corporation. Section 262 of the DGCL provides that fair value is to be exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger. In *Cede & Co. v. Technicolor, Inc.*, the Delaware Supreme Court stated that such exclusion is a narrow exclusion [that] does not encompass known elements of value, but rather applies only to the speculative elements of value arising from such accomplishment or expectation. In *Weinberger*, the Delaware Supreme Court also stated that elements of future value, including the nature of the enterprise, which are known or susceptible of proof as of the date of the merger and not the product of speculation, may be considered.

You should be aware that the fair value of your shares of common stock as determined under Section 262 of the DGCL could be more than, the same as, or less than the value that you are entitled to receive under the terms of the merger agreement and that an opinion of an investment banking firm as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the consideration payable in a sale transaction, such as the merger, is not an opinion as to, and does not otherwise address, fair value under Section 262 of the DGCL.

Moreover, we do not anticipate offering more than the per share merger consideration to any stockholder exercising appraisal rights and reserve the right to assert, in any appraisal proceeding, that, for purposes of Section 262 of the DGCL, the fair value of a share of common stock is less than the per share merger consideration.

Costs of the appraisal proceeding may be imposed upon the surviving corporation and the stockholders participating in the appraisal proceeding by the Delaware Court of Chancery as the Court deems equitable in the circumstances. Upon the application of a stockholder, the Delaware Court of Chancery may order all or a portion of the expenses incurred by any stockholder in connection with the appraisal proceeding, including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees and the fees and expenses of experts, to be charged pro rata against the value of all shares entitled to appraisal. In the absence of an order, each party bears its own expenses. Any stockholder who has duly demanded and perfected appraisal rights in compliance with Section 262 of the DGCL will not, after the effective time, be entitled to vote shares subject to that demand for any purpose or to receive payments of dividends or any other distribution with respect to those shares, other than with respect to payment as of a record date before the effective time; however, if no petition for appraisal is filed within 120 days after the effective date of the merger, or if the stockholder delivers a written withdrawal of his or her demand for appraisal and an acceptance of the terms of the merger within 60 days after the effective date of the merger or thereafter with the written approval of the Company, then the right of that stockholder to appraisal will cease. No appraisal proceeding in the Delaware Court of Chancery will be dismissed as to any stockholder without the prior approval of the Court, and such approval may be conditioned upon such terms as the Delaware Court of Chancery deems just; provided, however, that any stockholder who has not commenced an appraisal proceeding or joined that proceeding as a named party will maintain the right to withdraw its demand for appraisal and to accept the merger consideration that such holder would have received pursuant to the merger agreement within 60 days after the effective date of the merger.

In view of the complexity of Section 262 of the DGCL, stockholders who may wish to dissent from the merger and pursue appraisal rights should consult their legal advisors.

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MULTIPLE STOCKHOLDERS SHARING ONE ADDRESS

In accordance with Rule 14a-3(e)(1) under the Exchange Act, one proxy statement will be delivered to two or more stockholders who share an address, unless the Company has received contrary instructions from one or more of the stockholders. Each stockholder will receive a separate proxy card. The Company will deliver promptly upon written or oral request a separate copy of the proxy statement to a stockholder at a shared address to which a single copy of the proxy statement was delivered. Requests for additional copies of the proxy statement should be directed to the Company, in care of the Corporate Secretary, at Bankrate, Inc., 1675 Broadway, 22nd Floor, New York, New York 10019, or by calling (917) 368-8600. In addition, stockholders who share a single address, but receive multiple copies of the proxy statement, may request that in the future they receive a single copy by contacting the Company at the address and phone number set forth in the prior sentence.

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SUBMISSION OF STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS

If the merger is completed, the Company does not expect to hold a 2018 annual meeting of stockholders. However, if the merger is not completed, the Company will hold a 2018 annual meeting of stockholders. As described in the Company's annual meeting proxy statement for the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders filed on April 28, 2017, any stockholder proposals submitted in accordance with SEC rules must be received by us no later than 120 calendar days before the one-year anniversary of the date of our proxy statement released to stockholders in connection with the 2017 annual meeting, or December 29, 2017. However, in the event that we hold our 2018 annual meeting of stockholders more than 30 days before or 30 days after the one-year anniversary date of the 2017 annual meeting, we will disclose the new deadline by which stockholder proposals must be received on Form 10-Q or, if impracticable to do so, by any means reasonably calculated to inform stockholders. Proposals submitted for consideration should be addressed to us at 1675 Broadway, 22nd Floor, New York, New York 10019, Attention: Corporate Secretary. Under applicable SEC rules, we are not required to include stockholder proposals in our proxy materials unless certain other conditions specified in such rules are met.

In order for a stockholder to bring any other business or director nominations before an annual meeting of stockholders, the stockholder must comply with certain conditions set forth in Article II, Sections 12, 13 and 14 of our bylaws, including delivery of notice to us in sufficient time prior to the annual meeting of stockholders. Pursuant to these provisions, notice of nomination or proposal must be received by us no earlier than 120 days prior, and no later than 90 days prior, to the anniversary of the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders; provided, however, that in the event the date of the 2017 annual meeting is more than 30 days earlier or 60 days after the anniversary of the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders, then notice must be received no earlier than 120 days prior, and no later than 90 days prior, to the 2018 annual meeting of stockholders or, if the first public announcement of the date of the 2018 annual meeting is less than 100 days prior to such meeting, notice must be received not later than the close of business on the 10th day following the day on which such public announcement was made.

Additional information regarding the procedures to submit a stockholder proposal at the 2018 annual meeting, if one will be held, is included in the Company's proxy statement for its 2017 annual meeting of stockholders, filed on April 28, 2017.

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Company files annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any reports, proxy statements or other information that we file with the SEC at the following location of the SEC:

Public Reference Room

100 F Street, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20549

Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information regarding the public reference room. You may also obtain copies of this information by mail from the Public Reference Section of the SEC at its address above, at prescribed rates. The Company's public filings are also available to the public from document retrieval services and the Internet website maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov.

The Company will make available a copy of its public reports, without charge, on the Investor Relations page of its website at <http://investor.bankrate.com/> as soon as reasonably practicable after the Company files the reports electronically with the SEC. The information provided on our website is not part of this proxy statement, and is not incorporated by reference herein. In addition, you may obtain a copy of the reports, without charge, by contacting the Company at 1675 Broadway, 22nd Floor, New York, New York 10019, Attention: Corporate Secretary, or by calling (917) 368-8600. In order to ensure timely delivery of the documents before the special meeting, any request should be made promptly to the Company.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this proxy statement documents we file with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this proxy statement, and later information that we file with the SEC will update and supersede that information. Information in documents that is deemed, in accordance with SEC rules, to be furnished and not filed will not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this proxy statement. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any documents filed by us pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this proxy statement, and before the date of the special meeting (provided that we are not incorporating by reference any information furnished to, but not filed with, the SEC):

Bankrate's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016;

the portions of Bankrate's Definitive Proxy Statement for the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on April 28, 2017, that are incorporated by reference in Bankrate's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016;

Bankrate's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2017; and

Bankrate's Current Reports on Form 8-K, in each case to the extent filed and not furnished with the SEC on March 28, 2017, June 22, 2017, July 3, 2017 and July 7, 2017.

THIS PROXY STATEMENT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THE SOLICITATION OF A PROXY IN ANY JURISDICTION TO OR FROM ANY PERSON TO WHOM OR FROM WHOM IT IS UNLAWFUL TO MAKE SUCH PROXY SOLICITATION IN THAT JURISDICTION. YOU SHOULD RELY ONLY ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED OR INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE INTO THIS PROXY STATEMENT TO VOTE YOUR SHARES AT THE SPECIAL MEETING. NO PERSONS HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO GIVE ANY INFORMATION OR TO MAKE ANY REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE MERGER OR THE SPECIAL MEETING OTHER THAN THOSE CONTAINED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT, AND, IF GIVEN OR MADE, SUCH INFORMATION OR REPRESENTATIONS MUST NOT BE RELIED UPON AS HAVING BEEN AUTHORIZED BY US OR ANY OTHER PERSON. THIS PROXY STATEMENT IS DATED []. YOU SHOULD NOT

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ASSUME THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT IS ACCURATE AS OF ANY DATE OTHER THAN THAT DATE, AND THE MAILING OF THIS PROXY STATEMENT TO STOCKHOLDERS DOES NOT AND WILL NOT CREATE ANY IMPLICATION TO THE CONTRARY.

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Annex A

Execution Version

AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER

by and among

RED VENTURES HOLDCO, LP,

BATON MERGER CORP.

and

BANKRATE, INC.

Dated as of July 2, 2017

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AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER

This AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER, dated as of July 2, 2017 (this Agreement), by and among Red Ventures Holdco, LP, a North Carolina limited partnership (Parent), Baton Merger Corp., a Delaware corporation and an indirect wholly owned Subsidiary of Parent (Merger Sub), and Bankrate, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the Company).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the board of directors of the Company (the Company Board) has unanimously approved the merger of Merger Sub with and into the Company (the Merger), upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this Agreement and in accordance with the provisions of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the DGCL), and has approved and declared this Agreement fair and advisable to and in the best interests of its stockholders;

WHEREAS, the boards of directors of Parent and Merger Sub have each approved this Agreement and declared it advisable for Parent and Merger Sub, respectively, to enter into this Agreement;

WHEREAS, New Imagitas, Inc., a wholly owned Subsidiary of Parent, as the sole stockholder of Merger Sub, has approved and adopted this Agreement and the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, including the Merger;

WHEREAS, concurrently with the execution and delivery of this Agreement, Parent and Ben Holding S.à r.l. have entered into a Voting Agreement in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, pursuant to which and subject to the terms thereof, among other things, Ben Holding S.à r.l. is agreeing to vote the shares of Common Stock owned by it and subject to the Voting Agreement in favor of the adoption of this Agreement, and to take certain other actions in furtherance of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, subject to the terms and conditions thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Company, Parent and Merger Sub desire to make certain representations, warranties, covenants and agreements in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and also to prescribe certain conditions to the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises, and of the representations, warranties, covenants and agreements contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

THE MERGER

Section 1.1. The Merger. Upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this Agreement, at the Effective Time, Merger Sub shall be merged with and into the Company, in accordance with the provisions of the DGCL, and the separate corporate existence of Merger Sub shall thereupon cease. The Company shall be the surviving corporation in the Merger (sometimes hereinafter referred to as the Surviving Corporation) and, following the Merger, the separate corporate existence of the Company, with all its rights, privileges, immunities, powers and franchises, shall continue unaffected by the Merger, except as set forth in this Agreement.

Section 1.2. Closing. The closing of the Merger (the Closing) shall take place: (a) at 9:00 a.m., New York City time, no later than the third (3rd) Business Day following the satisfaction or waiver (if permissible under applicable Law) of all of the conditions set forth in Article VI (other than those conditions that by their nature are to be satisfied at the

Closing, but subject to the satisfaction or waiver of such conditions at the

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Closing), at the offices of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, 51 West 52nd Street, New York, New York 10019, provided, that if the Marketing Period has not ended on or prior to the time the Closing would have otherwise been required to occur pursuant to the foregoing, the Closing shall not occur until the earlier to occur of (i) a Business Day during the Marketing Period specified by Parent on no fewer than three (3) Business Days written notice to the Company (it being understood that such date may be conditioned upon the simultaneous completion of the Financing) and (ii) the first Business Day following the final day of the Marketing Period (subject, in the case of each of the foregoing clauses (i) and (ii), to the satisfaction or (to the extent permitted by applicable Law) waiver of all of the conditions set forth in Article VI (other than those conditions that by their nature are to be satisfied at the Closing, but subject to the satisfaction or waiver of such conditions at the Closing) as of the date determined pursuant to this proviso) or (b) at such other date, time or place as agreed to in writing by Parent and the Company. The date on which the Closing actually occurs is referred to herein as the Closing Date. For the avoidance of doubt, a condition may only be waived in writing by the party or parties entitled to such condition under this Agreement.

Section 1.3. Effective Time. Subject to the terms and conditions hereof, on the Closing Date, the Company and Parent will cause a certificate of merger (the Certificate of Merger) to be duly executed, acknowledged and filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware in accordance with Section 251 of the DGCL. The Merger shall become effective at the time when the Certificate of Merger has been duly filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware or at such later time as the parties shall agree in writing and specify in the Certificate of Merger in accordance with the DGCL (the Effective Time).

ARTICLE II

EFFECTS OF THE MERGER

Section 2.1. Effects of the Merger. The Merger shall have the effects specified in this Agreement and the applicable provisions of the DGCL. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, and subject thereto, at the Effective Time, all property, rights, privileges, powers and franchises of the Company shall vest in the Surviving Corporation, and all debts, liabilities and duties of the Company shall become debts, liabilities and duties of the Surviving Corporation.

Section 2.2. Certificate of Incorporation. Without any further action on the part of the Company or Merger Sub, at the Effective Time, the certificate of incorporation of the Surviving Corporation (the Charter) shall be amended and restated in its entirety to be in the form attached hereto as Exhibit B, until thereafter amended as provided therein or by applicable Law.

Section 2.3. Bylaws. Subject to Section 5.10, without any further action on the part of the Company or Merger Sub, at the Effective Time, the bylaws of the Surviving Corporation (the Bylaws) shall be amended and restated in their entirety to be in the form of the bylaws of Merger Sub (except that the name of the Surviving Corporation shall be the name of the Company), until thereafter amended as provided therein or in the Charter or by applicable Law.

Section 2.4. Directors. The directors of Merger Sub immediately prior to the Effective Time shall, from and after the Effective Time, be the directors of the Surviving Corporation until their successors have been duly elected or appointed and qualified or until their earlier death, resignation or removal in accordance with the Charter and the Bylaws.

Section 2.5. Officers. The officers of the Company immediately prior to the Effective Time shall, from and after the Effective Time, be the officers of the Surviving Corporation until their successors have been duly elected or appointed and qualified or until their earlier death, resignation or removal in accordance with the Charter and the Bylaws.

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Section 2.6. Effect on Capital Stock. At the Effective Time, as a result of the Merger and without any action on the part of the holder of any capital stock of the Company, any party hereto or any other Person:

(a) Merger Consideration. Each share of Common Stock (a Share or, collectively, the Shares) issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time (other than Cancelled Shares, Converted Shares and Dissenting Shares (collectively, Excluded Shares)) shall at the Effective Time automatically be cancelled and converted into the right to receive \$14.00 per Share in cash (the Merger Consideration), without interest and subject to applicable withholding taxes pursuant to Section 2.7(g), whereupon such Shares will cease to exist and no longer be outstanding, and each holder thereof will cease to have any rights with respect thereto, except the right to receive the Merger Consideration, without interest, upon surrender of Certificates or Book-Entry Shares in accordance with Section 2.7.

(b) Cancellation of Cancelled Shares; Conversion of Converted Shares. Shares that immediately prior to the Effective Time are held by the Company in treasury or by Parent or Merger Sub (collectively, Cancelled Shares) shall at the Effective Time automatically be cancelled and shall cease to exist, and no consideration shall be delivered or deliverable in exchange therefor. Shares that immediately prior to the Effective Time are held by any wholly owned Subsidiary of the Company (collectively, Converted Shares) shall at the Effective Time automatically be converted into such number of fully paid and nonassessable shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the Surviving Corporation such that the ownership percentage of any such Subsidiary in the Surviving Corporation immediately following the Effective Time shall equal the ownership percentage of such Subsidiary in the Company immediately prior to the Effective Time.

(c) Conversion of Merger Sub Common Stock. At the Effective Time, each share of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of Merger Sub issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be converted into one fully paid and nonassessable share of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the Surviving Corporation.

Section 2.7. Payment.

(a) Paying Agent; Exchange Fund. Prior to the Effective Time, Parent shall designate a bank or trust company reasonably acceptable to the Company to act as agent (the Paying Agent) for the payment of the Merger Consideration in accordance with this Article II, and in connection therewith, shall enter into an agreement reasonably acceptable to the Company relating to the Paying Agent's responsibilities with respect to this Agreement. At or prior to the Effective Time, Parent shall deposit, or shall cause to be deposited, with the Paying Agent in trust for the benefit of the holders of Shares a cash amount sufficient to pay the aggregate Merger Consideration (such cash being hereinafter referred to as the Exchange Fund). The Exchange Fund shall not be used for any purpose except as set forth herein. The Paying Agent shall invest the Exchange Fund as reasonably directed by Parent; provided, that such investments shall be in short-term obligations of, or guaranteed in full by, the United States of America with maturities no more than thirty (30) days or in commercial paper obligations rated A-1 or P-1 or better by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or Standard & Poor's Corporation. Any interest and other income resulting from such investments shall be payable to Parent or the Surviving Corporation and any amounts in excess of the amounts payable under this Article II shall be promptly returned to the Surviving Corporation. To the extent that there are any losses with respect to any such investments, Parent shall, or shall cause the Surviving Corporation to, promptly replace or restore the cash in the Exchange Fund so as to ensure that the Exchange Fund is at all times maintained at a level sufficient for the Paying Agent to pay the aggregate Merger Consideration under this Article II. No investment losses resulting from investment of the funds deposited with the Paying Agent shall diminish the rights of any holder of Shares to receive the Merger Consideration as provided herein.

(b) Exchange Procedures.

(i) Letter of Transmittal. As soon as reasonably practicable after the Effective Time (but in any event no later than five (5) Business Days after the date on which the Effective Time occurs), Parent shall, or shall

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cause the Surviving Corporation to, cause the Paying Agent to mail to each Record Holder of a certificate (a Certificate) or book-entry share (a Book-Entry Share) that immediately prior to the Effective Time represented Shares, which Shares were converted into the right to receive the Merger Consideration pursuant to Section 2.6(a), (A) a letter of transmittal (which shall be in customary form and with such other provisions as Parent and the Company shall reasonably agree, and which shall specify that delivery shall be effected, and risk of loss and title shall pass, only upon delivery of such Certificates (or affidavits of loss in lieu thereof as provided in Section 2.7(e)) or transfer of such Book-Entry Shares to the Paying Agent (including customary provisions with respect to delivery of an agent's message with respect to Book-Entry Shares)) and (B) instructions for effecting the surrender of Certificates (or affidavits of loss in lieu thereof as provided in Section 2.7(e)) or Book-Entry Shares to the Paying Agent in exchange for payment of the Merger Consideration therefor.

(ii) Payment for Shares. Upon surrender to the Paying Agent of Certificates (or affidavits of loss in lieu thereof as provided in Section 2.7(e)) or Book-Entry Shares, together with, in the case of Certificates, such letter of transmittal, duly completed and validly executed in accordance with the instructions thereto, or, in the case of Book-Entry Shares, receipt of an agent's message by the Paying Agent, and such other customary documents as may reasonably be required by the Paying Agent, the holder of such Certificates or Book-Entry Shares shall be entitled to receive in exchange therefor, and the Paying Agent shall be required to deliver to each such holder, a check in the amount of cash (after giving effect to any required withholding taxes as provided in Section 2.7(g)) that such holder has the right to receive pursuant to Section 2.6(a). No interest will be paid or accrued on any amount payable in respect of Certificates or Book-Entry Shares. If payment of the Merger Consideration is to be made to a Person other than the Person in whose name a surrendered Certificate or, in the case of a Book-Entry Share, a surrendered Share is registered, it will be a condition of payment that the Certificate or, in the case of a Book-Entry Share, the Share so surrendered be endorsed properly or otherwise be in proper form for transfer and that the Person requesting such payment has paid all transfer and other Taxes required by reason of the payment of the Merger Consideration to a Person other than the registered holder of the Certificate or, in the case of a Book-Entry Share, the Share surrendered and has established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Paying Agent and the Surviving Corporation that such Taxes have been paid or are not applicable.

(c) Closing of Transfer Books. From and after the Effective Time, the stock transfer books of the Surviving Corporation shall be closed and there shall be no further registration of transfers on the stock transfer books of the Surviving Corporation of the Shares that were outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time. Until surrendered as contemplated by Section 2.7(b), each Certificate and Book-Entry Share (other than Excluded Shares) shall, from and after the Effective Time, represent only the right to receive the Merger Consideration, without interest thereon, as contemplated by Section 2.6(a). If, after the Effective Time, Certificates or, in the case of Book-Entry Shares, such Shares are presented to the Surviving Corporation, Parent or the Paying Agent for transfer or any other reason, they shall be cancelled and exchanged for the Merger Consideration as provided in this Article II.

(d) Termination of Exchange Fund. Any portion of the Exchange Fund (including the proceeds of any investments thereof) that remains unclaimed by the Record Holders of Shares one year after the Effective Time shall be delivered to the Surviving Corporation. Any Record Holder of Shares (other than Excluded Shares) who has not theretofore complied with this Article II shall thereafter look only to the Surviving Corporation and Parent, which shall remain responsible for payment of the Merger Consideration for such Shares as provided in this Article II, without any interest thereon. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, none of the Surviving Corporation, Parent, Merger Sub, the Paying Agent or any other Person shall be liable to any Record Holder of Shares for any amount properly delivered to a public official pursuant to applicable abandoned property, escheat or similar Laws.

(e) Lost, Stolen or Destroyed Certificates. In the event that any Certificate shall have been lost, stolen or destroyed, upon the making of an affidavit of that fact by the holder thereof, and if determined by Parent in its

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sole discretion, the posting by such holder of a bond in customary amount and upon such terms as may be required by Parent as indemnity against any claim that may be made against it, the Surviving Corporation or the Paying Agent with respect to such Certificate, Parent will cause the Surviving Corporation or the Paying Agent to pay in exchange for such lost, stolen or destroyed Certificate the Merger Consideration payable in respect of the Shares previously evidenced by such lost, stolen or destroyed Certificate, without any interest thereon.

(f) Dissenting Shares. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, if required by the DGCL (but only to the extent required thereby), Shares that are issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time (other than Cancelled Shares and Converted Shares) and that are held by holders of such Shares who have not voted in favor of the adoption of this Agreement or consented thereto in writing and who have properly exercised appraisal rights with respect thereto in accordance with, and who have complied with, Section 262 of the DGCL (the Dissenting Shares) will not be converted into the right to receive the Merger Consideration, and holders of such Dissenting Shares will be entitled to receive payment of the fair value of such Dissenting Shares in accordance with the provisions of such Section 262 unless and until any such holder fails to perfect or effectively withdraws or loses its rights to appraisal and payment under the DGCL. If, after the Effective Time, any such holder fails to perfect or effectively withdraws or loses such right, such Dissenting Shares will thereupon be treated as if they had been converted into and had become exchangeable for, at the Effective Time, the right to receive the Merger Consideration, without any interest thereon. At the Effective Time, any holder of Dissenting Shares shall cease to have any rights with respect thereto, except the rights provided in Section 262 of the DGCL and as provided in the previous sentence. The Company will give Parent prompt notice of any written demands received by the Company for appraisals of Shares, including any holder's written notice of its intent to demand payment pursuant to Section 262 of the DGCL that the Company receives, withdrawals of such demands and any other instruments served pursuant to Section 262 of the DGCL and received by the Company. Parent shall have the right to direct and control all negotiations and proceedings with respect to any such demands, withdrawals or attempted withdrawals of such demands; provided that, after the date hereof until the Effective Time, Parent shall consult with the Company with respect to such negotiations and proceedings. The Company shall not, except with the prior written consent of Parent, and prior to the Effective Time, Parent shall not, except with the prior written consent of the Company, make any payment with respect to any demands for appraisal or offer to settle or compromise, or settle or compromise or otherwise negotiate, any such demands, or approve any withdrawal of any such demands, or waive any failure to timely deliver a written demand for appraisal or otherwise to comply with Section 262 of the DGCL, or agree to do any of the foregoing.

(g) Withholding Rights. Each of Parent, the Surviving Corporation and the Paying Agent shall be entitled to deduct and withhold from the consideration otherwise payable pursuant to this Agreement (including pursuant to Sections 2.6(a) and 2.8) such Taxes as it is required to deduct and withhold with respect to the making of such payment under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), or the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, or under any other applicable provision of Law. To the extent that amounts are so deducted and withheld by Parent, the Surviving Corporation or the Paying Agent, as the case may be, and timely paid over to the appropriate Governmental Entity, such deducted and withheld amounts shall be treated for all purposes of this Agreement as having been paid to the Person in respect of which such deduction and withholding was made by Parent, the Surviving Corporation or the Paying Agent, as the case may be.

Section 2.8. Company Equity Awards.

(a) Except as otherwise agreed to in writing prior to the Effective Time by Parent and a holder of any Company Stock Options with respect to such holder's Company Stock Options, each outstanding option to acquire Shares (each, a Company Stock Option), whether vested or unvested, that is outstanding and unexercised immediately prior to the Effective Time shall, as of the Effective Time, become fully vested (to the extent unvested) and be converted into the right to receive an amount in cash equal to the product of (i) the excess, if any, of the Merger Consideration *over* the

exercise price per Share of such Company Stock Option, *multiplied by* (ii) the total number of Shares subject to such Company Stock Option. Any Company Stock Option that has an exercise price per Share that is greater than or equal to the Merger Consideration shall be cancelled for no consideration.

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(b) Except as otherwise agreed to in writing prior to the Effective Time by Parent and a holder of any Company Restricted Stock Awards with respect to such holder's Company Restricted Stock Awards, each award in respect of a Share subject to vesting, repurchase or other lapse restriction (each, a Company Restricted Stock Award) that is outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time shall, as of the Effective Time, either (i) become fully vested, in the case of any Company Restricted Stock Award that vests solely based on continued service, or (ii) vested to the extent provided for in the award agreement applicable to such Company Restricted Stock Award, in the case of any Company Restricted Stock Award that vests in whole or in part based on performance conditions and for which the applicable performance period is not complete as of immediately prior to the Effective Time, and shall be cancelled and converted automatically into the right to receive an amount in cash equal to the Merger Consideration in respect of each vested Share subject to such Company Restricted Stock Award. For purposes of clause (ii), the determination of actual performance and the number of Shares underlying the Company Restricted Stock Award that vest as of the Effective Time shall be made by the Company Board (or an authorized committee thereof) prior to the Effective Time.

(c) Except as otherwise agreed to in writing prior to the Effective Time by Parent and a holder of any Company RSU Awards with respect to such holder's Company RSU Awards, each restricted stock unit award in respect of a Share (each, a Company RSU Award and, together with the Company Stock Options and the Company Restricted Stock Awards, the Company Equity Awards) that is outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time shall, as of the Effective Time, either (i) become fully vested, in the case of any Company RSU Award that vests solely based on continued service, or (ii) vested to the extent provided for in the award agreement applicable to such Company RSU Award, in the case of any Company RSU Award that vests in whole or in part based on performance conditions and for which the applicable performance period is not complete as of immediately prior to the Effective Time, and shall be cancelled and converted automatically into the right to receive an amount in cash equal to the Merger Consideration in respect of each vested Share subject to such Company RSU Award. For purposes of clause (ii), the determination of actual performance and the number of Shares underlying the Company RSU Award that vest as of the Effective Time shall be made by the Company Board (or an authorized committee thereof) prior to the Effective Time.

(d) The Surviving Corporation shall pay the holders of Company Equity Awards the cash payments described in this Section 2.8 on or as soon as reasonably practicable after the Closing Date, but in any event within five (5) Business Days thereafter.

(e) Prior to the Effective Time, the Company Board or any authorized committee thereof shall adopt such resolutions as may reasonably be appropriate or required in its discretion to effectuate the actions contemplated by this Section 2.8.

Section 2.9. Adjustments to Prevent Dilution. In the event that, between the date of this Agreement and the Effective Time, the Company changes the number of Shares issued and outstanding as a result of a reclassification, stock split or reverse stock split, stock dividend or stock distribution, recapitalization, combination, merger, issuer tender or exchange offer, or other similar transaction, the Merger Consideration shall be correspondingly adjusted to reflect such change and to provide the holders of Shares the same economic effect as contemplated by this Agreement prior to such action, and as so adjusted shall, from and after the date of such event, be the Merger Consideration.

ARTICLE III

REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF THE COMPANY

Except as set forth in (a) the Company SEC Documents (other than any disclosures contained or referenced therein under the captions "Risk Factors" or "Forward Looking Statements" (to the extent such disclosures are general and

cautionary, predictive or forward-looking in nature)) filed with or furnished to the SEC by the

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Company (including any documents incorporated by reference into any of the Company SEC Documents) since January 1, 2016 and publicly available on or before the day that is two (2) Business Days prior to the date of this Agreement or (b) the disclosure letter delivered by the Company to Parent prior to entering into this Agreement (the Company Disclosure Schedule) (it being acknowledged and agreed that (i) disclosure of any item in any section or subsection of the Company Disclosure Schedule, whether or not an explicit cross reference appears, shall be deemed disclosure with respect to any other section or subsection to which the relevance of such item is reasonably apparent on the face of such disclosure, and (ii) the mere inclusion of an item in the Company Disclosure Schedule as an exception to a representation or warrant