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**cogent**  
Smart People Buy Dumb Pipes

NASDAQ  
**CCOI**

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# Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This presentation includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which relate to future, not past, events and are subject to risks and uncertainties. The forward-looking statements, which address the Company's expected business and financial performance, among other matters, contain words such as: "will", "expect", "believe", "continue", "optimistic", "should", "ongoing" and other words and terms of similar meaning.

Forward-looking statements by their nature address matters that are, to different degrees, uncertain, such as revenue, subscriber and traffic growth, margins, capital expenditures, sales force headcount and productivity, pricing, financings and return of capital shareholders. Although the Company believes the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are based upon reasonable assumptions, it can give no assurance that the expectations will be attained or that any deviation will not be material. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date on which they are made.

Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from these forward-looking statements, include, but are not limited to, the following: future economic instability in the global economy, which could affect spending on Internet services; the impact of changing foreign exchange rates (in particular the Euro to US dollar and Canadian dollar to US dollar exchange rates) on the translation of the Company's non-US dollar denominated revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities; legal and operational difficulties in new markets; the imposition of a requirement that the Company contribute to the US Universal Service Fund on the basis of the Company's Internet revenue; changes in government policy and/or regulation, including rules regarding data protection, cyber security and net neutrality; increasing competition leading to lower prices for the Company's services; the Company's ability to attract new customers and to increase and maintain the volume of traffic on its network; the ability to maintain the Company's Internet peering arrangements on favorable terms; the Company's reliance on an equipment vendor, Cisco Systems Inc., and the potential for hardware or software problems associated with such equipment; the dependence of the Company's network on the quality and dependability of third-party fiber providers; the Company's ability to retain certain customers that comprise a significant portion of its revenue base; the management of network failures and/or disruptions; and outcomes in litigation.

A further description of these uncertainties and other risks can be found in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ending December 31, 2017, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ending March 31, 2018, June 30, 2017, and September 30, 2017 and the Company's other reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Copies of these filings may be obtained by contacting the Company or by visiting EDGAR on the SEC's website. These or other uncertainties may cause the Company's actual future results to be materially different than those expressed in any forward-looking statements. The Company undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements.

## Non-GAAP Measures

This presentation includes and discusses EBITDA and EBITDA as adjusted, Gross Margin, and EBITDA Margin and EBITDA, as Adjusted Margin which are non-GAAP measures. Management uses these non-GAAP measures to evaluate its business because they believes these measures assist investors and analysts in comparing the Company's performance across reporting periods on a consistent basis by excluding items that management believes are not indicative of the Company's core operating performance. Management believes these metrics are used in the financial community, and these metrics are presented here to enhance understanding of the Company's operating performance. You should not consider these non-GAAP measures as alternatives to Net income, determined in accordance with GAAP, as an indicator of operating performance. Furthermore, these non-GAAP measures are not measurements of financial performance under GAAP, and thus may not be comparable to similarly titled measures of other companies.

EBITDA represents Net income before Income taxes, net interest expense, depreciation and amortization, and equity based compensation expenses. EBITDA, as adjusted, represents EBITDA plus net gains (losses) on asset related transactions. EBITDA margin represents Net income before Income taxes, net interest expense, depreciation and amortization, and equity based compensation expenses, divided by total service revenue. EBITDA, as adjusted, margin represents EBITDA plus net gains (losses) on asset related transactions divided by total service revenue. See the Appendix to this presentation for a reconciliation of these non-GAAP measures to the most directly comparable financial measures calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP.

# company overview

Cogent is a leading global provider of ***Dedicated Internet Access.***

- Cogent's network carries ~20% of all Internet traffic and serves 199 markets in North America, Europe and Asia
- Currently serves over 73,900 customer connections
- 63% of revenues from Corporate end users in multi-tenant office buildings
- 37% of revenues from Service Provider customers (NetCentric) served in carrier neutral data centers
- Very high operating leverage with substantial network capacity
- We sell Dedicated Internet Access, VPNs, and Colocation, all commodities, and win business based on Price and Value

# addressable market

Our broad  
network reach  
results in a  
*plentiful  
addressable  
market.*

- Cogent focuses on selling Dedicated Internet Access and IP Connectivity
- Network has global reach—Helsinki, Finland in the north to Mexico City, Mexico in the south, and circumnavigates the globe
- Over 57,400 route miles of intercity fiber and over 31,800 miles of intracity fiber in 199 metro markets
- Network connected to 869 data center buildings and 1,012 unique data centers within those buildings in North America and Europe
- Network connected to 1,672 Corporate multi-tenant office buildings in North America with over 911MM square feet of rentable office space On-Net
- 10,200+ Off-Net customer connections in over 6,400 smaller buildings

# broad, deep, scalable network



- Interconnected with 6,240+ different networks
- 2,541 On-Net buildings
  - 66% multi-tenant office buildings (1,672)
  - 34% carrier neutral and Cogent data center buildings (869)
  - Agreements with 250+ building owners (REITs)
- 53 Cogent data centers with over 603,000 square feet
- 745+ metro networks; 31,800+ metro fiber miles
- Over 57,400 intercity fiber route miles
  - North America 120-960 Gbps
  - Europe 40-680 Gbps
  - Transatlantic (Leased) 1,200 Gbps (3 Providers, 6 Cables)
  - Transpacific (Leased) 80 Gbps (2 Provider, 5 Cables)
  - Transindian (Leased) 40 Gbps (2 Providers, 2 Cables)

# why customers choose cogent

## Corporate Market *Local distribution*

Cogent competes primarily with incumbents (ILECs) and resellers offering T1 or T3 connectivity

- AT&T
- CenturyLink
- Verizon
- Bell Canada



## Corporate Pricing Dynamics

Price per connection is *relatively equivalent*

- Quality of connection is substantially superior
- Fiber based, 65:1 to 2.5:1 throughput advantage
- True network independence from telco facilities
- All On-Net connections are ring protected, not single threaded

## NetCentric Market *Internet core backbone*

Cogent competes primarily with other backbone suppliers

### Larger Competitors

- CenturyLink
- NTT
- Telia

### Smaller Competitors

- AT&T
- Deutsche Telekom
- Orange
- Sprint
- Tata
- Telecom Italia
- Verizon



## NetCentric Pricing Dynamics

Price is *50% of market average*

- Quality of connection is equivalent
- Speed is equivalent

# market dynamics

## corporate

- Most common On-Net product is 100 Mbps for \$700/month with a 3 year contract
- Product sold on a per connection basis
- Typical On-Net corporate customers use approximately 15% of capacity purchased
- Generally replaces 1 or 2 T-1s sold by AT&T, Verizon, BCE, CenturyLink, or a reseller
- Pricing is very stable with revenue growth coming predominantly from unit growth
- Growth from increasing penetration in existing buildings and addition of Multi-Tenant Office Buildings meeting our demographic requirements

## netcentric

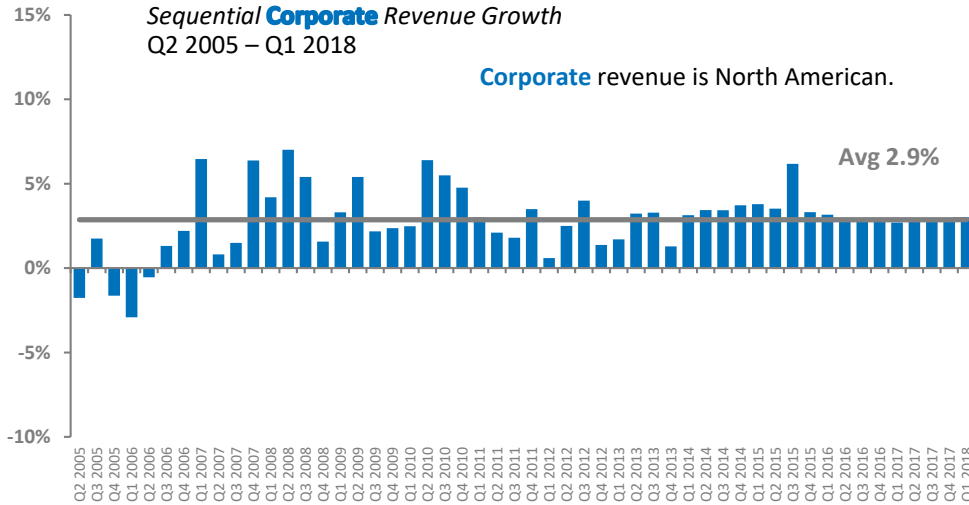
- Product sold on a per Mbps basis in increments from 10 Mbps to 100 Gbps
- Product is sold in Carrier Neutral and Cogent Data Centers
- Discounts for volume and contract term
- The average price per Mbps was \$0.99 Mbps/month in Q4 2017 and \$0.90 Mbps/month in Q1 2018. The average price per Mbps for new sales was \$0.42 Mbps/month in Q4 2017 and \$0.40 Mbps/month in Q1 2018.
- Generally we compete with CenturyLink in this market
- This product is a commodity and we win business on PRICE

# revenue growth

Sequential **Corporate** Revenue Growth  
Q2 2005 – Q1 2018

Corporate revenue is North American.

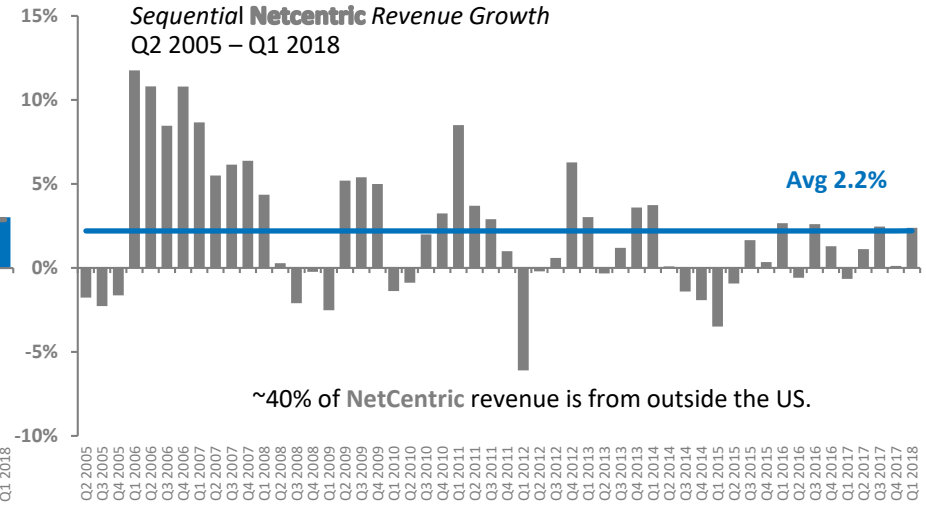
Avg 2.9%



Sequential **Netcentric** Revenue Growth  
Q2 2005 – Q1 2018

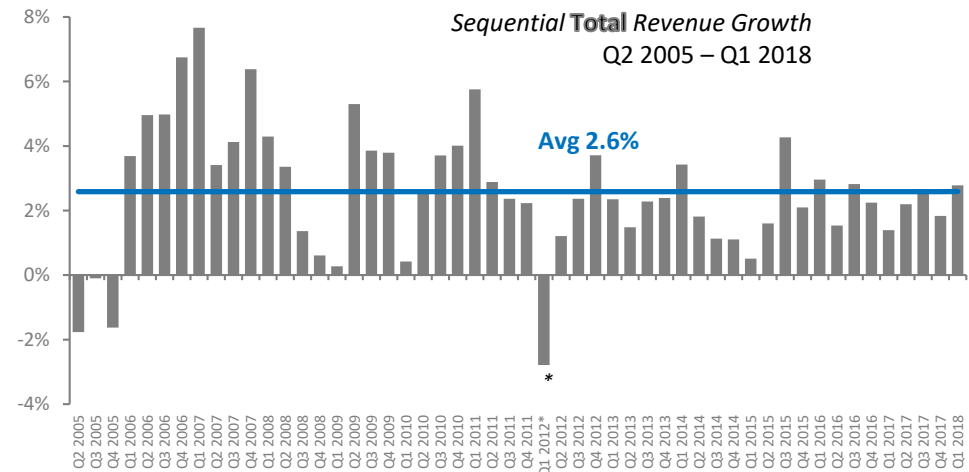
~40% of NetCentric revenue is from outside the US.

Avg 2.2%



Sequential **Total** Revenue Growth  
Q2 2005 – Q1 2018

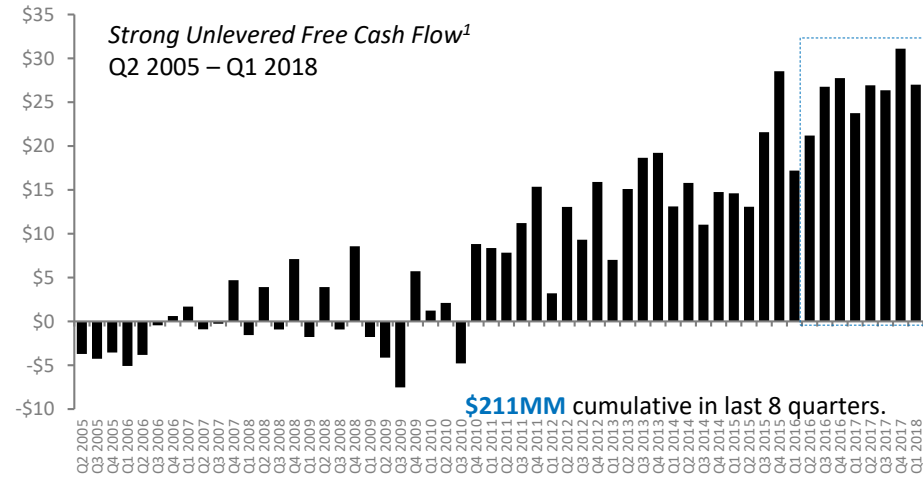
Avg 2.6%



\*Loss of Megaupload

Strong **Unlevered Free Cash Flow**<sup>1</sup>  
Q2 2005 – Q1 2018

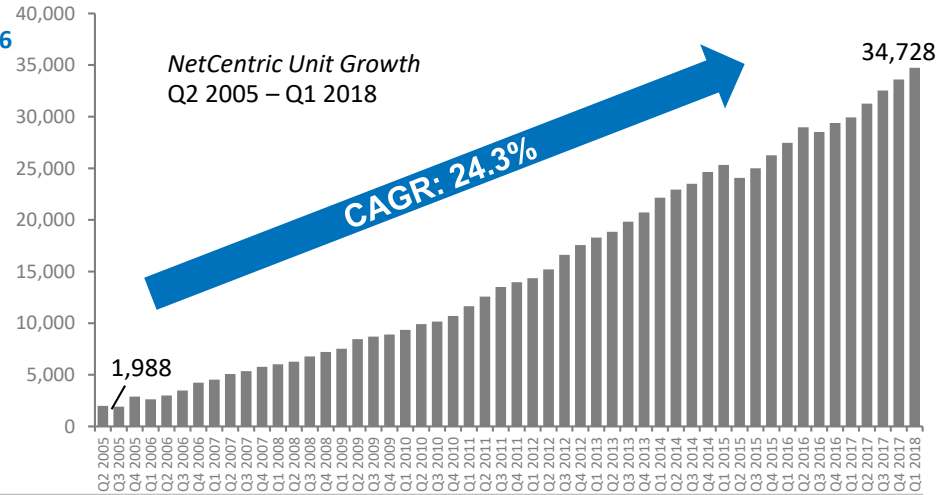
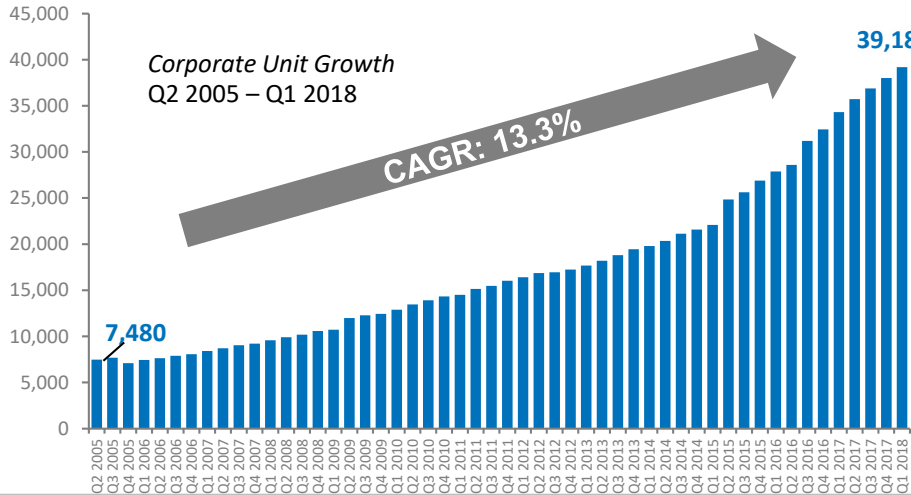
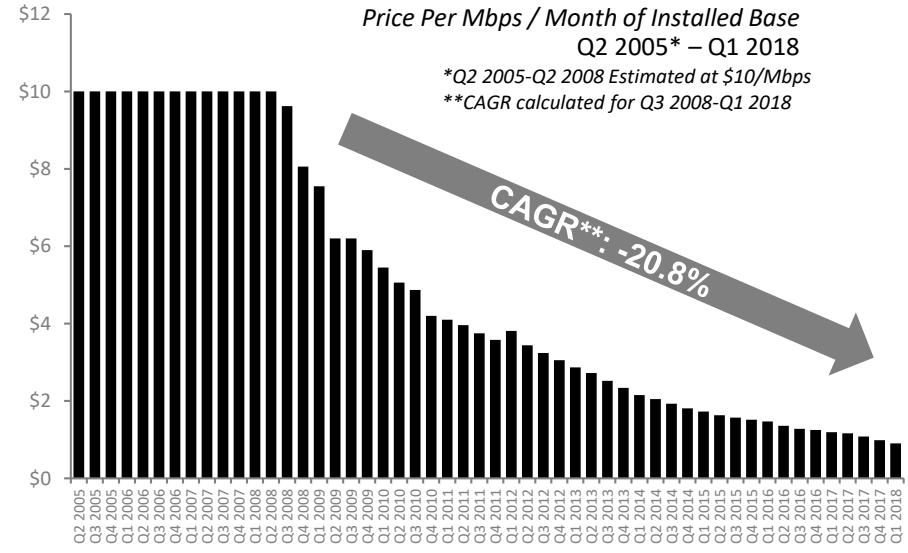
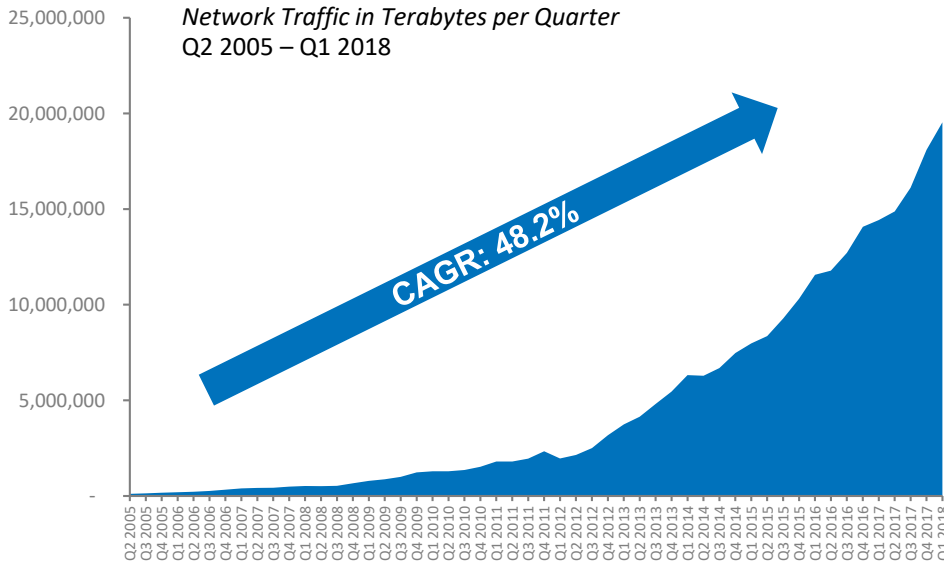
\$211MM cumulative in last 8 quarters.



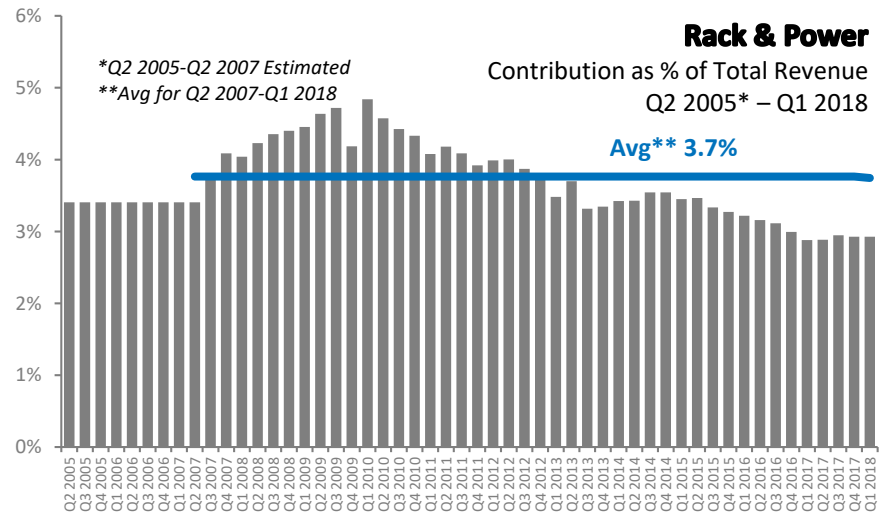
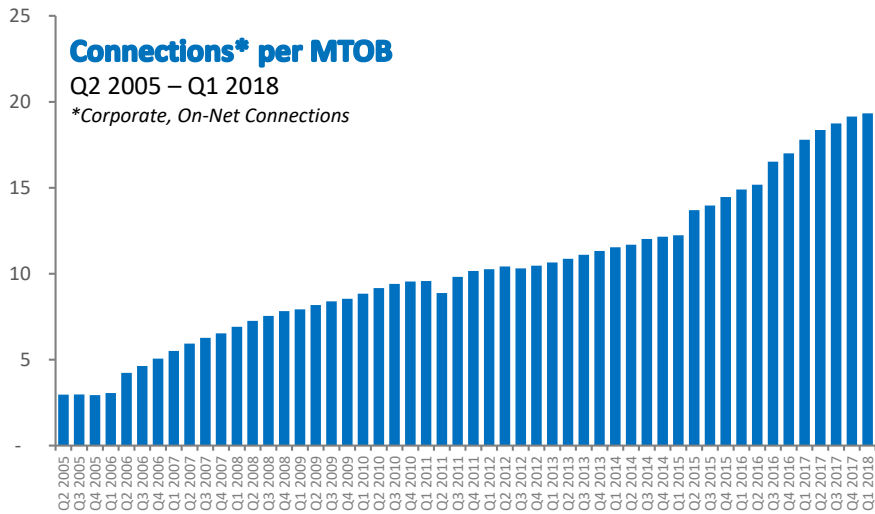
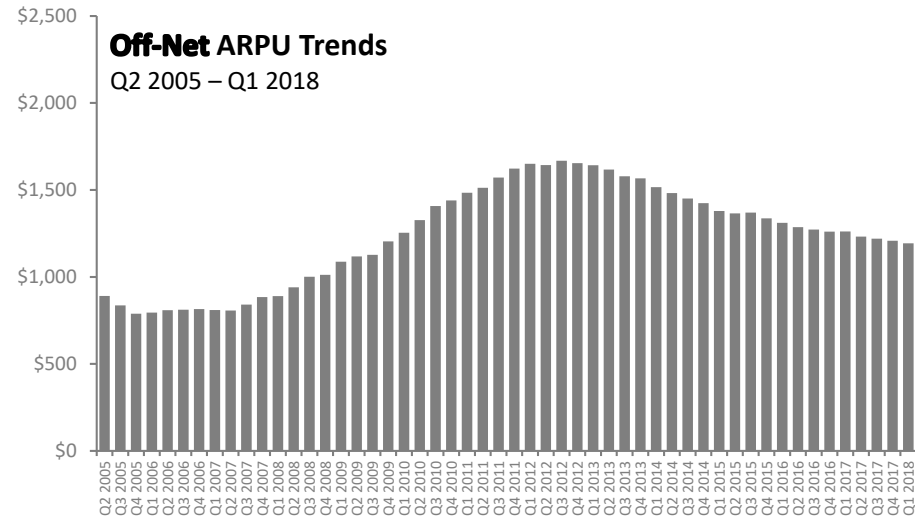
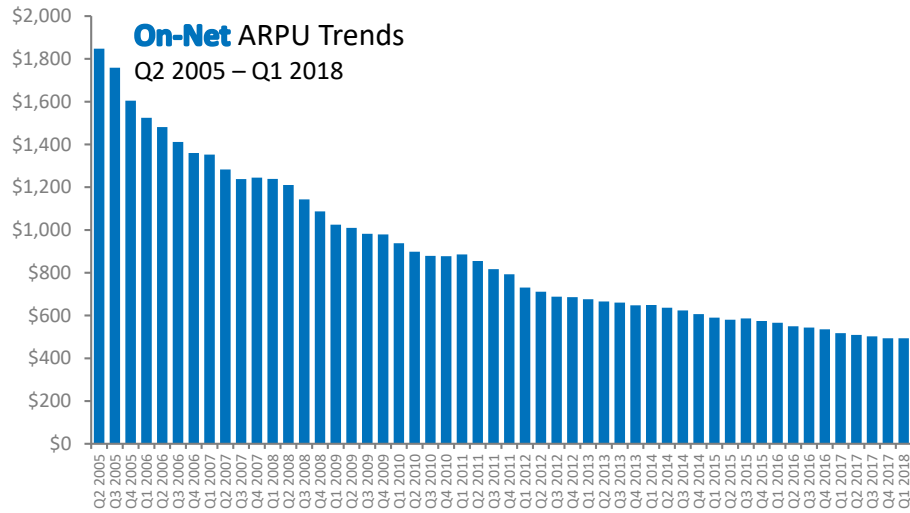
<sup>1</sup>Calculated as EBITDA (as adjusted) less CAPEX, which includes principal payments on IRU capital leases.



# traffic and pricing trends



# connection trends



# customer segmentation

## 39,100+ Corporate connections

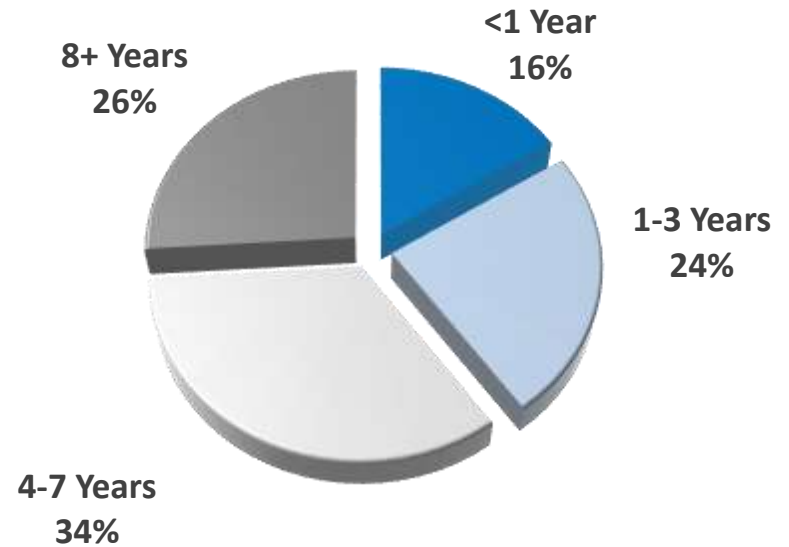
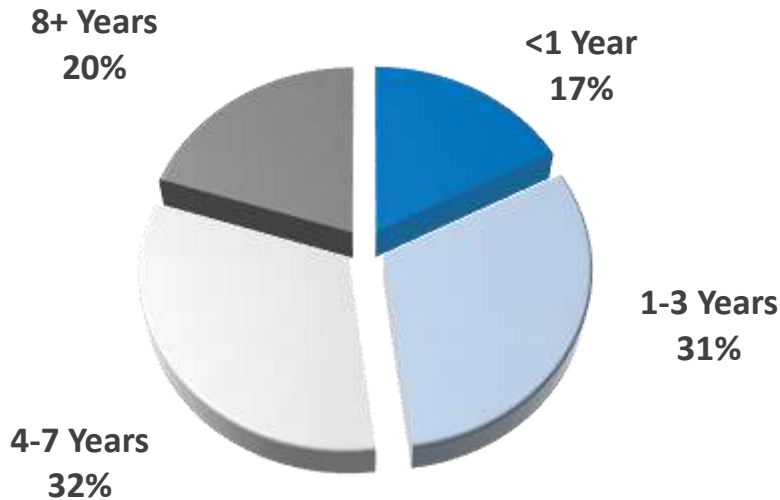
Leading provider to professional services firms

- Law firms
- Education
- Financial services
- Consulting services
- Other Corporations

## 34,700+ NetCentric connections

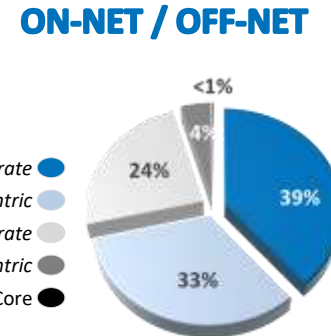
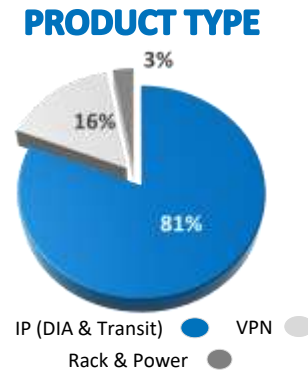
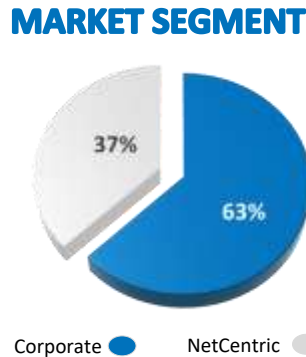
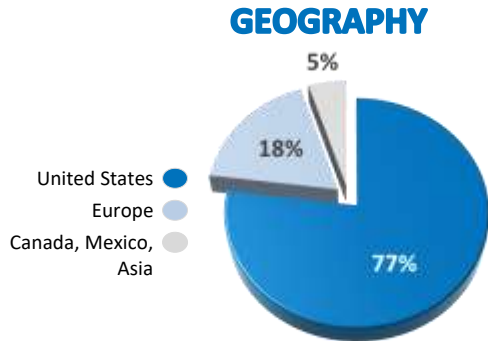
Leading provider to bandwidth-intensive organizations

- ISPs
- CDNs
- Hosting Companies
- Online gamers
- ASPs

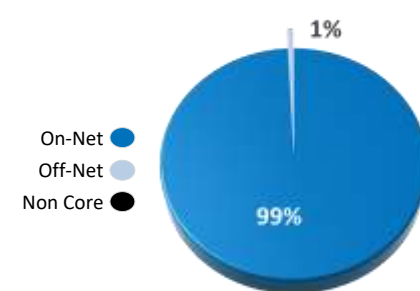
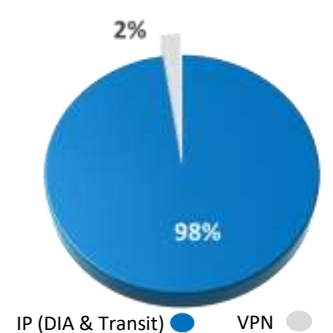
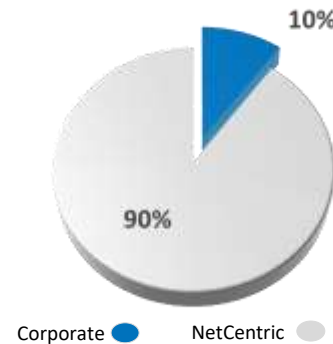
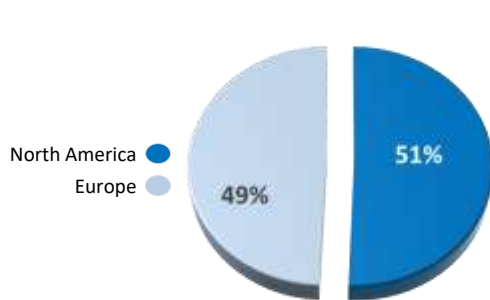


# business breakout

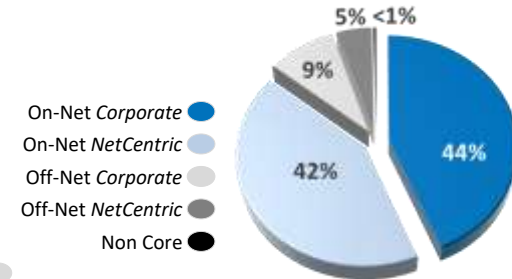
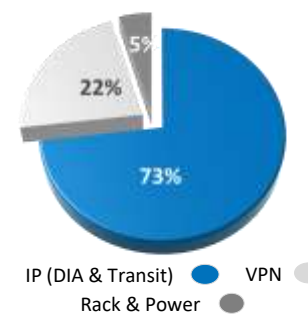
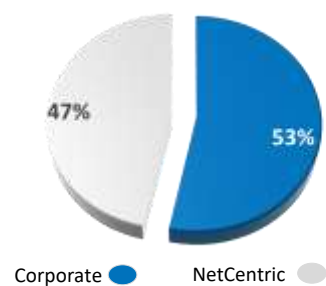
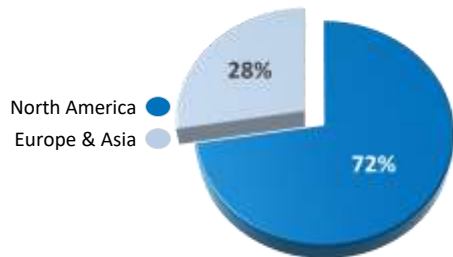
## REVENUE Q1 2018



## TRAFFIC Q1 2018

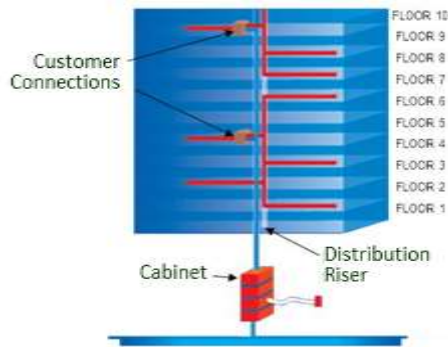


## CUSTOMER CONNECTIONS Q1 2018



# network connectivity at the highest traffic locations

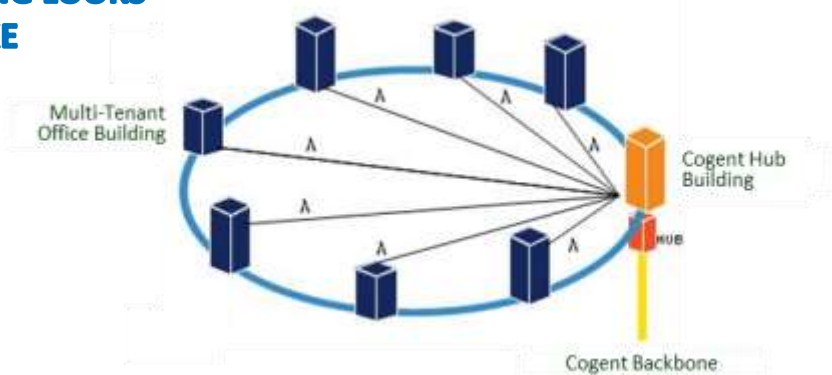
## ON-NET MULTI-TENANT BUILDING



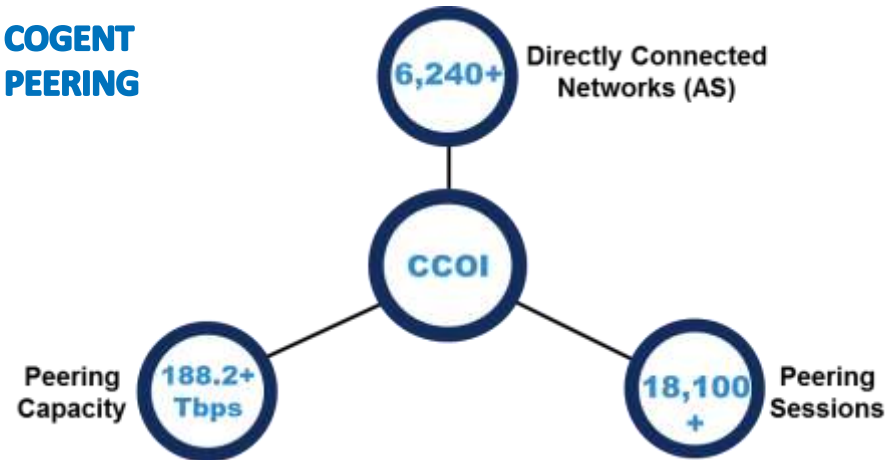
## COGENT DATA CENTER



## WHAT THE RING LOOKS LIKE



## COGENT PEERING



# network architecture

Our network is ***facilities based***—  
IRUs on fiber &  
ownership of all  
optronics and  
routing  
equipment.

- Longhaul metro backbone is built from 227 IRU suppliers
- IRUs from 10 to 40 years; most are pre-paid
- O+M expense substantially less than the cost of maintaining a network solely constructed and used by Cogent
- Cogent's network is ring protected at Layer 3 (IP convergence)
- All transport is IP directly over DWDM and CWDM
- Cogent generally owns lateral connections from the metro rings to the building
- Cogent owns riser facilities in multi-tenant buildings
- Cogent owns 53 data centers and 185 hubs that house core network equipment
- Cogent is directly connected to over 6,240 other networks

# proven integration execution

Cogent purchased  
**\$14 BILLION** of  
 original  
 investment for  
**\$60 MILLION.**

	Date	Original Investment	PP&E	Network	Peering	Customers	Building Access
NetRail	Sep 2001	\$180	\$35	✓	✓	✓	
Allied Riser	Feb 2002	\$590	\$335	✓		✓	✓
PSINet*	Apr 2002	\$5,180	\$2,175	✓	✓	✓	
(Fiber Network Solutions, Inc) FNSI	Feb. 2003	\$30	\$5			✓	
Firstmark	Jan 2004	\$1,100	\$560	✓		✓	✓
Carrier 1*	Mar 2004	\$1,035	\$535	✓			
UFO Group	Aug 2004	\$25	\$5			✓	
Global Access	Sep 2004	\$10	\$5			✓	
Aleron Broadband	Oct. 2004	\$200	\$5			✓	
Verio*	Dec 2004	\$5,700	\$390			✓	
<b>TOTAL (\$ in millions)</b>		<b>\$14,050</b>	<b>\$4,050</b>				

*\*Purchased the majority of assets of these companies.*

*This list does not include Applied Theory, FiberCity Networks, OnSite Access, Last Mile Connections, PacWest, and ANet.*

# cogent's competitive advantage

Cogent is the  
***lowest cost  
provider.***

- Low cost, efficient network is approximately 30% utilized
  - \$14 billion of invested capital (\$4 billion of PP&E) purchased for \$60 million
  - More reliable and less costly than IP networks overlaid on traditional telephone networks
- IP only product set
  - Simple product set with low cost of operations and provisioning
- High sales productivity
  - Lower selling cost due to aggressive pricing model
  - Gaining market share as an efficient operator



# focused sales force

**Sales**

is the key to business success.

**Quality activity**

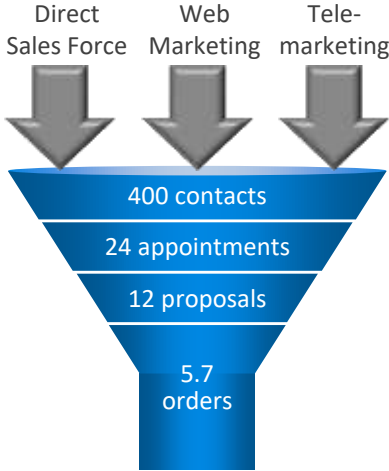
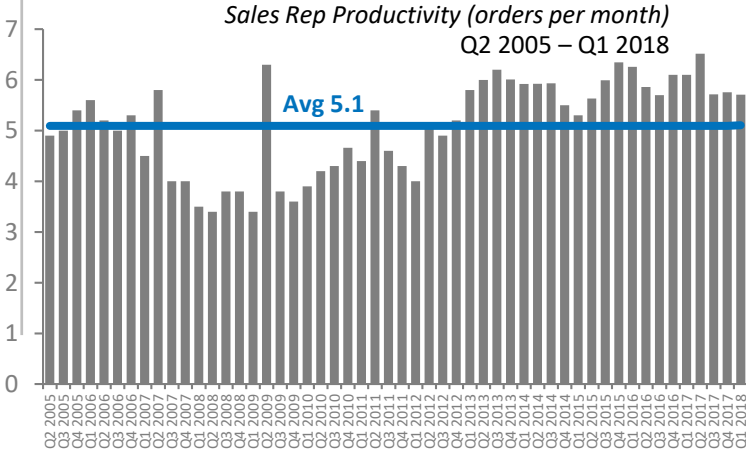
is the key to sales success.

## 432 quota based sales employees

Headcount data as of March 31, 2018

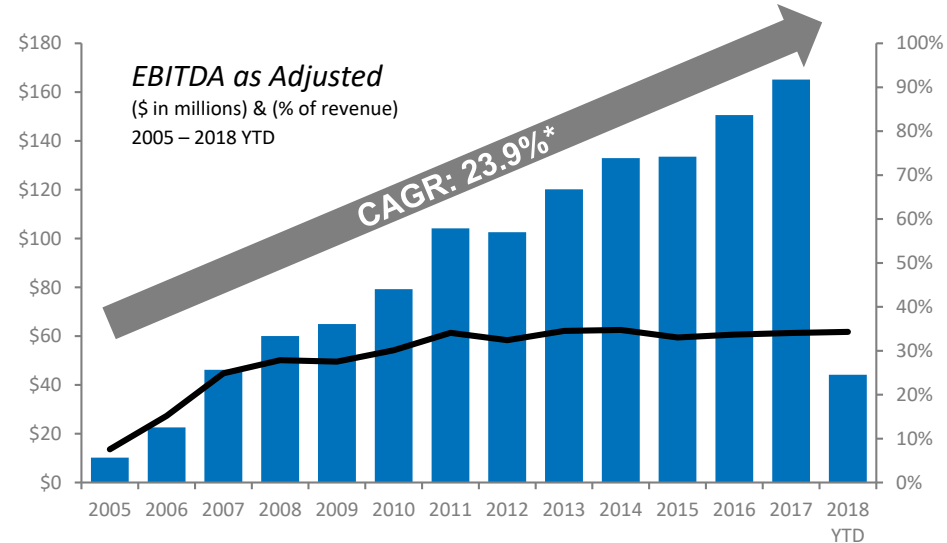
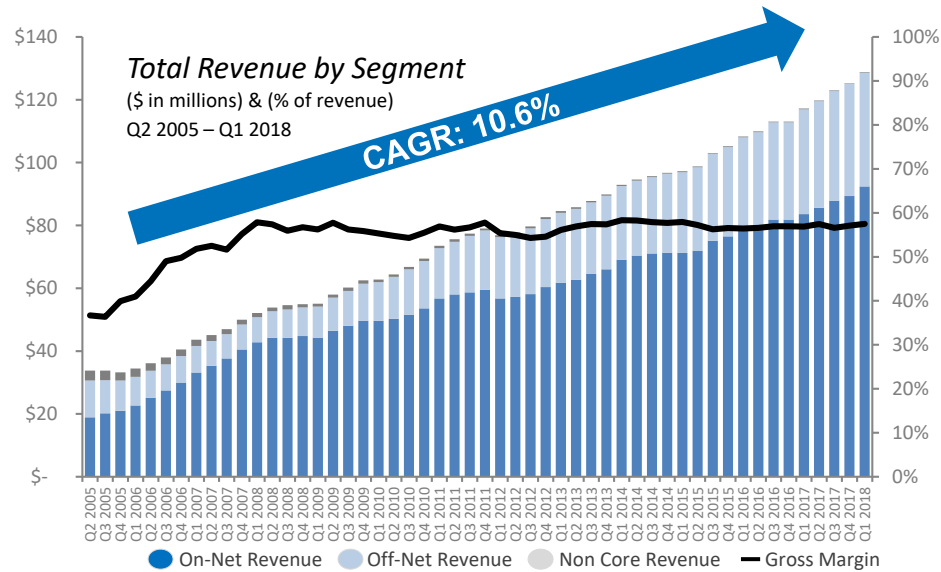


- 61% of Cogent's 908 employees are in the sales organization
- 48% of Cogent's 908 employees are in quota-bearing sales

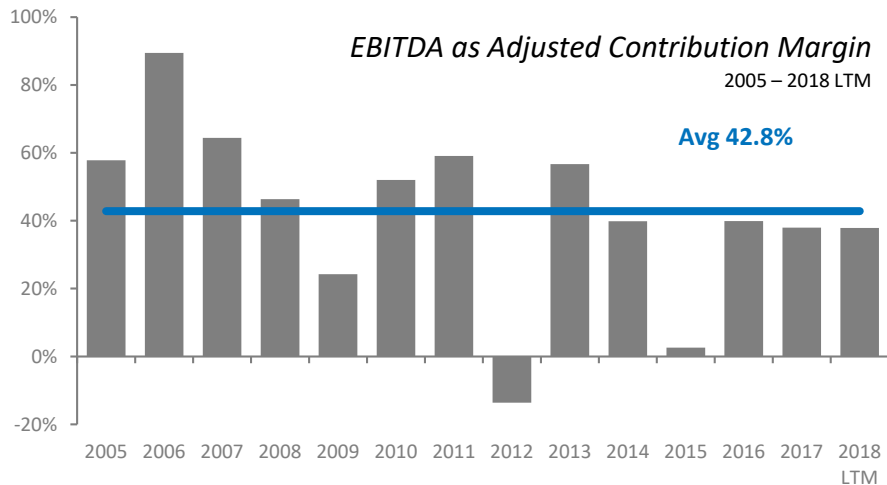


\$1,650,000 Gross Incremental Monthly Recurring Revenue

# historical & continuing margin expansion

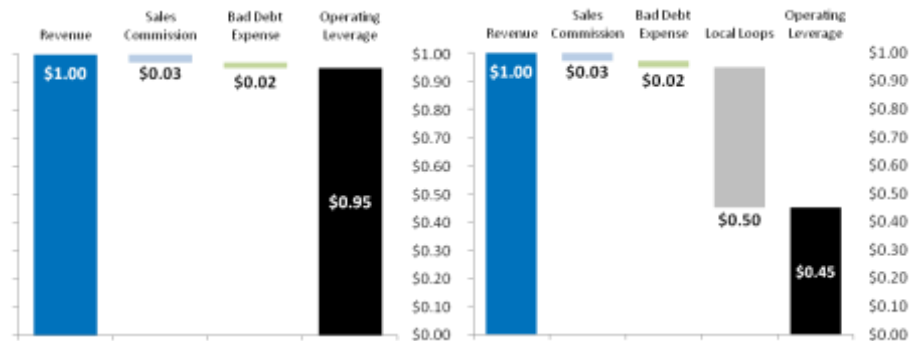


\*CAGR of 23.9% reflects the growth rate for each year over the prior year, normalized for the period

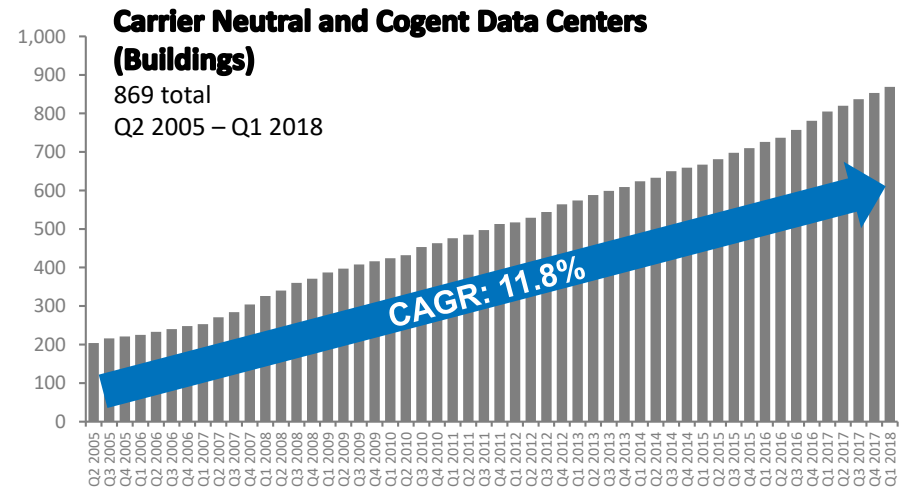
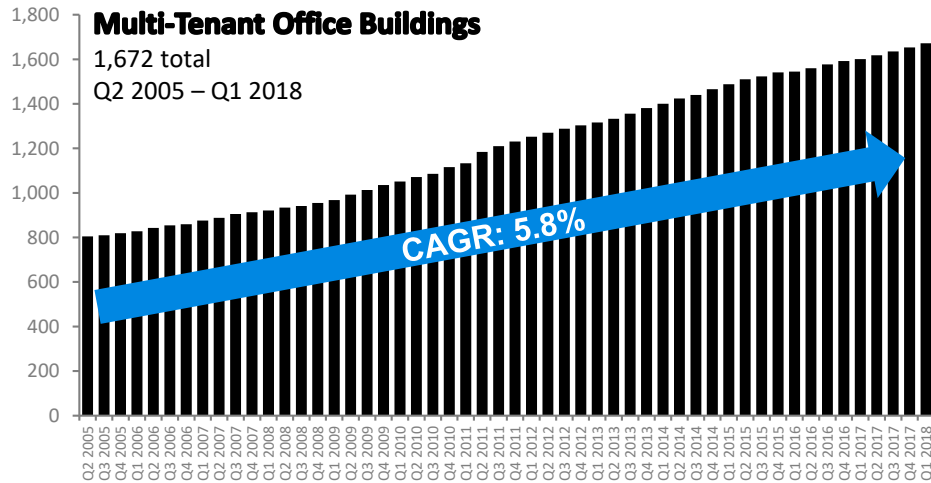
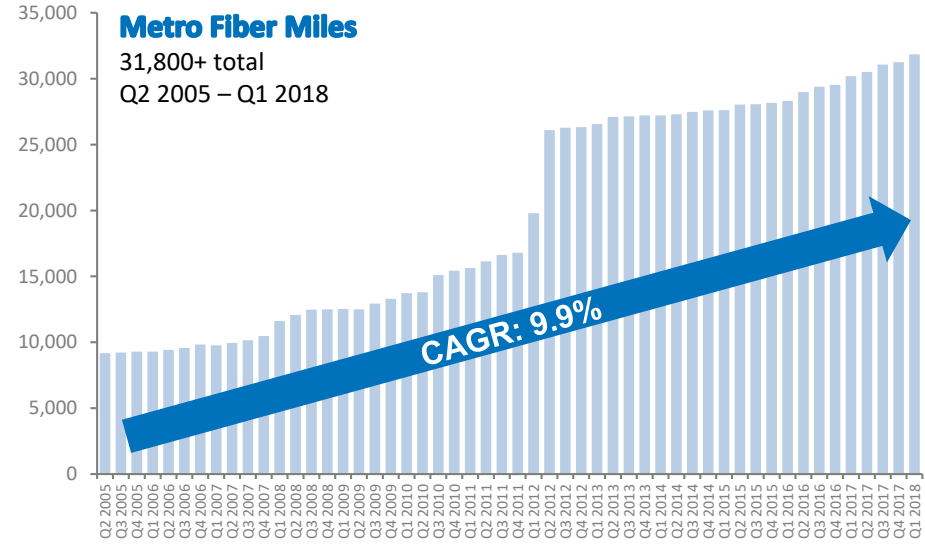
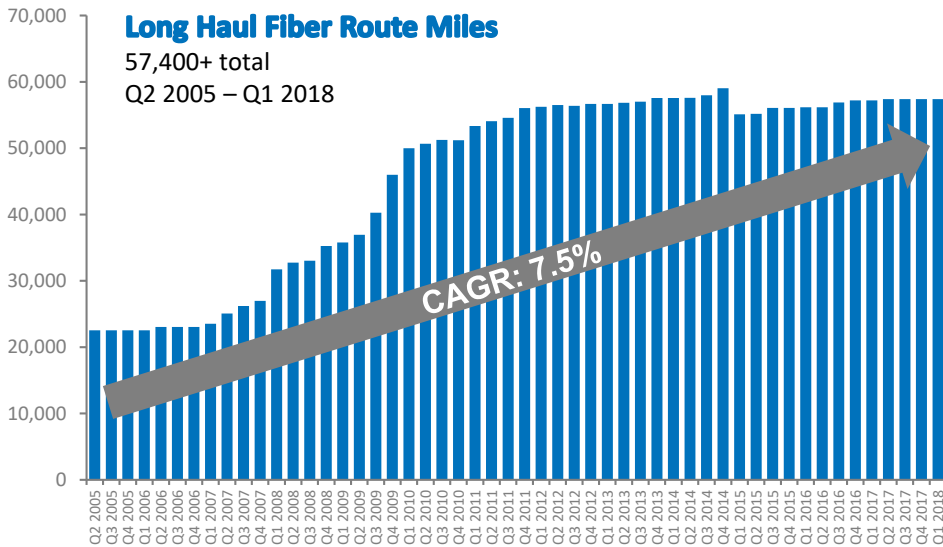


**On-Net ARPU = \$494**  
Q1 2018

**Off-Net ARPU = \$1,193**  
Q1 2018

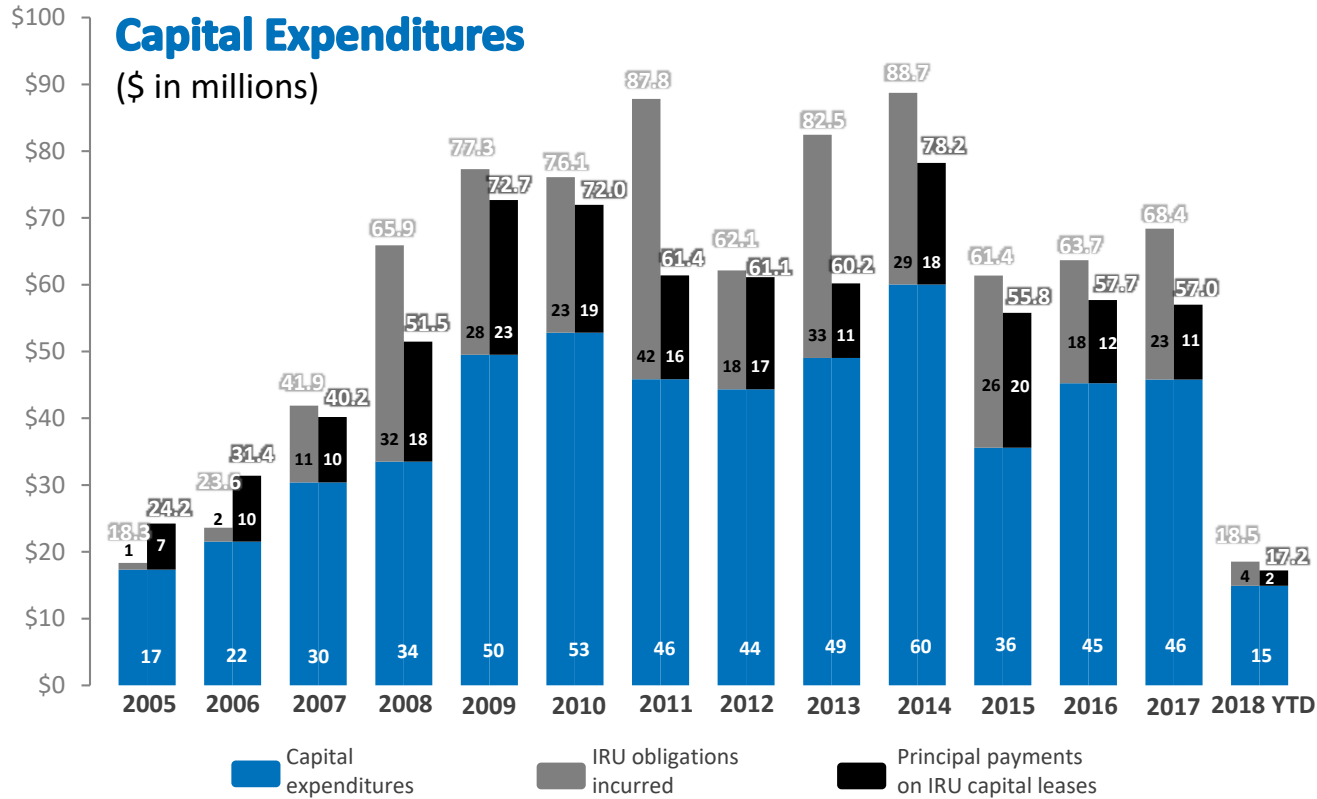


# network expansion



# investing

to further improve & extend the network from internally generated free cash flow



CAPEX is used to:

1. Add new markets to the network
  - Added 127 markets since 2006
  - Added approximately 125 new buildings to the network footprint per year
2. Add capacity to the network
  - Capacity increased by 40% from 2016 to 2017
3. Maintain the existing network
  - Over 71% of 2017's growth came from existing footprint as of January 1, 2011

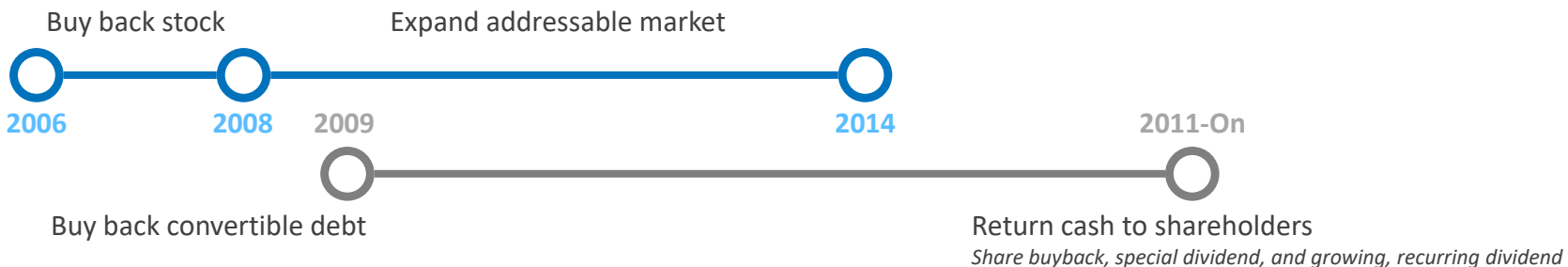
# highlights

## Q1 2018 RESULTS (\$ in millions)

	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q/Q % Change	Y/Y % Change
On-Net Revenue	\$81.8	\$83.5	\$83.6	\$85.6	\$87.9	\$89.4	\$92.4	3.4%	10.5%
Off-Net Revenue	\$31.0	\$31.9	\$33.4	\$34.0	\$34.9	\$35.7	\$36.1	1.4%	8.3%
Non-Core Revenue	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.2	(7.9)%	(24.2)%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$113.1</b>	<b>\$115.6</b>	<b>\$117.2</b>	<b>\$119.8</b>	<b>\$123.0</b>	<b>\$125.2</b>	<b>\$128.7</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>
Gross Profit (Non-GAAP)	\$64.4	\$65.7	\$66.7	\$68.8	\$69.6	\$71.5	\$74.0	3.6%	11.1%
<i>Gross Margin (Non-GAAP)</i>	<i>57.0%</i>	<i>56.8%</i>	<i>56.9%</i>	<i>57.4%</i>	<i>56.6%</i>	<i>57.1%</i>	<i>57.5%</i>	0.4%	0.6%
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>\$37.2</b>	<b>\$37.1</b>	<b>\$37.7</b>	<b>\$40.1</b>	<b>\$40.2</b>	<b>\$43.2</b>	<b>\$44.1</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>16.9%</b>
<i>EBITDA Margin</i>	<i>32.9%</i>	<i>32.1%</i>	<i>32.2%</i>	<i>33.5%</i>	<i>32.7%</i>	<i>34.5%</i>	<i>34.3%</i>	-0.3%	2.1%
<b>EBITDA, as adjusted</b>	<b>\$37.9</b>	<b>\$37.7</b>	<b>\$39.9</b>	<b>\$41.1</b>	<b>\$40.6</b>	<b>\$43.6</b>	<b>\$44.2</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>10.9%</b>
<i>EBITDA, as adjusted Margin</i>	<i>33.5%</i>	<i>32.7%</i>	<i>34.0%</i>	<i>34.3%</i>	<i>33.0%</i>	<i>34.8%</i>	<i>34.3%</i>	-0.4%	0.3%

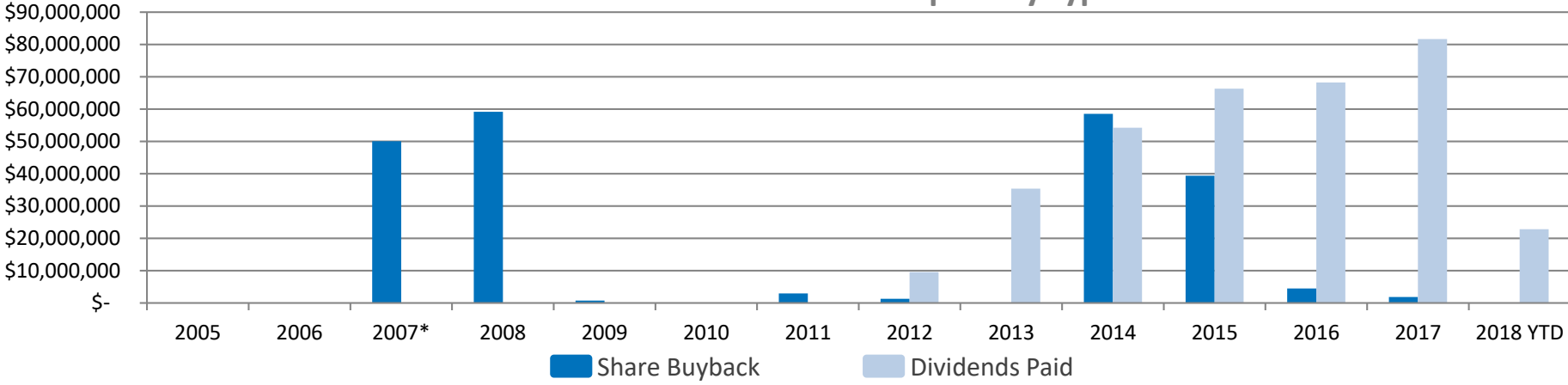
# capitalization use of free cash flow

(\$ in millions)	As of 12/31/05	As of 12/31/06	As of 12/31/07	As of 12/31/08	As of 12/31/09	As of 12/31/10	As of 12/31/11	As of 12/31/12	As of 12/31/13	As of 12/31/14	As of 12/31/15	As of 12/31/16	As of 12/31/17	As of 3/31/18
Cash & cash equivalents	\$30	\$43	\$177	\$71	\$56	\$56	\$238	\$247	\$305	\$288	\$204	\$274	\$247	\$236
Debt & capital leases														
Senior secured notes	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$175	\$175	\$245	\$244	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Senior secured notes	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$250	\$375	\$375	\$375
Senior unsecured notes	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$200	\$200	\$189	\$189	\$189
Note payable	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$21	\$6	\$11	\$11
Convertible notes	\$7	\$9	\$125	\$62	\$66	\$71	\$77	\$82	\$89	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Capital lease obligations	\$92	\$88	\$93	\$104	\$110	\$112	\$135	\$138	\$162	\$167	\$136	\$142	\$158	\$158
Total debt and capital leases	\$99	\$97	\$218	\$166	\$176	\$183	\$387	\$395	\$496	\$611	\$607	\$712	\$732	\$734
Net debt	\$69	\$54	\$41	\$95	\$120	\$127	\$149	\$148	\$191	\$323	\$403	\$437	\$485	\$497
Shareholder equity	\$221	\$216	\$209	\$151	\$144	\$152	\$64	\$160	\$193	\$84	(\$12)	(\$53)	(\$103)	(\$97)
Total capitalization	\$320	\$321	\$427	\$317	\$320	\$335	\$551	\$555	\$689	\$695	\$594	\$658	\$630	\$636

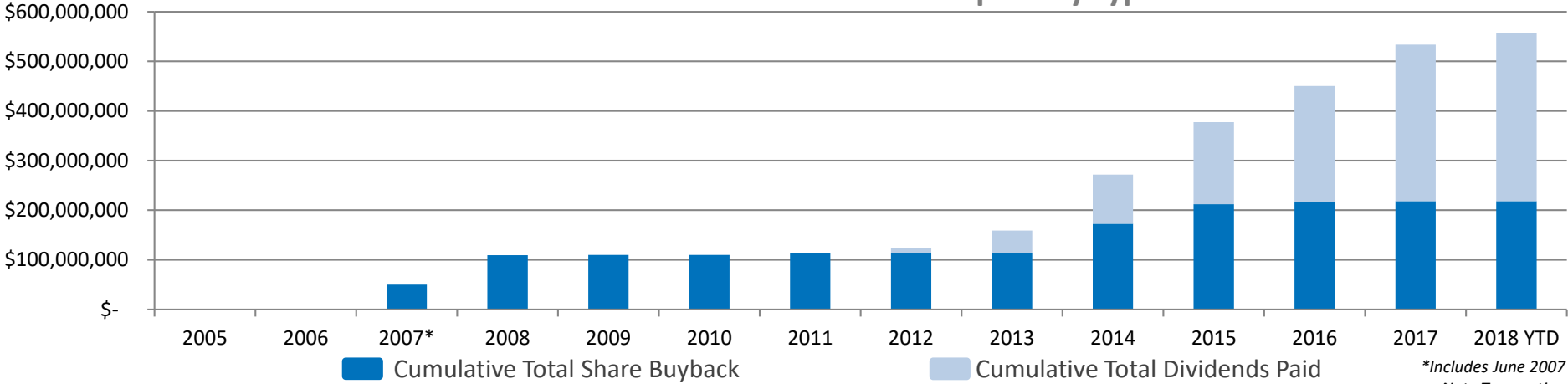


# total return of capital, 2005 – Q1 2018

Annual Return of Capital by type

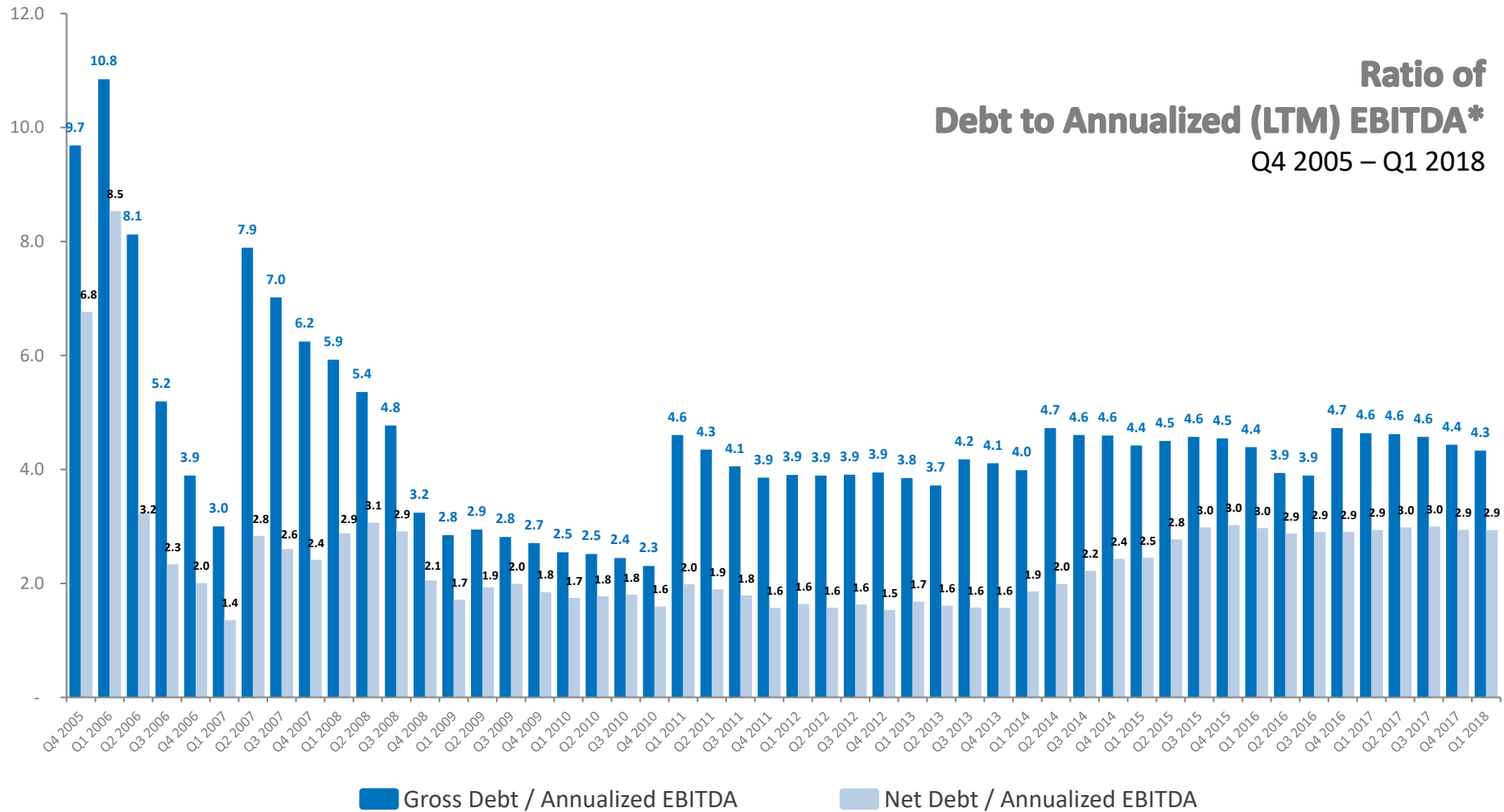


Cumulative Total Return of Capital by type



\*Includes June 2007 Note Transaction

# ratio of debt to annualized ebidta



\*EBITDA adjusted by including asset related gains



# investment highlights

Cogent is a  
*leading global*  
Internet  
Service  
Provider.

- Fundamentals provide for continued, consistent growth and profitability
- Independent, low-cost international network
- Network footprint targeted at high traffic locations
- Very strong balance sheet
- True free cash flow positive
- Experienced management team
- Substantial network capacity; very high operating leverage
- Implemented a recurring and growing dividend to shareholders

cogent  
Smart People Buy Dumb Pipes

# Appendix

**Reconciliation of non-GAAP measures to the most directly comparable financial measures calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP**

## Non-GAAP EBITDA and non-GAAP EBITDA, as adjusted, reconciled to GAAP cash flows provided by operating activities

	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Year 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Year 2017	Q1 2018
(\$ in 000's) – unaudited											
Net cash flows provided by operating activities	\$27,557	\$23,698	\$22,833	\$33,879	\$107,967	\$23,514	\$28,045	\$28,783	\$31,360	\$111,702	\$30,179
Changes in operating assets and liabilities	(3,681)	1,755	4,737	(6,781)	(3,968)	3,192	950	721	300	5,270	2919
Cash interest expense and income tax expense	9,787	9,497	9,601	9,979	38,861	11,021	11,104	10,700	11,583	44,300	10,478
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>\$33,663</b>	<b>\$34,950</b>	<b>\$37,171</b>	<b>\$37,077</b>	<b>\$142,860</b>	<b>\$37,727</b>	<b>\$40,099</b>	<b>\$40,204</b>	<b>\$43,243</b>	<b>\$161,272</b>	<b>\$44,092</b>
PLUS: Gains on asset related transactions	1,946	4,439	687	667	7,739	2,124	1,023	397	319	3,862	117
<b>EBITDA, as adjusted</b>	<b>\$35,609</b>	<b>\$39,389</b>	<b>\$37,858</b>	<b>\$37,744</b>	<b>\$150,599</b>	<b>\$39,851</b>	<b>\$41,122</b>	<b>\$40,601</b>	<b>\$43,562</b>	<b>\$165,134</b>	<b>\$44,209</b>
<b>EBITDA margin</b>	<b>31.1%</b>	<b>31.8%</b>	<b>32.9%</b>	<b>32.1%</b>	<b>32.0%</b>	<b>32.2%</b>	<b>33.5%</b>	<b>32.7%</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>33.2%</b>	<b>34.3%</b>
<b>EBITDA, as adjusted, margin</b>	<b>32.9%</b>	<b>35.8%</b>	<b>33.5%</b>	<b>32.7%</b>	<b>33.7%</b>	<b>34.0%</b>	<b>34.3%</b>	<b>33.0%</b>	<b>34.8%</b>	<b>34.0%</b>	<b>34.3%</b>

## Non-GAAP gross profit and non-GAAP gross margin reconciled to GAAP gross profit and GAAP gross margin

	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Year 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Year 2017	Q1 2018
(\$ in 000's) – unaudited											
Service revenue total	\$108,291	\$109,955	\$113,057	\$115,596	\$446,900	\$117,203	\$119,777	\$122,969	\$125,226	\$485,175	\$128,706
Minus - Network operations expense including equity-based compensation and including depreciation and amortization expense	65,030	66,476	67,631	70,162	269,299	69,200	70,012	72,731	73,262	285,205	74,663
<b>GAAP Gross Profit (1)</b>	<b>\$43,261</b>	<b>\$43,479</b>	<b>\$45,426</b>	<b>\$45,434</b>	<b>\$177,601</b>	<b>\$48,003</b>	<b>\$49,765</b>	<b>\$50,238</b>	<b>\$51,964</b>	<b>\$199,970</b>	<b>\$54,043</b>
Plus - Equity-based compensation – network operations expense	121	145	161	146	573	111	141	179	173	604	189
Plus - Depreciation and amortization expense	17,753	18,604	18,804	20,073	75,234	18,538	18,897	19,147	19,344	75,926	19,788
<b>Non-GAAP Gross Profit (2)</b>	<b>\$61,135</b>	<b>\$62,228</b>	<b>\$64,391</b>	<b>\$65,653</b>	<b>\$253,408</b>	<b>\$66,652</b>	<b>\$68,803</b>	<b>\$69,564</b>	<b>\$71,481</b>	<b>\$276,500</b>	<b>\$74,020</b>
<b>GAAP Gross Margin (1)</b>	<b>39.9%</b>	<b>39.5%</b>	<b>40.2%</b>	<b>39.3%</b>	<b>39.7%</b>	<b>41.0%</b>	<b>41.5%</b>	<b>40.9%</b>	<b>41.5%</b>	<b>41.2%</b>	<b>42.0%</b>
<b>Non-GAAP Gross Margin (2)</b>	<b>56.5%</b>	<b>56.6%</b>	<b>57.0%</b>	<b>56.8%</b>	<b>56.7%</b>	<b>56.9%</b>	<b>57.4%</b>	<b>56.6%</b>	<b>57.1%</b>	<b>57.0%</b>	<b>57.5%</b>

(1) GAAP gross profit is defined as total service revenue less network operations expense, depreciation and amortization and equity based compensation included in network operations expense. GAAP gross margin is defined as GAAP gross profit divided by total service revenue.

(2) Non-GAAP gross profit represents service revenue less network operations expense, excluding equity-based compensation and amounts shown separately (depreciation and amortization expense). Non-GAAP gross margin is defined as non-GAAP gross profit divided by total service revenue. Management believes that non-GAAP gross profit and non-GAAP gross margin are relevant metrics to provide to investors, as they are metrics that management uses to measure the margin and amount available to the Company after network service costs, in essence these are measures of the efficiency of the Company's network.