



SPARK NETWORKS® REPORTS THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL RESULTS

Quarterly Highlights

- **Both Jewish and Christian Networks show simultaneous subscriber growth for first time since Q1 2013**
- **Record ChristianMingle contribution margin up 500 basis points year-over-year to 44%**
- **Highest company contribution margin since Q4 2014 at 62%**
- **Spark's mobile presence now exceeds over 200,000 monthly active users across five brands**
- **Acquisition of JSwipe expands offering for Jewish community**
- **Scheduled re-launch of both JDate and ChristianMingle on pace for Q4 2015**

LOS ANGELES, Calif., November 3, 2015 -- Spark Networks, Inc. (NYSE MKT: LOV), a leader in creating communities that help individuals form life-long relationships, today reported financial results for the third quarter ended September 30, 2015.

Commentary and Outlook

Chief Executive Officer Michael Egan stated, “The last three months represent a true inflection point for Spark Networks and the clearest indication yet that we are on the right path towards turning this business around. There are four specific achievements that I believe represent this inflection, and each sets us up to start to run in the near future.

“First off we grew our subscriber base for the first time in two years. Both our Jewish and Christian Networks experienced subscriber growth over the course of Q3 of 1.8% and 0.4%, respectively. While this subscriber growth was modest, we are excited that it occurred a quarter ahead of our original guidance, and in a seasonally slow period. We are now in an excellent position to continue our momentum into Q4 and Q1, which have traditionally been our strongest seasonal periods. Most encouraging is that JDate.com, our U.S. property, experienced the highest quarterly subscriber growth since early 2009.

“Our second accomplishment was our record contribution margin on ChristianMingle at 44%. For many years, in an effort to create a sizable network, the Company was acquiring ChristianMingle subscribers at negative incremental margins. Though we halted that practice late last year, our Q3 performance represents the highest incremental acquisition margins ever for the brand during a period of subscriber growth. We continue to be methodical about how and where we invest in marketing and we’re becoming much more sophisticated in our communications with our members once they register. We are just starting to hone our capabilities here and expect to be able to drive further improvements as we move forward.

“Our third accomplishment was the launch of a handful of new mobile applications into the market. A year ago the company did not have a single native mobile application and today we have nine apps across five different brands representing over 200,000

monthly active users. The most critical of these launches was our new CrossPaths application. As the leader in the Christian market for dating it is important that we offer a product to millennial Christians seeking others who share their faith and ideas about what dating means. CrossPaths fills a major void in the dating market and we are encouraged by the early adoption we've seen.

"Finally, in early October, we closed a very strategic acquisition for the company, bringing Smooch Labs into the Spark family. Smooch Labs is the developer of JSwipe, the popular Jewish millennial dating application. With over 450,000 downloads, JSwipe has done an excellent job of building a community in the Jewish market. Because JDate traditionally skews towards an older and more marriage-minded demographic, by combining forces we can now provide a solution across the broad age and interest range. We believe that, with the addition of premium features to the platform, JSwipe and the Smooch team will be major contributors to our future growth.

"We recognize that the online dating industry is highly fragmented and believe that only those firms that achieve scale will survive. Accordingly we are in the early stages of retaining a financial advisor to best position the company to further participate in the ongoing industry consolidation.

"When we started this turn around at the beginning of the year we spoke of a crawl, walk, run strategy. While our 'pace' definitely quickened in Q3, there is still plenty of work to be done. We remain committed to driving revenue and EBITDA growth and continuing to execute against our product improvement roadmap. We've assembled a team that is finding its stride, hitting its goals and finding ways to scale. We've significantly bolstered our product development capabilities and are proving that we can launch innovative and valuable products for our customers. And finally through both organic development and acquisitions we are proving that we can build and grow fantastic brands that serve important market niches. It is a very exciting time for Spark."

Financial Highlights

	<u>Q3 2015</u>	<u>Q2 2015</u>	<u>Q3 2014</u>
Revenue	\$11.7 Million	\$12.3 Million	\$15.0 Million
Contribution ¹	\$7.3 Million	\$6.9 Million	\$9.0 Million
Adjusted EBITDA ²	\$309 Thousand	\$621 Thousand	\$2.5 Million
Net(Loss) Income	\$(822) Thousand	\$(95) Thousand	\$(969) Thousand
Cash Balance	\$14.4 Million	\$14.6 Million	\$9.3 Million
Period Ending Subs ³	197,832	196,819	243,499
Avg. Paying Subs ³	197,109	203,895	257,679
ARPU	\$19.04	\$19.43	\$18.33

Financial Results

Revenue in the third quarter of 2015 was \$11.7 million, a decrease of 22% compared to the year ago period, and a 5% decrease from the prior quarter. The year over year decrease was primarily driven by a decrease in average paying subscribers. The sequential decrease was primarily driven by decreases in both average paying subscribers and ARPU for the Christian and Jewish Networks segments. The declines in

ARPU were driven, in part, by a significant increase in the proportion of 6 month subscriptions sold during the quarter within the Jewish and Christian Networks.

Direct marketing expenses in the third quarter of 2015 were \$4.4 million, a decrease of 27% compared to the year ago period and a 17% decrease compared to the prior quarter. Christian Networks accounted for the majority of the decrease compared to the year ago period, reflecting the Company's strategy to reduce and reallocate direct marketing investments in the segment. The sequential decrease was primarily driven by efficiency in the Christian Networks TV marketing campaigns.

Contribution in the third quarter of 2015 was \$7.3 million, a decrease of 19% compared to the year ago period and a 5% increase compared to the prior quarter. Our contribution margin increased to 62% from 60% in the year ago period and 57% in the previous quarter. The margin expansion was primarily driven by our Christian Networks, which increased margins to 44% from 39% in the year ago period and 36% in the previous quarter.

Excluding direct marketing expenses, cost and expenses in the third quarter of 2015 were \$7.9 million, a decrease of 15% compared to the year ago period and an 11% increase compared to the prior quarter. The year over year decrease is a combination of lower sales and marketing expenses, and general and administrative expenses, primarily reflecting the impact of the Company's expense reduction and improved efficiency program announced in the third quarter of 2014, as well as one time executive severance expense. The sequential increase was driven by legal expenses of approximately \$950,000 related to protecting the Company's intellectual property and closing the acquisition of Smooch Labs. Both matters were resolved during Q4 2015. This increase was partially offset by decreases in bad debt expense and share based compensation.

Net loss in the third quarter of 2015 was \$(822) thousand, or \$(0.03) per share, compared to a net loss of \$(969) thousand, or \$(0.04) per share, in the year ago period and net loss of \$(95) thousand, or \$(0.00) per share, in the prior quarter.

Adjusted EBITDA in the third quarter of 2015 was \$309 thousand compared to \$2.5 million in the year ago period and \$621 thousand in the prior quarter. Current period Adjusted EBITDA excludes \$129 thousand of transaction fees related to the acquisition of Smooch Labs, Inc., which closed early in the fourth quarter of 2015. Adjusted EBITDA in the third quarter of 2015 does include the impact of approximately \$820 thousand of litigation costs related to the intellectual property litigation with Smooch Labs.

Liquidity

As of September 30, 2015, the Company had cash and cash equivalents of \$14.4 million, a decrease of 1% from \$14.6 million at the end of the prior quarter. As of September 30, 2015, the Company had no outstanding debt.

Acquisition of Smooch Labs

On October 14, 2015 the Company completed the acquisition of Smooch Labs, Inc., the owner of the popular millennial Jewish dating app JSwipe.

SPARK NETWORKS, INC.
SEGMENT⁴ RESULTS FROM OPERATIONS
(in thousands except subscriber and ARPU information)

	<u>Q3 2015</u>	<u>Q2 2015</u>	<u>Q1 2015</u>	<u>Q4 2014</u>	<u>Q3 2014</u>	<u>Q3 '15 v.</u> <u>Q3 '14</u>	<u>Q3 '15 v.</u> <u>Q2 '15</u>
Revenue							
Jewish Networks	\$4,613	\$4,846	\$5,180	\$5,502	\$5,724	-19.4%	-4.8%
Christian Networks	6,581	6,921	7,792	8,215	8,672	-24.1%	-4.9%
Other Networks	466	470	487	504	533	-12.6%	-0.9%
Offline & Other Businesses	<u>22</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>-72.2%</u>	<u>-12.0%</u>
Total Revenue	\$11,682	\$12,262	\$13,486	\$14,264	\$15,008	-22.2%	-4.7%
Direct Mktg. Exp.							
Jewish Networks	\$619	\$745	\$599	\$684	\$628	-1.4%	-16.9%
Christian Networks	3,664	4,450	5,338	4,325	5,293	-30.8%	-17.7%
Other Networks	141	133	115	116	107	31.8%	6.0%
Offline & Other Businesses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>NM</u>	<u>NM</u>
Total Direct Mktg. Exp.	\$4,424	\$5,328	\$6,052	\$5,129	\$6,047	-26.8%	-17.0%
Contribution							
Jewish Networks	\$3,994	\$4,101	\$4,581	\$4,818	\$5,096	-21.6%	-2.6%
Christian Networks	2,917	2,471	2,454	3,890	3,379	-13.7%	18.0%
Other Networks	325	337	372	388	426	-23.7%	-3.6%
Offline & Other Businesses	<u>22</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>-63.3%</u>	<u>-12.0%</u>
Total Contribution	\$7,258	\$6,934	\$7,434	\$9,135	\$8,961	-19.0%	4.7%
Period Ending Subs							
Jewish Networks	64,144	62,991	67,703	71,251	75,355	-14.9%	1.8%
Christian Networks	122,068	121,561	129,964	131,479	154,367	-20.9%	0.4%
Other Networks	<u>11,620</u>	<u>12,267</u>	<u>12,879</u>	<u>12,787</u>	<u>13,777</u>	<u>-15.7%</u>	<u>-5.3%</u>
Total Period Ending Subs.	197,832	196,819	210,546	215,517	243,499	-18.8%	0.5%
Average Paying Subs.							
Jewish Networks	63,538	65,087	69,632	73,429	76,481	-16.9%	-2.4%
Christian Networks	121,597	126,214	130,860	141,188	166,908	-27.1%	-3.7%
Other Networks	<u>11,974</u>	<u>12,594</u>	<u>12,953</u>	<u>13,257</u>	<u>14,290</u>	<u>-16.2%</u>	<u>-4.9%</u>
Total Avg. Paying Subs.	197,109	203,895	213,445	227,874	257,679	-23.5%	-3.3%
ARPU							
Jewish Networks	\$ 23.80	\$24.46	\$24.48	\$24.44	\$24.53	-3.0%	-2.7%
Christian Networks	17.19	17.57	18.01	17.57	16.01	7.3%	-2.2%
Other Networks	<u>12.58</u>	<u>12.08</u>	<u>12.22</u>	<u>12.27</u>	<u>12.11</u>	<u>3.9%</u>	<u>4.1%</u>
Total ARPU⁵	\$19.04	\$19.43	\$19.77	\$19.47	\$18.33	3.9%	-2.0%

Distribution of New Subscription Purchases⁶

	Q3 2015	Q2 2015	Q1 2015	Q4 2014	Q3 2014
Jewish Networks					
1 month plans	35.6%	45.4%	42.7%	41.4%	38.5%
3 month plans	19.9%	21.8%	25.2%	24.3%	24.9%
6 month plans	44.5%	32.8%	32.1%	34.3%	36.6%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Christian Networks					
1 month plans	39.6%	54.4%	50.5%	53.7%	50.6%
3 month plans	18.4%	19.4%	17.8%	20.7%	20.8%
6 month plans	42.0%	26.2%	31.7%	25.6%	28.6%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Other Networks					
1 month plans	62.0%	58.3%	56.0%	59.2%	58.6%
3 month plans	11.4%	11.9%	12.2%	11.0%	12.2%
6 month plans	26.6%	29.8%	31.8%	29.8%	29.2%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Composition of Average Paying Subscriber Base⁷

	Q3 2015	Q2 2015	Q1 2015	Q4 2014	Q3 2014
Jewish Networks					
First Time Subscribers	21.7%	21.5%	22.4%	22.4%	21.9%
Winback Subscribers	30.5%	29.1%	28.8%	29.2%	29.5%
Renewal Subscribers	47.8%	49.4%	48.8%	48.4%	48.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Christian Networks					
First Time Subscribers	39.1%	38.3%	37.1%	38.0%	42.7%
Winback Subscribers	23.3%	22.6%	20.3%	19.7%	20.5%
Renewal Subscribers	37.6%	39.1%	42.6%	42.3%	36.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Other Networks					
First Time Subscribers	31.2%	33.2%	20.3%	30.6%	31.2%
Winback Subscribers	22.0%	21.9%	26.9%	21.8%	22.6%
Renewal Subscribers	46.8%	44.9%	52.8%	47.6%	46.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Investor Conference Call

The Company will discuss its financial results during a live teleconference today at 1:30 p.m. Pacific time.

Toll-Free (United States): 1-855-327-6837
International: 1-778-327-3988

In addition, the Company will host a webcast of the call which will be accessible in the Investor Relations section of the Company's website at www.spark.net or by clicking <http://investor.spark.net>.

A replay will begin approximately three hours after completion of the call and run until November 17, 2015.

Replay

Toll-Free (United States): 1-877-870-5176
International: 1-858-384-5517
Passcode: 911030

Safe Harbor Statement:

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, including the implementation of the "crawl, walk, run" strategy to stabilize and grow the subscriber base which we have adopted, and our expectation that we will be able to drive further improvements in the business. Any statements in this press release that are not statements of historical fact may be considered to be forward-looking statements. Written words, such as "may," "will," "expect," "believe," "anticipate," "estimate," "intends," "goal," "objective," "seek," "attempt," or variations of these or similar words, identify forward-looking statements. By their nature, forward-looking statements and forecasts involve risks and uncertainties because they relate to events and depend on circumstances that will occur in the near future. There are a number of factors that could cause actual results and developments to differ materially, including, but not limited to our ability to: successfully implement our strategy to stabilize our subscriber base and grow; avoid significant subscriber declines; attract and retain members; convert members into paying subscribers and retain our paying subscribers; retain and enhance the new marketing team; develop or acquire new product offerings and successfully implement and expand those offerings; keep pace with rapid technological changes, including making the technology stack more nimble; drive use of newly-updated mobile applications; maintain the strength of our existing brands and maintain and enhance those brands; continue to depend upon the telecommunications infrastructure and our networking hardware and software infrastructure; estimate on-going general and administrative costs, and obtain financing on acceptable terms. Additional factors that could cause actual results to differ are discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" and in other sections of the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), and in the Company's other current and periodic reports filed or furnished from time to time with the SEC. All forward-looking statements in this press release are made as of the date hereof, based on information available to the Company as of the date hereof, and the Company assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement.

About Spark Networks, Inc.:

The Spark Networks portfolio of consumer Web sites includes, among others, JDate®.com (www.jdate.com), ChristianMingle®.com (www.christianmingle.com), Spark®.com (www.spark.com), BlackSingles.com® (www.blacksingles.com), and SilverSingles®.com (www.silversingles.com).

For More Information

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¹ "Contribution" is defined as revenue, net of credits and credit card chargebacks, less direct marketing.

² The Company reports Adjusted EBITDA as a supplemental measure to generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). This non-GAAP measure is one of the primary metrics by which we evaluate the performance of our businesses, budget, forecast and compensate management. We believe this measure provides management and investors with a consistent view, period to period, of the core earnings generated from on-going operations and excludes the impact of: (i) non-cash items such as stock-based compensation, asset impairments, non-cash currency translation adjustments related to an inter-company loan and (ii) one-time items that have not occurred in the past two years and are not expected to recur in the next two years. Adjusted EBITDA should not be construed as a substitute for net income (loss) (as determined in accordance with GAAP) for the purpose of analyzing our operating performance or financial position, as Adjusted EBITDA is not defined by GAAP. A reconciliation of the Adjusted EBITDA for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2014 can be found in the table below.

"Adjusted EBITDA" is defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization, stock-based compensation, impairment of long-lived assets, non-cash currency translation adjustments for an inter-company loan and non-recurring proxy, severance and transaction expense.

³ "Paying Subscribers" are defined as individuals who have paid a monthly fee for access to communication and Web site features beyond those provided to our members. Period ending subscribers for each quarter represent the paying subscriber count as of the last day of the period. Average paying subscribers for each month are calculated as the sum of the paying subscribers at the beginning and end of the month, divided by two. Average paying subscribers for periods longer than one month are calculated as the sum of the average paying subscribers for each month, divided by the number of months in such period. The calculation excludes results from the Company's HurryDate business due to its relative size.

⁴ In accordance with Segment Reporting guidance, the Company's financial reporting includes detailed data on four separate operating segments. The Jewish Networks segment consists of the Company's JDate.com, JDate.co.il, JDate.fr, JDate.co.uk and Cupid.co.il Web sites and their respective co-branded Web sites. The Christian Networks segment consists of the Company's ChristianMingle.com, ChristianMingle.co.uk, ChristianMingle.com.au, Believe.com, ChristianCards.net, ChristianDating.com, DailyBibleVerse.com and Faith.com Web sites. The Other Networks segment consists of Spark.com and related other general market Web sites as well as other properties which are primarily composed of sites targeted towards various religious, ethnic, geographic and special interest groups. The Offline & Other Businesses segment consists of revenue generated from offline activities and HurryDate events and subscriptions.

⁵ ARPU is defined as average revenue per user per month. Total ARPU excludes results from the Company's HurryDate business due to its relative size.

⁶ One month plans may also include a small amount of two month plans. Three month plans may include a small amount of four month plans. Six month plans may include a small amount of twelve month plans.

⁷ Represents the type of subscriber comprising the average paying subscribers in that period. First Time Subscribers are defined as those subscribers that have never purchased a subscription from the Company for that reporting segment. Winback Subscribers are defined as those individuals who have purchased a subscription from the Company for that reporting segment, allowed their subscription to lapse, and subsequently purchased a subscription from the Company for that reporting segment. Renewal Subscribers are defined as those subscribers that have auto-renewed a subscription from the Company for that reporting segment.

SPARK NETWORKS, INC.
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(in thousands, except share data)

	<u>September 30,</u>	<u>December 31,</u>
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 14,442	\$ 11,696
Restricted cash	823	1,056
Accounts receivable, (net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$99 and \$0 at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively).....	1,133	1,308
Deferred tax asset – current	9	11
Prepaid expenses and other	766	1,516
Total current assets	<u>17,173</u>	<u>15,587</u>
Property and equipment, net.....	5,346	4,072
Goodwill.....	8,522	8,575
Intangible assets, net	2,439	2,469
Deferred tax asset – non-current.....	68	68
Deposits and other assets.....	127	234
Total assets	<u>\$ 33,675</u>	<u>\$ 31,005</u>
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,664	\$ 1,300
Accrued liabilities.....	4,785	3,948
Deferred revenue	6,307	7,092
Deferred tax liability – current portion	601	496
Total current liabilities	<u>13,357</u>	<u>12,836</u>
Deferred tax liability	1,593	1,607
Other liabilities.....	609	807
Total liabilities.....	<u>15,559</u>	<u>15,250</u>
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity:		
Authorized capital stock consists of 100,000,000 shares of Common Stock, \$0.001 par value; issued and outstanding: 25,260,191 and 24,556,182 shares at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively:.....	25	25
Additional paid-in-capital	75,082	72,522
Accumulated other comprehensive income	754	759
Accumulated deficit.....	(57,745)	(57,551)
Total stockholders' equity	<u>18,116</u>	<u>15,755</u>
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	<u>\$ 33,675</u>	<u>\$ 31,005</u>

SPARK NETWORKS, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(unaudited, in thousands, except per share data)

	<u>Three Months Ended</u> <u>September 30,</u>		<u>Nine Months Ended</u> <u>September 30,</u>	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Revenue.....	\$ 11,682	\$ 15,008	\$ 37,430	\$ 47,381
Cost and expenses:				
Cost of revenue (exclusive of depreciation shown separately below)	5,593	7,004	19,058	28,234
Sales and marketing	1,144	1,368	2,895	4,299
Customer service	769	738	2,239	2,289
Technical operations	210	276	636	917
Development	1,053	886	2,978	2,645
General and administrative	2,933	4,446	7,704	11,472
Depreciation	562	518	1,607	1,558
Amortization of intangible assets	10	10	30	30
Impairment of long-lived assets	26	103	132	103
Total cost and expenses	<u>12,300</u>	<u>15,349</u>	<u>37,279</u>	<u>51,547</u>
Operating income (loss)	(618)	(341)	151	(4,166)
Interest (income) expense and other, net	191	340	79	323
Income (loss) before income taxes.....	(809)	(681)	72	(4,489)
Provision for income taxes	13	288	266	507
Net income (loss)	(822)	(969)	(194)	(4,996)
Other comprehensive income, net of tax:				
Foreign currency translation adjustment.....	0	(27)	(5)	(16)
Comprehensive income (loss)	<u>\$ (822)</u>	<u>\$ (996)</u>	<u>\$ (199)</u>	<u>\$ (5,012)</u>
Net earnings (loss) per share—basic and diluted	<u>\$ (0.03)</u>	<u>\$ (0.04)</u>	<u>\$ (0.01)</u>	<u>\$ (0.21)</u>
Weighted average shares outstanding – basic and diluted	25,188	24,035	24,991	23,936

Stock-based compensation:
(in thousands)

	<u>Three Months Ended September 30,</u>		<u>Nine Months Ended September 30,</u>	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Cost of revenue	\$ -	\$ 3	\$ -	\$ 3
Sales and marketing	11	23	19	99
Development	5	-	8	-
General and administrative	159	259	485	511

Reconciliation of Net (Loss) Income to Adjusted EBITDA:
(in thousands)

	<u>Three Months Ended September 30,</u>		<u>Nine Months Ended September 30,</u>	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Net (loss) income	\$ (822)	\$ (969)	\$ (194)	\$ (4,996)
Interest expense	15	12	35	36
Tax provision (benefit)	40	288	237	507
Depreciation	561	518	1,606	1,558
Amortization	10	10	30	30
EBITDA	(196)	(141)	1,714	(2,865)
Stock-based compensation	175	285	512	613
Impairment of long-lived assets	26	103	132	103
Non-cash currency translation adjustments	175	327	39	284
Non-recurring proxy, severance and transaction	129	1,884	290	3,308
Adjusted EBITDA	<u>\$ 309</u>	<u>\$ 2,458</u>	<u>\$ 2,687</u>	<u>\$ 1,443</u>