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**Section 1: 8-K/A (FORM 8-K AMENDMENT NO. 1)**

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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington D.C. 20549

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**FORM 8-K/A**  
(Amendment No. 1)

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**CURRENT REPORT**  
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)  
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

**Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported):**  
November 1, 2017

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**CenturyLink, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Louisiana**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

**1-7784**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**72-0651161**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**100 CenturyLink Drive**  
**Monroe, Louisiana**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**71203**  
(Zip Code)

**(318) 388-9000**  
(Registrants' telephone number, including area code)

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligations of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2). Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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### Explanatory Note

On November 1, 2017, we filed a Current Report on Form 8-K (the “Initial Report”), which indicated that we had (i) closed our previously-announced business combination (the “Combination”) with Level 3 Communications, Inc. and (ii) elected to defer filing certain of the information required by the form, as permitted by the form’s rules. This Current Report on Form 8-K/A supplements the Initial Report to include the historical consolidated financial statements and pro forma financial information required by Items 9.01(a) and 9.01(b) of Form 8-K and should be read in conjunction with the Initial Report.

#### Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(a) Financial statements of business acquired.

The consolidated financial statements of Level 3 Communications, Inc. (renamed Level 3 Parent, LLC as of November 1, 2017 and hereinafter referred to as “Level 3”) as of September 30, 2017 and for the periods ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, and as of December 31, 2016 and 2015 and for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, all of which Level 3 has previously filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, are attached as Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2, respectively, to this Current Report on Form 8-K/A.

(b) Pro forma financial information.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information reflecting the Combination is attached as Exhibit 99.3 to this Current Report on Form 8-K/A.

(d) Exhibits

The following exhibits are filed herewith:

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
23.1	<a href="#"><u>Consent of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm for Level 3</u></a>
99.1	<a href="#"><u>Consolidated financial statements of Level 3 as of September 30, 2017 and for the periods ended September 30, 2017 and 2016:</u></a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Consolidated Statements of Income for the Periods Ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 (Unaudited)</li><li>ii. Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the Periods Ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 (Unaudited)</li><li>iii. Consolidated Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2017 (Unaudited)</li><li>iv. Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Periods Ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 (Unaudited)</li><li>v. Condensed Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)</li></ul>

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99.2 [Consolidated financial statements of Level 3 as of December 31, 2016 and 2015 and for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014:](#)

- i. Reports of KPMG LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
- ii. Consolidated Statements of Income for the Years Ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014
- iii. Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the Years Ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014
- iv. Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2016 and 2015
- v. Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014
- vi. Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity for the Years Ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014
- vii. Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

99.3 [Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information](#)

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, CenturyLink, Inc. has duly caused this Current Report on Form 8-K/A to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned officer hereunto duly authorized.

CENTURYLINK, INC.

By: /s/ Stacey W. Goff

Stacey W. Goff  
Executive Vice President,  
Chief Administrative Officer,  
General Counsel and Secretary

Dated: January 16, 2018

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## Section 2: EX-23.1 (EX-23.1)

Exhibit 23.1

### Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors  
CenturyLink, Inc.:

We consent to the incorporation by reference, in the registration statements (No. 333-202411, No. 333-212575, and No. 333-187366) on Form S-3, the registration statements (No. 33-60061, No. 333-160391, No. 333-37148, No. 333-60806, No. 333-150157, No. 333-124854, No. 333-150188, No. 333-174571, and No. 333-221267) on Form S-8, and the registration statements (No. 33-48956, No. 333-17015, No. 333-167339, No. 333-174291, No. 333-155521, No. 333-206725, and No. 333-215121) on Form S-4 of CenturyLink, Inc., of our reports dated February 24, 2017, with respect to the consolidated balance sheets of Level 3 Communications, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, cash flows, and changes in stockholders' equity for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2016, and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016, which reports are included in the Form 8-K/A of CenturyLink, Inc.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Denver, Colorado  
January 12, 2018

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## Section 3: EX-99.1 (EX-99.1)

Exhibit 99.1

### Part I - Financial Information

#### ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### LEVEL 3 PARENT, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES Consolidated Statements of Income (unaudited)

(dollars in millions, except per share data)	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016	September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016
Revenue	\$ 2,059	\$ 2,033	\$ 6,168	\$ 6,140
Costs and Expenses:				
Network access costs	678	675	2,044	2,045
Network related expenses	345	337	1,018	1,014
Depreciation and amortization	333	319	983	930

Selling, general and administrative expenses	348	348	1,078	1,061
<b>Total Costs and Expenses</b>	<u>1,704</u>	<u>1,679</u>	<u>5,123</u>	<u>5,050</u>
Operating Income	355	354	1,045	1,090
<b>Other Income (Expense):</b>				
Interest income	6	1	11	3
Interest expense	(134)	(139)	(400)	(414)
Loss on modification and extinguishment of debt	—	—	(44)	(40)
Other, net	6	1	9	(14)
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<u>(122)</u>	<u>(137)</u>	<u>(424)</u>	<u>(465)</u>
Income Before Income Taxes	233	217	621	625
Income Tax Expense	(76)	(74)	(215)	(198)
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>\$ 157</u>	<u>\$ 143</u>	<u>\$ 406</u>	<u>\$ 427</u>
<b>Basic Earnings per Common Share</b>				
Net Income Per Share	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.40	\$ 1.12	\$ 1.19
Weighted-Average Shares Outstanding (in thousands)	363,471	359,561	362,413	358,097
<b>Diluted Earnings per Common Share</b>				
Net Income Per Share	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.39	\$ 1.11	\$ 1.18
Weighted-Average Shares Outstanding (in thousands)	365,323	361,907	364,710	361,072

See accompanying notes to unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements.

**LEVEL 3 PARENT, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income**  
(unaudited)

<b>(dollars in millions)</b>	<b>Three Months Ended</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended</b>	
	<b>September 30, 2017</b>	<b>September 30, 2016</b>	<b>September 30, 2017</b>	<b>September 30, 2016</b>
Net Income	\$ 157	\$ 143	\$ 406	\$ 427
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss), net of Tax:				
Foreign currency translation adjustments, net of tax effect of (\$18), \$6, (\$55) and \$30	44	(15)	106	9
Defined benefit pension plan adjustments, net of tax effect of (\$1), (\$1), (\$1), and (\$2)	—	—	—	(1)
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss), net of Tax	44	(15)	106	8
Comprehensive Income	\$ 201	\$ 128	\$ 512	\$ 435

See accompanying notes to unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements.

**LEVEL 3 PARENT, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Consolidated Balance Sheets**  
(unaudited)

<u>(dollars in millions, except per share data)</u>	<u>September 30,</u> <u>2017</u>	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2016</u>
<b>Assets:</b>		
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,252	\$ 1,819
Restricted cash and securities	5	7
Receivables, less allowances for doubtful accounts of \$32 and \$29, respectively	750	712
Other	<u>136</u>	<u>115</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>3,143</b>	<b>2,653</b>
Property, Plant and Equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$12,203 and \$11,249, respectively	10,485	10,139
Restricted Cash and Securities	29	31
Goodwill	7,741	7,729
Other Intangibles, net	761	915
Deferred Tax Assets	3,162	3,370
Other Assets, net	<u>52</u>	<u>51</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 25,373</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 24,888</u></b>
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity:</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 704	\$ 706
Current portion of long-term debt	7	7
Accrued payroll and employee benefits	247	195
Accrued interest	95	129
Current portion of deferred revenue	276	266
Other	<u>139</u>	<u>168</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,468</b>	<b>1,471</b>
Long-Term Debt, less current portion	10,586	10,877
Deferred Revenue, less current portion	1,132	1,001
Other Liabilities	<u>637</u>	<u>622</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>13,823</b>	<b>13,971</b>
<b>Commitments and Contingencies</b>		
<b>Stockholders' Equity:</b>		
Preferred stock, \$.01 par value, authorized 10,000,000 shares: no shares issued or outstanding	—	—
Common stock, \$.01 par value, authorized 433,333,333 shares in both periods; 362,799,950 issued and outstanding at September 30, 2017 and 360,021,098 issued and outstanding at December 31, 2016	4	4
Additional paid-in capital	19,921	19,800
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(281)	(387)
Accumulated deficit	<u>(8,094)</u>	<u>(8,500)</u>
<b>Total Stockholders' Equity</b>	<b>11,550</b>	<b>10,917</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>	<b><u>\$ 25,373</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 24,888</u></b>

See accompanying notes to unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements.



**LEVEL 3 PARENT, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**  
(unaudited)

<b>(dollars in millions)</b>	<b>Nine Months Ended</b>	
	<b>September 30, 2017</b>	<b>September 30, 2016</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</b>		
Net income	\$ 406	\$ 427
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	983	930
Non-cash compensation expense attributable to stock awards	120	121
Loss on modification and extinguishment of debt	44	40
Accretion of debt discount and amortization of debt issuance costs	13	15
Accrued interest on long-term debt, net	(34)	27
Deferred income taxes	189	163
Loss (gain) on sale of property, plant and equipment and other assets	6	(1)
Other, net	5	(7)
Changes in working capital items:		
Receivables	(34)	16
Other current assets	(38)	(40)
Accounts payable	(10)	99
Deferred revenue	134	21
Other current liabilities	7	(25)
<b>Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</b>	<b>1,791</b>	<b>1,786</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</b>		
Capital expenditures	(1,018)	(1,028)
Change in restricted cash and securities, net	4	11
Purchases of marketable securities	(1,127)	—
Maturity of marketable securities	1,127	—
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment and other assets	1	1
<b>Net Cash Used in Investing Activities</b>	<b>(1,013)</b>	<b>(1,016)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities:</b>		
Long-term debt borrowings, net of issuance costs	4,569	764
Payments on and repurchases of long-term debt and capital leases	(4,917)	(818)
<b>Net Cash Used in Financing Activities</b>	<b>(348)</b>	<b>(54)</b>
Effect of Exchange Rates on Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	(1)
<b>Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>715</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Period	1,819	854
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Period</b>	<b>\$ 2,252</b>	<b>\$ 1,569</b>
<b>Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information:</b>		
Cash interest paid	\$ 412	\$ 372
Income taxes paid, net of refunds	\$ 47	\$ 26

See accompanying notes to unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements.

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**LEVEL 3 PARENT, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements**

*Effective November 1, 2017, Level 3 Communications, Inc. became an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of CenturyLink, Inc. Upon completion of the acquisition, Level 3 Communications, Inc.'s name changed to Level 3 Parent, LLC. Unless the context requires otherwise, references in this report to "Level 3 Communications, Inc.," "Level 3," "we," "us," the "Company" and "our" refer to Level 3 Parent, LLC and its consolidated subsidiaries.*

**(1) Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

*Description of Business*

We are a facilities-based provider (that is, a provider that owns or leases a substantial portion of the property, plant and equipment necessary to provide our services) of a broad range of integrated communications services. We created our communications network by constructing our own assets and through a combination of purchasing other companies and purchasing or leasing facilities from others. Our network is an international, facilities-based communications network. We designed our network to provide communications services that employ and take advantage of rapidly improving underlying optical, Internet Protocol, computing and storage technologies.

On October 31, 2016, we entered into an agreement and plan of merger (the "Merger Agreement") with CenturyLink, Inc., a Louisiana corporation ("CenturyLink"), Wildcat Merger Sub 1 LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of CenturyLink ("Merger Sub 1"), and WWG Merger Sub LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of CenturyLink ("Merger Sub 2"), pursuant to which, effective November 1, 2017, we were acquired by CenturyLink in a cash and stock transaction, including the assumption of our debt (the "CenturyLink Merger"). See Note 2—Events Associated with the CenturyLink Merger.

*Principles of Consolidation and Basis of Presentation*

The consolidated financial statements include our and our subsidiaries' accounts in which we have a controlling interest. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated. The accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("GAAP").

As part of our consolidation policy, we consider our controlled subsidiaries, investments in businesses in which we are not the primary beneficiary or do not have effective control but have the ability to significantly influence operating and financial policies, and variable interests resulting from economic arrangements that give us rights to economic risks or rewards of a legal entity. We do not have variable interests in a variable interest entity where we are required to consolidate the entity as the primary beneficiary. Due to exchange restrictions and other conditions, effective at the end of the third quarter of 2015 we deconsolidated our Venezuelan subsidiary and began accounting for our investment in our Venezuelan subsidiary using the cost method of accounting. The factors that led to our conclusions at the end of the third quarter of 2015 continued to exist through the end of the third quarter of 2017.

The accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2016, which was derived from audited Consolidated Financial Statements, and the unaudited interim Consolidated Financial Statements as of September 30, 2017 and for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 have been prepared pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") for quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and do not include all of the information and note disclosures required by GAAP for complete financial statements. These financial statements should

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be read in conjunction with our audited Consolidated Financial Statements and notes thereto included in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016. In the opinion of our management, these financial statements contain all adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of financial position, results of operations and cash flows at the dates and for the interim periods presented herein. The results of operations for an interim period are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations expected for a full fiscal year.

The preparation of the Consolidated Financial Statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reported period. Actual results could differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions and such differences could be material.

#### *Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements*

In February 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) 2016-02, *Leases* (“ASC 842”), which requires entities that lease assets to recognize on the balance sheet the assets and liabilities for the rights and obligations created by those leases. This ASU will replace most existing leasing guidance in U.S. GAAP when it becomes effective. The new standard is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, and interim periods within those years. Early application is permitted. The standard requires the use of a modified retrospective transition method. We are evaluating the effect that ASU 2016-02 will have on our Consolidated Financial Statements and related disclosures, and expect the new guidance to significantly increase the reported assets and liabilities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, which amended the existing accounting standards for revenue recognition and requires an entity to recognize the amount of revenue it expects to be entitled to for the transfer of promised goods or services to customers. The ASU and subsequent amendments have been codified as ASC 606, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (“ASC 606”). In July 2015, the FASB deferred the effective date to annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, and interim reporting periods within those periods. Early adoption is permitted using the original effective date of annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and interim reporting periods within those periods. The new guidance may be applied retrospectively to each prior period presented or prospectively with the cumulative effect recognized as of the date of initial adoption. We will not adopt ASC 606 early.

We have performed a comprehensive analysis of our revenue streams and contractual arrangements to identify and quantify the effects of ASC 606 on our consolidated financial statements and are developing new accounting and reporting policies, business and internal control processes and procedures to facilitate adoption of the standard. Because we currently have service contracts that contain a significant financing component that are not currently separately accounted for, we will be required to estimate and record incremental revenue and interest cost associated with these contractual terms. In addition, we will be required to capitalize, and subsequently amortize, commission costs associated with obtaining or fulfilling our customer contracts, which we do not currently defer and amortize. We will also have to comply with new revenue disclosure requirements. We are continuing to review and evaluate underlying contract information that will be used to support new accounting and disclosure requirements under ASC 606 and evaluate other matters that may result from adoption of the standard. We have not yet selected a transition method, as our method of transition may be affected by the CenturyLink Merger, which was completed effective November 1, 2017 (see Note 2—Events Associated with the CenturyLink Merger), and subsequent integration activities completed prior to the January 1, 2018 ASC 606 adoption date.

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## (2) Events Associated with the CenturyLink Merger

On November 1, 2017, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the previously-announced Merger Agreement, dated as of October 31, 2016, among Level 3, CenturyLink, Merger Sub 1 and Merger Sub 2, Merger Sub 1 merged with and into Level 3 (the “Initial Merger”) and immediately thereafter Level 3 merged with and into Merger Sub 2 (the “Subsequent Merger”), with Merger Sub 2 surviving such merger as an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of CenturyLink under the name of Level 3 Parent, LLC.

In connection with the Initial Merger, each outstanding share of Level 3 Communications, Inc. common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the “LVL Common Stock”), other than shares held by holders who have properly exercised appraisal rights and shares owned by CenturyLink, Level 3 or their respective subsidiaries, was converted into the right to receive \$26.50 in cash, without interest, and 1.4286 shares of CenturyLink common stock, par value \$1.00 per share (“CTL Common Stock”), with cash paid in lieu of fractional shares.

In addition, as a result of the Initial Merger, (i) each outstanding Level 3 restricted stock unit award granted prior to April 1, 2014 or granted to an outside director of Level 3 was converted into the right to receive \$26.50 in cash and 1.4286 shares of CTL Common Stock (and cash in lieu of fractional shares) with respect to each Level 3 share covered by such award, less applicable tax withholdings, and (ii) each outstanding Level 3 restricted stock unit award granted on or after April 1, 2014 (other than those granted to outside directors of Level 3) was converted into a restricted stock unit award relating to such number of shares of CTL Common Stock determined in accordance with a formula set forth in the Merger Agreement (the “Continuing RSU Awards”). The Continuing RSU Awards will remain subject to the same terms and conditions applicable to the original Level 3 awards immediately prior to their conversion, subject to certain exceptions.

As a result of the Initial Merger, CenturyLink delivered to our stockholders an aggregate of approximately \$9.6 billion in cash and approximately 517.3 million shares of CTL Common Stock valued at approximately \$9.8 billion (excluding shares of CTL Common Stock subject to future issuance under the Continuing RSU Awards and amounts to be paid to holders of dissenting shares), based on the number of shares of LVL Common Stock and Converted RSU Awards outstanding at the close of business on October 31, 2017 and the per share closing price of CTL Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange on October 31, 2017.

The above-described issuance of shares of CTL Common Stock in connection with the Initial Merger was registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, pursuant to a registration statement on Form S-4 (File No. 333-215121) filed by us with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) and declared effective on February 13, 2017. The joint proxy statement/prospectus of CenturyLink and Level 3 included in the registration statement (the “Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus”), including the various reports incorporated by reference therein, contains additional information about the above-described transactions.

In connection with the closing of the Merger Agreement, we invested \$1.825 billion in CenturyLink in exchange for an unsecured demand note that bears interest at 3.5% per annum. The principal amount of such note is payable upon demand by Level 3 Parent but no later than November 1, 2020, and is prepayable by CenturyLink at any time.

The U.S. Department of Justice approved the acquisition subject to conditions of a consent decree on October 2, 2017, which requires the combined company to divest certain Level 3 metro network assets in the markets located in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Boise, Idaho; and Tucson, Arizona and the combined company will divest 24 strands of dark fiber connecting 30 specified city-pairs across the United States in the form of an Indefeasible Right of Use agreement. The carrying value of the metro network and dark fiber assets is not material to Level 3.

Our results of operations will be included in the consolidated results of operations of CenturyLink beginning November 1, 2017. CenturyLink will account for its acquisition of us under the acquisition method of accounting, which will result in the allocation of the purchase price to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on their estimated fair values at the date of acquisition, with the excess

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purchase price being recognized as goodwill. None of the goodwill associated with this transaction is deductible for income tax purposes. The allocation of the purchase price to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed (and the related estimated lives of depreciable tangible and identifiable intangible assets) will require a significant amount of judgment. Such allocation of the purchase price (including the assignment of goodwill to reporting units) will be determined based upon an analysis currently being performed, which is expected to be complete no later than the fourth quarter of 2018. The recognition of assets and liabilities at fair value will be reflected in our financial statements and therefore will result in a new basis of accounting for the “successor period” beginning on November 1, 2017. This new basis of accounting means that our financial statements for the successor periods will not be comparable to our previously reported financial statements, including the financial statements in this report.

We recognized \$31 million and \$74 million of expenses associated with our activities surrounding the CenturyLink Merger for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017, respectively.

### **(3) Earnings Per Share**

We compute basic earnings per share by dividing net income for the period by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share is computed by dividing the net income for the period by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period and including the dilutive effect of common stock that would be issued assuming exercise of stock-based compensation awards.

The effects of approximately 2 million total restricted stock units (“RSUs”) and performance restricted stock units (“PRSUs”) outstanding at September 30, 2017 have been included in the computation of diluted earnings per share for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017. Less than 1 million of PRSUs granted in 2016 were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017, as they were contingently issuable and no shares would have been issued if these periods were the end of the contingency period. The effect of approximately 2 million and 3 million total outperform stock appreciation rights (“OSOs”), RSUs and PRSUs outstanding at September 30, 2016 were included in the computation of diluted earnings per share for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively.

#### (4) Other Intangible Assets

Other intangible assets as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016 were as follows:

(dollars in millions)	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net
<b>September 30, 2017</b>			
<i>Finite-Lived Intangible Assets:</i>			
Customer Contracts and Relationships	\$ 1,973	\$ (1,250)	\$ 723
Trademarks	55	(55)	—
Patents and Developed Technology	228	(205)	23
	<u>2,256</u>	<u>(1,510)</u>	<u>746</u>
<i>Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets:</i>			
Trade Name	15	—	15
	<u>\$ 2,271</u>	<u>\$ (1,510)</u>	<u>\$ 761</u>
<b>December 31, 2016</b>			
<i>Finite-Lived Intangible Assets:</i>			
Customer Contracts and Relationships	\$ 1,973	\$ (1,113)	\$ 860
Trademarks	55	(55)	—
Patents and Developed Technology	229	(189)	40
	<u>2,257</u>	<u>(1,357)</u>	<u>900</u>
<i>Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets:</i>			
Trade Name	15	—	15
	<u>\$ 2,272</u>	<u>\$ (1,357)</u>	<u>\$ 915</u>

Finite-lived intangible asset amortization expense was \$49 million and \$153 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and \$53 million and \$159 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016.

At September 30, 2017, the weighted average remaining useful lives of our finite-lived intangible assets was 4.1 in total; 4.2 for customer contracts and relationships, and 2.1 for patents and developed technology.

As of September 30, 2017, estimated amortization expense for our finite-lived intangible assets over the next five years is as follows (dollars in millions):

2017 (remaining three months)	\$ 47
2018	190
2019	179
2020	166
2021	143
2022	21
Thereafter	—
	<u>\$ 746</u>

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## (5) Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Our financial instruments consist of cash, cash equivalents, restricted cash and securities, receivables, accounts payable, capital leases, other liabilities and long-term debt (including the current portion). The carrying values of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and securities, receivables, accounts payable, capital leases and other liabilities approximated their fair values at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016.

GAAP defines fair value as the price that would be received from selling an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. When determining the fair value measurements and disclosures for assets and liabilities required to be recorded at fair value, we consider the principal or most advantageous market in which we would transact and consider assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, such as interest and foreign exchange rates, transfer restrictions, and risk of nonperformance.

### *Fair Value Hierarchy*

GAAP establishes a fair value hierarchy that requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The fair value measurement of each class of assets and liabilities is dependent upon its categorization within the fair value hierarchy, based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement of each class of asset and liability. GAAP establishes three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

- Level 1* — Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2* — Unadjusted quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, or unadjusted quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, or inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability.
- Level 3* — Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

We recognize transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy as of the end of the reporting period. There were no transfers within the fair value hierarchy during each of the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and September 30, 2016.

The table below presents the fair values for our long-term debt as well as the input levels used to determine these fair values as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016:

(dollars in millions)	Fair Value Measurement Using					
	Total Carrying Value in Consolidated Balance Sheets		Unadjusted Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets or Liabilities (Level 1)		Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	
	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
<i>Liabilities Not Recorded at Fair Value in the Financial Statements:</i>						
Long-term Debt, including the current portion:						
Term Loans	\$ 4,569	\$ 4,566	\$ 4,611	\$ 4,671	\$ —	\$ —
Senior Notes	5,845	6,135	6,065	6,283	—	—
Capital Leases and Other	179	183	—	—	179	183
Total Long-term Debt, including the current portion	\$ 10,593	\$ 10,884	\$ 10,676	\$ 10,954	\$ 179	\$ 183

We do not have any assets or liabilities where the fair value is measured using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3).

#### *Term Loans*

The fair value of the Term Loans referenced above was approximately \$4.6 billion and \$4.7 billion at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively. The fair value of each loan is based on quoted prices. Each loan tranche is actively traded. For additional information on the refinancing of the Term Loans, see Note 6—Long-Term Debt.

#### *Senior Notes*

The fair value of the Senior Notes referenced above was approximately \$6.1 billion at September 30, 2017 and \$6.3 billion at December 31, 2016, respectively, based on quoted prices for identical terms and maturities. Each series of notes is actively traded. On September 29, 2017, the \$300 million aggregate principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest due under the Floating Rate Senior Notes due 2018 was paid.

#### *Capital Leases*

The fair value of our capital leases is determined by discounting anticipated future cash flows derived from the contractual terms of the obligations and observable market interest and foreign exchange rates.



## (6) Long-Term Debt

The following table summarizes our long-term debt (amounts in millions):

	Date of			Interest Rate	September 30,	December 31,
	Issuance/ Amendment	Maturity	Interest Payments		2017	2016
					Amount	Amount
<b>Senior Secured Term Loans:</b>						
<i>Borrowed by Level 3 Financing, Inc.</i>						
Tranche B-III 2019 Term Loan <sup>(1)(4)</sup>	Aug 2013	—	Quarterly	LIBOR +3.00%	\$ —	\$ 815
Tranche B 2020 Term Loan <sup>(1)(4)</sup>	Oct 2013	—	Quarterly	LIBOR +3.00%	—	1,796
Tranche B-II 2022 Term Loan <sup>(1)(4)</sup>	May 2015	—	Quarterly	LIBOR +2.75%	—	2,000
Tranche B 2024 Term Loan <sup>(4)(5)</sup>	Feb 2017	Feb 2024	Quarterly	LIBOR +2.25%	4,611	—
<b>Senior Notes:</b>						
<i>Issued by Level 3 Financing, Inc.</i>						
Floating Rate Senior Notes due 2018 <sup>(2)(4)</sup>				6-Month		
	Nov 2013	Jan 2018	May/Nov	LIBOR +3.50%	—	300
6.125% Senior Notes due 2021 <sup>(2)</sup>	Nov 2013	Jan 2021	Apr/Oct	6.125%	640	640
5.375% Senior Notes due 2022 <sup>(2)</sup>	Aug 2014	Aug 2022	May/Nov	5.375%	1,000	1,000
5.625% Senior Notes due 2023 <sup>(2)</sup>	Jan 2015	Feb 2023	Jun/Dec	5.625%	500	500
5.125% Senior Notes due 2023 <sup>(2)</sup>	Apr 2015	May 2023	Mar/Sept	5.125%	700	700
5.375% Senior Notes due 2025 <sup>(2)</sup>	Apr 2015	May 2025	Mar/Sept	5.375%	800	800
5.375% Senior Notes due 2024 <sup>(2)</sup>	Nov 2015	Jan 2024	Jan/Jul	5.375%	900	900
5.25% Senior Notes due 2026 <sup>(2)</sup>	Mar 2016	Mar 2026	Apr/Oct	5.250%	775	775
<i>Issued by Level 3 Parent, LLC</i>						
5.75% Senior Notes due 2022 <sup>(3)</sup>	Dec 2014	Dec 2022	Mar/Sept	5.750%	600	600
<b>Capital Leases and Other Debt</b>					<b>179</b>	<b>183</b>
Total Debt Obligations					10,705	11,009
Unamortized discounts					—	(13)
Unamortized debt issuance costs					(112)	(112)
Current Portion					(7)	(7)
<b>Total Long-Term Debt</b>					<b>\$ 10,586</b>	<b>\$ 10,877</b>

- (1) The term loans were secured obligations and guaranteed by Level 3 Communications, Inc. and Level 3 Communications, LLC and certain other subsidiaries.
- (2) The notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed on an unsubordinated unsecured basis by Level 3 Parent, LLC and Level 3 Communications, LLC.
- (3) The notes are not guaranteed by any of Level 3 Parent, LLC's subsidiaries.
- (4) The Tranche B 2024 Term Loan had an interest rate of 3.486% as of September 30, 2017. All other term loans were refinanced on February 22, 2017 as described below. The Tranche B-III 2019 Term Loan and the Tranche B 2020 Term Loan each had an interest rate of 4.000% as of December 31, 2016. The Tranche B-II 2022 Term Loan had an interest rate of 3.500% as of December 31, 2016. The interest rate on the Tranche B-III 2019 Term Loan and the Tranche B 2020 Term Loan were set with a minimum LIBOR of 1.00%. The interest rate on the Tranche B-II 2022 Term Loan was set with a minimum LIBOR of 0.75% and the interest rate on the Tranche B 2024 Term Loan is set with a minimum LIBOR of zero percent. The Floating Rate Senior Notes due 2018 had an interest rate of 4.762% as of December 31, 2016.
- (5) The Tranche B 2024 Term Loan is a secured obligation and is guaranteed by Level 3 Parent, LLC and certain of its non-regulated subsidiaries.

### Senior Secured Term Loans

As of September 30, 2017, Level 3 Financing, Inc., Level 3 Parent, LLC's direct wholly owned subsidiary ("Level 3 Financing") had a senior secured credit facility consisting of a \$4.611 billion Tranche B Term Loan due 2024.

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On February 22, 2017, we completed the refinancing of all of our then outstanding \$4.611 billion senior secured term loans through the issuance of a new Tranche B 2024 Term Loan in the principal amount of \$4.611 billion. The term loans refinanced were our Tranche B-III 2019 Term Loan, Tranche B 2020 Term Loan, and the Tranche B-II 2022 Term Loan. The new Tranche B 2024 Term Loan bears interest at LIBOR plus 2.25 percent, with a zero percent minimum LIBOR, and will mature on February 22, 2024. The Tranche B 2024 Term Loan was priced to lenders at par, with the payment to the lenders at closing of an upfront 25 basis point fee. We recognized a charge of approximately \$44 million for modification and extinguishment in the first quarter of 2017 related to this refinancing.

As the new Tranche B 2024 Term Loan represents a new tranche to our existing credit facility, new regulatory approvals are required for Level 3 Communications, LLC and certain other regulated subsidiaries of Level 3 Financing to guarantee and to provide security for the Tranche B 2024 Term Loan. As a result, the guarantees and a portion of the collateral provided by those entities to support the term loans that were refinanced are not available to support the Tranche B 2024 Term Loan unless and until those regulatory approvals are obtained.

### ***Senior Notes***

All of the notes pay interest semiannually, and allow for the redemption of the notes at the option of the issuer upon not less than 30 or more than 60 days' prior notice by paying the greater of 101% of the principal amount or a "make-whole" amount, plus accrued interest. In addition, the notes also have a provision that allows for an additional right of optional redemption using cash proceeds received from the sale of equity securities. For specific details of these features and requirements, including the applicable premiums and timing, refer to the indentures for the respective senior notes in connection with the original issuances.

### ***7% Senior Notes due 2020 and 5.25% Senior Notes due 2026***

On March 22, 2016, Level 3 Financing issued \$775 million in aggregate principal amount of our 5.25% Senior Notes due 2026 (the "5.25% Senior Notes due 2026"). The 5.25% Senior Notes due 2026 are fully and unconditionally guaranteed on an unsubordinated unsecured basis by Level 3 Parent, LLC and Level 3 Communications, LLC.

On April 21, 2016, all of the outstanding principal amount of the 7% Senior Notes Due 2020 was redeemed at a redemption price equal to 104.138% of the principal amount, along with accrued and unpaid interest to but excluding the redemption date. To fund the redemption of these notes, Level 3 Financing used the net proceeds, along with cash on hand, from the March 22, 2016 issuance of our 5.25% Senior Notes due 2026. We recognized a charge of approximately \$40 million for modification and extinguishment in the second quarter of 2016 related to this refinancing.

### ***Floating Rate Senior Notes due 2018***

On September 29, 2017, the \$300 million aggregate principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest due under the Floating Rate Senior Notes due 2018 was paid and we recognized a loss on extinguishment of less than \$1 million.

### ***Capital Leases***

As of September 30, 2017, we had \$179 million of capital leases. We lease property, equipment, certain dark fiber facilities and metro fiber under non-cancelable IRU agreements that are accounted for as capital leases. The weighted average interest rate on these capital leases approximated 5.8% as of September 30, 2017.

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**Covenant Compliance**

At September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, we were in compliance with the financial covenants on all outstanding debt issuances.

**Long-Term Debt Maturities**

Aggregate future contractual maturities of long-term debt and capital leases (excluding debt issuance costs) were as follows as of September 30, 2017 (dollars in millions):

2017 (remaining three months)	\$	2
2018		7
2019		7
2020		8
2021		650
2022		1,610
Thereafter		8,421
		<u>\$10,705</u>

**(7) Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss**

The accumulated balances for each classification of other comprehensive income (loss) were as follows:

<u>(dollars in millions)</u>	<u>Net Foreign Currency Translation Adjustment</u>	<u>Defined Benefit Pension Plans</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance at December 31, 2015	\$ (273)	\$ (28)	\$(301)
Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications, net of tax	9	(2)	7
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss	—	1	1
Balance at September 30, 2016	<u>\$ (264)</u>	<u>\$ (29)</u>	<u>\$(293)</u>
Balance at December 31, 2016	\$ (353)	\$ (34)	\$(387)
Other comprehensive income before reclassifications, net of tax	106	1	107
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss	—	(1)	(1)
Balance at September 30, 2017	<u>\$ (247)</u>	<u>\$ (34)</u>	<u>\$(281)</u>

## (8) Stock-Based Compensation

The following table summarizes non-cash compensation expense for each of the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016:

(dollars in millions)	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Outperform Stock Appreciation Rights	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2
Restricted Stock Units	21	26	77	60
Performance Restricted Stock Units	5	9	17	33
401(k) Match Expense	7	8	26	27
	33	43	120	122
Capitalized Non-Cash Compensation	—	—	—	(1)
Total	\$ 33	\$ 43	\$ 120	\$ 121

As of September 30, 2017, there were approximately 5 million total restricted stock and performance restricted stock units outstanding.

## (9) Segment Information

Prior to the CenturyLink Merger, our operating revenues were generated primarily from our former segments (North America; Europe, the Middle East and Africa (“EMEA”); and Latin America), and our Chief Operating Decision Maker (“CODM”) regularly reviewed information for each of our segments to evaluate performance and to allocate resources. The accounting principles used to determine segment results were the same as those used in our consolidated financial statements.

As of November 1, 2017, the effective date of the CenturyLink Merger, our operations will be integrated into and will be reported as part of the segments of CenturyLink. CenturyLink’s CODM has become our CODM, but will review our financial information on an aggregate basis only in connection with our quarterly and annual reports.

Operating segments are defined under GAAP as components of an enterprise for which separate financial information is available and evaluated regularly by our CODM in deciding how to allocate resources and assess performance. Our former reportable segments consisted of: 1) North America; 2) EMEA; and 3) Latin America. Other separate business interests that are not segments include interest, certain corporate assets and overhead costs, and certain other general and administrative costs that were not allocated to any of the operating segments.

The CODM measured and evaluated segment performance primarily based upon revenue, revenue growth and Adjusted EBITDA. Adjusted EBITDA, as defined by us, is equal to net income from the Consolidated Statements of Income before (1) income tax benefit (expense), (2) total other income (expense), (3) non-cash impairment charges included within selling, general and administrative expenses and network related expenses, (4) depreciation and amortization expense, and (5) non-cash stock-based compensation expense included within selling, general and administrative expenses and network related expenses.

Adjusted EBITDA is not a measurement under GAAP and may not be used in the same way by other companies. Management believes that Adjusted EBITDA is an important part of our internal reporting and is a key measure used by management to evaluate our profitability and operating performance and to make resource allocation decisions. Management believes such measurement is

especially important in a capital-intensive industry such as telecommunications. Management also uses Adjusted EBITDA to compare our performance to that of our competitors and to eliminate certain non-cash and non-operating items in order to consistently measure from period to period our ability to fund capital expenditures, fund growth, service debt and determine bonuses.

Adjusted EBITDA excludes non-cash impairment charges and non-cash stock-based compensation expense because of the non-cash nature of these items. Adjusted EBITDA also excludes interest income, interest expense and income tax benefit (expense) because these items are associated with our capitalization and tax structures. Adjusted EBITDA also excludes depreciation and amortization expense because these non-cash expenses reflect the effect of capital investments which management believes are better evaluated through cash flow measures. Adjusted EBITDA excludes net other income (expense) because these items are not related to our primary operations.

There are limitations to using non-GAAP financial measures such as Adjusted EBITDA, including the difficulty associated with comparing companies that use similar performance measures whose calculations may differ from our calculations. Additionally, this financial measure does not include certain significant items such as interest income, interest expense, income tax benefit (expense), depreciation and amortization expense, non-cash impairment charges, non-cash stock-based compensation expense, and net other income (expense). Adjusted EBITDA should not be considered a substitute for other measures of financial performance reported in accordance with GAAP.

The following table presents revenue by segment:

<b>(dollars in millions)</b>	<b>Three Months Ended</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended</b>	
	<b>September 30, 2017</b>	<b>September 30, 2016<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>September 30, 2017</b>	<b>September 30, 2016<sup>(1)</sup></b>
<b>Core Network Services Revenue:</b>				
North America	\$ 1,597	\$ 1,573	\$ 4,798	\$ 4,779
EMEA	184	180	535	561
Latin America	182	176	541	491
<b>Total Core Network Services Revenue</b>	<b>1,963</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>5,874</b>	<b>5,831</b>
<b>Wholesale Voice Services Revenue:</b>				
North America	90	98	279	292
EMEA	3	4	8	11
Latin America	3	2	7	6
<b>Total Wholesale Voice Services Revenue</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>309</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,059</b>	<b>\$ 2,033</b>	<b>\$ 6,168</b>	<b>\$ 6,140</b>

- (1) The 2016 results have been adjusted to reflect changes made to customer assignments between the wholesale and enterprise channels as of the beginning of 2017.

The following table presents Adjusted EBITDA by segment and reconciles Adjusted EBITDA to net income:

(dollars in millions)	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016	September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016
Adjusted EBITDA:				
North America	\$ 817	\$ 784	\$ 2,441	\$ 2,415
EMEA	64	56	189	162
Latin America	78	80	235	218
Unallocated Corporate Expenses	(238)	(204)	(717)	(654)
Adjusted EBITDA	721	716	2,148	2,141
Income Tax Expense	(76)	(74)	(215)	(198)
Total Other Expense	(122)	(137)	(424)	(465)
Depreciation and Amortization	(333)	(319)	(983)	(930)
Non-Cash Stock Compensation	(33)	(43)	(120)	(121)
Net Income	\$ 157	\$ 143	\$ 406	\$ 427

The following table presents capital expenditures by segment and reconciles capital expenditures by segment to total capital expenditures:

(dollars in millions)	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016	September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016
Capital Expenditures:				
North America	\$ 216	\$ 245	\$ 690	\$ 677
EMEA	25	38	83	117
Latin America	48	44	126	118
Unallocated Corporate Capital Expenditures	33	37	119	116
Total Capital Expenditures	\$ 322	\$ 364	\$ 1,018	\$ 1,028

The following table presents total assets by segment:

(dollars in millions)	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
Assets:		
North America	\$ 21,094	\$ 20,818
EMEA	1,766	1,639
Latin America	2,387	2,304
Other	126	127
Total Assets	\$ 25,373	\$ 24,888

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill by segment during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 were as follows:

(dollars in millions)	North America	EMEA	Latin America	Total
Balance at December 31, 2016	\$ 7,024	\$ 109	\$ 596	\$7,729
Effect of foreign currency rate change	—	12	—	12
Balance at September 30, 2017	\$ 7,024	\$ 121	\$ 596	\$7,741

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There were no events or changes in circumstances during the first three and nine months of 2017 that indicated the carrying value of goodwill may not be recoverable.

#### **(10) Commitments, Contingencies and Other Items**

We are subject to various legal proceedings and other contingent liabilities that individually or in the aggregate could materially affect our financial condition, future results of operations or cash flows. Amounts accrued for such contingencies aggregate to \$93 million and are included in “Other” current liabilities and “Other Liabilities” in our Consolidated Balance Sheet at September 30, 2017. The establishment of an accrual does not mean that actual funds have been set aside to satisfy a given contingency. Thus, the resolution of a particular contingency for the amount accrued would have no effect on our results of operations but could materially adversely affect our cash flows for the affected period.

We review our accruals at least quarterly and adjust them to reflect the impact of negotiations, settlements, rulings, advice of legal counsel and other information and events pertaining to a particular matter. Below is a description of material legal proceedings and other contingencies pending at September 30, 2017. Although we believe we have accrued for these matters in accordance with the accounting guidance for contingencies, contingencies are inherently unpredictable and it is possible that results of operations or cash flows could be materially and adversely affected in any particular period by unfavorable developments in, or resolution or disposition of, one or more of these matters. For those contingencies in respect of which we believe it is reasonably possible that a loss may result that is materially in excess of the accrual (if any) established for the matter, we have either provided an estimate of such possible loss or range of loss or included a statement that such an estimate cannot be made. In addition to the contingencies described below, we are party to many other legal proceedings and contingencies, the resolution of which is not expected to materially affect our financial condition or future results of operations beyond the amounts accrued.

##### *Rights-of-Way Litigation*

We are party to a number of purported class action lawsuits involving our right to install fiber optic cable network in railroad right-of-ways adjacent to plaintiffs’ land. In general, we obtained the rights to construct our networks from railroads, utilities, and others, and have installed our networks along the rights-of-way so granted. Plaintiffs in the purported class actions assert that they are the owners of lands over which the fiber optic cable networks pass, and that the railroads, utilities and others who granted us the right to construct and maintain our network did not have the legal authority to do so. The complaints seek damages on theories of trespass, unjust enrichment and slander of title and property, as well as punitive damages. We have also received, and may in the future receive, claims and demands related to rights-of-way issues similar to the issues in these cases that may be based on similar or different legal theories. We have defeated motions for class certification in a number of these actions but expect that, absent settlement of these actions, plaintiffs in the pending lawsuits will continue to seek certification of statewide or multi-state classes. The only lawsuit in which a class was certified against us, absent an agreed upon settlement, occurred in *Koyle, et. al. v. Level 3 Communications, Inc., et. al.*, a purported two state class action filed in the United States District Court for the District of Idaho. The *Koyle* lawsuit has been dismissed pursuant to a settlement reached in November 2010 as described further below.

We negotiated a series of class settlements affecting all persons who own or owned land next to or near railroad rights of way in which we have installed our fiber optic cable networks. The United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts in *Kingsborough v. Sprint Communications Co. L.P.* granted preliminary approval of the proposed settlement; however, on September 10, 2009, the court denied a motion for final approval of the settlement on the basis that the court lacked subject matter jurisdiction and dismissed the case.

In November 2010, we negotiated revised settlement terms for a series of state class settlements affecting all persons who own or owned land next to or near railroad rights of way in which we have installed our fiber optic cable networks. We are currently pursuing presentment of the settlement in applicable jurisdictions. The settlements, affecting current and former landowners, have received final federal court approval in all but one of the applicable states and the parties are actively engaged in, or have completed, the claims process for the vast majority of the applicable states, including payment of claims. We continue to seek approval in the remaining state.

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Management believes that Level 3 has substantial defenses to the claims asserted in the remaining state and intends to defend them vigorously if a satisfactory settlement is not ultimately approved for the affected landowners.

#### *Peruvian Tax Litigation*

Beginning in 2005, one of our Peruvian subsidiaries received a number of assessments for tax, penalties and interest for calendar years 2001 and 2002. Peruvian tax authorities (“SUNAT”) took the position that the Peruvian subsidiary incorrectly documented its importations resulting in additional income tax withholding and value-added taxes (“VAT”). The total amount of the asserted claims, including potential interest and penalties, was \$26 million, consisting of \$3 million for income tax withholding in connection with the import of services for calendar years 2001 and 2002, \$7 million for VAT in connection with the import of services for calendar years 2001 and 2002, and \$16 million in connection with the disallowance of VAT credits for periods beginning in 2005. After taking into account the developments described below, as well as the accrued interest and foreign exchange effects, the total amount of exposure is \$16 million at September 30, 2017.

We challenged the tax assessments during 2005 by filing administrative claims before SUNAT. During August 2006 and June 2007, SUNAT rejected our administrative claims, thereby confirming the assessments. Appeals were filed in September 2006 and July 2007 with the Tribunal Fiscal, the highest level of administrative review, which is not part of the Peru judiciary (the “Tribunal”). The 2001 and 2002 assessed withholding tax assessments were resolved in our favor in separate administrative resolutions; however, the penalties with respect to withholding tax remain at issue in the administrative appeals.

In October 2011, the Tribunal issued its administrative resolution with respect to the calendar year 2002 tax period regarding VAT, associated penalties and penalties associated with withholding taxes, deciding the central issue underlying the assessments in the government’s favor, while confirming the assessment in part and denying a portion of the assessment on procedural grounds. We appealed the Tribunal’s October 2011 administrative resolutions to the judicial court in Peru. In September 2014, the first judicial court rendered a decision largely in our favor on the central issue underlying the assessments. SUNAT appealed the court’s decision to the next judicial level. The court of appeal remanded the case to the first judicial court for further development of the facts and legal analysis supporting its decision. In April 2016, the first judicial level rendered a decision in our favor on the central issue underlying the assessments. SUNAT has appealed the substantive issue to the next judicial level. We also appealed certain procedural points. In May 2017, the court of appeal issued a decision reversing the favorable decision reached by the first judicial level. In June 2017, we filed an appeal of the decision to the Supreme Court of Justice, the final judicial level.

In October 2013, the Tribunal notified us of its July 2013 administrative resolution with respect to the calendar year 2001 tax period regarding VAT, associated penalties and penalties associated with withholding taxes, determining the central issue underlying the assessments in the government’s favor, while confirming the assessment in part and denying a portion of the assessment on procedural grounds. We appealed the Tribunal’s July 2013 administrative resolutions to the judicial court in Peru. In April 2015, the first judicial court rendered a decision largely in SUNAT’s favor on the central issue underlying the assessments. We appealed the court’s decision to the next judicial level. In April 2016, the court of appeal rendered a decision that declared null the April 2015 decision and remanded the case to the first judicial court for further development of the facts and legal analysis supporting its decision. In June 2017, the first judicial court issued a ruling against us primarily based on the same grounds from the original decision. In June 2017, we filed an appeal with the court of appeal. An oral hearing took place before the court of appeals on October 18, 2017. A decision on this case is pending.



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In December 2013, SUNAT initiated an audit of calendar year 2001. In June 2014, we were served with SUNAT's assessments of the 2001 VAT credits declared null by the Tribunal and the corresponding fine. In July 2014, we challenged these assessments by filing administrative claims before SUNAT. In January 2015, SUNAT rejected the administrative claims, thereby confirming the assessments. We filed an appeal with the Tribunal in February 2015. In May 2015, the Tribunal notified us of its administrative resolution declaring the assessments and corresponding fines null. The time for SUNAT to appeal this resolution has closed. Under local practice, notification of an appeal can take several months. Counsel confirmed in the first quarter of 2016 that SUNAT has not filed an appeal to the resolution. Nevertheless, SUNAT retains the right to reissue the assessments declared null or start a new audit. However, we are under no obligation to provide additional information and any fine issued by SUNAT based on the same information that it has already used in the past would be declared null. Accordingly, in March 2016, we released an accrual of approximately \$15 million for an assessment and associated interest.

In addition, based on a change in legal interpretation by the Peruvian judicial courts, the statute of limitations with respect to the 2001 fines has expired. Accordingly, in the fourth quarter of 2016, we released an accrual of approximately \$11 million of fines and associated interest.

#### *Employee Severance and Contractor Termination Disputes*

A number of former employees and third-party contractors have asserted a variety of claims in litigation against certain of our Latin American subsidiaries for separation pay, severance, commissions, pension benefits, unpaid vacation pay, breach of employment contracts, unpaid performance bonuses, property damages, moral damages and related statutory penalties, fines, costs and expenses (including accrued interest, attorneys' fees and statutorily mandated inflation adjustments) as a result of their separation from us or termination of service relationships. We are vigorously defending ourselves against the asserted claims, which aggregate to approximately \$30 million at September 30, 2017.

#### *Brazilian Tax Claims*

In December 2004, March 2009, April 2009 and July 2014, the São Paulo state tax authorities issued tax assessments against one of our Brazilian subsidiaries for the Tax on Distribution of Goods and Services ("ICMS") with respect to revenue from leasing movable properties (in the case of the December 2004, March 2009 and July 2014 assessments) and revenue from the provision of Internet access services (in the case of the April 2009 and July 2014 assessments), by treating such activities as the provision of communications services, to which the ICMS tax applies. During the third quarter of 2014, we released an accrual of \$6 million for tax, penalty and associated interest corresponding to the ICMS applicable on the provision of Internet access services due to the expiration of the statute of limitations for the January 2008 to June 2009 tax periods. In September 2002, July 2009 and May 2012, the Rio de Janeiro state tax authorities issued tax assessments to the same Brazilian subsidiary on similar issues. We have filed objections to these assessments, arguing that the lease of assets and the provision of Internet access are not communication services subject to ICMS. The objections to the September 2002, December 2004 and March 2009 assessments were rejected by the respective state administrative courts, and we have appealed those decisions to the judicial courts. In October 2012 and June 2014, we received favorable rulings from the lower court on the December 2004 and March 2009 assessments regarding equipment leasing, but those rulings are subject to appeal by the state. No ruling has been obtained with respect to the September 2002 assessment. The objections to the April and July 2009 and May 2012 assessments are still pending final administrative decisions. The July 2014 assessment was confirmed during the fourth quarter of 2014 at the first administrative level and we appealed this decision to the second administrative level. During the fourth quarter of 2014, we entered into an amnesty with the Rio de Janeiro state tax authorities with respect to potential ICMS liability for the 2008 tax period. As a result, we paid \$5 million and released an accrual of \$3 million of tax corresponding to the ICMS applicable on the provision of Internet access services in the fourth quarter of 2014.

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We are vigorously contesting all such assessments in both states and, in particular, view the assessment of ICMS on revenue from leasing movable properties to be without merit. Nevertheless, we believe it is reasonably possible that these assessments could result in a loss of up to \$54 million at September 30, 2017 in excess of the accruals established for these matters.

#### *Other Matters*

Level 3 has recently been notified of a qui tam action pending against Level 3 Communications, Inc., certain former employees and others in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (*United States of America ex rel., Stephen Bishop v. Level 3 Communications, Inc. et al., Case No. 1:13-cv-1453*). Certain statutes permit private citizens, called “relators”, to institute civil proceedings alleging violations of those statutes. These qui tam cases are typically sealed by the court at the time of filing. The original qui tam complaint was filed under seal on November 26, 2013, and an amended complaint was filed under seal on June 16, 2014. The court unsealed the complaints on October 26, 2017.

The amended complaint alleges that Level 3, principally through two former employees, submitted false claims and made false statements to the government in connection with two government contracts. The relator seeks damages in this lawsuit of approximately \$50 million, subject to trebling, plus statutory penalties, pre-and-post judgment interest, and attorney’s fees. The case is currently stayed.

As we have only recently been made aware of the content of the amended complaint, we are evaluating our defenses to the claims. At this time, we do not believe it is probable we will incur a material loss. If, contrary to our expectations, the plaintiff prevails in this matter and proves damages at or near \$50 million, and is successful in having those damages trebled, the outcome could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations in the period in which a liability is recognized and on our cash flows for the period in which any damages are paid.

The two former Level 3 employees named in the qui tam amended complaint and others were also indicted in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia on October 3, 2017, and charged with, among other things, accepting kickbacks from a subcontractor, who was also indicted, for work to be performed under a prime government contract. The company is fully cooperating in the government’s investigations in this matter.

#### *Letters of Credit*

It is customary for us to use various financial instruments in the normal course of business. These instruments include letters of credit. Letters of credit are conditional commitments issued on our behalf in accordance with specified terms and conditions. As of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, we had outstanding letters of credit or other similar obligations of approximately \$36 million and \$39 million, respectively, of which \$29 million and \$33 million are collateralized by cash that is reflected on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as restricted cash and securities. We do not believe exposure to loss related to our letters of credit is material.

#### **(11) Condensed Consolidating Financial Information**

Level 3 Financing, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary, has issued Senior Notes that are unsecured obligations of Level 3 Financing, Inc.; however, they are also fully and unconditionally and jointly and severally guaranteed on an unsecured senior basis by Level 3 Parent, LLC and Level 3 Communications, LLC.

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In conjunction with the registration of the Level 3 Financing, Inc. Senior Notes, the accompanying condensed consolidating financial information has been prepared and presented pursuant to SEC Regulation S-X Rule 3-10 “Financial statements of guarantors and affiliates whose securities collateralize an issue registered or being registered.”

The operating activities of the separate legal entities included in our Consolidated Financial Statements are interdependent. The accompanying condensed consolidating financial information presents the statements of comprehensive income, balance sheets and statements of cash flows of each legal entity and, on an aggregate basis, the other non-guarantor subsidiaries based on amounts incurred by such entities, and is not intended to present the operating results of those legal entities on a stand-alone basis. Level 3 Communications, LLC leases equipment and certain facilities from other wholly owned subsidiaries of Level 3 Parent, LLC. These transactions are eliminated in our consolidated results.

**Condensed Consolidating Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)**  
**Three Months Ended September 30, 2017**

	<u>Level 3 Parent, LLC</u>	<u>Level 3 Financing, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Communications, LLC</u>	<u>Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(dollars in millions)					
Revenue	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 932	\$ 1,168	\$ (41)	\$2,059
Costs and Expense:						
Network Access Costs	—	—	329	390	(41)	678
Network Related Expenses	—	—	254	91	—	345
Depreciation and Amortization	—	—	114	219	—	333
Selling, General and Administrative Expenses	2	1	272	73	—	348
Total Costs and Expenses	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>969</u>	<u>773</u>	<u>(41)</u>	<u>1,704</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	(2)	(1)	(37)	395	—	355
Other Income (Expense):						
Interest income	—	—	6	—	—	6
Interest expense	(9)	(121)	—	(4)	—	(134)
Interest income (expense) affiliates, net	377	562	(868)	(71)	—	—
Equity in net earnings (losses) of subsidiaries	(212)	(614)	215	—	611	—
Other, net	—	—	12	(6)	—	6
Total Other Income (Expense)	<u>156</u>	<u>(173)</u>	<u>(635)</u>	<u>(81)</u>	<u>611</u>	<u>(122)</u>
Income (Loss) before Income Taxes	154	(174)	(672)	314	611	233
Income Tax Benefit (Expense)	3	(38)	(1)	(40)	—	(76)
Net Income (Loss)	157	(212)	(673)	274	611	157
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss), Net of Income Taxes	44	—	—	44	(44)	44
Comprehensive Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 201</u>	<u>\$ (212)</u>	<u>\$ (673)</u>	<u>\$ 318</u>	<u>\$ 567</u>	<u>\$ 201</u>

**Condensed Consolidating Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)**  
**Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017**

	<u>Level 3 Parent, LLC</u>	<u>Level 3 Financing, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Communications, LLC</u>	<u>Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(dollars in millions)					
Revenue	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,785	\$ 3,499	\$ (116)	\$6,168
Costs and Expense:						
Network Access Costs	—	—	991	1,169	(116)	2,044
Network Related Expenses	—	—	743	275	—	1,018
Depreciation and Amortization	—	—	327	656	—	983
Selling, General and Administrative Expenses	4	3	843	228	—	1,078
Total Costs and Expenses	4	3	2,904	2,328	(116)	5,123
Operating Income (Loss)	(4)	(3)	(119)	1,171	—	1,045
Other Income (Expense):						
Interest income	—	—	11	—	—	11
Interest expense	(27)	(358)	(2)	(13)	—	(400)
Interest income (expense) affiliates, net	1,132	1,703	(2,605)	(230)	—	—
Equity in net earnings (losses) of subsidiaries	(703)	(1,892)	618	—	1,977	—
Other, net	—	(44)	16	(7)	—	(35)
Total Other Income (Expense)	402	(591)	(1,962)	(250)	1,977	(424)
Income (Loss) before Income Taxes	398	(594)	(2,081)	921	1,977	621
Income Tax Benefit (Expense)	8	(109)	(2)	(112)	—	(215)
Net Income (Loss)	406	(703)	(2,083)	809	1,977	406
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss), Net of Income Taxes	106	—	—	106	(106)	106
Comprehensive Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 512</u>	<u>\$ (703)</u>	<u>\$ (2,083)</u>	<u>\$ 915</u>	<u>\$ 1,871</u>	<u>\$ 512</u>

**Condensed Consolidating Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)**  
**Three Months Ended September 30, 2016**

	<u>Level 3 Parent, LLC</u>	<u>Level 3 Financing, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Communications, LLC</u>	<u>Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(dollars in millions)					
Revenue	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 907	\$ 1,160	\$ (34)	\$2,033
Costs and Expense:						
Network Access Costs	—	—	330	379	(34)	675
Network Related Expenses	—	—	242	95	—	337
Depreciation and Amortization	—	—	100	219	—	319
Selling, General and Administrative Expenses	1	1	262	84	—	348
Total Costs and Expenses	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>934</u>	<u>777</u>	<u>(34)</u>	<u>1,679</u>
Operating (Loss) Income	(1)	(1)	(27)	383	—	354
Other Income (Expense):						
Interest income	—	—	1	—	—	1
Interest expense	(9)	(124)	(1)	(5)	—	(139)
Interest income (expense) affiliates, net	342	526	(804)	(64)	—	—
Equity in net earnings (losses) of subsidiaries	(193)	(539)	169	—	563	—
Other, net	—	—	(1)	2	—	1
Total Other Income (Expense)	<u>140</u>	<u>(137)</u>	<u>(636)</u>	<u>(67)</u>	<u>563</u>	<u>(137)</u>
Income (Loss) before Income Taxes	139	(138)	(663)	316	563	217
Income Tax Expense	4	(55)	—	(23)	—	(74)
Net Income (Loss)	143	(193)	(663)	293	563	143
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss), Net of Income Taxes	<u>(15)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(15)</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>(15)</u>
Comprehensive Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 128</u>	<u>\$ (193)</u>	<u>\$ (663)</u>	<u>\$ 278</u>	<u>\$ 578</u>	<u>\$ 128</u>

**Condensed Consolidating Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)**  
**Nine Months Ended September 30, 2016**

	Level 3 Parent, LLC	Level 3 Financing, Inc.	Level 3 Communications, LLC	Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Total
	(dollars in millions)					
Revenue	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,652	\$ 3,590	\$ (102)	\$6,140
Costs and Expense:						
Network Access Costs	—	—	965	1,182	(102)	2,045
Network Related Expenses	—	—	716	298	—	1,014
Depreciation and Amortization	—	—	280	650	—	930
Selling, General and Administrative Expenses	3	4	775	279	—	1,061
Total Costs and Expenses	3	4	2,736	2,409	(102)	5,050
Operating (Loss) Income	(3)	(4)	(84)	1,181	—	1,090
Other Income (Expense):						
Interest income	—	—	2	1	—	3
Interest expense	(27)	(380)	(2)	(5)	—	(414)
Interest income (expense) affiliates, net	1,027	1,585	(2,407)	(205)	—	—
Equity in net earnings (losses) of subsidiaries	(581)	(1,568)	569	—	1,580	—
Other, net	—	(39)	2	(17)	—	(54)
Total Other Income (Expense)	419	(402)	(1,836)	(226)	1,580	(465)
Income (Loss) before Income Taxes	416	(406)	(1,920)	955	1,580	625
Income Tax Expense	11	(175)	(2)	(32)	—	(198)
Net Income (Loss)	427	(581)	(1,922)	923	1,580	427
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss), Net of Income Taxes	8	—	—	8	(8)	8
Comprehensive Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 435</u>	<u>\$ (581)</u>	<u>\$ (1,922)</u>	<u>\$ 931</u>	<u>\$ 1,572</u>	<u>\$ 435</u>

**Condensed Consolidating Balance Sheets**  
**September 30, 2017**

	Level 3 Parent, LLC	Level 3 Financing, Inc.	Level 3 Communications, LLC	Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Total
(dollars in millions)						
<b>Assets</b>						
<b>Current Assets:</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 14	\$ —	\$ 2,141	\$ 97	\$ —	\$ 2,252
Restricted cash and securities	—	—	1	4	—	5
Receivables, less allowances for doubtful accounts	—	—	25	725	—	750
Due from affiliates	18,214	22,749	—	3,253	(44,216)	—
Other	—	—	110	26	—	136
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>18,228</b>	<b>22,749</b>	<b>2,277</b>	<b>4,105</b>	<b>(44,216)</b>	<b>3,143</b>
Property, Plant, and Equipment, net	—	—	4,204	6,281	—	10,485
Restricted Cash and Securities	19	—	10	—	—	29
Goodwill and Other Intangibles, net	—	—	352	8,150	—	8,502
Investment in Subsidiaries	16,947	17,141	3,626	—	(37,714)	—
Deferred Tax Assets	58	2,577	—	527	—	3,162
Other Assets, net	—	—	18	34	—	52
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$35,252</b>	<b>\$ 42,467</b>	<b>\$ 10,487</b>	<b>\$ 19,097</b>	<b>\$ (81,930)</b>	<b>\$25,373</b>
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity (Deficit)</b>						
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>						
Accounts payable	\$ —	\$ 1	\$ 331	\$ 372	\$ —	\$ 704
Current portion of long-term debt	—	—	2	5	—	7
Accrued payroll and employee benefits	—	—	216	31	—	247
Accrued interest	3	86	—	6	—	95
Current portion of deferred revenue	—	—	128	148	—	276
Due to affiliates	—	—	44,216	—	(44,216)	—
Other	—	(1)	92	48	—	139
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>44,985</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>(44,216)</b>	<b>1,468</b>
Long-Term Debt, less current portion	593	9,820	13	160	—	10,586
Deferred Revenue, less current portion	—	—	843	289	—	1,132
Other Liabilities	16	—	185	436	—	637
<b>Commitments and Contingencies</b>						
Stockholders' Equity (Deficit)	34,640	32,561	(35,539)	17,602	(37,714)	11,550
<b>Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$35,252</b>	<b>\$ 42,467</b>	<b>\$ 10,487</b>	<b>\$ 19,097</b>	<b>\$ (81,930)</b>	<b>\$25,373</b>



**Condensed Consolidating Balance Sheets**  
**December 31, 2016**

	Level 3 Parent, LLC	Level 3 Financing, Inc.	Level 3 Communications, LLC	Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Total
	(dollars in millions)					
<b>Assets</b>						
<b>Current Assets:</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 15	\$ —	\$ 1,700	\$ 104	\$ —	\$ 1,819
Restricted cash and securities	—	—	1	6	—	7
Receivables, less allowances for doubtful accounts	—	—	26	686	—	712
Due from affiliates	17,032	21,715	—	2,180	(40,927)	—
Other	—	—	87	28	—	115
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>17,047</b>	<b>21,715</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>3,004</b>	<b>(40,927)</b>	<b>2,653</b>
Property, Plant, and Equipment, net	—	—	3,869	6,270	—	10,139
Restricted Cash and Securities	22	—	9	—	—	31
Goodwill and Other Intangibles, net	—	—	353	8,291	—	8,644
Investment in Subsidiaries	16,869	17,599	3,674	—	(38,142)	—
Deferred Tax Assets	51	2,687	—	632	—	3,370
Other Assets, net	—	—	16	35	—	51
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$33,989</b>	<b>\$ 42,001</b>	<b>\$ 9,735</b>	<b>\$ 18,232</b>	<b>\$ (79,069)</b>	<b>\$24,888</b>
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity (Deficit)</b>						
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>						
Accounts payable	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 307	\$ 399	\$ —	\$ 706
Current portion of long-term debt	—	—	2	5	—	7
Accrued payroll and employee benefits	—	—	160	35	—	195
Accrued interest	11	110	—	8	—	129
Current portion of deferred revenue	—	—	116	150	—	266
Due to affiliates	—	—	40,927	—	(40,927)	—
Other	—	—	127	41	—	168
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>41,639</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>(40,927)</b>	<b>1,471</b>
Long-Term Debt, less current portion	592	10,108	13	164	—	10,877
Deferred Revenue, less current portion	—	—	719	282	—	1,001
Other Liabilities	16	—	155	451	—	622
<b>Commitments and Contingencies</b>						
Stockholders' Equity (Deficit)	33,370	31,783	(32,791)	16,697	(38,142)	10,917
<b>Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$33,989</b>	<b>\$ 42,001</b>	<b>\$ 9,735</b>	<b>\$ 18,232</b>	<b>\$ (79,069)</b>	<b>\$24,888</b>

**Condensed Consolidating Statements of Cash Flows**  
**Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017**

	<u>Level 3 Parent, LLC</u>	<u>Level 3 Financing, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Communications, LLC</u>	<u>Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(dollars in millions)					
<b>Net Cash Provided by (Used in)</b>						
Operating Activities	\$ (32)	\$ (378)	\$ 698	\$ 1,503	\$ —	\$ 1,791
<b>Cash Flows from Investing</b>						
<b>Activities:</b>						
Capital expenditures	—	—	(614)	(404)	—	(1,018)
Decrease (increase) in restricted cash and securities, net	3	—	(1)	2	—	4
Purchases of marketable securities	—	—	(1,127)	—	—	(1,127)
Maturity of marketable securities	—	—	1,127	—	—	1,127
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment and other assets	—	—	1	—	—	1
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities	3	—	(614)	(402)	—	(1,013)
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities:</b>						
Long-term debt borrowings, net of issuance costs	—	4,569	—	—	—	4,569
Payments on and repurchases of long-term debt and capital leases	—	(4,911)	1	(7)	—	(4,917)
Increase (decrease) due from/to affiliates, net	28	720	356	(1,104)	—	—
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Financing Activities	28	378	357	(1,111)	—	(348)
Effect of Exchange Rates on Cash and Cash Equivalents	—	—	—	3	—	3
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(1)	—	441	(7)	—	433
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Period	15	—	1,700	104	—	1,819
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Period	<u>\$ 14</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 2,141</u>	<u>\$ 97</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 2,252</u>

**Condensed Consolidating Statements of Cash Flows**  
**Nine Months Ended September 30, 2016**

	<b>Level 3 Parent, LLC</b>	<b>Level 3 Financing, Inc.</b>	<b>Level 3 Communications, LLC</b>	<b>Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries</b>	<b>Eliminations</b>	<b>Total</b>
(dollars in millions)						
Net Cash Provided by (Used in)						
Operating Activities	\$ (35)	\$ (332)	\$ 489	\$ 1,664	\$ —	\$ 1,786
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:						
Capital expenditures	—	—	(537)	(491)	—	(1,028)
Decrease in restricted cash and securities, net	5	—	6	—	—	11
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment and other assets	—	—	—	1	—	1
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	5	—	(531)	(490)	—	(1,016)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities:						
Long-term debt borrowings, net of issuance costs	—	764	—	—	—	764
Payments on and repurchases of long-term debt and capital leases	—	(806)	(1)	(11)	—	(818)
Increase (decrease) due from/to affiliates, net	34	368	798	(1,200)	—	—
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Financing Activities	34	326	797	(1,211)	—	(54)
Effect of Exchange Rates on Cash and Cash Equivalents	—	—	—	(1)	—	(1)
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	4	(6)	755	(38)	—	715
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Period	12	6	727	109	—	854
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Period	\$ 16	\$ —	\$ 1,482	\$ 71	\$ —	\$ 1,569

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## Section 4: EX-99.2 (EX-99.2)

Exhibit 99.2

### Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders  
Level 3 Communications, Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Level 3 Communications, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, cash flows and changes in stockholders' equity for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2016. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Level 3 Communications, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2016, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Level 3 Communications, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), and our report dated February 24, 2017 expressed an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Denver, Colorado  
February 24, 2017

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## Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders  
Level 3 Communications, Inc.:

We have audited Level 3 Communications, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Level 3 Communications, Inc.'s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying *Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, Level 3 Communications, Inc. maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Level 3 Communications, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, cash flows and changes in stockholders' equity, for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2016, and our report dated February 24, 2017, expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Denver, Colorado  
February 24, 2017

**LEVEL 3 COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Consolidated Statements of Income**  
**For each of the three years ended December 31,**

<u>(dollars in millions, except per share data)</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Revenue	\$ 8,172	\$ 8,229	\$ 6,777
Costs and Expenses:			
Network access costs	2,725	2,833	2,529
Network related expenses	1,346	1,432	1,246
Depreciation and amortization	1,250	1,166	808
Selling, general and administrative expenses	1,407	1,467	1,181
Total Costs and Expenses	<u>6,728</u>	<u>6,898</u>	<u>5,764</u>
Operating Income	1,444	1,331	1,013
Other Income (Expense):			
Interest income	4	1	1
Interest expense	(546)	(642)	(654)
Loss on modification and extinguishment of debt	(40)	(218)	(53)
Venezuela deconsolidation charge	—	(171)	—
Other, net	(20)	(18)	(69)
Total Other Expense	<u>(602)</u>	<u>(1,048)</u>	<u>(775)</u>
Income Before Income Taxes	842	283	238
Income Tax (Expense) Benefit	<u>(165)</u>	<u>3,150</u>	<u>76</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ 677</u>	<u>\$ 3,433</u>	<u>\$ 314</u>
<b>Basic Earnings per Common Share</b>			
Net Income Per Share	\$ 1.89	\$ 9.71	\$ 1.23
Weighted-Average Shares Outstanding (in thousands)	358,559	353,385	254,428
<b>Diluted Earnings per Common Share</b>			
Net Income Per Share	\$ 1.87	\$ 9.58	\$ 1.21
Weighted-Average Shares Outstanding (in thousands)	361,472	358,593	258,483

See accompanying notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

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**LEVEL 3 COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income**  
**For each of the three years ended December 31,**

<u>(dollars in millions)</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Net Income	\$677	\$3,433	\$ 314
Other Comprehensive Loss net of Tax:			
Foreign currency translation adjustments, net of tax effect of \$39, \$13, and \$0	(80)	(162)	(178)
Defined benefit pension plan adjustments, net of tax effect of \$4, (\$2), and \$0	(6)	8	(5)
Other Comprehensive Loss, net of Tax	(86)	(154)	(183)
Comprehensive Income	<u>\$591</u>	<u>\$3,279</u>	<u>\$ 131</u>

See accompanying notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

**LEVEL 3 COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Consolidated Balance Sheets**  
**As of December 31,**

<b>(dollars in millions, except share data)</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Assets:</b>		
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,819	\$ 854
Restricted cash and securities	7	8
Receivables, less allowances for doubtful accounts of \$29 and \$32, respectively	712	757
Other	<u>115</u>	<u>111</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,653</b>	<b>1,730</b>
Property, Plant and Equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$11,249 and \$10,365, respectively	10,139	9,878
Restricted Cash and Securities	31	42
Goodwill	7,729	7,749
Other Intangibles, net	915	1,127
Deferred Tax Assets	3,370	3,441
Other Assets, net	<u>51</u>	<u>50</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$24,888</u></b>	<b><u>\$24,017</u></b>
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity:</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 706	\$ 629
Current portion of long-term debt	7	15
Accrued payroll and employee benefits	195	218
Accrued interest	129	108
Current portion of deferred revenue	266	267
Other	<u>168</u>	<u>179</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,471</b>	<b>1,416</b>
Long-Term Debt, less current portion	10,877	10,866
Deferred Revenue, less current portion	1,001	977
Other Liabilities	<u>622</u>	<u>632</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>13,971</b>	<b>13,891</b>
Commitments and Contingencies	—	—
<b>Stockholders' Equity:</b>		
Preferred stock, \$.01 par value, authorized 10,000,000 shares: no shares issued or outstanding	—	—
Common stock, \$.01 par value, authorized 433,333,333 shares in both periods; 360,021,098 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2016 and 356,374,473 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2015	4	4
Additional paid-in capital	19,800	19,642
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(387)	(301)
Accumulated deficit	<u>(8,500)</u>	<u>(9,219)</u>
<b>Total Stockholders' Equity</b>	<b>10,917</b>	<b>10,126</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>	<b><u>\$24,888</u></b>	<b><u>\$24,017</u></b>

See accompanying notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

**LEVEL 3 COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**  
**For each of the three years ended December 31,**

<u>(dollars in millions)</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</b>			
Net income	\$ 677	\$ 3,433	\$ 314
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	1,250	1,166	808
Loss on impairment	—	—	18
Non-cash compensation expense attributable to stock awards	156	141	73
Loss on modification and extinguishment of debt	40	218	53
Venezuela deconsolidation charge	—	171	—
Accretion of debt discount and amortization of debt issuance costs	21	24	36
Accrued interest on long-term debt, net	21	(57)	12
Non-cash tax adjustments	—	—	(7)
Deferred income taxes	123	(3,202)	(116)
(Gain) loss on sale of property, plant, and equipment and other assets	(2)	1	(3)
Other, net	(10)	35	(8)
Changes in working capital items:			
Receivables	31	(87)	9
Other current assets	(36)	(11)	2
Accounts payables	83	4	(77)
Deferred revenue	18	88	6
Other current liabilities	(29)	(69)	41
<b>Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</b>	<b>2,343</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>1,161</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</b>			
Capital expenditures	(1,334)	(1,229)	(910)
Cash related to deconsolidated Venezuela operations	—	(83)	—
Change in restricted cash and securities, net	12	(22)	(10)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment and other assets	3	4	3
Investment in tw telecom, net of cash acquired	—	—	(167)
Other	—	(14)	(2)
<b>Net Cash Used in Investing Activities</b>	<b>(1,319)</b>	<b>(1,344)</b>	<b>(1,086)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities:</b>			
Long-term debt borrowings, net of issuance costs	764	4,832	589
Payments on and repurchases of long-term debt and capital leases	(820)	(5,051)	(671)
<b>Net Cash Used in Financing Activities</b>	<b>(56)</b>	<b>(219)</b>	<b>(82)</b>
Effect of Exchange Rates on Cash and Cash Equivalents	(3)	(18)	(44)
<b>Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>(51)</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	854	580	631
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 1,819</b>	<b>\$ 854</b>	<b>\$ 580</b>



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**Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information:**

Cash interest paid	\$508	\$668	\$ 598
Income taxes paid, net of refunds	\$ 35	\$ 50	\$ 44
<b>Non-cash Investing and Financing Activities:</b>			
Capital lease obligations incurred	\$ 1	\$ 6	\$ 2
Long-term debt conversion into equity	\$—	\$333	\$ 142
Accrued interest conversion into equity	\$—	\$ 10	\$ 2
Long-term debt issued and proceeds placed in escrow	\$—	\$—	\$3,000
Escrowed securities used in the acquisition of tw telecom	\$—	\$—	\$3,014

See accompanying notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

**LEVEL 3 COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity**  
**For each of the three years ended December 31,**

(dollars in millions, except share data)	Common Stock		Additional Paid-in Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Accumulated Deficit	Total
	Shares	\$				
Balance at January 1, 2014	234,688,063	\$ 2	\$ 14,339	\$ 36	\$ (12,966)	\$ 1,411
Common stock:						
Common stock issued under employee stock benefit plans and other	4,528,559	—	78	—	—	78
Stock-based compensation	—	—	55	—	—	55
tw telecom acquisition equity consideration	96,868,883	1	4,543	—	—	4,544
Conversion of debt to equity	5,275,915	—	144	—	—	144
Net Income	—	—	—	—	314	314
Other Comprehensive Loss	—	—	—	(183)	—	(183)
Balance at December 31, 2014	341,361,420	\$ 3	\$ 19,159	\$ (147)	\$ (12,652)	\$ 6,363
Common stock:						
Common stock issued under employee stock benefit plans and other	2,696,470	—	35	—	—	35
Stock-based compensation	—	—	106	—	—	106
Conversion of debt to equity	12,316,583	1	342	—	—	343
Net Income	—	—	—	—	3,433	3,433
Other Comprehensive Loss	—	—	—	(154)	—	(154)
Balance at December 31, 2015	356,374,473	\$ 4	\$ 19,642	\$ (301)	\$ (9,219)	\$10,126
Common stock:						
Common stock issued under employee stock benefit plans and other	3,646,625	—	37	—	—	37
Stock-based compensation	—	—	121	—	—	121
Net Income	—	—	—	—	677	677
Adoption of ASU 2016-09, <i>Improvements to Employee Share- Based Payment Accounting</i>	—	—	—	—	42	42
Other Comprehensive Loss	—	—	—	(86)	—	(86)
Balance at December 31, 2016	<u>360,021,098</u>	<u>\$ 4</u>	<u>\$ 19,800</u>	<u>\$ (387)</u>	<u>\$ (8,500)</u>	<u>\$10,917</u>

See accompanying notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

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**LEVEL 3 COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(1) Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

*Description of Business*

Level 3 Communications, Inc. and subsidiaries is a facilities-based provider (that is, a provider that owns or leases a substantial portion of the plant, property and equipment necessary to provide our services) of a broad range of integrated communications services. We created our communications network by constructing our own assets and through a combination of purchasing other companies and purchasing or leasing facilities from others. Our network is an international, facilities-based communications network. We designed our network to provide communications services that employ and take advantage of rapidly improving underlying optical, Internet Protocol, computing and storage technologies.

On October 31, 2014, we completed the acquisition of tw telecom inc. (“tw telecom”) and tw telecom became our indirect, wholly owned subsidiary through a tax-free, stock and cash reorganization. See Note 3 - Events Associated with the Acquisition of tw telecom inc.

On October 31, 2016, we entered into an agreement and plan of merger (the “Merger Agreement”) with CenturyLink, Inc., a Louisiana corporation (“CenturyLink”), Wildcat Merger Sub 1 LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of CenturyLink (“Merger Sub 1”), and WWG Merger Sub LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of CenturyLink (“Merger Sub 2”), pursuant to which, subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement, we will be acquired by CenturyLink in a cash and stock transaction, including the assumption of our debt (the “CenturyLink Merger”). See Note 2 - CenturyLink Merger.

*Principles of Consolidation and Basis of Presentation*

The consolidated financial statements include our and our subsidiaries’ accounts in which we have a controlling interest. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated. The accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (“GAAP”).

As part of our consolidation policy, we consider our controlled subsidiaries, investments in businesses in which we are not the primary beneficiary or do not have effective control but have the ability to significantly influence operating and financial policies, and variable interests resulting from economic arrangements that give us rights to economic risks or rewards of a legal entity. We do not have variable interests in a variable interest entity where we are required to consolidate the entity as the primary beneficiary.

Prior to October 1, 2015, we included the results of our wholly owned Venezuelan subsidiary in our Consolidated Financial Statements using the consolidation method of accounting. Our Venezuelan subsidiary was in the Latin America segment and had total revenue of \$72 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015. For more information on our segments and non-GAAP measures see Note 16 - Segment Information.

Venezuelan exchange control regulations have resulted in an other-than-temporary lack of exchangeability between the Venezuelan bolivar and U.S. dollar, and have restricted our Venezuelan operations’ ability to pay dividends and settle intercompany obligations in U.S. dollars. The severe currency controls imposed by the Venezuelan government have significantly limited the ability to realize the benefits from earnings of our Venezuelan operations and access the resulting liquidity provided by those earnings in U.S. dollars. We expect that this condition will continue for the foreseeable future.

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Additionally, government regulations affecting our ability to manage our Venezuelan subsidiary's capital structure, purchasing, product pricing, customer invoicing and collections, and labor relations; and the current political and economic situation within Venezuela have resulted in an acute degradation in our ability to make key operational decisions for our Venezuelan operations. The lack of exchangeability between the Venezuelan bolivar and the U.S. dollar and the degradation in our ability to control key operational decisions resulting in a lack of control over our Venezuelan subsidiary for U.S. accounting purposes, we concluded it no longer met the accounting criteria for consolidation and deconsolidated our Venezuelan subsidiary on September 30, 2015, and began accounting for our variable interest investment in our Venezuelan operations using the cost method of accounting. As a result of deconsolidating our Venezuelan subsidiary, we recorded a one-time charge of \$171 million in the third quarter of 2015, which had no accompanying tax benefit. Our financial results no longer include the operating results of our Venezuelan operations. The factors that led to the deconsolidation of our Venezuelan subsidiary at the end of the third quarter of 2015 continued to exist through the end of 2016. Any dividends from our Venezuelan subsidiary are recorded as other income upon receipt of the cash in U.S. dollars. Prior period results have not been adjusted to reflect the deconsolidation of our Venezuelan subsidiary.

#### *Foreign Currency Translation*

Local currencies of foreign subsidiaries are the functional currencies for financial reporting purposes except for certain foreign subsidiaries in Latin America. For operations outside the United States that have functional currencies other than the U.S. dollar, assets and liabilities are translated to U.S. dollars at period-end exchange rates, and revenue, expenses and cash flows are translated using average exchange rates prevailing during the year. A significant portion of our non-United States subsidiaries have either the British pound, the euro or the Brazilian real as the functional currency, each of which experienced significant fluctuations against the U.S. dollar during 2016, 2015 and 2014. Foreign currency translation gains and losses are recognized as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) in stockholders' equity and in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income in accordance with accounting guidance for foreign currency translation. We consider the majority of our investments in our foreign subsidiaries to be long-term in nature. Our non-United States exchange transaction gains (losses), including where transactions with our non-United States subsidiaries are not considered to be long-term in nature, are included within other income (expense) in Other, net on the Consolidated Statements of Income.

#### *Reclassifications*

Certain amounts in the prior year Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying footnotes have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation primarily pursuant to the adoption of Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2015-03, *Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs*. As of December 31, 2015, approximately \$19 million of current debt issuance costs have been reclassified from other current assets to long-term debt, less current portion and approximately \$109 million of non-current debt issuance costs have been reclassified from other non-current assets to long-term debt, less current portion.

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### *Use of Estimates*

The preparation of the Consolidated Financial Statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reported period. The accounting estimates that require management's judgments include revenue recognition, revenue reserves, network access costs, network access cost dispute reserves, determination of the useful lives of long-lived assets, measurement and recognition of stock-based compensation expense, valuation of long-lived assets, goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets for purposes of impairment testing, valuation of asset retirement obligations, allowance for doubtful accounts, measurement of the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in business combinations, accruals for estimated tax and legal liabilities, and valuation allowance for deferred tax assets. Actual results could differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions and such differences could be material.

### *Revenue*

Revenue is recognized monthly as the services are provided based on contractual amounts expected to be collected. Management establishes appropriate revenue reserves at the time services are rendered based on an analysis of historical credit activity to address, where significant, situations in which collection is not reasonably assured as a result of credit risk, potential billing disputes or other reasons. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions and these differences could be material.

Intercarrier compensation revenue is recognized when an interconnection agreement is in place with another carrier, or if an agreement has expired, when the parties have agreed to continue operating under the previous agreement until a new agreement is negotiated and executed, or at rates mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (the "FCC").

For certain sale and long-term indefeasible right of use, or IRU, contracts involving private line, wavelengths and dark fiber services, we may receive upfront payments for services to be delivered for a period of up to 25 years. In these situations, we defer the revenue and amortize it on a straight-line basis to earnings over the term of the contract.

Termination revenue is recognized when a customer discontinues service prior to the end of the contract period for which we had previously received consideration and for which revenue recognition was deferred. Termination revenue also is recognized when customers are required to make termination penalty payments to us to settle contractually committed purchase amounts that the customer no longer expects to meet or when a customer and we renegotiate a contract under which we are no longer obligated to provide services for consideration previously received and for which revenue recognition has been deferred.

We are obligated under dark fiber IRUs and other capacity agreements to maintain our network in efficient working order and in accordance with industry standards. Customers are obligated for the term of the agreement to pay for their allocable share of the costs for operating and maintaining the network. We recognize this revenue monthly as services are provided.

Our customer contracts require us to meet certain service level commitments. If we do not meet the required service levels, we may be obligated to provide credits, usually in the form of free service, for a short period of time. The credits are a reduction to revenue and, to date, have not been material.

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### *Network Access Costs*

Network Access Costs for the communications business include leased capacity, right-of-way costs, access charges, satellite transponder lease costs and other third party costs directly attributable to providing access to customer locations from our network, but excludes Network Related Expenses, and depreciation and amortization. Network Access Costs do not include any employee expenses or impairment expenses; these expenses are allocated to Network Related Expenses or Selling, General and Administrative Expenses.

We recognize the network access costs as they are incurred in accordance with contractual requirements. We dispute incorrect billings from our suppliers of network services. The most prevalent types of disputes include disputes for circuits that are not disconnected by the supplier on a timely basis, charges from suppliers for circuits that were not timely installed and incorrect rate or other inadequate information needed to determine the appropriate billing from the supplier. Depending on the type and complexity of the issues involved, it may and often does take several quarters to resolve the disputes. We establish appropriate network access costs reserves for disputed supplier billings based on an analysis of our historical experience in resolving disputes with our suppliers and regulatory analysis regarding certain supplier billing matters. Judgment is required in estimating the ultimate outcome of the dispute resolution process, as well as any other amounts that may be incurred to conclude the negotiations or settle any litigation. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions and these differences could be material.

### *Network Related Expenses*

Network Related Expenses includes certain expenses associated with the delivery of services to customers and the operation and maintenance of our network, such as facility rent, utilities, maintenance and other costs, each related to the operation of our communications network, as well as salaries, wages and related benefits (including non-cash stock-based compensation expenses) associated with personnel who are responsible for the delivery of services, operation and maintenance of our communications network, and accretion expense on asset retirement obligations, but excludes depreciation and amortization.

### *Selling, General and Administrative Expenses*

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses includes the salaries, wages and related benefits (including non-cash, stock-based compensation expenses) and the related costs of corporate and sales personnel, travel, insurance, non-network related rent, advertising, and other administrative expenses.

### *USF and Gross Receipts Taxes*

The revenue recognition standards include guidance relating to any tax assessed by a governmental authority that is directly imposed on a revenue-producing transaction between a seller and a customer and may include, but is not limited to, gross receipts taxes and certain state regulatory fees. We record Universal Service Fund (“USF”) contributions where we are the primary obligor for the taxes assessed in each jurisdiction where we do business on a gross basis in our Consolidated Statements of Income, but generally record gross receipts taxes and certain state regulatory fees billed to our customers on a net basis in our Consolidated Statements of Income. Total revenue and network access costs on the Consolidated Statements of Income include USF contributions totaling \$357 million, \$323 million and \$234 million for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

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### *Stock-Based Compensation*

We recognize the estimated fair value of stock-based compensation costs, net of an estimated forfeiture rate, over the requisite service period of the award, which is generally the vesting term or term for restrictions on transfer that lapse, as the case may be. We estimate forfeiture rates based on our historical experience for the type of award, adjusted for expected activities as necessary.

### *Income Taxes*

We recognize deferred tax assets and liabilities for our United States and non-U.S. operations, for operating loss and other credit carry forwards and the expected tax consequences of temporary differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts using enacted tax rates in effect for the year the differences are expected to reverse. We record a valuation allowance to reduce the deferred tax assets to the amount that is more likely than not to be realized. This assessment requires judgment as to the likelihood and amounts of future taxable income by tax jurisdiction.

### *Cash and Cash Equivalents*

We classify investments as cash equivalents if they are readily convertible to cash and have original maturities of three months or less at the time of acquisition. Cash and cash equivalents consist primarily of highly liquid investments in government and government agency securities and government money market funds issued or managed by financial institutions in the United States, Europe and Latin America and commercial paper depending on liquidity requirements. As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, the carrying value of cash equivalents approximates fair value due to the short period of time to maturity.

### *Restricted Cash and Securities*

Restricted cash and securities consists primarily of cash and investments that serve to collateralize our outstanding letters of credit and certain performance and operating obligations. Restricted cash and securities are recorded as current or non-current assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheets depending on the duration of the restriction and the purpose for which the restriction exists. Restricted securities are stated at cost which approximates fair value as of December 31, 2016 and 2015.

### *Allowance for Doubtful Accounts*

Trade accounts receivable are recorded at the invoiced amount and can bear interest. We establish an allowance for doubtful accounts for accounts receivable amounts that may not be collectible. We determine the allowance for doubtful accounts based on the aging of our accounts receivable balances, the credit quality of our customers and an analysis of our historical experience of bad debt write-offs. Accounts receivable balances are written off against the allowance for doubtful accounts after all means of collection have been exhausted and the potential for recovery is considered remote. We recognized bad debt expense, net of recoveries, of approximately \$18 million in 2016, \$23 million in 2015 and \$22 million in 2014.

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### *Property, Plant and Equipment*

Property, plant and equipment are recorded at cost. Depreciation and amortization for our property, plant and equipment are computed using the straight-line method based on the following estimated useful lives:

Facility and Leasehold Improvements	15 - 40 years
Network Infrastructure (including fiber and conduit)	25 - 50 years
Operating Equipment	5 - 15 years
Furniture, Fixtures, Office Equipment and Other	3 - 7 years

We perform internal reviews to evaluate the depreciable lives of our property, plant and equipment annually, or more frequently if new facts and circumstances arise, that may affect management's original estimates. Due to the rapid changes in technology and the competitive environment, selecting the estimated economic life of telecommunications property, plant, and equipment requires a significant amount of judgment. Our internal reviews take into account input from our global engineering and network services personnel, actual usage, the physical condition of our property, plant, and equipment, industry data, and other relevant factors. In connection with our periodic review of the estimated useful lives of property, plant and equipment, we may determine that the period we expect to use certain assets is different than the remaining previously estimated useful lives.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or lease terms that are reasonably assured.

We capitalize costs directly associated with expansions and improvements of our communications network and customer installations, including employee-related costs, and generally capitalize costs associated with network construction and provisioning of services. We amortize such costs over an estimated useful life of 3 to 5 years.

In addition, we continue to develop business support systems required for our business. The external direct costs of software, materials and services, and payroll and payroll-related expenses for employees directly associated with business support system development projects are capitalized. The total development costs of the business support system is amortized over an estimated useful life of 3 years.

Capitalized labor and related costs associated with employees and contract labor working on capital projects were approximately \$271 million, \$244 million and \$187 million for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

### *Asset Retirement Obligations*

We recognize a liability for the estimated fair value of legal obligations associated with the retirement of long-lived assets that result from the acquisition, construction, development and/or the normal operation of a long-lived asset in the period incurred. The fair value of the obligation is also capitalized as property, plant and equipment and then amortized over the estimated remaining useful life of the associated asset. Increases to the asset retirement obligation liability due to the passage of time are recognized as accretion expense and included within network related expenses. Changes in the liability due to revisions to the amount or timing of future cash flows are recognized by increasing or decreasing the liability with the offset adjusting the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset. To the



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extent that the downward revisions exceed the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset initially recorded when the asset retirement obligation liability was established, we record the remaining adjustment as a reduction to depreciation expense, to the extent of historical depreciation of the related long-lived asset, and then to network related expenses.

#### *Goodwill and Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets*

Accounting guidance prohibits the amortization of goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite useful lives. We review goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite lives for impairment annually as of October 1st and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable.

Our goodwill impairment review process considers the fair value of each reporting unit relative to its carrying value. If the fair value of the reporting unit exceeds its carrying value, goodwill is not impaired and no further testing is performed. If the carrying value of the reporting unit exceeds its fair value, then a second step must be performed, and the implied fair value of the reporting unit's goodwill must be determined and compared to the carrying value of the reporting unit's goodwill. If the carrying value of a reporting unit's goodwill exceeds its implied fair value, then an impairment loss equal to the difference will be recorded. Prior to performing the two step evaluation, an assessment of qualitative factors may be performed to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit exceeds the carrying value. If it is determined that it is unlikely that the carrying value exceeds the fair value, we are not required to complete the two step goodwill impairment evaluation.

At the time of each impairment assessment date in 2016, 2015, and 2014, our reporting units consisted of three regional operating units in: North America; Europe, the Middle East and Africa ("EMEA"); and Latin America. We conducted our annual goodwill impairment analysis as of October 1, and concluded that our goodwill was not impaired in 2016 and 2014. As a result of the deconsolidation of our Venezuelan subsidiary, we completed an assessment of the Latin American and our other reporting units' goodwill as of September 30, 2015 and concluded there was no impairment in 2015.

Our indefinite-lived intangible assets impairment review process compares the estimated fair value of the indefinite-lived intangible assets to their respective carrying values. If the fair value of the indefinite-lived intangible assets exceeds their carrying values, then the indefinite-lived intangible assets are not impaired. If the carrying value of the indefinite-lived intangible assets exceeds their fair value, then an impairment loss equal to the difference will be recorded. In accordance with applicable accounting guidance, an entity may assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value exceeds the carrying value prior to performing the two step evaluation. If it is determined that it is unlikely the carrying value exceeds the fair value, then the entity is not required to complete the indefinite-lived intangible assets impairment evaluation.

#### *Long-Lived Assets Including Finite-Lived Intangible Assets*

We amortize intangible assets with finite lives using the straight-line method over the estimated economic lives of the assets, ranging from 4 to 12 years.

We evaluate long-lived assets, such as property, plant and equipment and intangible assets with finite lives, for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable. We assess the recoverability of the assets based on the undiscounted future cash flows the asset groups are expected to generate and recognize an impairment loss when estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to result from the use of the assets plus net proceeds expected from disposition of the assets, if any, are less than the carrying value of the assets. If an asset is deemed to be impaired, the amount of the impairment loss is the excess of the asset's carrying value over its estimated fair value.

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We conducted a long-lived asset impairment analysis in 2016, 2015 and 2014 and in each case concluded that our long-lived assets, including finite-lived intangible assets, were not impaired.

#### *Concentration of Credit Risk*

Financial instruments that potentially subject us to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash equivalents, accounts receivable, restricted cash and securities. We maintain our cash equivalents, restricted cash and securities with various financial institutions. These financial institutions are primarily located in the United States, Europe and Latin America and our policy is to limit exposure with any one institution. As part of our cash and risk management processes, we perform periodic evaluations of the relative credit standing of the financial institutions. We also have established guidelines relative to financial instrument credit ratings, diversification and maturities that seek to maintain safety and liquidity. Our investment strategy generally results in lower yields on investments but reduces the risk to principal in the short term prior to these funds being used in our business. Notwithstanding the devaluation of the Venezuelan bolivar, we have not experienced any material losses on financial instruments held at financial institutions.

We provide communications services to a wide range of wholesale and enterprise customers, ranging from well capitalized national carriers to small early stage companies primarily in the United States, Europe, and Latin America. Credit risk with respect to accounts receivable is generally diversified due to the large number of entities comprising our customer base and their dispersion across many different industries and geographical regions. We perform ongoing credit evaluations of our customers' financial condition and generally require no collateral from our customers, although letters of credit and deposits are required in certain limited circumstances. We have, from time to time, entered into agreements with value-added resellers and other channel partners to reach consumer and enterprise markets for voice services. We have policies and procedures in place to evaluate the financial condition of these resellers prior to initiating service to the final customer. We maintain an allowance for doubtful accounts based upon the expected collectability of accounts receivable. Due to our credit evaluation and collection process, bad debt expenses have not been significant; however, we are not able to predict changes in the financial stability of our customers. Any material change in the financial status of any one or a particular group of customers may cause us to adjust our estimate of the recoverability of receivables and could have a material effect on our results of operations. Fair values of accounts receivable approximate carrying amount due to the short period of time to collection.

A relatively small number of customers account for a significant percentage of our revenue. Our top ten customers accounted for approximately 16%, 16% and 17% of our revenue for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

#### *Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncements*

In March 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2016-09, *Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting*, as part of its simplification initiative, which involves several aspects of accounting for share-based payment transactions, including the income tax consequences, classification of awards as either equity or liabilities, and classification on the statement of cash flows. The amendments in this update are effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and interim periods within those annual periods. Early adoption is permitted, but all of the amendments must be adopted in the same period.

We elected to early adopt ASU 2016-09 in the third quarter of 2016, which required adjustments to be reflected as of January 1, 2016, the beginning of the annual period that includes the interim period of adoption. Upon adoption, we recognized previously unrecognized excess tax benefits using the modified retrospective transition method, which resulted in a cumulative-effect adjustment of \$42 million recorded to accumulated deficit as of January 1, 2016.

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This ASU amended the definition of assumed proceeds when applying the treasury stock method of computing earnings per share to exclude the amount of excess tax benefits that would be recognized in additional paid-in capital. This amendment increased the amount of Diluted Weighted-Average Shares Outstanding, as noted in the table below.

The new presentation requirements for excess tax benefits to be shown on the statement of cash flows as an operating activity and presenting employee taxes paid where the employer withholds shares for tax-withholding purposes as a financing activity had no effect to any of the periods presented in our Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows as there had been no such activities in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flow. We have elected to continue to estimate forfeitures expected to occur to determine the amount of compensation cost to be recognized in each period.

Adoption of the new standard also resulted in the recognition of excess tax benefits as a reduction to income tax expense of \$22 million, or \$0.06 per basic share, for 2016.

In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-03, *Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs*, which required debt issuance costs to be presented in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the associated debt liability. The new guidance is effective retrospectively for public companies for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, and interim periods within those years. It was effective for us on January 1, 2016, and, upon adoption, debt issuance costs capitalized in other current assets and other assets in the consolidated balance sheet were reclassified and presented as a reduction to current and noncurrent long-term debt. As of December 31, 2015, debt issuance costs, net of accumulated amortization, recognized in the Consolidated Balance Sheets totaled \$128 million, of which \$19 million were recorded in other current assets.

#### *Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements*

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, *Leases* (ASC 842), which requires entities that lease assets to recognize on the balance sheet the assets and liabilities for the rights and obligations created by those leases. This ASU will replace most existing leasing guidance in U.S. GAAP when it becomes effective. The new standard is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, and interim periods within those years. Early application is permitted. The standard requires the use of a modified retrospective transition method. We are evaluating the effect that ASU 2016-02 will have on our Consolidated Financial Statements and related disclosures, and expect the new guidance to significantly increase the reported assets and liabilities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, which amended the existing accounting standards for revenue recognition and requires an entity to recognize the amount of revenue it expects to be entitled to for the transfer of promised goods or services to customers. The ASU and subsequent amendments have been codified as ASC 606, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (“ASC 606”). In July 2015, the FASB deferred the effective date to annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, and interim reporting periods within those periods. Early adoption is permitted using the original effective date of annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and interim reporting periods within those periods. The new guidance may be applied retrospectively to each prior period presented or prospectively with the cumulative effect recognized as of the date of initial adoption. We will not adopt ASC 606 early.

We are performing a comprehensive analysis of our revenue streams and contractual arrangements to identify the effects of ASC 606 on our consolidated financial statements and are developing new accounting and reporting policies, business and internal control processes and procedures to facilitate adoption of the standard. Because we currently have service contracts that contain a significant financing component that are not currently separately accounted for, we will be required to estimate and record incremental revenue and interest cost associated with these contractual terms. In addition, we will be

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required to capitalize, and subsequently amortize, commission costs associated with obtaining or fulfilling our customer contracts, which we do not currently defer and amortize. We will also have to comply with new revenue disclosure requirements. We are continuing to review and evaluate underlying contract information that will be used to support new accounting and disclosure requirements under ASC 606 and evaluate other matters that may result from adoption of the standard. We have not yet selected a transition method, as our method of transition may be affected by the CenturyLink Merger, which we expect will be completed in the third quarter of 2017, and subsequent integration activities completed prior to the January 1, 2018 ASC 606 adoption date.

## **(2) CenturyLink Merger**

On October 31, 2016, we entered into an agreement and plan of merger with CenturyLink, Inc., a Louisiana corporation, Wildcat Merger Sub 1 LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of CenturyLink, and WWG Merger Sub LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of CenturyLink, pursuant to which, subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement, we will be acquired by CenturyLink in a cash and stock transaction, including the assumption of our debt.

Under the Merger Agreement, at the effective time of the merger of Merger Sub 1 with and into us (the “Initial Merger”), (i) each issued and outstanding share of our common stock, will be converted into 1.4286 shares (the “Stock Consideration”) of CenturyLink’s common stock par value \$1.00 per share and (ii) the right to receive \$26.50 in cash (the “Cash Consideration” and, together with the Stock Consideration, the “Merger Consideration”). In addition, the Merger Agreement provides that at the effective time of the CenturyLink Merger, each issued and outstanding restricted stock unit award granted prior to April 1, 2014 and each restricted stock unit award granted to a non-employee member of our Board of Directors will be exchanged for the Merger Consideration. Further, at the effective time of the CenturyLink Merger, each issued and outstanding restricted stock unit award granted on or after April 1, 2014, other than those granted to non-employee members of our Board of Directors, will be assumed and converted automatically into a restricted stock unit award of CenturyLink common stock that will be subject to the same service-based vesting conditions as applicable to such awards prior to the transaction (but not any performance-based vesting conditions, which will be deemed satisfied based on forecasted and adjusted results through the closing of the transaction (as determined by Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors)). The CenturyLink Merger is subject to the receipt of certain regulatory approvals, including expiration or termination of the applicable waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act, review by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission, certain state regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions.

The transaction is also subject to the approval of CenturyLink shareholders and our stockholders. CenturyLink has entered into a voting agreement with STT Crossing Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of ST Telemedia), holder of approximately 18 percent of our outstanding common stock, pursuant to which they have agreed to vote their Level 3 shares in favor of the transaction.

## **(3) Events Associated with the Acquisition of tw telecom inc.**

On October 31, 2014, we completed our acquisition of tw telecom and tw telecom became our indirect, wholly owned subsidiary through a tax-free, stock and cash reorganization. As a result of the acquisition of tw telecom, (1) each issued and outstanding share of common stock of tw telecom was exchanged for 0.7 shares of our common stock and \$10 in cash (together the “acquisition consideration”); (2) the outstanding stock options of tw telecom were canceled and the holders received the acquisition consideration, net of aggregate per share exercise price; (3) each restricted stock unit award of tw telecom was immediately vested and canceled and the holders received the acquisition consideration; and (4) each restricted stock unit of tw telecom was immediately vested and canceled and holders received the acquisition consideration.

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In connection with the closing of the acquisition, Level 3 Financing, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary, amended its existing credit agreement to incur an additional \$2 billion of borrowings through an additional Tranche (the “Tranche B 2022 Term Loan”). The aggregate net proceeds of the Tranche B 2022 Term Loan were used to finance the cash portion of the acquisition consideration payable to tw telecom’s stockholders and to refinance certain existing indebtedness of tw telecom, including fees and premiums, in connection with the closing of the acquisition (see Note 10 - Long-Term Debt for additional information). In addition, the net proceeds from the issuance of \$1 billion of 5.375% Senior Notes due 2022 raised in August 2014 (see Note 10 - Long-Term Debt) were used to finance the cash portion of the acquisition consideration payable to tw telecom stockholders and to refinance certain existing indebtedness of tw telecom, including fees and premiums, in connection with the closing of the acquisition.

On October 30, 2014, we increased the number of authorized shares of common stock to 433,333,333. As a result of the acquisition, we issued approximately 96.9 million shares of our common stock to former holders of tw telecom common shares, stock options, restricted stock awards and restricted stock units. In addition, we called for redemption and discharged or repaid approximately \$1.793 billion of tw telecom’s outstanding consolidated debt including premiums of \$154 million.

Based on the number of our shares issued, our closing stock price of \$46.91 on October 31, 2014, the cash paid to the former holders of tw telecom common stock and the \$2.1 billion of debt of tw telecom called for redemption and discharged or repaid, the aggregate consideration for acquisition accounting, including assumed capital leases of \$152 million, approximated \$8.1 billion.

The premium we paid in this transaction is attributable to strategic benefits, as the transaction further solidified our position as a premier global communications provider to the enterprise, government and carrier market, combining tw telecom’s extensive local operations and assets in North America with our global assets and capabilities. tw telecom’s business model is directly aligned with our initiatives for growth, which include building managed solutions to meet customer needs through an advanced IP/optical network.

The goodwill associated with this transaction is not deductible for income tax purposes except that certain deductible goodwill of tw telecom will continue to be deductible following the acquisition.

Our combined results of operations with tw telecom are included in our consolidated results of operations beginning in November 2014. The assets acquired and liabilities assumed of tw telecom were recognized at their acquisition date fair value. The purchase price allocation of acquired assets and assumed liabilities, including the assignment of goodwill to reporting units, was completed in the fourth quarter of 2015. The following is the final allocation of the purchase price.

	<b>Purchase Price Allocation (dollars in millions)</b>
<b>Assets:</b>	
Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash	\$ 309
Property, Plant and Equipment	1,553
Goodwill	5,181
Identifiable Intangible Assets	1,263
Other Assets	140
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>8,446</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>	
Long-Term Debt	(2,099)
Deferred Revenue	(57)
Other Liabilities	(279)
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(2,435)</b>
<b>Total Consideration to be Allocated</b>	<b>\$ 6,011</b>

As a result of new information available since the acquisition date, we made certain immaterial adjustments to the preliminary purchase price allocation during the first quarter of 2015, which have been reflected in the above table. The primary adjustment was a result of a single change in the purchase price allocation of \$60 million related to the estimated value associated with the identifiable intangible assets and goodwill.

The following unaudited pro forma financial information presents our combined results with tw telecom as if the completion of the acquisition had occurred as of January 1, 2014 (dollars in millions, except per share data).

	<b>Year Ended December 31, 2014</b>
Total Revenue	\$ 8,123
Net Income	\$ 149
Net Income per Share - Basic	\$ 0.44
Net Income per Share - Diluted	\$ 0.44

These pro forma results include certain adjustments, primarily due to increases in depreciation and amortization expense due to fair value adjustments of tangible and intangible assets, increases in interest expense due to our issuance of incremental debt to finance cash consideration, partially offset by the refinancing of tw telecom debt that had higher interest rates than the incremental financing, and to eliminate historical transactions between us and tw telecom. The unaudited pro forma information is not intended to represent or be indicative of our actual results of operations that would have been reported had the acquisition been completed on January 1, 2014, nor is it representative of our future operating results. The pro forma information does not include any operating efficiencies or cost savings that we achieved with respect to combining the companies.

Acquisition related costs include transaction costs such as legal, accounting, valuation and other professional services as well as integration costs such as severance and retention. Acquisition related

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costs have been recorded in Network Related Expenses and Selling, General and Administrative Expenses in our Consolidated Statements of Income. We incurred total acquisition related transaction and integration costs of approximately \$81 million in 2014 and \$32 million in 2015.

#### **(4) Earnings Per Share**

We compute basic earnings per share by dividing net income for the period by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share is computed by dividing the net income for the period by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period and including the dilutive effect of common stock that would be issued assuming conversion or exercise of outstanding convertible notes and stock-based compensation awards.

The effect of approximately 3 million total restricted stock units (“RSUs”) and performance restricted stock units (“PRSUs”) outstanding at December 31, 2016, has been included in the computation of diluted earnings per share for the year ended December 31, 2016. Less than 1 million of PRSUs granted in 2016 were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share for the year ended December 31, 2016, as they were contingently issuable and no shares would have been issued if this period was the end of the contingency period.

The effect of approximately 3 million and 4 million total outperform stock appreciation rights (“OSOs”) and RSUs outstanding at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively have been included in the computation of diluted earnings per share for the year ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. PRSUs granted in 2015 were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share for the year ended December 31, 2015 and PRSUs granted in 2014 were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share for the year ended December 31, 2014, as they were contingently issuable and no shares would have been issued if these periods were the end of the contingency period.

The effect of approximately 17 million shares issuable pursuant to the various series of convertible notes outstanding at December 31, 2014, have not been included in the computation of diluted earnings per share because their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive to the computation.

## (5) Property, Plant and Equipment

The components of our property, plant and equipment as of December 31, 2016 and 2015 are as follows (dollars in millions):

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Depreciation</u>	<u>Net</u>
<b>December 31, 2016</b>			
Land	\$ 179	\$ —	\$ 179
Land Improvements	77	(58)	19
Facility and Leasehold Improvements	2,679	(1,447)	1,232
Network Infrastructure	9,110	(3,899)	5,211
Operating Equipment	8,846	(5,626)	3,220
Furniture, Fixtures and Office Equipment	241	(196)	45
Other	26	(23)	3
Construction-in-Progress	230	—	230
	<u>\$21,388</u>	<u>\$ (11,249)</u>	<u>\$10,139</u>
<b>December 31, 2015</b>			
Land	\$ 180	\$ —	\$ 180
Land Improvements	76	(53)	23
Facility and Leasehold Improvements	2,582	(1,352)	1,230
Network Infrastructure	8,979	(3,669)	5,310
Operating Equipment	7,988	(5,079)	2,909
Furniture, Fixtures and Office Equipment	242	(189)	53
Other	28	(23)	5
Construction-in-Progress	168	—	168
	<u>\$20,243</u>	<u>\$ (10,365)</u>	<u>\$ 9,878</u>

Depreciation expense was \$1.039 billion in 2016, \$939 million in 2015 and \$713 million in 2014.

## (6) Asset Retirement Obligations

Our asset retirement obligations consist of legal requirements to remove certain of our network infrastructure at the expiration of the underlying right-of-way (“ROW”) term and restoration requirements for leased facilities. We recognize our estimate of the fair value of our asset retirement obligations in the period incurred in other long-term liabilities. The fair value of the asset retirement obligation is also capitalized as property, plant and equipment and then depreciated over the estimated remaining useful life of the associated asset.



The following table provides asset retirement obligation activity for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 (dollars in millions):

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Asset retirement obligation at January 1	\$ 90	\$ 85
Accretion expense	10	9
Liabilities settled	(9)	(8)
Revision in estimated cash flows	—	5
Effect of foreign currency rate change	(2)	(1)
Asset retirement obligation at December 31	<u>\$ 89</u>	<u>\$ 90</u>

#### (7) Other Intangible Assets

Other intangible assets as of December 31, 2016 and 2015 were as follows (dollars in millions):

	<u>Gross Carrying Amount</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>Net</u>
<b>December 31, 2016</b>			
<i>Finite-Lived Intangible Assets:</i>			
Customer Contracts and Relationships	\$ 1,973	\$ (1,113)	\$ 860
Trademarks	55	(55)	—
Patents and Developed Technology	229	(189)	40
	<u>2,257</u>	<u>(1,357)</u>	<u>900</u>
<i>Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets:</i>			
Trade Name	15	—	15
	<u>\$ 2,272</u>	<u>\$ (1,357)</u>	<u>\$ 915</u>
<b>December 31, 2015</b>			
<i>Finite-Lived Intangible Assets:</i>			
Customer Contracts and Relationships	\$ 1,975	\$ (932)	\$1,043
Trademarks	55	(55)	—
Patents and Developed Technology	230	(161)	69
	<u>2,260</u>	<u>(1,148)</u>	<u>1,112</u>
<i>Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets:</i>			
Trade Name	15	—	15
	<u>\$ 2,275</u>	<u>\$ (1,148)</u>	<u>\$1,127</u>

During the fourth quarter of 2016 and 2015, we conducted our long-lived assets and indefinite-lived intangible assets impairment analysis and concluded that there was no impairment in 2016 and 2015.

Finite-lived intangible assets amortization expense was \$211 million in 2016, \$227 million in 2015 and \$95 million in 2014.

At December 31, 2016, the weighted average remaining useful lives of our finite-lived intangible assets was 4.8 years in total; 4.9 years for customer contracts and relationships and 2.8 years for patents and developed technology.

As of December 31, 2016, estimated amortization expense for our finite-lived intangible assets over the next five years and thereafter is as follows (dollars in millions):

2017	\$196
2018	193
2019	181
2020	166
2021	143
Thereafter	21
	<u>\$900</u>

## **(8) Restructuring Charges**

### ***Employee Separations***

Changing economic and business conditions as well as organizational structure optimization efforts have caused us to initiate from time to time various workforce reductions resulting in involuntary employee terminations. We also have initiated workforce reductions resulting from the integration of previously acquired companies.

During 2015 and 2014, as part of the tw telecom acquisition and to improve organizational effectiveness, we initiated workforce reductions. Restructuring charges totaled \$24 million and \$45 million in 2015 and 2014, respectively, of which \$8 million and \$11 million in 2015 and 2014, respectively, were recorded in Network Related Expenses and \$16 million and \$34 million in 2015 and 2014, respectively, were recorded in Selling, General and Administrative Expenses. Workforce reductions were not material in 2016.

As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, we had \$3 million and \$4 million, respectively, of employee termination liabilities.

### ***Facility Closings***

We also have accrued contract termination costs of \$5 million and \$11 million as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively, for facility lease costs that we continue to incur without economic benefit. Accrued contract termination costs are recorded in other liabilities (current and non-current) in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. We expect to pay the majority of these costs through 2020. We did not recognize any charge in 2016, and recognized a charge of approximately \$3 million and a charge of less than \$1 million in 2015 and 2014, respectively, as a result of facility lease costs associated with facility closing. We record charges for contract termination costs within Network Related Expenses and Selling, General and Administrative Expenses in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

## **(9) Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

Our financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and securities, receivables, accounts payable, capital leases, other liabilities, and long-term debt (including the current portion). The carrying values of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and securities, receivables, accounts payable, capital leases and other liabilities approximated their fair values at December 31, 2016 and 2015.

GAAP defines fair value as the price that would be received from selling an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. When determining the fair value measurements and disclosures for assets and liabilities required to be recorded at fair value, we consider the principal or most advantageous market in which we would transact and consider assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, such as interest and foreign exchange rates, transfer restrictions, and risk of nonperformance.

#### *Fair Value Hierarchy*

GAAP establishes a fair value hierarchy that requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The fair value measurement of each class of assets and liabilities is dependent upon its categorization within the fair value hierarchy, based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement of each class of asset and liability. GAAP establishes three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

- Level 1— Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2— Unadjusted quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, or unadjusted quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, or inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability.
- Level 3— Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

We recognize transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy as of the end of the reporting period. There were no transfers within the fair value hierarchy during each of the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015.

The table below presents the fair values for our long-term debt as well as the input levels used to determine these fair values as of December 31, 2016 and 2015:

	<b>Fair Value Measurement Using</b>					
	<b>Total Carrying Value in Consolidated Balance Sheets</b>		<b>Unadjusted Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets or Liabilities (Level 1)</b>		<b>Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)</b>	
	<b>December 31, 2016</b>	<b>December 31, 2015</b>	<b>December 31, 2016</b>	<b>December 31, 2015</b>	<b>December 31, 2016</b>	<b>December 31, 2015</b>
<b>(dollars in millions)</b>						
<i>Liabilities Not Recorded at Fair Value in the Financial Statements:</i>						
Long-term Debt, including the current portion:						
Term Loans	\$ 4,566	\$ 4,556	\$ 4,671	\$ 4,570	\$ —	\$ —
Senior Notes	6,135	6,126	6,283	6,298	—	—
Capital Leases and Other	183	199	—	—	183	199
Total Long-term Debt, including the current portion:	<u>\$ 10,884</u>	<u>\$ 10,881</u>	<u>\$ 10,954</u>	<u>\$ 10,868</u>	<u>\$ 183</u>	<u>\$ 199</u>

We do not have any assets or liabilities where the fair value is measured using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3).

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*Term Loans*

The fair value of the Term Loans referenced above was approximately \$4.7 billion and \$4.6 billion at December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. The fair value of each loan is based on quoted prices. Each loan tranche is actively traded.

*Senior Notes*

The fair value of the Senior Notes referenced above was approximately \$6.3 billion and \$6.3 billion at December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively, based on quoted prices. Each series of notes is actively traded.

*Capital Leases*

The fair value of our capital leases are determined by discounting anticipated future cash flows derived from the contractual terms of the obligations and observable market interest and foreign exchange rates.

## (10) Long-Term Debt

The following table summarizes our long-term debt (amounts in millions):

	Date of				December 31,	December 31,
	Issuance/ Amendment	Maturity	Interest Payments	Interest Rate	2016 Amount	2015 Amount
<b>Senior Secured Term Loans:</b>						
<i>Borrowed by Level 3 Financing, Inc.</i>						
Tranche B-III 2019 Term Loan <sup>(1)(4)</sup>	Aug 2013	Aug 2019	Quarterly	LIBOR +3.00%	\$ 815	\$ 815
Tranche B 2020 Term Loan <sup>(1)(4)</sup>	Oct 2013	Jan 2020	Quarterly	LIBOR +3.00%	1,796	1,796
Tranche B-II 2022 Term Loan <sup>(1)(4)</sup>	May 2015	May 2022	Quarterly	LIBOR +2.75%	2,000	2,000
<b>Senior Notes:</b>						
<i>Issued by Level 3 Financing, Inc.</i>						
				6-Month		
Floating Rate Senior Notes due 2018 <sup>(2)(4)</sup>	Nov 2013	Jan 2018	May/Nov	LIBOR +3.50%	300	300
7% Senior Notes due 2020 <sup>(2)</sup>	Aug 2012	Jun 2020	Jun/Dec	7.000%	—	775
6.125% Senior Notes due 2021 <sup>(2)</sup>	Nov 2013	Jan 2021	Apr/Oct	6.125%	640	640
5.375% Senior Notes due 2022 <sup>(2)</sup>	Aug 2014	Aug 2022	May/Nov	5.375%	1,000	1,000
5.625% Senior Notes due 2023 <sup>(2)</sup>	Jan 2015	Feb 2023	Jun/Dec	5.625%	500	500
5.125% Senior Notes due 2023 <sup>(2)</sup>	Apr 2015	May 2023	Mar/Sept	5.125%	700	700
5.375% Senior Notes due 2025 <sup>(2)</sup>	Apr 2015	May 2025	Mar/Sept	5.375%	800	800
5.375% Senior Notes due 2024 <sup>(2)</sup>	Nov 2015	Jan 2024	Jan/Jul	5.375%	900	900
5.25% Senior Notes due 2026 <sup>(2)</sup>	Mar 2016	Mar 2026	Apr/Oct	5.250%	775	—
<i>Issued by Level 3 Communications, Inc.</i>						
5.75% Senior Notes due 2022 <sup>(3)</sup>	Dec 2014	Dec 2022	Mar/Sept	5.750%	600	600
<b>Capital Leases and Other Debt</b>					<b>183</b>	<b>199</b>
Total Debt Obligations					11,009	11,025
Unamortized discounts					(13)	(16)
Unamortized debt issuance costs					(112)	(128)
Current Portion					(7)	(15)
<b>Total Long-Term Debt</b>					<b>\$ 10,877</b>	<b>\$ 10,866</b>

(1) The term loans are secured obligations and guaranteed by Level 3 Communications, Inc. and Level 3 Communications, LLC and certain other subsidiaries.

(2) The notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed on an unsubordinated unsecured basis by Level 3 Communications, Inc. and Level 3 Communications, LLC.

(3) The notes were not guaranteed by any of Level 3 Communications, Inc.'s subsidiaries.

(4) The Tranche B-III 2019 Term Loan and the Tranche B 2020 Term Loan each had an interest rate of 4.000% as of December 31, 2016 and 2015. The Tranche B-II 2022 Term Loan had an interest rate of 3.500% as of December 31, 2016 and 2015. The Floating Rate Senior Notes due 2018 had an interest rate of 4.762% as of December 31, 2016 and 4.101% as of December 31, 2015. The interest rate on the Tranche B-III 2019 Term Loan and the Tranche B 2020 Term Loan are set with a minimum LIBOR of 1.00%, and the Tranche B-II 2022 Term Loan is set with a minimum LIBOR of 0.75%.

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### ***Senior Secured Term Loans***

As of January 1, 2014, Level 3 Financing, Inc., our direct wholly owned subsidiary (“Level 3 Financing”) had a senior credit facility consisting of \$815 million Tranche B-III Term Loan due 2019 and \$1.796 billion Tranche B Term Loan due 2020.

On October 31, 2014, Level 3 Financing entered into a ninth amendment agreement to the Existing Credit Agreement to incur \$2 billion in aggregate borrowings under the Existing Credit Agreement through the creation of a new Tranche B 2022 Term Loan (the “Tranche B 2022 Term Loan”). The Tranche B 2022 Term Loan included an upfront payment to the lenders of 0.75% of par and bears interest equal to LIBOR plus 3.50% with LIBOR set at a minimum of 1.00%.

On May 8, 2015, Level 3 Financing refinanced its existing \$2 billion senior secured Tranche B 2022 Term Loan under a tenth amendment agreement to its Existing Credit Agreement through the creation of a new senior secured Tranche B-II 2022 term loan in the aggregate principal amount of \$2 billion (the “Tranche B-II 2022 Term Loan”). The Tranche B-II 2022 Term Loan has an interest rate of LIBOR plus 2.75%, with a minimum LIBOR of 0.75%, and will mature on May 31, 2022. The Tranche B-II 2022 Term Loan was priced to lenders at par, with the payment to the lenders of an upfront fee of 25 basis points at closing. As a result of this transaction, we recognized a loss on the refinancing of approximately \$27 million.

### ***Senior Notes***

We completed several offerings and refinancing of senior notes in 2016 and 2015. All of the notes pay interest semiannually, and allow for the redemption of the notes at the option of the issuer upon not less than 30 or more than 60 days’ prior notice by paying the greater of 101% of the principal amount or a “make-whole” amount, plus accrued interest. In addition, the notes also have a provision that allows for an additional right of optional redemption using cash proceeds received from the sale of equity securities. For specific details of these features and requirements, including the applicable premiums and timing, refer to the indentures for the respective senior notes in connection with the original issuances.

#### **5.375% Senior Notes due 2022**

On August 12, 2014, Level 3 Escrow II, Inc. (“Level 3 Escrow”), an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Level 3 Communications, Inc., issued \$1.0 billion in aggregate principal amount of its 5.375% Senior Notes due 2022 (the “5.375% Senior Notes due 2022”). The 5.375% Senior Notes due 2022 were assumed by Level 3 Financing and the proceeds were used to refinance certain existing indebtedness of tw telecom.

#### **5.75% Senior Notes due 2022**

On December 1, 2014, we issued a total of \$600 million aggregate principal amount of our 5.75% Senior Notes due 2022 (the “5.75% Senior Notes”). The net proceeds from the offering of the notes, together with cash on hand were used to redeem all of the outstanding 11.875% Senior Notes due 2019 issued by Level 3 Financing, including the payment of accrued interest and applicable premiums, and in connection with that redemption, the indenture relating to the 11.875% Senior Notes due 2019 was discharged on December 31, 2014. Level 3 Financing redeemed its 11.875% Senior Notes due 2017 at a price of 106.859% of the principal amount and recognized a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$53 million.

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### **5.625% Senior Notes due 2023**

In January 2015, Level 3 Financing issued \$500 million in aggregate principal amount of its 5.625% Senior Notes due 2023 (the “5.625% Senior Notes”). The net proceeds from the offering of the 5.625% Senior Notes, together with cash on hand, were used to redeem, on April 1, 2015, all of Level 3 Financing’s approximately \$500 million aggregate principal amount of 9.375% Senior Notes due 2019, including accrued interest, applicable premiums and expenses. Total loss on extinguishment of debt related to the 9.375% Senior Notes due 2019 was \$36 million.

### **5.125% Senior Notes due 2023 and 5.375% Senior Notes due 2025**

In April 2015, Level 3 Financing issued \$700 million in aggregate principal amount of its 5.125% Senior Notes due 2023 (the “5.125% Senior Notes”) and \$800 million in aggregate principal amount of its 5.375% Senior Notes due 2025 (the “5.375% Senior Notes due 2025”). The net proceeds from the offering of the 5.125% Senior Notes and 5.375% Senior Notes due 2025, together with cash on hand, were used to redeem all \$1.2 billion aggregate principal amount of Level 3 Financing’s 8.125% Senior Notes due 2019 and all \$300 million aggregate principal amount of our 8.875% Senior Notes due 2019. Total loss on extinguishment of debt related to the 8.125% Senior Notes due 2019 was \$82 million and total loss on extinguishment of debt related to the 8.875% Senior Notes due 2019 was \$18 million.

### **5.375% Senior Notes due 2024**

On November 13, 2015, Level 3 Financing issued \$900 million in aggregate principal amount of its 5.375% Senior Notes due 2024 (the “5.375% Senior Notes due 2024”). The net proceeds from the offering of the 5.375% Senior Notes due 2024, together with cash on hand, were used to redeem all \$900 million aggregate principal amount of Level 3 Financing’s 8.625% Senior Notes due 2020. Total loss on modification and extinguishment of debt related to the 8.625% Senior Notes due 2020 was approximately \$55 million.

### **7% Convertible Senior Notes**

During the fourth quarter of 2014, certain holders converted approximately \$142 million of the 7% Convertible Senior Notes to common equity. Upon conversion, we issued an aggregate of approximately 5 million shares of our common stock, representing the approximately 37 shares per \$1,000 note into which the notes were then convertible.

During the first quarter of 2015, holders converted the remaining \$333 million aggregate principal amount of our 7% Convertible Senior Notes due 2015 to common equity. Upon conversion, we issued an aggregate of approximately 12 million shares of our common stock, representing the approximately 37 shares per \$1,000 note into which the notes were then convertible.

### **5.25% Senior Notes due 2026**

On March 22, 2016, Level 3 Financing issued \$775 million in aggregate principal amount of its 5.25% Senior Notes due 2026 (the “5.25% Senior Notes due 2026”).

The 5.25% Senior Notes due 2026 were not originally registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. A registration statement with respect to these notes has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and became effective on February 23, 2017.

On April 21, 2016, all of the outstanding principal amount of the 7% Senior Notes due 2020 was redeemed at a redemption price equal to 104.138% of the principal amount, along with accrued and unpaid interest to but excluding the redemption date. To fund the redemption of these notes, Level 3 Financing used the net proceeds, along with cash on hand, from the March 22, 2016 issuance of

its 5.25% Senior Notes due 2026. We recognized a loss on modification and extinguishment of debt of approximately \$40 million in Other Expense in the second quarter of 2016 as a result of the redemption of the 7% Senior Notes due 2020.

### ***Capital Leases***

As of December 31, 2016, we had \$183 million of capital leases. We lease property, equipment, certain dark fiber facilities and metro fiber under non-cancelable IRU agreements that are accounted for as capital leases. Interest rates on these capital leases approximated 5.8% on average as of December 31, 2016.

### ***Debt Issuance Costs***

For the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, we deferred debt issuance costs of \$11 million, \$50 million and \$49 million, respectively, in connection with debt issuances, that are being amortized to interest expense over the respective terms of the debt. At December 31, 2016 and 2015, there was \$112 million and \$128 million, respectively, of unamortized debt issuance costs.

### ***Covenant Compliance***

At December 31, 2016 and 2015, we were in compliance with the financial covenants on all outstanding debt issuances.

### ***Long-Term Debt Maturities***

Aggregate future contractual maturities of long-term debt and capital leases (excluding discounts and debt issuance costs) were as follows as of December 31, 2016 (dollars in millions):

2017	\$ 7
2018	306
2019	822
2020	1,804
2021	650
Thereafter	<u>7,420</u>
	<u>\$11,009</u>



## (11) Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss

The accumulated balances for each classification of other comprehensive loss are as follows:

<u>(dollars in millions)</u>	<u>Net Foreign Currency Translation Adjustment</u>	<u>Net Defined Benefit Pension Plans</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance at January 1, 2014	\$ 67	\$ (31)	\$ 36
Other comprehensive loss before reclassifications	(178)	(9)	(187)
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss	—	4	4
Balance at December 31, 2014	(111)	(36)	(147)
Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications	(162)	6	(156)
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss	—	2	2
Balance at December 31, 2015	(273)	(28)	(301)
Other comprehensive loss before reclassifications	(80)	(7)	(87)
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss	—	1	1
Balance at December 31, 2016	<u>\$ (353)</u>	<u>\$ (34)</u>	<u>\$(387)</u>

## (12) Employee Benefits and Stock-Based Compensation

We record non-cash compensation expense for our performance restricted stock units, restricted stock units, 401(k) matching contributions and prior to October 1, 2016, outperform stock appreciation rights.

The following table summarizes non-cash compensation expense and capitalized non-cash compensation for each of the three years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014 (dollars in millions):

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Outperform Stock Appreciation Rights	\$ 1	\$ 6	\$ 8
Restricted Stock Units	76	65	34
Performance Restricted Stock Units	43	35	14
401(k) Match Expense	37	36	23
Restricted Stock Unit Bonus Grant	—	—	(5)
	<u>157</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>74</u>
Capitalized Non-Cash Compensation	<u>(1)</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>(1)</u>
	<u>\$ 156</u>	<u>\$ 141</u>	<u>\$ 73</u>

We capitalize non-cash compensation for those employees directly involved in the construction of the network, installation of services for customers or the development of business support systems.

OSOs and restricted stock units are granted under the Level 3 Communications, Inc. Stock Incentive Plan, as amended (the "Stock Plan"), which term extends through May 21, 2025. The Stock Plan provides for accelerated vesting of stock awards upon retirement if an employee meets certain age and years of service requirements and certain other requirements. Under the Stock Compensation guidance, if an employee meets the age and years of service requirements under the accelerated vesting provision, the award would be expensed at grant or expensed over the period from the grant date to the date the employee meets the requirements, even if the employee has not actually retired. We recognized non-cash compensation expense for employees that met the age and years of service requirements for

accelerated vesting at retirement of \$8 million, \$14 million and \$4 million in 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

### ***Outperform Stock Appreciation Rights***

OSOs were awarded through the end of 2013, and were outstanding through October 2016. Our OSO program was designed so that our stockholders would receive a market return on their investment before OSO holders receive any return on their OSOs. We believe that the OSO program directly aligned management's and stockholders' interests by basing stock option value on our ability to outperform the market in general, as measured by the Standard & Poor's ("S&P") 500® Index. Participants in the OSO program did not realize any value from awards unless our common stock price outperformed the S&P 500® Index during the life of the grant. When the stock price gain was greater than the corresponding gain on the S&P 500® Index, the value received for awards under the OSO plan was based on a formula involving a multiplier related to the level by which our common stock outperformed the S&P 500® Index. To the extent that Level 3's common stock outperformed the S&P 500® Index, the value of OSO units to a holder exceeded the value of non-qualified stock options.

The initial strike price, as determined on the day prior to the OSO grant date, was adjusted over time (the "Adjusted Strike Price"), until the settlement date. The adjustment was an amount equal to the percentage appreciation or depreciation in the value of the S&P 500® Index from the date of grant to the date of settlement. The value of the OSO increased for increasing levels of outperformance. OSO units had a multiplier range from zero to four depending upon the performance of Level 3 common stock relative to the S&P 500® Index as shown in the following table.

<u>If Level 3 Stock Outperforms the S&amp;P 500® Index by:</u>	<u>Then the Pre-multiplier Gain Multiplied by a Success Multiplier of:</u>
0% or Less	—
More than 0% but Less than 11%	Outperformance percentage multiplied by 4/11
11% or More	4.00

The Pre-multiplier Gain was the Level 3 common stock price minus the Adjusted Strike Price on the date of settlement.

Upon settlement of an OSO, we delivered to the grantee the difference between the fair market value of a share of Level 3 common stock as of the day prior to the settlement date, less the Adjusted Strike Price (the "Exercise Consideration"). The Exercise Consideration may be paid in cash, Level 3 common stock or any combination of cash or Level 3 common stock at our discretion. The number of shares of Level 3 common stock delivered to the grantee was determined by dividing the Exercise Consideration to be paid in Level 3 common stock by the fair market value of a share of Level 3 common stock as of the date prior to the settlement date. Fair market value was defined in the OSO agreement as the closing price per share of Level 3 common stock on the national securities exchange on which the common stock is traded. Settlement of the OSO units did not require any cash outlay by the employee.

OSO units had a three year life and settled 100% on the third anniversary of the date of the award. Recipients had no discretion on the timing to exercise OSO units, thus the expected life of all such OSO units was three years.

Transactions involving OSO units awarded are summarized in the table below. The Option Price Per Unit identified in the table below represents the initial strike price, as determined on the day prior to the OSO grant date for those grants.

	Units	Initial Strike Price Per Unit		Weighted Average Initial Strike Price	Aggregate Intrinsic Value	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term (years)
					(in millions)	
Balance January 1, 2014	2,148,865	\$14.10	\$36.60	\$ 23.99	\$ 31.6	1.46
OSOs granted	—	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —		
OSOs forfeited	(52,901)	\$16.99	\$27.53	\$ 22.99		
OSOs expired	(106,844)	\$36.60	\$36.60	\$ 36.60		
OSOs exercised	(771,251)	\$14.70	\$27.53	\$ 24.26		
Balance December 31, 2014	1,217,869	\$16.99	\$27.53	\$ 22.76	\$ 88.0	0.90
OSOs granted	—	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —		
OSOs forfeited	(12,945)	\$20.29	\$26.69	\$ 22.81		
OSOs expired	—	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —		
OSOs exercised	(589,944)	\$22.15	\$22.97	\$ 22.32		
Balance December 31, 2015	614,980	\$20.29	\$26.69	\$ 22.77	\$ 48.5	0.37
OSOs granted	—	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —		
OSOs forfeited	(6,875)	\$20.29	\$26.69	\$ 26.03		
OSOs expired	—	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —		
OSOs exercised	(608,105)	\$20.29	\$26.69	\$ 22.73		
Balance December 31, 2016	—					

In the table above, the weighted average initial strike price represents the values used to calculate the theoretical value of OSO units on the grant date and the intrinsic value represents the value of OSO units that outperformed the S&P 500® Index as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The total realized value of OSO units settled was \$14 million, \$13 million and \$19 million for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. We issued 992,446, 622,755 and 732,593 shares of Level 3 common stock upon the exercise of OSO units for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The number of shares of Level 3 common stock issued upon settlement of an OSO unit varied based upon the relative performance of the Level 3 common stock price and the S&P 500® Index between the initial grant date and settlement date of the OSO.

#### ***Restricted Stock Units and Performance Restricted Stock Units***

Restricted stock units are generally granted annually on July 1 to certain eligible recipients, including the Board of Directors, at no cost. Restrictions on transfer lapse over one to four year periods.

In April 2014, we began granting Performance Restricted Stock Units (“PRSUs”). PRSUs are designed to provide participants with a long-term stake in our success with both retention and performance components. Under these awards, a participant becomes vested in a number of PRSUs based on our achievement of specified levels of financial performance during the performance period set forth in the applicable award letter issued pursuant to the award agreement, so long as the participant remains continuously employed by us until the applicable scheduled vesting date, subject to certain change in control provisions as outlined in the award agreement. The performance objective is based on

our financial performance measures. Participants will be entitled to an award within a range of 50% at a minimum achievement level and 200% at a maximum achievement level.

PRSUs use a two-year performance measurement period and vest 50% on the second anniversary of the grant date (after the relevant performance has been measured) and the second 50% vest in February of the following year.

The weighted-average grant-date fair value of restricted stock units awarded totaled \$80 million, \$106 million and \$72 million for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The fair value of these awards was calculated using the value of Level 3 common stock on the grant date and these awards are being amortized over the periods in which the restrictions lapse. As of December 31, 2016, unamortized compensation cost related to restricted stock units was \$77 million and the weighted average period over which this cost will be recognized is 2.45 years.

The changes in restricted stock units are shown in the following table:

	Number	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Nonvested at January 1, 2014	2,924,350	\$ 22.77
Stock and units granted	1,650,772	\$ 43.48
Lapse of restrictions	(1,150,080)	\$ 22.92
Stock and units forfeited	<u>(206,305)</u>	\$ 27.14
Nonvested at December 31, 2014	3,218,737	\$ 32.95
Stock and units granted	2,087,942	\$ 50.60
Lapse of restrictions	(1,194,519)	\$ 31.70
Stock and units forfeited	<u>(358,227)</u>	\$ 44.25
Nonvested at December 31, 2015	3,753,933	\$ 42.09
Stock and units granted	1,547,229	\$ 51.45
Lapse of restrictions	(1,342,027)	\$ 36.95
Stock and units forfeited	<u>(254,712)</u>	\$ 47.45
Nonvested at December 31, 2016	<u>3,704,423</u>	\$ 47.49

The changes in performance restricted stock units are shown in the following table:

	Number	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Nonvested at January 1, 2014	—	\$ —
Units granted	605,111	\$ 39.30
Lapse of restrictions	(1,750)	\$ 39.14
Units forfeited	<u>(35,480)</u>	\$ 39.14
Nonvested at December 31, 2014	567,881	\$ 39.31
Units granted	713,657	\$ 53.82
Lapse of restrictions	—	\$ —
Units forfeited	<u>(53,073)</u>	\$ 49.25
Nonvested at December 31, 2015	1,228,465	\$ 47.31
Units granted	498,184	\$ 52.84
Lapse of restrictions	(297,940)	\$ 39.43
Units forfeited	<u>(97,298)</u>	\$ 52.02
Nonvested at December 31, 2016	1,331,411	\$ 50.80

The weighted-average grant-date fair value of performance restricted stock units awarded totaled \$26 million, \$38 million and \$24 million for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The fair value of these awards was calculated using the value of Level 3 common stock on the grant date and these awards are being amortized over the periods in which the restrictions lapse. As of December 31, 2016, unamortized compensation cost related to PRSUs was \$32 million and the weighted average period over which this cost will be recognized is 1.59 years.

The total fair value of restricted stock units and PRSUs whose restrictions lapsed in the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014 was \$61 million, \$38 million and \$27 million, respectively.

#### ***Defined Contribution Plans***

We sponsor a number of defined contribution plans. The principal defined contribution plans are discussed individually below. Other defined contribution plans are not individually significant and therefore have been summarized in aggregate below.

We offer our qualified employees the opportunity to participate in a defined contribution retirement plan qualifying under the provisions of Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code (“401(k) Plan”). Each employee is eligible to contribute, on a tax deferred basis, a portion of annual earnings generally not to exceed \$18,000 in 2016 and \$18,000 in 2015. We match 100% of employee contributions up to 4% of eligible earnings or applicable regulatory limits.

Our matching contributions are made with Level 3 common stock based on the closing stock price on each pay date. Our matching contributions are made through units in the Level 3 Stock Fund, which represent shares of Level 3 common stock. The Level 3 Stock Fund is the mechanism that is used for Level 3 to make employer matching and other contributions to employees through the Level 3 401(k) Plan. Prior to January 2016, employees were not able to purchase units in the Level 3 Stock Fund but effective January 2016, employees may allocate account balances to the Level 3 Stock Fund subject to a limitation on the total percentage of the employee’s 401(K) account balances maintained in the Level 3

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Stock Fund. Employees are able to diversify our matching contribution as soon as it is made, even if they are not fully vested, subject to insider trading rules and regulations. Our matching contributions vest ratably over the first three years of service or over such shorter period until the employee has completed three years of service at such time the employee is then 100% vested in all our matching contributions, including future contributions. We made 401(k) Plan matching contributions of \$37 million, \$36 million and \$23 million for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Our matching contributions are recorded as non-cash compensation and included in network related expenses of \$5 million, \$5 million and \$4 million for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and in selling, general and administrative expenses of \$32 million, \$31 million and \$19 million for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Former tw telecom employees became eligible to participate in our 401(k) Plan starting January 1, 2015.

The tw telecom 401(k) Plan (“tw telecom 401(k) Plan”) provided 100% matching cash contributions up to a maximum 5% of eligible compensation. Our contributions to the tw telecom 401(k) Plan vest immediately. Expenses recorded relating to the tw telecom 401(k) Plan for the two months in 2014 subsequent to the completion of the tw telecom acquisition were approximately \$2 million.

Other defined contribution plans we sponsored are individually not significant. On an aggregate basis the expenses we recorded relating to these plans were approximately \$6 million, \$6 million and \$6 million for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

### ***Defined Benefit Plans***

We have certain contributory and non-contributory employee pension plans, which are not significant to our financial position or operating results. We recognize in our balance sheet the funded status of our defined benefit post-retirement plans, which is measured as the difference between the fair value of the plan assets and the plan benefit obligations. We are also required to recognize changes in the funded status within accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax to the extent such changes are not recognized in earnings as components of periodic net benefit cost. The fair value of the plan assets was \$136 million and \$142 million as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. The total plan benefit obligations were \$158 million and \$158 million as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. Therefore, the total funded status was an obligation of \$22 million and \$16 million as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

### ***Annual Discretionary Bonus Grant***

Our annual discretionary bonus program is intended to motivate employees to achieve our financial and business goals. Each participant is provided a target award expressed as a percentage of base salary. Actual awards under the program are based on corporate results as well as achievement of specific individual performance criteria during the bonus program period, and may be paid in cash, restricted stock units, or a combination of the two, at the sole discretion of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. The annual discretionary bonus will be paid in cash for the 2016 bonus program, and was paid in cash for the 2015 and 2014 bonus programs. We paid out 1.4 million immediately-vested restricted stock units in 2014 for the 2013 bonus plan.

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**(13) Income Taxes**

The following table summarizes the income tax (expense) benefit attributable to the income (loss) before income taxes for each of the three years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b>(dollars in millions)</b>			
Current:			
United States Federal	\$ —	\$ —	\$—
State	(4)	(3)	(1)
Foreign	<u>(41)</u>	<u>(33)</u>	<u>(40)</u>
	(45)	(36)	(41)
Deferred, net of changes in valuation allowances:			
United States federal	(177)	2,941	6
State	(27)	246	15
Foreign	<u>84</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>96</u>
	(120)	3,186	117
<b>Income Tax (Expense) Benefit</b>	<u><u>\$ (165)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,150</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 76</u></u>

The United States and Foreign components of income (loss) before income taxes for each of the three years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014 are as follows (some of the income (loss) is subject to taxation in multiple jurisdictions):

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b>(dollars in millions)</b>			
United States	\$794	\$ 401	\$207
Foreign	<u>48</u>	<u>(118)</u>	<u>31</u>
	<u><u>\$842</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 283</u></u>	<u><u>\$238</u></u>

A reconciliation of the actual income tax (expense) benefit and the tax computed by applying the U.S. federal rate (35%) to the income before income taxes for each of the three years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014 is shown in the following table:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
	(dollars in millions)		
Computed Tax Expense at Statutory Rate	\$(295)	\$ (99)	\$ (83)
State and Local Income Taxes	(31)	(15)	(8)
Effect of Earnings in Jurisdictions outside of the United States	24	30	13
Change in Valuation Allowance	139	3,401	205
Disallowed Interest	(58)	(62)	(25)
Non-Deductible Deconsolidation Loss	—	(57)	—
Other Permanent Items	(33)	(25)	(19)
Adoption of ASU 2016-09, <i>Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting</i>	22	—	—
U.S. Federal Law Changes	110	—	—
Indefinite-Lived Assets	—	—	2
Uncertain Tax Positions	(2)	(5)	3
Changes in Tax Rates	(24)	(20)	(7)
Other, net	(17)	2	(5)
Income Tax (Expense) Benefit	<u>\$(165)</u>	<u>\$3,150</u>	<u>\$ 76</u>

The components of the net deferred tax assets as of December 31, 2016 and 2015 are as follows:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
	(dollars in millions)	
Deferred Tax Assets:		
Deferred revenue	364	351
Unutilized tax net operating loss carry forwards	4,550	4,959
Fixed assets	95	115
Other	471	501
Total Deferred Tax Assets	5,480	5,926
Deferred Tax Liabilities:		
Deferred revenue	(57)	(58)
Fixed assets	(962)	(924)
Intangible assets	(357)	(399)
Other	(120)	(350)
Total Deferred Tax Liabilities	(1,496)	(1,731)
Net Deferred Tax Assets before Valuation Allowance	3,984	4,195
Valuation Allowance	(862)	(1,002)
Net Deferred Tax Assets after Valuation Allowance	<u>\$ 3,122</u>	<u>\$ 3,193</u>



As of December 31, 2016, we had available net operating loss carry forwards of approximately \$9.0 billion after taking into account the effects of Section 382 limitation of the Internal Revenue Code for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

As a result of certain realization requirements of applicable accounting guidance, the table of deferred tax asset and liabilities shown above does not include certain deferred tax assets as of December 31, 2015 that arose directly from tax deductions related to equity compensation in excess of compensation recognized for financial reporting. However, effective January 1, 2016 we adopted ASU 2016-09, *Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting*, and the deferred tax assets related to equity compensation are reflected in the table for the year ended December 31, 2016.

Our loss carry forwards expire in future years through 2035 and are subject to examination by the tax authorities up to three years after the carry forwards are utilized. The U.S. net operating tax loss carry forwards available for federal income tax purposes expire as follows (dollars in millions):

<u>Expiring December 31,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2024	\$ 891
2025	1,267
2026	1,254
2027	1,645
2028	477
2029	694
2030	663
2031	833
2032	729
2033	194
2034	389
2035	1
	<u>\$ 9,037</u>

Under the rules prescribed by Internal Revenue Code Section 382 and applicable regulations, if certain transactions occur with respect to an entity's capital stock that result in a cumulative ownership shift of more than 50 percentage points by 5% stockholders over a three-year testing period, annual limitations are imposed with respect to the entity's ability to utilize its net operating loss carry forwards and certain current deductions against any taxable income the entity achieves in future periods and could result in a substantial income tax expense at the time of the shift. We extended the term of our Stockholder Rights Plan, which was adopted to protect our U.S. federal net operating loss carry forwards from these limitations. This plan was designed to deter trading that would result in a change of control (as defined in Section 382) and therefore protect our ability to use our U.S. federal net operating loss carry forwards in the future.

As of December 31, 2016, we had state net operating loss carry forwards of approximately \$9.4 billion that have various expiration periods through 2035. We had approximately \$5.5 billion of foreign jurisdiction net operating loss carry forwards that are subject to limitations on their utilization. The majority of these foreign jurisdiction tax loss carry forwards have no expiration period.

We recognize deferred tax assets and liabilities for our domestic and non-U.S. operations, for operating loss and other credit carry forwards and the expected tax consequences of temporary

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differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts using enacted tax rates in effect for the year the differences are expected to reverse. The ultimate realization of deferred tax assets is dependent upon the generation of future taxable income during the periods in which those temporary differences become deductible. The valuation of deferred tax assets requires judgment in assessing the likely future tax consequences of events that have been recognized in our financial statements or tax returns, and future profitability by tax jurisdiction. We have historically provided a valuation allowance to reduce our U.S. federal and state and foreign deferred tax assets to the amount that is more likely than not to be realized. We monitor our cumulative loss position and other evidence each quarter to determine the appropriateness of our valuation allowance. Although we believe our estimates are reasonable, the ultimate determination of the appropriate amount of valuation allowance involves significant judgment.

In the fourth quarter of 2014, we released \$100 million of deferred tax valuation allowance primarily related to our business in the U.K. due to a recapitalization and consolidation of legal entities whereby one U.K. entity with a full valuation allowance was merged with an entity that had no valuation allowance against its deferred tax assets, as we had an expectation of future taxable income for the combined entities.

In the fourth quarter of 2015, we released the majority of the valuation allowance against our U.S. federal and state deferred tax assets, resulting in a non-cash benefit to income tax expense of approximately \$3.3 billion, \$3.1 billion of which was related to future years' earnings. In making the determination to release the valuation allowance against U.S. federal and state deferred tax assets, we took into consideration our movement into a cumulative income position for the most recent 3-year period, including pro forma adjustments for acquired entities, our 8 out of 9 consecutive quarters of pre-tax operating income, and forecasts of future earnings for our U.S. business. We expect to continue to generate income before taxes in the United States in future periods.

During 2016, we recognized a \$22 million income tax benefit from the vesting of stock based compensation due to the adoption of ASU 2016-09, *Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting*. We also recognized \$82 million of income tax benefit related to the release of deferred tax asset valuation allowances primarily in Germany, Brazil, and Mexico. The determinations to release the foreign valuation allowances were driven by our projection of future profitability for each legal entity due to the recapitalization of our German subsidiary, the planned action to restructure our Brazilian business, and the merger of our Mexican subsidiaries.

We continue to maintain our existing valuation allowance against net deferred tax assets in many of our state and foreign jurisdictions where we do not currently believe the realization of our deferred tax assets is more likely than not.

The valuation allowance for deferred tax assets was approximately \$0.9 billion as of December 31, 2016 and \$1.0 billion as of December 31, 2015. The change in valuation allowance is primarily due to the release of the valuation allowance against foreign deferred tax assets.

With respect to our foreign corporate subsidiaries, we provide for U.S. income taxes on the undistributed earnings and the other outside basis temporary differences (differences between a parent's book and tax basis in a subsidiary, including currency translation adjustments) unless they are considered indefinitely reinvested outside the United States. The amount of temporary differences related to undistributed earnings and other outside basis temporary differences of investments in foreign subsidiaries upon which U.S. income taxes have not been provided was immaterial.

With respect to our foreign branches, we had historically established deferred tax liabilities for foreign branches with an overall cumulative translation gain, but had not established deferred tax assets for those with an overall translation loss as we had no plans to trigger realization of the losses in the foreseeable future. On December 7, 2016, the Internal Revenue Service issued regulations under Internal

Revenue Code Section 987 addressing the taxation of foreign currency translations gains and losses arising from foreign branches. The new regulations require a “fresh start” recalculation of the unrealized gains and losses as of the adoption date. The regulations provide that the tax bases of specified assets, such as fixed assets, will be translated at historic foreign exchange rates. As a result, the deferred taxes related to such foreign currency translation are expected to reverse through the operations of the branch thereby allowing the recognition of deferred tax assets arising from translation losses as well. The issuance of the regulations resulted in us recognizing an estimated one-time tax benefit of \$110 million during the fourth quarter 2016.

Our liability for uncertain income tax positions totaled \$18 million at December 31, 2016 and \$18 million at December 31, 2015. If the remaining balance of unrecognized tax benefits were realized in a future period, it would result in a tax benefit of \$17 million (\$17 million as of December 31, 2015) and a reduction in the effective tax rate. We do not expect that the liability for uncertain tax positions will materially increase or decrease during the twelve months ended December 31, 2017. A reconciliation of the beginning and ending balance of unrecognized income tax benefits follows (dollars in millions):

	<b>Amount</b>
Balance as of January 1, 2014	\$ 13
Tax positions of prior years netted against deferred tax assets	5
Gross increases - tax positions of prior years	1
Gross increases - tax positions during 2014	—
Gross decreases - lapse of statute of limitations	(2)
Gross decreases - settlement with taxing authorities	—
Balance as of December 31, 2014	17
Tax positions of prior years netted against deferred tax assets	(2)
Gross increases - tax positions of prior years	3
Gross increases - tax positions during 2015	2
Gross decreases - lapse of statute of limitations	(2)
Gross decreases - settlement with taxing authorities	—
Balance as of December 31, 2015	18
Tax positions of prior years netted against deferred tax assets	(1)
Gross increases - tax positions during 2016	2
Gross decreases - tax positions of prior years	(1)
Gross decreases - lapse of statute of limitations	—
Gross decreases - settlement with taxing authorities	—
Balance as of December 31, 2016	<u>\$ 18</u>

The unrecognized tax benefits in the table above do not include accrued interest and penalties of \$18 million, \$16 million and \$17 million as of December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Our policy is to record interest and penalties related to uncertain tax positions in income tax expense. We recognized accrued interest and penalties related to uncertain tax positions in income tax expense in our Consolidated Statements of Income of approximately \$1 million, a benefit of less than \$1 million and a benefit of approximately \$1 million for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

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We, or at least one of our subsidiaries, file income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and various states and foreign jurisdictions. With few exceptions, we are no longer subject to U.S. federal, state and local, or non-U.S. income tax examinations by tax authorities for years before 2003. The Internal Revenue Service and state and local taxing authorities reserve the right to audit any period where net operating loss carry forwards are available.

We incur tax expense attributable to income in various subsidiaries that are required to file state or foreign income tax returns on a separate legal entity basis. We also recognize accrued interest and penalties in income tax expense related to uncertain tax benefits. Our tax rate is volatile and may move up or down with changes in, among other things, the amount and source of income or loss, our ability to utilize foreign tax credits, changes in tax laws, and the movement of liabilities established for uncertain tax positions as statutes of limitations expire or positions are otherwise effectively settled.

#### **(14) Segment Information**

Operating segments are defined under GAAP as components of an enterprise for which separate financial information is available and evaluated regularly by our chief operating decision maker (“CODM”) in deciding how to allocate resources and assess performance. Our CODM is Jeff K. Storey, President and Chief Executive Officer. Our reportable segments consist of: 1) North America; 2) EMEA; and 3) Latin America. Other separate business interests that are not segments include interest, certain corporate assets and overhead costs, and certain other general and administrative costs that are not allocated to any of the operating segments.

The CODM measures and evaluates segment performance primarily based upon revenue, revenue growth and Adjusted EBITDA. Adjusted EBITDA, as defined by us, is equal to net income (loss) from the Consolidated Statements of Income before (1) income tax benefit (expense), (2) total other income (expense), (3) non-cash impairment charges included within selling, general and administrative expenses and network related expenses, (4) depreciation and amortization expense, and (5) non-cash stock-based compensation expense included within selling, general and administrative expenses and network related expenses.

Adjusted EBITDA is not a measurement under GAAP and may not be used in the same way by other companies. Management believes that Adjusted EBITDA is an important part of our internal reporting and is a key measure used by management to evaluate our profitability and operating performance and to make resource allocation decisions. Management believes such measurement is especially important in a capital-intensive industry such as telecommunications. Management also uses Adjusted EBITDA to compare our performance to that of our competitors and to eliminate certain non-cash and non-operating items in order to consistently measure from period to period our ability to fund capital expenditures, fund growth, service debt and determine bonuses.

Adjusted EBITDA excludes non-cash impairment charges and non-cash stock-based compensation expense because of the non-cash nature of these items. Adjusted EBITDA also excludes interest income, interest expense and income tax benefit (expense) because these items are associated with our capitalization and tax structures. Adjusted EBITDA also excludes depreciation and amortization expense because these non-cash expenses reflect the effect of capital investments which management believes are better evaluated through cash flow measures. Adjusted EBITDA excludes net other income (expense) because these items are not related to our primary operations.

There are limitations to using non-GAAP financial measures such as Adjusted EBITDA, including the difficulty associated with comparing companies that use similar performance measures whose calculations may differ from our calculations. Additionally, this financial measure does not include certain significant items such as interest income, interest expense, income tax benefit (expense), depreciation and amortization expense, non-cash impairment charges, non-cash stock-based compensation expense,

and net other income (expense). Adjusted EBITDA should not be considered a substitute for other measures of financial performance reported in accordance with GAAP.

Revenue and the related expenses are attributed to regions based on where services are provided. Revenue and costs for services provided in more than one region are allocated equally between the regions, and we do not otherwise charge for services between reportable segments. Therefore, segment results do not include any intercompany revenue. The operating activities of the separate regions along with the activities that are not attributable to a segment are interdependent, and the regional results in the tables below do not include all intercompany charges and allocations that would be necessary to report the regional results on a standalone basis.

Total revenue consists of:

- Core Network Services revenue from Internet Protocol and data services; transport and fiber; local and enterprise voice services; colocation and data center services; and security services.
- Wholesale Voice Services revenue from sales to other carriers of long distance voice services.

Core Network Services revenue represents higher profit services and Wholesale Voice Services revenue represents lower profit services. Core Network Services revenue requires different levels of investment and focus and provides different contributions to our operating results than Wholesale Voice Services revenue. Management believes that growth in revenue from our Core Network Services is critical to the long-term success of our business. We also believe we must continue to effectively manage the profitability of the Wholesale Voice Services revenue. We believe trends in our communications business are best gauged by analyzing revenue changes in Core Network Services.

The following table presents revenue by segment for each of the years ended December 31,

<u>(dollars in millions)</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b>Core Network Services Revenue:</b>			
North America	\$6,362	\$6,207	\$4,520
EMEA	744	835	904
Latin America	<u>661</u>	<u>715</u>	<u>784</u>
<b>Total Core Network Services Revenue</b>	<b><u>\$7,767</u></b>	<b><u>\$7,757</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,208</u></b>
<b>Wholesale Voice Services Revenue:</b>			
North America	\$ 386	\$ 447	\$ 535
EMEA	11	14	6
Latin America	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>28</u>
<b>Total Wholesale Voice Services Revenue</b>	<b><u>\$ 405</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 472</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 569</u></b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b><u>\$8,172</u></b>	<b><u>\$8,229</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,777</u></b>

The following table presents Adjusted EBITDA by segment and reconciles Adjusted EBITDA to net income for each of the years ended December 31,

<b>(dollars in millions)</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Adjusted EBITDA:</b>			
North America	\$ 3,220	\$ 3,048	\$2,065
EMEA	215	235	214
Latin America	293	302	348
Unallocated Corporate Expenses	(878)	(947)	(732)
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 2,850	\$ 2,638	\$1,895
Income Tax (Expense) Benefit	(165)	3,150	76
Total Other Expense	(602)	(1,048)	(775)
Depreciation and Amortization	(1,250)	(1,166)	(808)
Non-Cash Stock Compensation	(156)	(141)	(73)
Non-Cash Impairment	—	—	(1)
Net Income	\$ 677	\$ 3,433	\$ 314

The following table presents capital expenditures by segment and reconciles capital expenditures to total capital expenditures for each of the years ended December 31:

<b>(dollars in millions)</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures:</b>			
North America	\$ 874	\$ 752	\$495
EMEA	145	158	117
Latin America	166	155	153
Unallocated Corporate Capital Expenditures	149	164	145
Total Capital Expenditures	\$1,334	\$1,229	\$910

The following table presents total assets by segment:

<b>(dollars in millions)</b>	<b>As of December 31,</b>	
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Assets:</b>		
North America	\$20,818	\$19,961
EMEA	1,639	1,796
Latin America	2,304	2,131
Other	127	129
Total Assets	\$24,888	\$24,017

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill by segment during year ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 were as follows (in millions):

	<b>North America</b>	<b>EMEA</b>	<b>Latin America</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance at January 1, 2015	\$ 6,955	\$ 138	\$ 596	\$7,689
Goodwill adjustments including the effect of foreign currency rate change	69	(9)	—	60
Balance at December 31, 2015	7,024	129	596	7,749
Effect of foreign currency rate change	—	(20)	—	(20)
Balance at December 31, 2016	<u>\$ 7,024</u>	<u>\$ 109</u>	<u>\$ 596</u>	<u>\$7,729</u>

#### (15) Commitments, Contingencies and Other Items

We are subject to various legal proceedings and other contingent liabilities that individually or in the aggregate could materially affect our financial condition, future results of operations or cash flows. Amounts accrued for such contingencies aggregate to \$97 million and are included in “Other” current liabilities and “Other Liabilities” in our Consolidated Balance Sheet at December 31, 2016. The establishment of an accrual does not mean that actual funds have been set aside to satisfy a given contingency. Thus, the resolution of a particular contingency for the amount accrued would have no effect on our results of operations but could materially adversely affect our cash flows for the affected period.

We review our accruals at least quarterly and adjusts them to reflect the impact of negotiations, settlements, rulings, advice of legal counsel and other information and events pertaining to a particular matter. Below is a description of material legal proceedings and other contingencies pending at December 31, 2016. Although we believe we have accrued for these matters in accordance with the accounting guidance for contingencies, contingencies are inherently unpredictable and it is possible that results of operations or cash flows could be materially and adversely affected in any particular period by unfavorable developments in, or resolution or disposition of, one or more of these matters. For those contingencies in respect of which we believe it is reasonably possible that a loss may result that is materially in excess of the accrual (if any) established for the matter, we have either provided an estimate of such possible loss or range of loss or included a statement that such an estimate cannot be made. In addition to the contingencies described below, we are party to many other legal proceedings and contingencies, the resolution of which is not expected to materially affect our financial condition or future results of operations beyond the amounts accrued.

#### *Rights-of-Way Litigation*

We are party to a number of purported class action lawsuits involving our right to install fiber optic cable network in railroad right-of-ways adjacent to plaintiffs’ land. In general, we obtained the rights to construct our networks from railroads, utilities, and others, and have installed our networks along the rights-of-way so granted. Plaintiffs in the purported class actions assert that they are the owners of lands over which the fiber optic cable networks pass, and that the railroads, utilities and others who granted us the right to construct and maintain our network did not have the legal authority to do so. The complaints seek damages on theories of trespass, unjust enrichment and slander of title and property, as well as punitive damages. We have also received, and may in the future receive, claims and demands related to rights-of-way issues similar to the issues in these cases that may be based on similar or different legal theories. We have defeated motions for class certification in a number of these actions but expect that, absent settlement of these actions, plaintiffs in the pending lawsuits will continue to seek certification of statewide or multi-state classes. The only lawsuit in which a class was certified against us, absent an

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agreed upon settlement, occurred in *Koyle, et. al. v. Level 3 Communications, Inc., et. al.*, a purported two state class action filed in the United States District Court for the District of Idaho. The *Koyle* lawsuit has been dismissed pursuant to a settlement reached in November 2010 as described further below.

We negotiated a series of class settlements affecting all persons who own or owned land next to or near railroad rights of way in which we have installed our fiber optic cable networks. The United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts in *Kingsborough v. Sprint Communications Co. L.P.* granted preliminary approval of the proposed settlement; however, on September 10, 2009, the court denied a motion for final approval of the settlement on the basis that the court lacked subject matter jurisdiction and dismissed the case.

In November 2010, we negotiated revised settlement terms for a series of state class settlements affecting all persons who own or owned land next to or near railroad rights of way in which we have installed our fiber optic cable networks. We are currently pursuing presentment of the settlement in applicable jurisdictions. The settlements, affecting current and former landowners, have received final federal court approval in all but one of the applicable states and the parties are actively engaged in, or have completed, the claims process for the vast majority of the applicable states, including payment of claims. We continue to seek approval in the remaining state.

Management believes that we have substantial defenses to the claims asserted in all of these actions and intends to defend them vigorously if a satisfactory settlement is not ultimately approved for all affected landowners.

#### *Peruvian Tax Litigation*

Beginning in 2005, one of our Peruvian subsidiaries received a number of assessments for tax, penalties and interest for calendar years 2001 and 2002. Peruvian tax authorities (“SUNAT”) took the position that the Peruvian subsidiary incorrectly documented its importations resulting in additional income tax withholding and value-added taxes (“VAT”). The total amount of the asserted claims, including potential interest and penalties, was \$26 million, consisting of \$3 million for income tax withholding in connection with the import of services for calendar years 2001 and 2002, \$7 million for VAT in connection with the import of services for calendar years 2001 and 2002, and \$16 million in connection with the disallowance of VAT credits for periods beginning in 2005. After taking into account the developments described below, as well as the accrued interest and foreign exchange effects, the total amount of exposure is \$18 million at December 31, 2016.

We challenged the tax assessments during 2005 by filing administrative claims before SUNAT. During August 2006 and June 2007, SUNAT rejected our administrative claims, thereby confirming the assessments. Appeals were filed in September 2006 and July 2007 with the Tribunal Fiscal, the highest level of administrative review, which is not part of the Peru judiciary (the “Tribunal”). The 2001 and 2002 assessed withholding tax assessments were resolved in our favor in separate administrative resolutions; however, the penalties with respect to withholding tax remain at issue in the administrative appeals.

In October 2011, the Tribunal issued its administrative resolution with respect to the calendar year 2002 tax period regarding VAT, associated penalties and penalties associated with withholding taxes, deciding the central issue underlying the assessments in the government’s favor, while confirming the assessment in part and denying a portion of the assessment on procedural grounds. We appealed the Tribunal’s October 2011 administrative resolutions to the judicial court in Peru. In September 2014, the first judicial court rendered a decision largely in our favor on the central issue underlying the assessments. SUNAT appealed the court’s decision to the next judicial level. The court of appeal remanded the case to the first judicial court for further development of the facts and legal analysis supporting its decision. In April 2016, the first judicial level rendered a decision in our favor on the central issue underlying the assessments. SUNAT has appealed the substantive issue to the next judicial level. We also appealed certain procedural points.



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In October 2013, the Tribunal notified us of its July 2013 administrative resolution with respect to the calendar year 2001 tax period regarding VAT, associated penalties and penalties associated with withholding taxes, determining the central issue underlying the assessments in the government's favor, while confirming the assessment in part and denying a portion of the assessment on procedural grounds. We appealed the Tribunal's July 2013 administrative resolutions to the judicial court in Peru. In April 2015, the first judicial court rendered a decision largely in SUNAT's favor on the central issue underlying the assessments. We appealed the court's decision to the next judicial level. In April 2016, the court of appeal rendered a decision that declared null the April 2015 decision and remanded the case to the first judicial court for further development of the facts and legal analysis supporting its decision.

In December 2013, SUNAT initiated an audit of calendar year 2001. In June 2014, we were served with SUNAT's assessments of the 2001 VAT credits declared null by the Tribunal and the corresponding fine. In July 2014, we challenged these assessments by filing administrative claims before SUNAT. In January 2015, SUNAT rejected the administrative claims, thereby confirming the assessments. We filed an appeal with the Tribunal in February 2015. In May 2015, the Tribunal notified us of its administrative resolution declaring the assessments and corresponding fines null. The time for SUNAT to appeal this resolution has closed. Under local practice, notification of an appeal can take several months. Counsel confirmed in the first quarter of 2016 that SUNAT has not filed an appeal to the resolution. Nevertheless, SUNAT retains the right to reissue the assessments declared null or start a new audit. However, we are under no obligation to provide additional information and any fine issued by SUNAT based on the same information that it has already used in the past would be declared null. Accordingly, in March 2016, we released an accrual of approximately \$15 million for an assessment and associated interest.

In addition, based on a change in legal interpretation by the Peruvian judicial courts, the statute of limitations with respect to the 2001 fines has expired. Accordingly, in the fourth quarter of 2016, we released an accrual of approximately \$11 million of fines and associated interest.

#### *Employee Severance and Contractor Termination Disputes*

A number of former employees and third-party contractors have asserted a variety of claims in litigation against certain of our Latin American subsidiaries for separation pay, severance, commissions, pension benefits, unpaid vacation pay, breach of employment contracts, unpaid performance bonuses, property damages, moral damages and related statutory penalties, fines, costs and expenses (including accrued interest, attorneys fees and statutorily mandated inflation adjustments) as a result of their separation from us or termination of service relationships. We are vigorously defending ourselves against the asserted claims, which aggregate to approximately \$29 million at December 31, 2016.

#### *Brazilian Tax Claims*

In December 2004, March 2009, April 2009 and July 2014, the São Paulo state tax authorities issued tax assessments against one of our Brazilian subsidiaries for the Tax on Distribution of Goods and Services ("ICMS") with respect to revenue from leasing movable properties (in the case of the December 2004, March 2009 and July 2014 assessments) and revenue from the provision of Internet access services (in the case of the April 2009 and July 2014 assessments), by treating such activities as the provision of communications services, to which the ICMS tax applies. During the third quarter of 2014, we released an accrual of \$6 million for tax, penalty and associated interest corresponding to the ICMS applicable on the provision of Internet access services due to the expiration of the statute of limitations for the January 2008 to June 2009 tax periods. In September 2002, July 2009 and May 2012, the Rio de Janeiro state tax authorities issued tax assessments to the same Brazilian subsidiary on similar issues. We have filed objections to these assessments, arguing that the lease of assets and the provision of Internet access are not communication services subject to ICMS. The objections to the September 2002, December 2004 and March 2009 assessments were rejected by the respective state administrative

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courts, and we have appealed those decisions to the judicial courts. In October 2012 and June 2014, we received favorable rulings from the lower court on the December 2004 and March 2009 assessments regarding equipment leasing, but those rulings are subject to appeal by the state. No ruling has been obtained with respect to the September 2002 assessment. The objections to the April and July 2009 and May 2012 assessments are still pending final administrative decisions. The July 2014 assessment was confirmed during the fourth quarter of 2014 at the first administrative level and we appealed this decision to the second administrative level. During the fourth quarter of 2014, we entered into an amnesty with the Rio de Janeiro state tax authorities with respect to potential ICMS liability for the 2008 tax period. As a result, we paid \$5 million and released an accrual of \$3 million of tax corresponding to the ICMS applicable on the provision of Internet access services in the fourth quarter of 2014.

We are vigorously contesting all such assessments in both states and, in particular, view the assessment of ICMS on revenue from leasing movable properties to be without merit. Nevertheless, we believe it is reasonably possible that these assessments could result in a loss of up to \$48 million at December 31, 2016 in excess of the accruals established for these matters.

#### *Letters of Credit*

It is customary for us to use various financial instruments in the normal course of business. These instruments include letters of credit. Letters of credit are conditional commitments issued on our behalf in accordance with specified terms and conditions. As of December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, we had outstanding letters of credit or other similar obligations of approximately \$39 million and \$46 million, respectively, of which \$33 million and \$43 million are collateralized by cash that is reflected on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as restricted cash and securities. We do not believe exposure to loss related to our letters of credit is material.

#### *Operating Leases*

We are leasing rights-of-way, facilities and other assets under various operating leases which, in addition to rental payments, may require payments for insurance, maintenance, property taxes and other executory costs related to the lease. Certain leases provide for adjustments in lease cost based upon adjustments in various price indexes and increases in the landlord's management costs.

The right-of-way agreements have various expiration dates through 2060. Payments under these right-of-way agreements were \$205 million in 2016, \$211 million in 2015 and \$173 million in 2014.

We have obligations under non-cancelable operating leases for certain colocation, office facilities and other assets, including lease obligations for which facility related restructuring charges have been recorded. The lease agreements have various expiration dates through 2119. Rent expense, including common area maintenance, under non-cancelable lease agreements was \$347 million in 2016, \$357 million in 2015 and \$318 million in 2014.

Future minimum payments for the next five years and thereafter under network and related right-of-way agreements and non-cancelable operating leases for facilities and other assets consist of the following as of December 31, 2016 (dollars in millions):

	Right-of- Way Agreements	Operating Leases	Total	Future Minimum Sublease Receipts
2017	\$ 162	\$ 282	\$ 444	\$ 4
2018	80	244	324	4
2019	71	222	293	3
2020	55	164	219	1
2021	50	124	174	—
Thereafter	325	501	826	—
	<u>\$ 743</u>	<u>\$ 1,537</u>	<u>\$2,280</u>	<u>\$ 12</u>

Certain right-of-way agreements include provisions for increases in payments in future periods based on the rate of inflation as measured by various price indexes. We have not included estimates for these increases in future periods in the amounts included above.

Certain non-cancelable right of way agreements provide for automatic renewal on a periodic basis. We include payments due during these automatic renewal periods given the significant cost to relocate our network and other facilities.

Certain other right-of-way agreements are currently cancelable or can be terminated under certain conditions by us. We include the payments under such cancelable right-of-way agreements in the table above for a period of 1 year from January 1, 2017, if we do not consider it likely that we will cancel the right of way agreement within the next year.

#### *Cost of Access and Third-Party Maintenance*

In addition, we have purchase commitments with third-party access vendors that require us to make payments to purchase network services, capacity and telecommunications equipment. Some of these access vendor commitments require us to maintain minimum monthly and/or annual billings, in certain cases based on usage. In addition, we have purchase commitments with third parties that require us to make payments for maintenance services for certain portions of our network.

The following table summarizes our purchase commitments at December 31, 2016 (dollars in millions):

	Total	Less than 1 Year	2 - 3 Years	4 - 5 Years	After 5 Years
Cost of Access Services	\$ 425	\$ 278	\$ 131	\$ 11	\$ 5
Third-Party Maintenance Services	235	59	69	40	67
	<u>\$ 660</u>	<u>\$ 337</u>	<u>\$ 200</u>	<u>\$ 51</u>	<u>\$ 72</u>

#### **(16) Condensed Consolidating Financial Information**

Level 3 Financing has issued Senior Notes that are unsecured obligations of Level 3 Financing, Inc.; however, they are also fully and unconditionally and jointly and severally guaranteed on an unsecured senior basis by Level 3 Communications, Inc. and Level 3 Communications, LLC.

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In conjunction with the registration of the Level 3 Financing, Inc. Senior Notes, the accompanying condensed consolidating financial information has been prepared and presented pursuant to SEC Regulation S-X Rule 3-10 “Financial statements of guarantors and affiliates whose securities collateralize an issue registered or being registered.”

The operating activities of the separate legal entities included in our Consolidated Financial Statements are interdependent. The accompanying condensed consolidating financial information presents the statements of comprehensive income, balance sheets and statements of cash flows of each legal entity and, on an aggregate basis, the other non-guarantor subsidiaries based on amounts incurred by such entities, and is not intended to present the operating results of those legal entities on a stand-alone basis. Level 3 Communications, LLC leases equipment and certain facilities from other wholly owned subsidiaries of Level 3 Communications, Inc. These transactions are eliminated in our consolidated results.

**Condensed Consolidating Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2016**

(dollars in millions)	<u>Level 3 Communications, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Financing, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Communications, LLC</u>	<u>Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenue	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 3,557	\$ 4,747	\$ (132)	\$8,172
Costs and Expenses:						
Network access costs	—	—	1,283	1,574	(132)	2,725
Network related expenses	—	—	953	393	—	1,346
Depreciation and amortization	—	—	385	865	—	1,250
Selling, general and administrative expenses	16	5	1,024	362	—	1,407
Total costs and expenses	16	5	3,645	3,194	(132)	6,728
Operating (Loss) Income	(16)	(5)	(88)	1,553	—	1,444
Other Income (Expense):						
Interest income	—	—	3	1	—	4
Interest expense	(36)	(505)	(2)	(3)	—	(546)
Interest income (expense) affiliates, net	1,385	2,113	(3,215)	(283)	—	—
Equity in net earnings (losses) of subsidiaries	(669)	(2,033)	757	—	1,945	—
Other, net	(1)	(39)	2	(22)	—	(60)
Total other expense	679	(464)	(2,455)	(307)	1,945	(602)
Income (Loss) before Income Taxes	663	(469)	(2,543)	1,246	1,945	842
Income Tax (Expense) Benefit	14	(200)	(2)	23	—	(165)
Net Income (Loss)	677	(669)	(2,545)	1,269	1,945	677
Other Comprehensive Loss, Net of Income Taxes	(86)	—	—	(86)	86	(86)
Comprehensive Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 591</u>	<u>\$ (669)</u>	<u>\$ (2,545)</u>	<u>\$ 1,183</u>	<u>\$ 2,031</u>	<u>\$ 591</u>

**Condensed Consolidating Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2015**

(dollars in millions)	<u>Level 3 Communications, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Financing, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Communications, LLC</u>	<u>Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenue	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 3,325	\$ 5,077	\$ (173)	\$ 8,229
Costs and Expenses:						
Network access costs	—	—	1,243	1,763	(173)	2,833
Network related expenses	—	—	947	485	—	1,432
Depreciation and amortization	—	—	309	857	—	1,166
Selling, general and administrative expenses	4	—	1,064	399	—	1,467
Total costs and expenses	4	—	3,563	3,504	(173)	6,898
Operating (Loss) Income	(4)	—	(238)	1,573	—	1,331
Other Income (Expense):						
Interest income	—	—	—	1	—	1
Interest expense	(51)	(574)	(3)	(14)	—	(642)
Interest income (expense) affiliates, net	1,310	1,984	(3,041)	(253)	—	—
Equity in net earnings (losses) of subsidiaries	2,162	(1,693)	177	—	(646)	—
Other, net	(18)	(200)	3	(192)	—	(407)
Total other expense	3,403	(483)	(2,864)	(458)	(646)	(1,048)
Income (Loss) before Income Taxes	3,399	(483)	(3,102)	1,115	(646)	283
Income Tax (Expense) Benefit	34	2,645	(1)	472	—	3,150
Net Income (Loss)	3,433	2,162	(3,103)	1,587	(646)	3,433
Other Comprehensive (Loss) Income, Net of Income Taxes	(154)	—	—	(154)	154	(154)
Comprehensive Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 3,279</u>	<u>\$ 2,162</u>	<u>\$ (3,103)</u>	<u>\$ 1,433</u>	<u>\$ (492)</u>	<u>\$ 3,279</u>

**Condensed Consolidating Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2014**

(dollars in millions)	<u>Level 3 Communications, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Financing, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Communications, LLC</u>	<u>Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenue	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 3,073	\$ 3,918	\$ (214)	\$6,777
Costs and Expenses:						
Network access costs	—	—	1,177	1,566	(214)	2,529
Network related expenses	—	—	762	484	—	1,246
Depreciation and amortization	—	—	277	531	—	808
Selling, general and administrative expenses	21	2	735	423	—	1,181
Total costs and expenses	<u>21</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2,951</u>	<u>3,004</u>	<u>(214)</u>	<u>5,764</u>
Operating (Loss) Income	(21)	(2)	122	914	—	1,013
Other Income (Expense):						
Interest income	—	—	—	1	—	1
Interest expense	(143)	(492)	(2)	(17)	—	(654)
Interest income (expense) affiliates, net	1,227	1,827	(2,890)	(164)	—	—
Equity in net earnings (losses) of subsidiaries	(710)	(2,047)	663	—	2,094	—
Other, net	(53)	—	7	(76)	—	(122)
Total other expense	<u>321</u>	<u>(712)</u>	<u>(2,222)</u>	<u>(256)</u>	<u>2,094</u>	<u>(775)</u>
Income (Loss) before Income Taxes	300	(714)	(2,100)	658	2,094	238
Income Tax (Expense) Benefit	14	4	(1)	59	—	76
Net Income (Loss)	314	(710)	(2,101)	717	2,094	314
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss), Net of Income Taxes	(183)	—	—	(183)	183	(183)
Comprehensive Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 131</u>	<u>\$ (710)</u>	<u>\$ (2,101)</u>	<u>\$ 534</u>	<u>\$ 2,277</u>	<u>\$ 131</u>

**Condensed Consolidating Balance Sheets**  
**December 31, 2016**

	<u>Level 3 Communications, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Financing, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Communications, LLC</u>	<u>Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>(dollars in millions)</b>						
<b>Assets</b>						
<b>Current Assets:</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 15	\$ —	\$ 1,700	\$ 104	\$ —	\$ 1,819
Restricted cash and securities	—	—	1	6	—	7
Receivables, less allowances for doubtful accounts	—	—	26	686	—	712
Due from affiliates	17,032	21,715	—	2,180	(40,927)	—
Other	—	—	87	28	—	115
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>17,047</b>	<b>21,715</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>3,004</b>	<b>(40,927)</b>	<b>2,653</b>
Property, Plant, and Equipment, net	—	—	3,869	6,270	—	10,139
Restricted Cash and Securities	22	—	9	—	—	31
Goodwill and Other Intangibles, net	—	—	353	8,291	—	8,644
Investment in Subsidiaries	16,869	17,599	3,674	—	(38,142)	—
Deferred Tax Assets	51	2,687	—	632	—	3,370
Other Assets, net	—	—	16	35	—	51
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 33,989</b>	<b>\$ 42,001</b>	<b>\$ 9,735</b>	<b>\$ 18,232</b>	<b>\$ (79,069)</b>	<b>\$24,888</b>
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity (Deficit)</b>						
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>						
Accounts payable	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 307	\$ 399	\$ —	\$ 706
Current portion of long-term debt	—	—	2	5	—	7
Accrued payroll and employee benefits	—	—	160	35	—	195
Accrued interest	11	110	—	8	—	129
Current portion of deferred revenue	—	—	116	150	—	266
Due to affiliates	—	—	40,927	—	(40,927)	—
Other	—	—	127	41	—	168
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>41,639</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>(40,927)</b>	<b>1,471</b>
Long-Term Debt, less current portion	592	10,108	13	164	—	10,877
Deferred Revenue, less current portion	—	—	719	282	—	1,001
Other Liabilities	16	—	155	451	—	622
<b>Commitments and Contingencies</b>						
Stockholders' Equity (Deficit)	33,370	31,783	(32,791)	16,697	(38,142)	10,917
<b>Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 33,989</b>	<b>\$ 42,001</b>	<b>\$ 9,735</b>	<b>\$ 18,232</b>	<b>\$ (79,069)</b>	<b>\$24,888</b>



**Condensed Consolidating Balance Sheets**  
**December 31, 2015**

	<u>Level 3 Communications, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Financing, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Communications, LLC</u>	<u>Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>(dollars in millions)</b>						
<b>Assets</b>						
<b>Current Assets:</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 12	\$ 6	\$ 727	\$ 109	\$ —	\$ 854
Restricted cash and securities	—	—	1	7	—	8
Receivables, less allowances for doubtful accounts	—	—	47	710	—	757
Due from affiliates	12,415	22,759	—	2,816	(37,990)	—
Other	—	—	56	55	—	111
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>12,427</b>	<b>22,765</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>3,697</b>	<b>(37,990)</b>	<b>1,730</b>
Property, Plant, and Equipment, net	—	—	3,423	6,455	—	9,878
Restricted Cash and Securities	27	—	14	1	—	42
Goodwill and Other Intangibles, net	—	—	363	8,513	—	8,876
Investment in Subsidiaries	16,772	17,714	3,734	—	(38,220)	—
Deferred Tax Assets	38	2,847	—	556	—	3,441
Other Assets, net	—	—	12	38	—	50
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 29,264</b>	<b>\$ 43,326</b>	<b>\$ 8,377</b>	<b>\$ 19,260</b>	<b>\$ (76,210)</b>	<b>\$24,017</b>
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity (Deficit)</b>						
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>						
Accounts payable	\$ —	\$ 1	\$ 195	\$ 433	\$ —	\$ 629
Current portion of long-term debt	—	—	2	13	—	15
Accrued payroll and employee benefits	—	—	186	32	—	218
Accrued interest	11	90	—	7	—	108
Current portion of deferred revenue	—	—	119	148	—	267
Due to affiliates	—	—	37,990	—	(37,990)	—
Other	—	—	115	64	—	179
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>38,607</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>(37,990)</b>	<b>1,416</b>
Long-Term Debt, less current portion	591	10,092	15	168	—	10,866
Deferred Revenue, less current portion	—	—	680	297	—	977
Other Liabilities	15	—	133	484	—	632
<b>Commitments and Contingencies</b>						
Stockholders' Equity (Deficit)	28,647	33,143	(31,058)	17,614	(38,220)	10,126
<b>Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 29,264</b>	<b>\$ 43,326</b>	<b>\$ 8,377</b>	<b>\$ 19,260</b>	<b>\$ (76,210)</b>	<b>\$24,017</b>

**Condensed Consolidating Statements of Cash Flows**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2016**

	<u>Level 3 Communications, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Financing, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Communications, LLC</u>	<u>Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>(dollars in millions)</b>						
<b>Net Cash (Used in) Provided by</b>						
Operating Activities	\$ (49)	\$ (468)	\$ 564	\$ 2,296	\$ —	\$ 2,343
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</b>						
Capital expenditures	—	—	(704)	(630)	—	(1,334)
Change in restricted cash and securities, net	5	—	6	1	—	12
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment and other assets	—	—	1	2	—	3
<b>Net Cash Provided by (Used in)</b>						
Investing Activities	5	—	(697)	(627)	—	(1,319)
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities:</b>						
Long-term debt borrowings, net of issuance costs	—	764	—	—	—	764
Payments on and repurchases of long-term debt, including current portion and refinancing costs	—	(806)	(1)	(13)	—	(820)
Increase (decrease) due from/to affiliates, net	47	504	1,107	(1,658)	—	—
<b>Net Cash Provided by (Used in)</b>						
Financing Activities	47	462	1,106	(1,671)	—	(56)
<b>Effect of Exchange Rates on Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>						
	—	—	—	(3)	—	(3)
<b>Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>						
	3	(6)	973	(5)	—	965
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year</b>						
	12	6	727	109	—	854
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year</b>						
	<u>\$ 15</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 1,700</u>	<u>\$ 104</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 1,819</u>

**Condensed Consolidating Statements of Cash Flows**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2015**

	<u>Level 3 Communications, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Financing, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Communications, LLC</u>	<u>Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>(dollars in millions)</b>						
Net Cash Provided by (Used in)						
Operating Activities	\$ (40)	\$ (617)	\$ 193	\$ 2,319	\$ —	\$ 1,855
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:						
Capital expenditures	—	—	(453)	(776)	—	(1,229)
Cash related to deconsolidated Venezuela operations	—	—	—	(83)	—	(83)
Change in restricted cash and securities, net	(25)	—	3	—	—	(22)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment and other assets	—	—	—	4	—	4
Other	—	—	(14)	—	—	(14)
Net Cash Provided by (Used in)						
Investing Activities	(25)	—	(464)	(855)	—	(1,344)
Cash Flows from Financing						
Activities:						
Long-term debt borrowings, net of issuance costs	—	4,832	—	—	—	4,832
Payments on and repurchases of long-term debt, including current portion and refinancing costs	(313)	(4,725)	(2)	(11)	—	(5,051)
Increase (decrease) due from/to affiliates, net	383	511	693	(1,587)	—	—
Net Cash Provided by (Used in)						
Financing Activities	70	618	691	(1,598)	—	(219)
Effect of Exchange Rates on Cash and Cash Equivalents	—	—	—	(18)	—	(18)
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	5	1	420	(152)	—	274
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	7	5	307	261	—	580
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u>\$ 12</u>	<u>\$ 6</u>	<u>\$ 727</u>	<u>\$ 109</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 854</u>

**Condensed Consolidating Statements of Cash Flows**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2014**

	<u>Level 3 Communications, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Financing, Inc.</u>	<u>Level 3 Communications, LLC</u>	<u>Other Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>(dollars in millions)</b>						
Net Cash Provided by (Used in)						
Operating Activities	\$ (178)	\$ (458)	\$ 625	\$ 1,172	\$ —	\$ 1,161
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:						
Capital expenditures	—	—	(362)	(548)	—	(910)
Change in restricted cash and securities, net	—	—	2	(12)	—	(10)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment and other assets	—	—	—	3	—	3
Investment in tw telecom, net of cash acquired	(474)	—	—	307	—	(167)
Other	—	—	—	(2)	—	(2)
Net Cash Provided by (Used in)						
Investing Activities	(474)	—	(360)	(252)	—	(1,086)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities:						
Long-term debt borrowings, net of issuance costs	590	—	—	(1)	—	589
Payments on and repurchases of long-term debt, including current portion and refinancing costs	(647)	—	—	(24)	—	(671)
Increase (decrease) due from/to affiliates, net	708	457	(305)	(860)	—	—
Net Cash Provided by (Used in)						
Financing Activities	651	457	(305)	(885)	—	(82)
Effect of Exchange Rates on Cash and Cash Equivalents	—	—	—	(44)	—	(44)
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(1)	(1)	(40)	(9)	—	(51)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	8	6	347	270	—	631
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u>\$ 7</u>	<u>\$ 5</u>	<u>\$ 307</u>	<u>\$ 261</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 580</u>

**(17) Unaudited Quarterly Financial Data**

	Three Months Ended							
	March 31,		June 30,		September 30,		December 31,	
	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
<b>(dollars in millions except per share data)</b>								
Revenue	\$2,051	\$2,053	\$2,056	\$2,061	\$2,033	\$2,062	\$2,032	\$2,053
Costs and Expenses:								
Network Access Costs	694	723	676	696	675	706	680	708
Network Related Expenses	338	356	339	363	337	369	332	344
Depreciation and Amortization	301	288	310	288	319	296	320	294
Selling, General and Administrative Expenses	356	370	357	364	348	364	346	369
Total Costs and Expenses	1,689	1,737	1,682	1,711	1,679	1,735	1,678	1,715
Operating Income	362	316	374	350	354	327	354	338
Other Income (Expense):								
Interest Income	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	—
Interest Expense	(135)	(180)	(140)	(165)	(139)	(145)	(132)	(152)
Loss on Modification and Extinguishment of Debt	—	—	(40)	(163)	—	—	—	(55)
Venezuela Deconsolidation Charge	—	—	—	—	—	(171)	—	—
Other, net	(10)	(10)	(5)	(17)	1	6	(6)	3
Total Other Expense	(144)	(189)	(184)	(345)	(137)	(310)	(137)	(204)
Income Before Income Taxes	218	127	190	5	217	17	217	134
Income Tax (Expense) Benefit	(90)	(5)	(34)	(18)	(74)	(16)	33	3,189
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 128</u>	<u>\$ 122</u>	<u>\$ 156</u>	<u>\$ (13)</u>	<u>\$ 143</u>	<u>\$ 1</u>	<u>\$ 250</u>	<u>\$ 3,323</u>
Net Income (Loss) Per Share - Basic	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.44	\$ (0.04)	\$ 0.40	\$ —	\$ 0.70	\$ 9.33
Net Income (Loss) Per Share - Diluted	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.43	\$ (0.04)	\$ 0.39	\$ —	\$ 0.69	\$ 9.24

Net income (loss) per share for each quarter is computed using the weighted-average number of shares outstanding during that quarter, while net income (loss) per share for the year is computed using the weighted-average number of shares outstanding during the year. Thus, the sum of the income (loss) per share for each of the four quarters may not equal the net income (loss) per share for the year.

During the second quarter of 2016, we recognized a loss on modification and extinguishment of debt of \$40 million, related to the redemption of the 7% Senior Notes due 2020.

In the second quarter of 2016, we recognized approximately \$40 million income tax benefit related to the release of our German deferred tax valuation allowance.

In the fourth quarter of 2016, we recognized a \$110 million income tax benefit related to the issuance of new regulations under Internal Revenue Code Section 987 addressing the taxation of foreign currency translation gains and losses arising from foreign branches.

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In the fourth quarter of 2016, we recognized a \$35 million income tax benefit related to releases of deferred tax valuation allowances primarily in Brazil.

In the fourth quarter of 2016, we recognized \$16 million income tax expense related to income tax rate changes.

During the fourth quarter of 2015, we recognized a \$3.3 billion income tax benefit primarily related to the release of U.S. federal and state deferred tax valuation allowances.

During the fourth quarter of 2015, we recognized a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$55 million, related to the refinancing of the 8.625% Senior Notes due 2020.

During the second quarter of 2015, we recognized a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$36 million, related to the refinancing of the 9.375% Senior Notes due 2019.

During the second quarter of 2015, we recognized a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$82 million, related to the refinancing of the 8.125% Senior Notes due 2019.

During the second quarter of 2015, we recognized a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$18 million, related to the refinancing of the 8.875% Senior Notes due 2019.

During the second quarter of 2015, we recognized a loss on modification and extinguishment of debt of \$27 million, related to the refinancing of the senior secured Tranche B Term Loan due 2022.

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**(18) Subsequent Event**

On February 22, 2017, we completed the refinancing of all of our outstanding \$4.611 billion senior secured term loans through the issuance of a new Tranche B 2024 Term Loan in the amount of \$4.611 billion. The term loans refinanced are our Tranche B-III 2019 Term Loan, Tranche B 2020 Term Loan, and the Tranche B-II 2022 Term Loan. The new Tranche B 2024 Term Loan bears interest at LIBOR plus 2.25 percent, with a zero percent minimum LIBOR, and will mature on February 22, 2024. The Tranche B 2024 Term Loan was priced to lenders at par, with the payment to the lenders at closing of an upfront 25 basis point fee.

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## **Section 5: EX-99.3. (EX-99.3.)**

**Exhibit 99.3**

**CENTURYLINK, INC.**

**UNAUDITED PRO FORMA  
CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**As of and for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017 and  
for the Year Ended December 31, 2016**

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## CENTURYLINK, INC.

### UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### Introduction

On November 1, 2017, CenturyLink, Inc. (“CenturyLink”) acquired Level 3 Communications, Inc. (“Level 3”) through successive merger transactions, including a merger of Level 3 with and into a merger subsidiary, which survived such merger as CenturyLink’s indirect wholly-owned subsidiary under the name of Level 3 Parent, LLC. As a result of the acquisition, Level 3 shareholders received \$26.50 per share in cash and 1.4286 shares of CenturyLink common stock, with cash paid in lieu of fractional shares, for each outstanding share of Level 3 common stock they owned at closing, subject to certain limited exceptions. As of October 31, 2017, Level 3 had approximately 362.1 million shares of common stock outstanding (excluding 1.1 million of dissenting common shares). Upon closing, CenturyLink shareholders owned approximately 51% and former Level 3 shareholders owned approximately 49% of the combined company. At closing, CenturyLink assumed Level 3’s debt of approximately \$10.6 billion, as described further below.

In addition, each outstanding Level 3 restricted stock unit award granted prior to April 1, 2014 or granted to an outside director of Level 3 was converted into \$26.50 in cash and 1.4286 shares of CenturyLink common stock (and cash in lieu of fractional shares) with respect to each Level 3 share covered by such award (the “Converted RSU Awards”), and each outstanding Level 3 restricted stock unit award granted on or after April 1, 2014 (other than those granted to outside directors of Level 3) was converted into a CenturyLink, Inc. restricted stock unit award using a conversion ratio of 2.8386 to 1 as determined in accordance with a formula set forth in the merger agreement (the “Continuing RSU Awards”).

Our preliminary estimate of the consideration for this acquisition includes (i) \$9.597 billion in cash payments, (ii) approximately 517.3 million shares of CenturyLink common stock (valued at \$9.824 billion based on the \$18.99 closing price of CenturyLink’s stock on October 31, 2017) issued to Level 3 stockholders at closing, (iii) an estimate of the value of the Continuing RSU Awards, which represents the pre-combination portion of Level 3’s share-based compensation awards assumed by CenturyLink (\$136 million), and (iv) an estimated liability of approximately \$60 million to be paid to holders of dissenting common shares.

The aggregate cash payments paid on or about the closing date were funded with the proceeds of \$7.945 billion of term loans and \$400 million of funds borrowed under CenturyLink’s new revolving credit facility, together with other available funds, all of which is further described in this report and other of our Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) reports.

The consolidated results of operations of Level 3 will be included in CenturyLink’s consolidated results of operations beginning November 1, 2017. The assets acquired and liabilities assumed of Level 3 will be recognized at their estimated acquisition date fair values. The estimation of such fair values and the related estimation of lives of depreciable tangible assets and amortizable intangible assets will require significant judgment. CenturyLink’s final determinations of the aggregate acquisition consideration and its estimates of acquisition date fair values will be determined based in part upon an analysis, which is expected to be completed prior to the first anniversary of the acquisition.

The following unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information, which includes unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements and related notes, presents the historical condensed combined financial information of CenturyLink and Level 3, as if the combination had been completed on the dates specified below. This unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been updated from the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information furnished in the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus filed with the SEC by CenturyLink on February 13, 2017, to reflect the impact of the acquisition using the financial results of both CenturyLink and Level 3 as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and for the year ended December 31, 2016.

CenturyLink prepares its financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (“GAAP”). The combination was accounted for by applying the acquisition method of accounting for business combinations, which requires the determination of the acquirer, the acquisition date, the fair value of assets and liabilities of the acquiree and the measurement of goodwill. The accounting guidance for business combinations, Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 805 “Business Combinations” (which we refer to as “ASC 805”), provides that, in identifying the acquiring entity in a combination effected through an exchange of equity interests, all pertinent facts and circumstances must be considered, including: the relative voting rights of the shareholders of the constituent companies in the combined entity, the composition of the board of directors and senior management of the combined company, the relative size of each constituent company and the terms of the exchange of equity securities in the business combination, including payment of any premium.



Based on a review of all pertinent facts and circumstances, CenturyLink has determined that it should be considered to be the acquirer of Level 3 for accounting purposes, especially in light of (i) CenturyLink shareholders' ownership of approximately 51% of the voting rights in the combined company, (ii) members of the current CenturyLink Board and current CenturyLink senior management representing a majority of the board and senior management of the combined company, and (iii) the payment to Level 3 stockholders of a premium over the fair market value of their shares on the date prior to the emergence of public reports of a possible transaction. This determination means that CenturyLink will allocate the purchase price to the fair value of Level 3's assets and liabilities at the acquisition date, with any excess purchase price being recorded as goodwill.

### Pro Forma Information

The following unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet as of September 30, 2017 is presented as if the combination had been completed on September 30, 2017. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and for the year ended December 31, 2016 are presented as if the combination had been completed on January 1, 2016. The historical financial information is adjusted in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information to give effect to pro forma events and is based on (i) the historical consolidated results of operations and financial condition of CenturyLink and its subsidiaries; (ii) the historical consolidated results of operations and financial condition of Level 3 and its subsidiaries; and (iii) pro forma events directly attributable to the combination and, with respect to the unaudited condensed combined statements of operations, those such events that are expected to have a continuing impact on the combined results, as further described below. The pro forma adjustments, and the assumptions on which they are based, are described in the accompanying Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information, which are referred to in this section as the Notes.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information reflects CenturyLink's preliminary estimates of aggregate consideration of \$19.617 billion for the Level 3 acquisition, as calculated below (in millions, except per share information):

<b>Cash consideration:</b>	
Number of Level 3 common shares issued and outstanding as of October 31, 2017*	362.1
Multiplied by cash consideration per Level 3 common share per merger agreement	<u>\$ 26.50</u>
Cash portion of aggregate consideration on shares issued and outstanding	9,596
Cash paid on Converted RSU Awards	<u>1</u>
Total cash portion of aggregate consideration	<u>\$ 9,597</u>
<b>Liability for dissenting common shares:</b>	
Estimated liability for Level 3 dissenting common shares issued and outstanding as of October 31, 2017**	<u>\$ 60</u>
Total liability portion of aggregate consideration	<u>\$ 60</u>
<b>Equity consideration:</b>	
Number of Level 3 common shares issued and outstanding as of October 31, 2017*	362.1
Multiplied by exchange ratio per merger agreement	<u>1.4286</u>
Number of CenturyLink shares to be issued*	517.3
Multiplied by price of CenturyLink common stock on October 31, 2017*	<u>\$ 18.99</u>
Equity portion of aggregate consideration*	<u>\$ 9,824</u>
Equity consideration related to pre-combination share-based compensation awards*	<u>136</u>
Total equity portion of aggregate consideration	<u>\$ 9,960</u>
Estimated aggregate consideration	<u><u>\$19,617</u></u>

\* Pursuant to ASC 805, the aggregate consideration has been determined based on the Level 3 common shares issued and outstanding as of October 31, 2017 (excluding the dissenting common shares) and the closing price of CenturyLink's common stock on October 31, 2017.

\*\* Pursuant to ASC 805, the estimated liability portion of aggregate consideration has been determined based on the 1.1 million Level 3 dissenting common shares issued and outstanding as of October 31, 2017 multiplied by the per share merger consideration.

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The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information included herein does not give effect to any potential cost reductions or other operating efficiencies that could result from the combination, including, but not limited to, those associated with potential (i) reductions of corporate overhead, (ii) eliminations of duplicate functions, (iii) enhanced revenue opportunities, (iv) reductions in vendor costs and (v) increased operational efficiencies through the adoption of best practices and capabilities from each company. As described in greater detail in Note 1 to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information, transaction costs for the combination have generally been excluded.

The pro forma information has been prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. The pro forma information is presented for illustrative purposes only and is not necessarily indicative of the combined operating results or financial position that would have occurred if the combination had been consummated on the dates and in accordance with the assumptions described herein, nor is it necessarily indicative of future operating results or financial position.

You are urged to read the pro forma information below together with CenturyLink's and Level 3's publicly available historical consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes, which are contained in reports each company filed with the SEC. For additional information on certain limitations regarding the assumptions we have made in connection with preparing the pro forma financial information below, see the cautionary statements and risk factor disclosures set forth in each company's respective SEC reports.

**CENTURYLINK, INC.**  
**UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

	<u>CenturyLink</u>	<u>Level 3*</u>	<u>Pro Forma Adjustments</u> (In millions)	<u>Pro Forma Combined</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 160	2,257	(1,942) (A)	475
Accounts receivable, net	1,888	750	(32) (B)	2,606
Other current assets	646	136	82 (C)	864
Total current assets	<u>2,694</u>	<u>3,143</u>	<u>(1,892)</u>	<u>3,945</u>
<b>NET PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>				
Property, plant and equipment	41,352	22,688	(13,465) (D)	50,575
Accumulated depreciation	(23,718)	(12,203)	12,203 (D)	(23,718)
Net property, plant and equipment	<u>17,634</u>	<u>10,485</u>	<u>(1,262)</u>	<u>26,857</u>
<b>GOODWILL AND OTHER ASSETS</b>				
Goodwill	19,638	7,741	3,624 (E)	31,003
Restricted cash	6,004	29	(5,984) (F)	49
Customer relationships, net	2,214	723	8,241 (G)	11,178
Other intangible assets, net	1,539	38	387 (G)	1,964
Deferred income taxes, net	—	3,162	(2,846) (H)	316
Other, net	813	48	(11) (C)	850
Total goodwill and other assets	<u>30,208</u>	<u>11,741</u>	<u>3,411</u>	<u>45,360</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 50,536</u>	<u>25,369</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>76,162</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>				
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Current maturities of long-term debt	\$ 124	7	—	131
Accounts payable	939	704	(32) (B)	1,611
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	1,561	618	60 (I)	2,239
Advance billings and customer deposits	642	139	(11) (J)	770
Total current liabilities	<u>3,266</u>	<u>1,468</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>4,751</u>
<b>LONG-TERM DEBT</b>	<u>24,854</u>	<u>10,586</u>	<u>2,174 (K)</u>	<u>37,614</u>
<b>DEFERRED CREDITS AND OTHER LIABILITIES</b>				
Deferred income taxes, net	3,128	—	148 (L)	3,276
Benefit plan obligations, net	5,183	25	—	5,208
Other	1,145	1,740	(329) (J)	2,556
Total deferred credits and other liabilities	<u>9,456</u>	<u>1,765</u>	<u>(181)</u>	<u>11,040</u>
<b>STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>				
Preferred Stock	—	—	—	—
Common stock	550	4	513 (M)	1,067
Additional paid-in capital	14,370	19,921	(10,478) (M)	23,813
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(1,994)	(281)	281 (M)	(1,994)
Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)	34	(8,094)	7,931 (M)	(129)
Total stockholders' equity	<u>12,960</u>	<u>11,550</u>	<u>(1,753)</u>	<u>22,757</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>	<u>\$ 50,536</u>	<u>25,369</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>76,162</u>

\* Certain reclassifications have been made to the presentation of Level 3's historical financial statements in order to conform to CenturyLink's presentation. See Note 1—Basis of Pro Forma Presentation for additional information.

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information.

**CENTURYLINK, INC.**  
**UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
**NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

	<u>CenturyLink</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Pro Forma Adjustments</u>	<u>Pro Forma Combined</u>
	(In millions, except per share amounts)			
OPERATING REVENUES	\$ 12,333	6,168	(185) (N)	18,316
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Cost of services and products (exclusive of depreciation and amortization)	5,705	3,062	(174) (N)	8,593
Selling, general and administrative	2,404	1,078	(35) (O)	3,447
Depreciation and amortization	2,739	983	172 (P)	3,894
Total operating expenses	10,848	5,123	(37)	15,934
OPERATING INCOME	1,485	1,045	(148)	2,382
OTHER (EXPENSE) INCOME				
Interest expense	(1,000)	(400)	(191) (Q)	(1,591)
Other income (expense), net	1	(24)	(15) (R)	(38)
Total other expense, net	(999)	(424)	(206)	(1,629)
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAX EXPENSE	486	621	(354)	753
Income tax expense	(214)	(215)	135 (S)	(294)
NET INCOME	\$ 272	406	(219)	459
BASIC AND DILUTED EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE				
BASIC	\$ 0.50	1.12		0.43
DILUTED	\$ 0.50	1.11		0.43
WEIGHTED-AVERAGE COMMON SHARES OUTSTANDING				
BASIC	541.1	362.4	155.3 (T)	1,058.8
DILUTED	541.9	364.7	156.3 (T)	1,062.9

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information.

**CENTURYLINK, INC.**  
**UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**

	<u>CenturyLink</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Pro Forma Adjustments</u>	<u>Pro Forma Combined</u>
	(In millions, except per share amounts)			
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>	\$ 17,470	8,172	(264) (N)	25,378
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>				
Cost of services and products (exclusive of depreciation and amortization)	7,774	4,071	(236) (N)	11,609
Selling, general and administrative	3,447	1,407	(62) (O)	4,792
Depreciation and amortization	3,916	1,250	408 (P)	5,574
Total operating expenses	<u>15,137</u>	<u>6,728</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>21,975</u>
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	2,333	1,444	(374)	3,403
<b>OTHER (EXPENSE) INCOME</b>				
Interest expense	(1,318)	(546)	(316) (Q)	(2,180)
Other income (expense), net	<u>5</u>	<u>(56)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(51)</u>
Total other expense, net	<u>(1,313)</u>	<u>(602)</u>	<u>(316)</u>	<u>(2,231)</u>
<b>INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAX EXPENSE</b>	1,020	842	(690)	1,172
Income tax expense	<u>(394)</u>	<u>(165)</u>	<u>240 (S)</u>	<u>(319)</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<u>\$ 626</u>	<u>677</u>	<u>(450)</u>	<u>853</u>
<b>BASIC AND DILUTED EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE</b>				
BASIC	\$ 1.16	1.89		0.81
DILUTED	\$ 1.16	1.87		0.81
<b>WEIGHTED-AVERAGE COMMON SHARES OUTSTANDING</b>				
BASIC	539.5	358.6	153.7 (T)	1,051.8
DILUTED	540.7	361.5	154.9 (T)	1,057.1

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information.

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## NOTES TO UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### (1) Basis of Pro Forma Presentation

#### *Basis of Presentation*

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet as of September 30, 2017 is presented as if the combination had been completed on September 30, 2017. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and for the year ended December 31, 2016 are presented as if the combination had been completed on January 1, 2016. The historical financial information is adjusted in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information to give effect to pro forma events and is based on (i) the historical consolidated results of operations and financial condition of CenturyLink and its subsidiaries; (ii) the historical consolidated results of operations and financial condition of Level 3 and its subsidiaries; and (iii) pro forma events directly attributable to the proposed combination and, with respect to the unaudited condensed combined statements of operations, those such events that are expected to have a continuing impact on the combined results, as further described below.

The following reclassifications have been made to the presentation of Level 3's historical financial statements in order to conform to CenturyLink's presentation:

- Level 3's customer relationships of \$723 million included in other intangibles, net was reclassified as customer relationships, net on the balance sheet as of September 30, 2017; and
- Level 3's defined benefit obligation of \$29 million included in deferred credits and other liabilities—other and prepaid pension benefits of \$4 million included in goodwill and other assets—other were reclassified as benefit plan obligations, net of \$25 million on the balance sheet as of September 30, 2017.

For purposes of the pro forma information, transaction costs for the combination have generally been excluded. Through December 31, 2017, these transaction costs of the combined company were approximately \$298 million (\$201 million of which was paid at or near the time of closing) and include costs associated with investment banker advisory fees, pre-closing financing fees, consent fees and legal fees. The costs associated with these non-recurring activities do not represent ongoing costs of the combined organization and, therefore, are not included in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations, but are included in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet as a reduction of cash and stockholders' equity. In addition, the combined company has incurred and will continue to incur various integration costs, including those related to system and customer conversions (including hardware and software costs), employee-related retention and severance costs and certain contract cancellation costs. The specific details of these integration plans will continue to be refined over the next couple of years.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations has not been adjusted for the impact of any potential loss of revenues from unaffiliated third parties, specifically from cancellation of customer contracts that may occur as a result of the combination.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements have not been adjusted to reflect the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act signed into law on December 22, 2017.

#### *Sale of Data Centers and Colocation Business*

On May 1, 2017, CenturyLink sold its data centers and colocation business to a consortium led by BC Partners, Inc. and Medina Capital ("the Purchaser") in exchange for cash and a minority stake in the limited partnership that owns the consortium's newly-formed global secure infrastructure company, Cyxtera Technologies ("Cyxtera"). CenturyLink received pre-tax cash proceeds of approximately \$1.8 billion, and CenturyLink has valued its minority stake at \$150 million, which was based upon the total equity contribution to the limited partnership on the date made. CenturyLink sold property, plant and equipment and other assets totaling \$2.508 billion to Cyxtera and recorded assets estimated at \$526 million as required under GAAP's failed-sale-leaseback guidance, resulting in the derecognition of assets of \$1.982 billion. Cyxtera assumed capital lease obligations and other liabilities of \$568 million and recorded imputed financing obligations from the failed-sale-leaseback estimated at \$628 million, resulting in the recognition of imputed liabilities of \$60 million. Also, for the nine months ended September 30, 2017, based on CenturyLink's estimates, CenturyLink realized a decrease in net income of \$100 million due to the failed-sale-leaseback accounting treatment and recognized a net loss of \$82 million from the sale of the data centers and colocation business and subsequent failed-sale-leaseback. In addition, this business generated revenues of \$219 million and \$622 million (excluding revenue with affiliates) for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and for the year ended December 31, 2016, respectively (a small portion of which is retained by us). Neither of the accompanying unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations have been adjusted to exclude the above-described revenues generated from CenturyLink's divested colocation business.

## (2) Basis of Preliminary Purchase Price Allocation

The following preliminary allocation of the preliminary estimated amount of aggregate consideration paid by CenturyLink in the combination is based on CenturyLink's preliminary estimates of the fair value of the tangible and intangible assets and liabilities of Level 3 as of September 30, 2017, with the excess aggregate consideration recorded as goodwill. The final determination of the allocation of the aggregate consideration paid by CenturyLink in the combination will be based on the fair value of such assets and liabilities as of November 1, 2017, the consummation date of the acquisition, with any excess aggregate consideration to be recorded as goodwill, and is expected to be completed within one year after the merger's closing date. The final determination of the allocation of the aggregate consideration paid by CenturyLink in the combination may be materially different than the preliminary estimates used in these pro forma financial statements.

The preliminary estimated amount of aggregate consideration paid by CenturyLink in the combination (as determined in the manner and subject to the limitations described above) is allocated to the assets to be acquired and liabilities to be assumed based on the following preliminary basis as of September 30, 2017 (in millions):

Total estimated aggregate consideration	<u>\$ 19,617</u>
Cash, accounts receivable and other current assets	\$ 3,187
Property, plant and equipment	9,223
Identifiable intangible assets	
Customer relationships	8,964
Other	425
Other non-current assets	382
Current liabilities, excluding the current portion of long-term debt	(1,450)
Current portion of long-term debt	(7)
Long-term debt	(10,888)
Deferred credits and other liabilities	(1,584)
Goodwill	<u>11,365</u>
Total estimated aggregate consideration	<u>\$ 19,617</u>

## (3) Pro Forma Adjustments

The following pro forma adjustments have been reflected in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information. These adjustments give effect to pro forma events that are (i) directly attributable to the Level 3 combination, (ii) factually supportable and (iii) with respect to the condensed combined statements of operations, expected to have a continuing impact on the combined company. All adjustments are based on current assumptions and are subject to change upon, among other things, determination of the definitive purchase price and completion of the final purchase price allocation based on the tangible and intangible assets and liabilities of Level 3 on the closing date of the combination.

### *Balance Sheet Pro Forma Adjustments*

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet as of September 30, 2017 is presented as if the combination of Level 3 had been completed on September 30, 2017. The historical financial information is adjusted in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information in the manner described in items (A) through (M) below to give effect to pro forma events and is based on (i) the historical consolidated financial condition of CenturyLink and its subsidiaries; (ii) the historical consolidated financial condition of Level 3 and its subsidiaries; and (iii) pro forma events directly attributable to the proposed combination.

(A) This adjustment reflects the use of \$1.942 billion of cash and cash equivalents for the payment of (i) the combination-related transaction costs, (ii) payoff of CenturyLink's Co-Bank term loan and (iii) the balance toward the payment of the cash consideration to the Level 3 shareholders.

(B) This adjustment reflects the elimination of the accounts receivable and accounts payable balances directly related to commercial transactions between CenturyLink and Level 3.

(C) This adjustment eliminates existing deferred costs of Level 3 associated with prior installation activities that will likely be assigned little or no value in the purchase price allocation process. As of September 30, 2017, Level 3 had certain deferred costs and deferred revenues on its balance sheet associated with installation activities where Level 3 incurred costs and received payments up front but is recognizing the related expenses and revenues over the estimated life of the customer or life of the contract. Based on ASC 805, these existing deferred costs and deferred revenues are expected to be assigned little or no value in the purchase price allocation process and have thus been eliminated in preparation of these pro forma financial statements. Deferred revenue associated with certain long-term prepaid customer capacity arrangements has been included at its current carrying value. We have not yet completed our valuation work on these deferred revenue capacity arrangements, but we expect to apply a market approach method to determine their fair value at the acquisition date. Also, this pro forma adjustment (i) reclassifies CenturyLink's existing noncurrent deferred tax asset as reflected in pro forma adjustment (H), (ii) reflects an income tax receivable of \$38 million associated with the income tax deductible portion of the transaction costs and (iii) includes \$46 million in fair value of certain previously-disclosed Level 3 network assets required to be divested as a condition to the merger, which are classified as held for sale and are reflected in other current assets on the condensed combined balance sheet.

(D) This adjustment eliminates Level 3's accumulated depreciation and records Level 3's property, plant and equipment at its preliminary estimated fair value. Due to the size, complexity and asset mix of Level 3's network assets, CenturyLink management has not yet completed a detailed valuation of Level 3's property, plant and equipment. However, based on CenturyLink's preliminary analysis, Level 3's net property, plant and equipment will decrease by approximately \$1.262 billion (net of the \$46 million of network assets classified as assets held for sale) to the estimated aggregate fair value of \$9.223 billion with a corresponding adjustment to goodwill. See pro forma adjustment (P) for the impact to depreciation expense.

(E) This adjustment reflects removing Level 3's historical goodwill of \$7.741 billion and recording goodwill associated with the combination of \$11.365 billion based on our preliminary purchase price allocation described in Note (2).

(F) This adjustment reflects the release of the portion of restricted cash previously held in escrow, which was subsequently used for the payment of the cash consideration to the Level 3 shareholders.

(G) This adjustment reflects the removal of Level 3's historical customer relationships and other intangible assets of \$723 million and \$38 million, respectively, and reflects the preliminary estimated fair value of the identifiable intangible assets of Level 3, certain of which were estimated by CenturyLink's management using the "income approach", which requires a forecast of all of the expected future cash flows. Specifically, the fair value of the customer relationships and a portion of the other intangible assets were estimated using the excess earnings method and relief from royalty method, respectively. The estimated useful lives of the customer relationship assets are assumed to be between 7 and 14 years. The estimated weighted-average remaining useful life of the other intangible assets is assumed to be 5 years. The net pro forma adjustment is composed of the following:

	<b>Increase (Decrease) to Assets</b>
	<b>(In millions)</b>
Preliminary estimated fair value of customer relationships assets	\$ 8,964
Preliminary estimated fair value of other intangible assets	425
Elimination of historical balances	(761)
Net pro forma adjustment	<u>\$ 8,628</u>

See pro forma adjustment (P) for the impact to amortization expense.

(H) This adjustment reclassifies a portion of Level 3's existing noncurrent deferred tax asset of \$2.853 billion, primarily made up of U.S. Federal Net Operating Loss ("NOL") carryforwards, to partially offset CenturyLink's existing noncurrent deferred tax liability related to the same jurisdictions and conform to the presentation appropriate for the combined financial information. In addition, this adjustment includes a reclassification of CenturyLink's existing noncurrent deferred tax asset of \$7 million to conform to the presentation appropriate for the combined financial statements. See pro forma adjustment (L) for additional information on deferred income taxes, net.

(I) This adjustment reflects a liability of approximately \$60 million for the estimated fair value of the dissenting common shares. For additional information, please see the footnote on the calculation for the liability portion of the aggregate consideration described under "Pro Forma Information".



(J) This adjustment eliminates existing deferred revenues of Level 3 associated with installation activities that will likely be assigned little or no value in the purchase price allocation process. See pro forma adjustment (C) for additional information on deferred revenues and deferred costs. Also, this adjustment eliminates Level 3's asset retirement obligation and establishes a new asset retirement obligation to conform the reporting of Level 3's asset retirement obligation to that of CenturyLink. In addition, this pro forma adjustment reclassifies Level 3's noncurrent deferred tax liability to conform to the presentation for the combined financial statements. See pro forma adjustment (L) for additional information on deferred income taxes, net.

(K) This adjustment reflects (i) the issuance of new third-party term loans and revolving debt necessary to finance the combination, (ii) the elimination of Level 3's unamortized debt issuance costs and (iii) the impact of adjusting the carrying value of Level 3's long-term debt to its estimated fair value as of October 31, 2017. Fair value was estimated based on quoted market prices where available or, if not available, based on discounted future cash flows using current market interest rates. The pro forma adjustment to debt was computed as follows (in millions):

Long-term debt, net of debt issuance costs, to be assumed by CenturyLink (including current portion) as of September 30, 2017	\$ 10,593
Elimination of unamortized debt issuance costs	112
Adjustment to reflect preliminary estimated fair value of Level 3's long-term debt	<u>190</u>
Adjusted long-term debt assumed by CenturyLink (including current portion)	<u>10,895</u>
New debt, net of debt issuance costs of \$154 million:	
New debt issuance (term loans and revolving credit facility)	<u>2,191</u>
Total new debt, net of debt issuance costs of \$154 million	<u>2,191</u>
Total assumed and new debt on a pro forma basis as of September 30, 2017	13,086
Less payoff of Co-Bank term loan in connection with the combination	(319)
Less long-term debt to be assumed by CenturyLink (including current portion)	<u>(10,593)</u>
Total pro forma adjustment to long-term debt	<u>\$ 2,174</u>

Listed below are the sources of funds for the cash consideration paid to the Level 3 shareholders and for the payment of transaction costs (in millions):

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,623
Restricted cash (see pro forma adjustment (F))	5,984
Issuance of new debt funded at closing, net of debt issuance costs of \$154 million	<u>2,191</u>
Cash available for payment of cash merger consideration of approximately \$9.597 billion to Level 3 shareholders and payment of transaction costs incurred at or near the time of closing of approximately \$201 million	<u>\$9,798</u>

The following table summarizes the additional debt CenturyLink incurred to consummate the combination with Level 3 (in millions):

	<b>Estimated Interest Rate at <u>November 1, 2017</u></b>	<b>Principal Amounts of Debt <u>Commitments</u></b>
<b>New debt:</b>		
Term Loan A (LIBOR plus an estimated applicable margin of 2.75% per annum)	3.99%	\$ 1,575
Term Loan A-1 (LIBOR plus an estimated applicable margin of 2.75% per annum)	3.99%	370
Term Loan B (LIBOR plus an estimated applicable margin of 2.75% per annum)	3.99%	6,000
New Revolving Credit Facility (LIBOR plus an estimated applicable margin of 2.75% per annum)	3.99%	<u>400</u>
Total new debt		8,345
Debt issuance costs		<u>(154)</u>
Total new debt, net of debt issuance costs of \$154 million		8,191
Less Term Loan B funded prior to closing, excluding the original issue discount of \$30 million		<u>(6,000)</u>
Total new debt funded at closing, net of debt issuance costs of \$154 million		<u>\$ 2,191</u>

(L) This adjustment reclassifies a portion of Level 3's existing noncurrent deferred tax asset to partially offset CenturyLink's existing noncurrent deferred tax liability as described in pro forma adjustment (H), to reclassify Level 3's noncurrent deferred tax liability as described in pro forma adjustment (J), to reflect the estimated net deferred tax liability established for the tax effects of recognizing the preliminary purchase price allocation reflected herein (calculated at an estimated combined statutory tax rate of 38%) and to adjust the deferred tax liability primarily for (i) a reduction in Level 3's tax deductible goodwill, (ii) the reversal of Level 3's deferred tax asset related to share-based compensation expense, (iii) the reduction in Level 3's deferred tax asset for a state tax credit, (iv) the adjustment to Level 3's foreign deferred tax liability from resetting the historical foreign exchange rates to acquisition date rates and (v) the impact on Level 3's valuation allowance in Colorado due to Level 3 filing a combined return with CenturyLink. The net pro forma adjustment is composed of the following:

	<b>Increase (Decrease) to Liabilities</b>
	<b>(In millions)</b>
Reclassify Level 3's noncurrent deferred tax asset	\$ (2,853)
Reclassify Level 3's noncurrent deferred tax liability	250
Adjust deferred tax liability associated with:	
Property, plant and equipment, net	(462)
Customer relationship and other intangible assets, net	3,279
Long-term debt	(115)
Elimination of deferred revenue and deferred costs associated with installation activities	14
Elimination of Level 3's asset retirement obligation, net of establishment of new asset retirement obligation	17
Share-based compensation replacement awards to be issued by CenturyLink	(33)
Level 3 tax deductible goodwill	(56)
Reversal of Level 3's share-based compensation deferred tax asset	50
Reduction in Level 3's deferred tax asset for a state tax credit	17
Adjustment to Level 3's foreign deferred tax liability to acquisition date foreign exchange rates	75
Level 3's valuation allowance in Colorado due to combined tax return impact	(35)
Net pro forma adjustment	<u>\$ 148</u>

(M) This adjustment reflects (i) the elimination of Level 3's stockholders' equity balances as of September 30, 2017, (ii) the issuance of 517.3 million shares of CenturyLink common stock (valued at \$9.824 billion for purposes of this pro forma information) as consideration in the combination, (iii) the pre-combination share-based compensation awards of Level 3's employees included in the estimated aggregate consideration and (iv) the combination-related transactions costs. These pro forma adjustments are composed of the following:

	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>Additional Paid-in Capital</u>	<u>Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss</u>	<u>Retained Earnings (Accumulated Deficit)</u>
	(In millions)			
Historical balance as of September 30, 2017:				
CenturyLink at \$1.00 par value per share	\$ 550	14,370	(1,994)	34
Level 3 at \$0.01 par value per share	4	19,921	(281)	(8,094)
Combined historical balances	554	34,291	(2,275)	(8,060)
Elimination of Level 3's historical equity	(4)	(19,921)	281	8,094
Record new issuance of CenturyLink common stock	517	9,307	—	—
Record adjustments to equity for Level 3's pre-combination share-based compensation awards	—	136	—	—
Combination-related transaction costs, net of tax <sup>(1)</sup>	—	—	—	(163)
Net pro forma adjustments	513	(10,478)	281	7,931
Pro forma combined	<u>\$ 1,067</u>	<u>23,813</u>	<u>(1,994)</u>	<u>(129)</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> The estimated combination-related transaction costs incurred at closing are reported at \$201 million, net of a \$38 million income tax benefit. The estimated income tax benefit was computed based on Internal Revenue Service guidelines regarding the deductibility of certain portions of the transaction costs.

#### ***Statements of Operations Pro Forma Adjustments***

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and for the year ended December 31, 2016 are presented as if the combination had been completed on January 1, 2016. The historical financial information is adjusted in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information to give effect to pro forma events and is based on (i) the historical consolidated results of operations of CenturyLink and its subsidiaries; (ii) the historical consolidated results of operations of Level 3 and its subsidiaries; and (iii) pro forma events directly attributable to the proposed combination that are expected to have a continuing impact on the combined results, as further described below. See Note 1—Basis of Pro Forma Presentation for additional information on CenturyLink's sale of its colocation business and data centers.

Except for the exclusion of transaction costs (as described above in Note 1 and below in pro forma adjustment (O)), the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations have not been adjusted for special items. Specifically, for the year ended December 31, 2016, CenturyLink recognized severance costs of \$164 million associated with headcount reductions. Additionally, effective with the date CenturyLink entered into the agreement to sell its colocation business (as described in “Note 1—Basis of Pro Forma Presentation”), CenturyLink ceased recording depreciation expense of its property, plant and equipment to be sold and amortization of its intangible assets associated with the colocation business. CenturyLink estimates that \$67 million and \$36 million of depreciation and amortization expense related to these colocation assets would have been recorded in the first four months of 2017 and the final two months of 2016, respectively, had the held-for-sale criteria not been met. For the year ended December 31, 2016, Level 3 recognized an estimated one-time \$110 million income tax benefit related to the issuance of new tax regulations addressing the taxation of foreign currency translation gains and losses arising from foreign branches. Also in 2016, Level 3 recognized a \$40 million loss on modification and extinguishment of debt and an \$82 million income tax benefit related to the release of deferred tax valuation allowances primarily in foreign jurisdictions. For the nine months ended September 30, 2017, CenturyLink recognized a net loss of \$82 million from the sale of the data centers and colocation business and subsequent failed-sale-leaseback, recognized interest expense of \$44 million on Term Loan B and recognized expenses of \$40 million related to the integration of Level 3. In 2017, Level 3 recognized a \$44 million loss on modification and extinguishment of debt and recognized \$62 million of integration expenses associated with its acquisition by CenturyLink.

As noted in Note 1, the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations have not been adjusted for the impact of any potential loss of revenues from unaffiliated third parties.

(N) This adjustment reflects the elimination of (i) operating revenues and operating expenses for existing commercial transactions between CenturyLink and Level 3 and (ii) the operating revenues recognized by Level 3 associated with the existing deferred revenues from prior installation activities that will likely be assigned little or no value in the purchase price allocation process.

	<b>Increase (Decrease) to Operating Revenues and Operating Expenses</b>	
	<b>Year Ended December 31, 2016</b>	<b>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017</b>
	(In millions)	
<b>Operating Revenues:</b>		
Commercial transactions between CenturyLink and Level 3	\$ (236)	(174)
Elimination of Level 3 deferred revenues	(28)	(11)
Total pro forma operating revenues adjustments	<u>\$ (264)</u>	<u>(185)</u>
<b>Operating Expenses—Costs of goods and services:</b>		
Commercial transactions between CenturyLink and Level 3	\$ (236)	(174)
Total pro forma operating expenses—costs of goods and services adjustments	<u>\$ (236)</u>	<u>(174)</u>

(O) This adjustment reflects the elimination of (i) transaction costs of \$23 million and \$12 million recognized in the statement of operations of CenturyLink and Level 3, respectively, for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and (ii) transaction costs of \$47 million and \$15 million recognized in the statement of operations of CenturyLink and Level 3, respectively, for the year ended December 31, 2016.

(P) This adjustment reflects (i) depreciation expense associated with the Level 3 property, plant and equipment estimated fair value in pro forma adjustment (D) and (ii) amortization expense associated with the Level 3 customer relationships and other intangible assets estimated fair value in pro forma adjustment (G), in both cases as further explained in the following paragraphs below.

*Depreciation Expense.* The depreciation expense for the property, plant and equipment was estimated utilizing the straight-line method. The pro forma adjustment for the Level 3 acquisition for the year ended December 31, 2016 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 represents the difference between the estimated depreciation that would have been recorded during the above noted periods assuming the amounts assigned to the property, plant and equipment were equivalent to the amounts assigned for these assets based on the preliminary allocations, described elsewhere herein, less Level 3’s reported amounts of depreciation expense for the year ended December 31, 2016 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2017, respectively.

	<u>Increase (Decrease) to Depreciation Expense</u>	
	<u>Year Ended December 31, 2016</u>	<u>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017</u>
	(In millions)	
Depreciation expense on Level 3's property, plant and equipment	\$ 822	528
Less historical depreciation expense	(1,038)	(831)
Net pro forma adjustment	<u>\$ (216)</u>	<u>(303)</u>

*Amortization Expense.* CenturyLink assumed estimated useful lives between 7 and 14 years for the customer relationships assets and an estimated weighted-average useful life of 5 years for the other intangible assets. The amortization expense for the customer relationships and for the other intangible assets was estimated utilizing the straight-line method. The pro forma adjustment for the Level 3 acquisition for the year ended December 31, 2016 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 represents the difference between the estimated amortization that would have been recorded during the above noted periods assuming the amounts assigned to the customer relationships and other intangible assets were equivalent to the amounts assigned for these assets based on the preliminary allocations, described elsewhere herein, less Level 3's reported amounts of amortization for the year ended December 31, 2016 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2017.

	<u>Increase (Decrease) to Amortization Expense</u>	
	<u>Year Ended December 31, 2016</u>	<u>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017</u>
	(In millions)	
Amortization expense on Level 3 identified intangible assets	\$ 836	627
Less historical amortization expense	(212)	(152)
Net pro forma adjustment	<u>\$ 624</u>	<u>475</u>

CenturyLink estimated that total amortization expense using estimated values of the customer relationships and other intangible assets for the remaining three months of 2017 and annually for the years ending December 31, 2018 through 2022 will be as follows:

	(In millions)
2017 (remaining three months)	\$ 209
2018	836
2019	836
2020	836
2021	751
2022	751

(Q) This adjustment reflects the net increase in interest expense resulting from (i) interest on the new debt to finance the combination and the amortization of the related debt issuance costs; (ii) the elimination of Level 3's historical amortization of debt discount and amortization of debt issuance costs; and (iii) a reduction in interest expense from the accretion of the purchase accounting adjustment associated with reflecting Level 3's long-term debt based on its estimated fair value pursuant to the adjustment described in pro forma adjustment (K) above. Such fair value adjustment for the Level 3 acquisition is recognized based on the maturity schedule of the long-term debt which equates to a weighted-average of six years.

	<b>(Increase) Decrease to Interest Expense</b>	
	<b>Year Ended December 31, 2016</b>	<b>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017</b>
	(In millions)	
Interest expense on new debt issuance	\$ (345)	(253)
Amortization of new debt issuance costs	(25)	(19)
Elimination of interest on debt repaid at closing and on new debt issued prior to closing	8	49
Amortization of premium associated with the preliminary estimated fair value of Level 3 debt reflected in pro forma adjustment (J)	33	25
Amortization of discount on new debt	(4)	(3)
Interest expense on dissenting shares	(4)	(3)
Elimination of Level 3's amortization of debt discount and amortization of debt issuance costs	21	13
Net pro forma adjustment	<u>\$ (316)</u>	<u>(191)</u>

The assumed interest rate of 3.99% for the \$1.575 billion senior Term Loan A, the \$370 million Term Loan A-1, the \$6.0 billion Senior Term Loan B and the \$400 million New Revolving Credit Facility is based on LIBOR as of November 1, 2017 plus an estimated applicable margin of 2.75% per annum. An increase of 1.00% per annum from the base LIBOR rate applicable to these borrowings would increase interest expense by approximately \$82 million and \$61 million for the year ended December 31, 2016 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2017, respectively. In addition to the new debt incurred to consummate the transaction, Level 3 has a term loan that bears interest at LIBOR plus 2.25%, which has not been included in the interest rate sensitivity analysis.

(R) This adjustment reflects the elimination of the interest earned on the Term Loan B proceeds, which were drawn on June 19, 2017 and held in an escrow account prior to the closing and is reflected as restricted cash on CenturyLink's condensed combined balance sheet, of \$15 million recognized in the statement of operations of CenturyLink for the nine months ended September 30, 2017.

(S) This adjustment reflects (i) the cumulative tax effect of adjustments (N), (O), (P), (Q) and (R) using an estimated combined statutory tax rate of 38% and (ii) for the year ended December 31, 2016, the reversal of a Level 3 income tax benefit of \$22 million resulting from the recognition of previously unrecognized excess tax benefits from Level 3's adoption of the Financial Accounting Standards Board's Accounting Standard Update ("ASU") 2016-09, "Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting". CenturyLink adopted ASU Update 2016-09 on January 1, 2017. The statutory rates for CenturyLink and Level 3 have historically been relatively consistent and are not currently expected to change significantly as a result of the combination.

(T) This adjustment reflects (i) the elimination of Level 3's basic and diluted common shares outstanding, net and (ii) the assumed issuance of basic and diluted common shares as a result of the combination calculated by multiplying Level 3's basic and diluted common shares outstanding by the 1.4286 exchange ratio.

	<u>Basic Common Shares</u>	<u>Diluted Common Shares</u>
	<u>Year Ended December 31, 2016</u>	
	(In millions)	
<b>Weighted-average outstanding</b>		
CenturyLink weighted-average outstanding	539.5	540.7
Level 3 weighted-average outstanding	358.6	361.5
Combined weighted-average outstanding	898.1	902.2
Elimination of Level 3's historical weighted-average outstanding	(358.6)	(361.5)
Record new issuance of CenturyLink common stock at 1.4286 exchange ratio	512.3	516.4
Net pro forma adjustments	153.7	154.9
Pro forma combined weighted-average outstanding	<u>1,051.8</u>	<u>1,057.1</u>
	<u>Basic Common Shares</u>	<u>Diluted Common Shares</u>
	<u>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017</u>	
	(In millions)	
<b>Weighted-average outstanding</b>		
CenturyLink weighted-average outstanding	541.1	541.9
Level 3 weighted-average outstanding	362.4	364.7
Combined weighted-average outstanding	903.5	906.6
Elimination of Level 3's historical weighted-average outstanding	(362.4)	(364.7)
Record new issuance of CenturyLink common stock at 1.4286 exchange ratio	517.7	521.0
Net pro forma adjustments	155.3	156.3
Pro forma combined weighted-average outstanding	<u>1,058.8</u>	<u>1,062.9</u>