



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

FOURTH QUARTER 2014 EARNINGS CALL

March 11, 2015

Prepared Remarks

Frank Milano: Good afternoon and let me welcome you to Rosetta Stone's fourth quarter 2014 earnings conference call. I am Frank Milano, the investor relations contact for Rosetta Stone. I am joined today by Steve Swad, our President and Chief Executive Officer, and Tom Pierno, our Chief Financial Officer, who will discuss the operations and financial results for the Fourth quarter and our outlook for 2015. Also with us is Judy Verses, President of our Global Education & Enterprise segment. Judy will be available during the Q&A portion of the call. Steve will also provide some additional commentary about the business and the strategic agenda for the rest of the year. We will open the call to questions after our prepared remarks.

Our fourth quarter earnings release went out just after the market close and is available on our website at www.rosettastone.com.

I'll remind everyone that certain statements will be made today which are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Given the uncertainties of forward-looking statements, our actual results may differ materially from anything we say in these forward-looking statements. We can give no assurance as to their accuracy and we assume no obligation to update them. We also use non-GAAP numbers in our presentation. For further information on the definitions of those numbers, the GAAP comparisons, and their reconciliation to GAAP numbers, as well as risks and uncertainties, please read the company's SEC filings available on our website and today's release, including the paragraphs beginning with

27 the words, "Caution on Forward-Looking Statements" and "Non-GAAP Performance
28 Measures."

29 Now here's Steve.

30

31 **Steve Swad, Chief Executive Officer:**

32 Thanks, Frank and welcome everyone. Tom will be walking you through the details of
33 the quarter and I am going to talk to you about the aggressive strategic actions we are
34 taking to transform and reposition Rosetta Stone. Our focus going forward will be on
35 serving the needs of serious Corporate and K-12 learners that are seeking clear and
36 measurable outcomes, with an emphasis on those learners who need to speak and
37 read English.

38 Under this strategy, we will be investing to enhance our suite of products to deliver
39 tangible and measurable outcomes that will not only enormously benefit our customers
40 but significantly benefit shareholders. The quality, predictability, and overall level of
41 earnings will improve with these actions and shareholders will benefit from our business
42 model shifting more to software as a service with increasing, high-margin renewable
43 revenue and expanding operating margins.

44 We are in early innings and have made steady progress with the Education and
45 Enterprise business. Only a few years ago we had bookings of just \$60M and now we
46 are guiding to more than double that amount. Similarly, our deferred revenue balance
47 was about \$30 million and now it is well over \$120 million. And we have seen
48 improvements in renewal rates and significant progress from Lexia. This strategy
49 focuses the entire company on the serious learner and will create value for our
50 shareholders.

51 Let me walk you through the specifics.

52 Over the last few months, the management team began working closely with one of
53 the leading consulting firms in the education space to refine our strategy. During this
54 process we had active oversight by our board of directors. To take this company to the

55 next level, the core decision we have reached is to pursue our largest opportunities for
56 value creation – by accelerating and prioritizing our focus on serious Corporate and K-
57 12 learners. That focus will also carry-over to the Consumer side of the business,
58 where we will prioritize more serious learners, rather than trying to address the entire
59 Consumer marketplace. And for the first time, the product focus of our E&E segment
60 will be fully aligned with the Consumer segment – worldwide.

61 This strategic decision – to refine and accelerate the next phase of our value
62 creation strategy – is based on several items:

- 63 • First and foremost, there is a large and growing market for English literacy
64 and English language learning in K-12 and global corporations. As part of our
65 strategic review, we have estimates of these markets to be well in excess of
66 \$1.2 billion – and growing – with Literacy alone exceeding \$400 million.
67 These markets are benefitting from English being the world’s language and
68 the broad need to teach kids how to read. These markets are also expanding
69 from a broader shift to personalization and digital online learning. In addition,
70 both K-12 and corporate customers have demands that recur each and every
71 year, making them more attractive with a higher and more predictable return
72 on investment. This demand profile also fits well with our suite of products
73 which deliver results – and our brand, which is known and respected around
74 the world. So while the Rosetta Stone Brand was built in the Consumer
75 segment, this strategy leverages that asset for high returns in the Global E&E
76 segment.
- 77 • Q4 served to validate the tremendous opportunity in the Global E&E segment.
78 Specifically, the traction we are seeing in Literacy highlights the untapped
79 potential in this marketplace, and the high renewal rates demonstrate the fact
80 that our product is serving the needs of our K-12 customers;
- 81 • Much like the progress we have seen with Lexia, we also are seeing
82 expanded opportunities to deliver English language learning around the
83 globe. We believe product investment and a focus on English language

84 learners will accelerate the growth in our E&E Language business, serving
85 educators and corporates alike.

86 To position the organization for success we are doing four things:

- 87 • First, we are taking immediate action to reorganize our business around our
88 E&E segment;
- 89 • Second, we will be focusing our product investments on building effective,
90 personalized English learning experiences that deliver clear and measurable
91 outcomes;
- 92 • Third, we are beginning to right-size the entire cost base of the Company,
93 with the first steps being:
 - 94 • Optimization of our media spend and other marketing costs in
95 Consumer sales and marketing;
 - 96 • Rationalizing our Consumer product investment to focus on areas of
97 tight alignment with serious learning and E&E; and
 - 98 • Reducing G&A.
- 99 • Fourth, we are cutting back on the number of new business initiatives we take
100 on – particularly in Consumer – to improve focus and enhance efficiency.

101 Let me provide color around each of these four items.

102 Effective today, we are increasing the responsibility of Judy Verses, President of our
103 Global E&E segment, to include the functions necessary for success in E&E.

104 Specifically:

- 105 • Nick Macey, our Chief Product Officer, will now report to Judy;
- 106 • Nick Gaehde, who runs Literacy, will report to Judy and will be increasing his
107 responsibilities to include the language portion of our K-12 business. With
108 this change, Nick will now lead our Literacy and Language business in the K-
109 12 space; and,
- 110 • Rob Mercer, who runs E&E Language Sales for the Americas, will assume
111 responsibility for the Global Enterprise portion of the business. With this

112 move, Rob adds Europe, the Middle East, and China to his existing sales
113 responsibility here in the Americas.

114 In addition, IT and Business Development will now fall under Judy's leadership. This
115 change:

- 116 • Will align our product development teams with our customer-facing sales and
117 service organizations to ensure clear alignment with customer needs; and,
- 118 • Will result in incremental integration opportunities.

119 On the product side, we will focus on improving our products' effective, personalized
120 English learning experiences. Specifically, we will focus on creating a single language
121 learning experience for our customers, through the extension of our assessment
122 capabilities, integration of the three major language products in our portfolio, and the
123 enhancement of reporting tools to be oriented towards demonstrating learning
124 outcomes.

125 These investments will help learners get to the right place in our solution set,
126 evaluate their progress over time against recognized international standards, and will
127 provide administrators with high-quality tools to measure progress and ROI. In support
128 of this effort, we will integrate our Foundations, Advantage, and Advanced English for
129 Business products into a single platform, making it easier for learners and
130 administrators to use our products, and provide a single solution that will allow us to
131 continue to bring new, innovative features to the market for all of our customers.

132 Starting today, we are also repositioning our Consumer business to focus on more
133 serious learners, such as non-English speaking consumers, home-schoolers, and small
134 business managers. We will offer Language and Literacy products that change the lives
135 of our customers. We will emphasize English, but also offer other languages to satisfy
136 the needs of those that are serious about learning. In contrast to casual learners – who
137 have come to expect free mobile apps to meet their needs – more serious learners
138 need and will pay for products that deliver tangible results and measurable outcomes.
139 Our focus on this portion of the Consumer marketplace is a natural complement to our
140 E&E business. It strengthens the E&E business by increasing the marketing and brand

141 equity with a common message and value proposition that benefits both our E&E and
142 Consumer businesses. In addition, by targeting the serious learner we expect to be
143 more disciplined with pricing relying much less on discounting. This too will support the
144 E&E business. In addition, our product investments will go further under this plan as
145 products developed for E&E will be lightly modified and marketed to the serious
146 consumer. Again providing for improved returns.

147 As part of this repositioning effort, we will be accelerating the migration of our
148 Consumer business to digital, with a target of delivering over 80% of our Consumer
149 products digitally by the end of 2015, up from roughly 60% digital today.

150 In addition, Tom and I will be working to streamline operations to reflect this focus.
151 To this end, today we announced that we are reducing our global non-E&E workforce by
152 approximately 15% and reducing other product, sales and marketing, and G&A costs,
153 resulting in annualized operating expense savings of approximately \$50 million. We
154 expect to record a Q1 2015 charge of \$7 million, which we anticipate will be largely cash
155 separation payments. The cost savings from these actions will be reinvested into
156 growing the Global E&E segment and are expected to largely offset top-line declines in
157 the Consumer segment. Essentially, the next phase of our strategy rewards investors
158 by emphasizing the Global E&E segment, and funding this growth from the cash
159 generated by our Consumer segment.

160 To ensure this focus is crystal clear, we will stop or significantly slow down a number
161 of initiatives – particularly on the Consumer side of the business. Specifically, we will
162 reduce the number of marketing and promotional campaigns we run, focusing more on
163 brand messaging that withstands the test of time, and less on promotional pricing. We
164 will pull back from small retailers, reduce our investment in Europe and temper our
165 marketing and product investment behind Kids Reading.

166 Over the past 18 months, we have successfully built a strong foundation for growth
167 in E&E. Taken together, our acquisitions of Livemocha, Lexia, and TellMeMore have
168 established a robust SaaS platform that has proven attractive to both educators and
169 corporate businesses. We have expanded our product suite with our Foundation and

170 Advantage offerings to reach a broader population of more serious learners, with
171 demonstrated success – both domestically, and internationally – from our dedicated
172 sales force and from this product alignment.

173 With this realignment plan, we are excited about the competitive gains we will make
174 in the marketplace with a product, salesforce, and customer support completely
175 dedicated to meeting and exceeding the needs of our customers.

176 The financial elements of this plan are also promising. In this quarter's investor
177 presentation, we provided a fully allocated P&L for our E&E business for 2014.

178 It shows a business with \$113 million of bookings and an Adjusted EBITDA loss of
179 \$15 million, including a G&A allocation of \$30 million. This enterprise business with
180 recurring subscription revenues and high gross margins is attractive as it has significant
181 potential. In 2015, for the E&E business, we expect double-digit booking growth rates
182 and E&E EBITDA losses to decline by single-digit millions as we continue to invest
183 behind products for Lexia and English language learning as well as sales and
184 marketing. While we still have work to do to flesh out our plan, we believe bookings will
185 grow at an accelerated rate and operating margins of this business will reach low
186 double-digits by 2017 as renewals improve, sales from assessment and our new
187 English literacy and language products penetrate the marketplace and we get operating
188 efficiencies from sales and marketing and G&A.

189 In 2015, we will be managing the Consumer business to focus on the serious
190 learner, complement E&E, and generate cash. We expect the consumer bookings to
191 decline to between \$110 million to \$130 million as we focus on the most profitable
192 portion of the consumer market. Over the next few years we believe Consumer
193 bookings will be about \$50 million to \$75 million and operating margins will be about 10
194 percent. We think the business can stabilize at that level and be a solid complement to
195 the E&E business.

196 Our high-level success metrics in 2015 are:

- 197 - One. Double-digit bookings growth for E&E;
- 198 - Two. 75% renewal rates for E&E Language;

- 199 - Three. 90% renewal rates for E&E Literacy; and
200 - Lastly. Between \$8 million and \$12 million of Adjusted EBITDA.

201

202 We know that the renewal rates for the E&E Language business need to improve.
203 The product investments we are making will help, the emphasis on English will help,
204 and making some changes to our customer support will help. We believe this rate will
205 go up with time.

206 We know we have work to do to on the E&E business as our sales and marketing is
207 too high for the level of bookings. We will drive higher yield from our sales and
208 marketing spend by moving more of our marketing to digital, increasing the size of our
209 inside sales teams, making our field sales teams more efficient, gaining efficiencies
210 from the new organizational structure, and increasing the level of high-margin renewal
211 revenue.

212 We also know our G&A is high for a Company of our size. It supports an
213 international public company footprint that needs to become more efficient. We have
214 taken steps today but will continue to develop ways to right-size our cost base.

215 While we have made significant progress with our strategy and have begun to
216 operationalize it, we still need some time to develop more detailed multi-year plans.
217 Once we fully flesh out these plans and have specific metrics to share, we will plan to
218 host an Investor Day event to walk you through more details about the plan. Between
219 now and then we will keep you posted and updated as part of our quarterly earnings
220 call.

221 Before I pass it back to Tom, let me reiterate how excited I am about this plan and
222 how excited I am about the decisive steps we are taking today which I believe will begin
223 to unlock value in this company.

224 With that, I will pass it over to Tom.

225

226

227 **Tom Pierno, Chief Financial Officer:**

228 Thanks, Steve and good afternoon, everyone. As Steve said at the top of the call,
229 I'm going to be talking with you in more detail about our results in Q4.

230 Let's begin with a few highlights:

231

232 • First, total bookings were \$96.6 million, up 15%, and Adjusted EBITDA was
233 \$12.7 million, up 66%;

234 • Second, the quality of our bookings continued to improve as the Global E&E
235 segment bookings grew 20% over Q4 last year. E&E Literacy continued to
236 deliver strong growth, up 24%, driven by strong sales and renewal rates in
237 excess of 90%, marking the fifth consecutive quarter of double-digit growth
238 since the Lexia acquisition was completed in August 2013. For the full year,
239 Global E&E segment bookings increased 48%, mainly due to acquisitions
240 which we integrated successfully. We ended the year managing a business
241 that was nearly 50% larger than last year;

242 • Third, we delivered double-digit gains from the U.S. Consumer website,
243 driven by a record number of product units and subscriptions being sold. We
244 exited the year with over 60 percent of our Consumer Web business coming
245 from digital products, although at a lower price point than we had expected
246 coming into the quarter; and

247 • Fourth, we ended the year with \$64.7 million in cash, which is just about \$3
248 per share.

249 North America Consumer sub-\$200 pricing, while providing a strong lift over Q4
250 2013, fell short of our expectations based on our prior testing. In addition, organic E&E
251 Language growth was less than the high single-digit percentage that we expected, as
252 we were impacted by currency movements, and lower E&E Corporate bookings partially
253 attributed to the lower Consumer pricing.

254 Turning to our segment results, and starting with our Global E&E business, fourth
255 quarter bookings totaled \$28.8 million, up \$4.7 million or 20% year-over-year. Inside

256 that total, Language bookings totaled \$23.7 million, while Literacy totaled \$5.1 million.
257 In terms of bookings growth, Language was up \$3.7 million or 19%. Literacy was up \$1-
258 million, or 24% year-over-year.

259 The E&E Literacy growth rate was at the midpoint of our guidance. Once again,
260 Lexia's stellar performance was driven by strong new business as well as high initial
261 renewal rates above 90%, including the impact of upsells. Lexia also hit a milestone in
262 usage during Q4 – active students increased 30% year over year, with November being
263 the highest month ever for Lexia. In addition, a national analysis recently conducted by
264 Lexia showed that 75% of students in grades 1 – 5 that were reading below grade level
265 and used the Lexia program at prescribed levels, gained two or more grade levels of
266 reading skills by the end of the school year. These are fantastic results, and we couldn't
267 be more pleased with Lexia's performance.

268 Organic growth is communicated because we adjust prior period actual results as if
269 we had acquired Lexia and TellMeMore on January 1, 2013. Fourth quarter organic
270 bookings growth for Global E&E was up \$400,000, or 2%. Literacy was the same as
271 our reported actual performance – up \$1-million, or 24% year-over-year. Language was
272 down \$600,000, or down 2%. About three points of this decline was due to currency
273 impacts in the quarter, and we estimate another four points were lost due to the impact
274 of lower holiday promotional pricing in our Consumer business, which contributed to
275 lower close rates in our E&E Corporate business starting around Black
276 Friday. Regarding the level of currency impact relative to our Bookings, it is primarily
277 the result of changes in the measurement of the unrecognized revenue on our balance
278 sheet that is absorbed in current-period bookings.

279 For the year, we delivered \$113.2 million of Global E&E bookings, or approximately
280 \$115 million on a constant currency basis – which was in line with our full year
281 guidance. Inside this total, Language bookings were \$90.1 million, up \$22.1 million or
282 33% over the prior year. Literacy bookings totaled \$23.1 million, up \$14.8 million or
283 178% over the prior year's reported amount.

284 Full year organic bookings growth for Global E&E was up \$6.4 million or 6%.
285 Language was up \$800,000 or 1%. Literacy was up \$5.6 million or 32% for the year.

286 Now on to North America Consumer, which delivered \$61.9 million in bookings in the
287 fourth quarter, which was short of the guidance range of \$64 million to \$69 million. This
288 was despite the fact that we delivered record high sales that were up nearly \$10 million
289 or 18% over last year's Q4. Unit volume grew 34% overall, driven by an 86% year-over-
290 year increase in units sold from our website. As I said earlier, sub-\$200 pricing
291 delivered a significant lift in volume, although the increase was not as much as we had
292 expected based on our earlier testing. In addition, we reduced pricing further than
293 expected in the crucial last six weeks of the quarter. Our Call Center operations
294 narrowed their year-over-year declines that we had experienced through the first nine
295 months, posting a modest 5% decline in bookings in Q4 compared to the modest gains
296 we had expected.

297 The decline in the retail channel was in-line with our expectations, reflecting a
298 combination of lower prices and continued inventory management by our retail partners.
299 This more than offset the positive effect of 17% higher unit volume sell-through to our
300 end customers versus last year's Q4.

301 Our rebranded Rosetta Stone Fit Brains offerings improved this quarter with the
302 scaling of a web-based subscription product, in addition to the existing mobile apps.
303 We also continued to test and learn how to cross-sell Fit Brains as an upsell to our
304 language products, with – at times – seeing over 30% take-rate for the Language
305 customers offered a Fit Brains promotion. On a stand-alone basis, Fit Brains delivered
306 its highest quarter ever in terms of bookings and downloads, consistently ranking atop
307 the lists in Apple's iTunes App Store.

308 Turning to costs, we continued to make progress but – as Steve discussed – we
309 recognize that we need to do even more. Our gross margins as a percentage of
310 bookings remained stable as we continued to shift the NA Consumer business to lower-
311 cost digital delivery, exiting the year north of 60%, up from 40% last year. We also
312 made further progress to rationalize our cost base as we integrated TellMeMore and

313 improved our operating efficiency. Segment Contribution – which we define as
314 Bookings less direct COGS and Sales and Marketing costs – was down slightly for the
315 combined Consumer segments in Q4 2014 versus last year. This was the result of
316 higher NA Consumer bookings and slightly improved ROW Consumer Segment
317 Contributions, being more than offset by lower overall yields on increased
318 investments in NA Consumer sales and marketing.

319 E&E Segment Contribution increased about \$1 million – up 8% – on 20% higher
320 bookings, which was partially offset by increased investment in sales and marketing.
321 Unallocated R&D and G&A costs declined approximately 16% and 19%, respectively, in
322 Q4, even as we took on incremental costs from our acquisition of TellMeMore. This
323 performance was achieved through targeted cost reductions and by pushing out a few
324 initiatives. The combined result from all of these efforts was a net expansion of our Q4
325 Adjusted EBITDA margin to 13%, which was up from 9% last year.

326 Lastly, before we turn to the balance sheet, in connection with the strategic
327 realignment around E&E, we recorded a non-cash charge in the fourth quarter of \$18
328 million to impair the goodwill associated with the North America Consumer segment.

329 Turning to the balance sheet, we ended the year with \$64.7 million in cash. Cash
330 was up \$15.3 million compared with \$49.4 million at September 30, 2014. As we
331 previously discussed, we put in place a \$25 million revolving credit facility in the fourth
332 quarter, and there were no borrowings against the line at year-end.

333 Deferred revenue increased to \$128.2 million. This was a sequential increase of
334 approximately \$17 million and a full-year increase of nearly \$50 million. This growth
335 reflects the combined impact of increased bookings, plus the effect of fair-value
336 purchase accounting impacts for the Lexia and TellMeMore acquisitions.

337 As a reminder, because purchase accounting requires that we write-down acquired
338 deferred revenue – essentially to zero – there was no unrecognized revenue on the
339 balance sheet to offset against the bookings now being generated by our sales team.

340 The ratio of short-term versus long-term deferred revenue was 74%/26% at
341 December 31, 2014, compared with a ratio of 85%/15% at December 31, 2013. The

342 increase in the percentage of long-term deferred revenue primarily reflects the growth in
343 sales of the 3-year Consumer online product offering, where we generally are paid up-
344 front for three years of online access. The increased number of prepaid multi-year
345 deals in our E&E business also contributed to this mix shift, but to a lesser extent.

346 Free cash flow in the fourth quarter was \$16.2 million, up from \$9.3 million a year
347 ago. The improvement reflects higher Adjusted EBITDA and better working capital
348 management.

349 Turning to our outlook for 2015, we are refining the elements we guide on to better
350 reflect the changes that Steve has described and how we are going to be focusing on
351 and managing the business going forward.

352 Our full year 2015 outlook for Global E&E bookings is between \$122 million and
353 \$130 million – representing growth rates of 8% to 15%. Total E&E GAAP Revenue is
354 expected to be between \$94 million and \$100 million, which represents growth rates of
355 11% to 18%.

356 Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA for 2015 is expected to be between \$8 million and
357 \$12 million. This Adjusted EBITDA reflects accelerated investment in product
358 development and sales and marketing for E&E Literacy, which will enhance bookings
359 growth in future years.

360 Turning to cash, the positive operating cash flow we expect to generate will be offset
361 by approximately \$10 million to \$12 million in capital expenditures, resulting in roughly
362 break-even free cash flow, before one-time items. Including the cash costs associated
363 with the actions we outlined on today's call, we anticipate that our year-end cash
364 balance will be down high single-digit millions to low double-digit millions from the \$64.7
365 million at December 31, 2014.

366 As a reminder, our business is highly seasonal in terms of earnings and cash, with
367 our strongest performance in Q3 and Q4. We expect this trend will continue in 2015
368 and anticipate being a net user of cash through the first half of the year, with positive
369 cash generation toward the back-end of the second half.

370 For the first quarter of 2015 ending March 31, we expect to deliver Global E&E
371 Bookings of approximately \$17 million – representing a decline of 7% versus the same
372 period last year. We estimate that currency is causing 3 points of this decline and lower
373 U.S. Enterprise bookings is driving a good portion of the remainder on low levels of
374 renewable accounts and fewer multi-year large deals. More importantly, this quarter
375 represents less than 15% of our year, so the smallest movement of a customer contract
376 can cause large swings in the growth rate. The renewal base is much larger in Q2 and
377 Q3 in E&E and we are confident in our ability to hit our targeted growth rates of 9% to
378 15%.

379 We expect our Q1 2015 Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA to be approximately negative
380 \$10 million, versus negative \$7 million in Q1 2014. Remember that Q1 is seasonally
381 the slowest quarter for bookings across all of our segments. The cost actions we took
382 today will help reduce our run rate starting in the second quarter and put us on a path
383 for higher EBITDA levels.

384 With that I am going to pass it back to Steve.

385

386 **Steve Swad, Chief Executive Officer:**

387 Thanks, Tom.

388 I just want to reiterate three important points.

- 389 • One. The market for serious learning is large and we have plenty of room to
390 grow.
- 391 • Two. Our E&E business has gotten stronger over the last few years and this shift
392 is going to accelerate its growth.
- 393 • And three. We took important steps today around our organization and cost
394 base to begin operationalizing this strategy.

395 With that, we will now take your questions.