

Preparing a Venture Capital Term Sheet

Prepared By:

Morgan Lewis

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. Purpose of the Term Sheet.....	3
II. Ensuring that the Term Sheet is Non-Binding.....	3
III. Terms that Impact Economics	4
A. Type of Securities	4
B. Warrants.....	5
C. Amount of Investment and Capitalization	5
D. Price Per Share.....	5
E. Dividends	6
F. Rights Upon Liquidation.....	7
G. Redemption or Repurchase Rights.....	8
H. Reimbursement of Investor Expenses.....	8
I. Vesting of Founder Shares.....	8
J. Employee Stock Options.....	9
K. Stock Option Pool Increase.....	9
IV. Terms that Impact Control Rights for Investors	9
A. Stock Voting Rights.....	9
B. Investor Protective Provisions	10
C. Board Representation.....	10
D. Matters Requiring Investor Director Approval.....	11
E. Non-Compete and Non-Solicitation Agreements	11
V. Reasonable Market Investor Protections	11
A. Anti-Dilution Provisions.....	11
B. Mandatory Conversion.....	12
C. Representations and Warranties in the Preferred Stock Purchase Agreement.....	13
D. Closing Conditions	13
E. Closing	14
F. Use of Proceeds.....	14
G. Registration Rights.....	14
H. Management Rights	15

I.	Information Rights	15
J.	Pre-Emptive Rights	15
K.	Pay-to-Play	16
L.	Confidentiality and Invention Assignment Agreements	16
M.	D&O Insurance	16
N.	Key Man Insurance	16
O.	Right of Refusal and Co-Sale Rights	16
P.	Drag Along Rights	17
VI.	Other Customary Provisions	17
VII.	Signatures.....	17
Appendix A		
	Sample Form Of Term Sheet	19

PREPARING A VENTURE CAPITAL TERM SHEET

I. [Purpose of the Term Sheet.](#)

The “term sheet” or “letter of intent” is a key document in a venture capital transaction. Whether the initial agreement as to terms is structured as a “term sheet” or a “letter of intent” is a technical difference, and the choice of designation is largely one of personal preference with no substantive effect. For simplicity, this article uses the phrase “Term Sheet” to describe the initial agreement as to the terms of a transaction.

By focusing on the Term Sheet, the attention of the company seeking the investment (the “Company”) and the venture capital investor (the “Investor”) is directed to the major business and structural issues involved in the proposed investment. The parties relatively quickly may either reach agreement on major terms or come to the realization that the investment will not be feasible because of irreconcilable differences on fundamental issues. In either case, drafting time and expense are saved.

The material terms included in the Term Sheet can be divided into three categories: (1) terms that impact valuation and economic division of profits and proceeds upon a liquidity event, (2) terms that impact control over decision making, and (3) reasonable market investor protection terms.

The process of preparing and negotiating a Term Sheet helps to solidify the transaction and to create a sense of momentum between the parties. A well drawn and complete Term Sheet will facilitate the drafting of the final documents, and therefore will help to minimize the time and effort required to draft and negotiate the final agreements. In addition, an executed Term Sheet may assist the Company in its negotiations with strategic allowance partners, creditors, suppliers, customers and others.

Each business will have unique issues, and the Term Sheet should focus on those unique issues. Generally, with respect to internet, software and other information technology companies, deal breaking issues most often arise in the areas of intellectual property and employment matters. These issues should be addressed early in the transaction process, and the understanding of the parties should be reflected in the Term Sheet.

A form of Term Sheet, attached to this article as Appendix A, is based on a form developed by the National Venture Capital Association (the “NVCA”). The attached form of Term Sheet reflects a conventional Series A preferred stock investment incorporating many of the terms discussed in this article, and includes alternatives frequently considered by Investors.

II. [Ensuring that the Term Sheet is Non-Binding.](#)

Merely because the document that the parties have executed is characterized as a Term Sheet does not mean that the document could never operate to create a legally binding contract. Therefore, the Term Sheet should specifically provide that it is not, in and of itself, binding upon either the Company or the Investor. Rather, all obligations must be made contingent upon the negotiation and execution of the final agreements, and the prior satisfactory completion by the

Investor of additional due diligence. Otherwise, the Investor may find itself forced, pursuant to the Term Sheet, to make an investment that subsequent investigation or events demonstrate was not in its best interests.

One significant exception to the non-binding nature of a Term Sheet often arises with regard to expenses. Term Sheets frequently provide that, although the main provisions are non-binding, certain expenses of the Investor are to be borne by the Company, even if the transaction is never consummated. If this is the intention of the parties, the Term Sheet should specifically state that the parties are legally bound by such a provision. If the parties have not entered into a separate confidentiality agreement, the Term Sheet may contain binding provisions regarding maintaining confidentiality of information supplied by the Company and possibly the negotiation of the transaction itself.

An Investor sometimes will require Companies to agree to an exclusive negotiation period, sometimes referred to as a “no-shop” period. Given that the Investor may have expended significant time and effort in conducting due diligence and negotiating deal terms, an Investor will not want the Company to use the Term Sheet to leverage better deal terms from other Investors. Companies, however, should exercise caution in agreeing to a no-shop. Agreeing to a no-shop too early in the process may foreclose better opportunities. In addition, a no-shop can be increasingly coercive when the Company is close to running out of money. Ultimately, from the Company’s perspective, a no shop is problematic because Investors do not have an obligation to proceed with the investment. With no guarantee of a deal, the Company may be left with no options or bad options at the end of the no-shop period. Whether the Company should ultimately agree to a no-shop period will depend on a number of factors, including, among others, the Company’s financial condition, the negotiating leverage of the parties and market conditions.

Despite the non-binding and summary nature of the Term Sheet, it is not uncommon for the Company, upon receipt of the first draft of the definitive agreements, to exclaim, “but this wasn’t in the Term Sheet!” Accordingly, it is important to include all key provisions in the Term Sheet, while, explicitly conveying the message to the Company that the Term Sheet will not contain every provision of the transaction as finally documented.

III. [Terms that Impact Economics.](#)

A. [Type of Securities.](#)

The Term Sheet will indicate the type of securities that the Investor contemplates purchasing, whether common stock, preferred stock, warrants, debt securities, partnership interests, membership interests, another type of security, or some combination of the foregoing. If debt securities are involved, the Term Sheet should state whether the debt is to be subordinate to debt from banks, financial institutions, trade creditors, or other third parties. If common stock is to be purchased directly, or upon the conversion of other securities, the Term Sheet should indicate whether the common stock is to be of the same class or series as existing shares of common stock, or a new class or series with different voting rights. If preferred stock is involved, the Term Sheet should indicate the rights, preferences, restrictions, conversion rights, voting rights and other special or relative rights of such preferred stock, many of which are

described in greater detail below. The basic rights of each class of stock will be set forth in a Company's Articles or Certificate of Incorporation, generally known as a "charter."

This article assumes the Company is a corporate entity. However, increasingly, a limited liability company entity is preferred because this form of entity: (1) is taxed as a partnership for federal income tax purposes; (2) provides limited liability to its members; and (3) unlike an "S" corporation, may have owners who are not individuals. Although often tax efficient, a limited liability company investment can be an administrative nightmare for venture investors structured as limited partnerships or other flow-through entities, because they must include the Company's K-1 information on their K-1. A careful analysis should be made early on as to what the optimal entity structure for the Company would be after the Investment. If a non-corporate entity is chosen, the Term Sheet should include a clause providing for conversion to corporate form, and the mechanics therefor, prior to an initial public offering. Generally, the issues relating to investment are similar, regardless of the entity chosen.

B. [Warrants.](#)

If the Investor requires the Company to issue warrants to the Investor in connection with the Investment, the Term Sheet should specify: (1) the type of securities subject to the warrant; (2) the purchase price per share of the security; (3) the warrant coverage percentage; and (4) the term of the warrant. Warrants increase in value as the value of the underlying shares increase in relation to the exercise price. Warrants can serve as a "kicker" to increase the potential economic value of an investment. Although it is fairly common to issue warrants in connection with bridge loans, it is somewhat unusual to issue warrants in connection with preferred stock financings.

C. [Amount of Investment and Capitalization.](#)

The Term Sheet should set forth the total dollar amount all Investors are prepared to invest in the Company in this round of financing (the "Investment"), as well as the percentage of the Company the Investors will own, on a post-closing, fully-diluted basis, after all convertible securities, options, warrants and other rights have been converted or exercised after the calculation of all anti-dilution adjustments that may be triggered as a result of the transaction. The Term Sheet should specify whether outstanding bridge notes are being converted in the financing. A current and projected post-closing ("pro forma") capitalization table is usually set forth as an exhibit to the Term Sheet.

D. [Price Per Share.](#)

The price per share is the pre-money valuation of the Company divided by the number of shares outstanding prior to the Investment. The pre-money valuation is the valuation of the Company prior to the Investment. The number of shares outstanding or "fully-diluted" number is often a subject of negotiation. The term "fully-diluted" generally includes all outstanding common stock, preferred stock (on an as-converted basis), options, warrants and other convertible securities as if fully exercised or converted. One heavily negotiated issue is whether "outstanding options" includes only issued options, or unissued options as well. If it is to include unissued options, the parties must further decide whether this includes the additional unissued

options resulting from any increase in the option pool as a result of the financing. For a more in-depth discussion regarding the stock option pool increase and negotiations with respect thereto, see Section J below.

The general rule is that the larger the basis (the agreed upon number of outstanding shares), the less the Investors will have to pay per share of stock in connection with the Investment, and the greater the dilution to the existing stockholders. This is a function of the formula: $\text{per share price} = \text{pre-money valuation} / \text{total outstanding shares prior to Investment}$. The principle behind the negotiation of the definition of “fully-diluted basis” is deciding who will bear the cost of dilution. If the number of the securities in question are included in the fully-diluted number, the existing common stockholders will assume all of the diluting effect of those securities. If those securities are not included in the fully-diluted number, the existing common stockholders and the new Investors will assume on a pro rata basis the diluting effect of those securities. The Investors will argue for a larger fully-diluted basis (i.e., one including the unissued options) so that the existing common stockholders will assume the diluting effect when those options are issued and exercised. The Company will argue for a sharing of the diluting effect of the unissued options equally between the existing common stockholders and the new Investors.

E. [Dividends.](#)

If the Investment is intended to yield a current return, customarily in the form of a dividend, the amount of this return should be clearly specified. Dividends may be cumulative or non-cumulative. A cumulative dividend is a dividend that accrues regardless of what the Company does. A noncumulative dividend only will accrue, and be payable, if the Company declares the dividend. Noncumulative dividends are more Company favorable than cumulative dividends.

Even with cumulative dividends, venture investors typically do not anticipate actual dividend payments. Rather, cumulative dividends are viewed as a means to boost the underlying equity investment. Upon conversion of the preferred stock, the cumulative dividends convert into additional common stock, which increase the Investor’s percentage ownership interest in the Company. Cumulative dividends will also typically be paid upon payment of the liquidation preference and any redemption.

Companies should be particularly wary of cumulative dividends that compound given the potentially significant effect on total returns. In addition, Companies should be cognizant of the fact that accumulating dividends are liabilities that generally appear on the Company’s balance sheet, which may impair the Company’s ability to borrow.

To provide some flexibility in the event cumulative dividends pose an impediment to an important prospective transaction, the parties should agree to some method by which the board of directors or the preferred holders may waive cumulative dividends. In some cases, accrued and unpaid dividends are payable upon conversion, as well as upon a liquidation event. Typically, however, dividends are not paid if the preferred is converted. Another alternative is to give the Company the option to pay accrued and unpaid dividends in cash or in common shares valued at fair market value. The latter are referred to as “PIK” (payment-in-kind) dividends.

F. [Rights Upon Liquidation.](#)

The Term Sheet should indicate whether the Investor has a preference upon liquidation. These “liquidation preferences” typically apply to distributions in connection with a liquidation and dissolution of the Company, and distributions in connection with the sale of the Company. If the venture proves to be unsuccessful, the Investor who provided the most recent funds to the Company often will get first opportunity to recover its Investment. Typically, an Investor who has purchased shares of preferred stock will be entitled to receive, upon liquidation, an amount equal to its Investment, or some multiple thereof, prior to distribution of proceeds to the holders of securities which rank junior to such series of preferred stock, for purposes of liquidation. The Term Sheet should specify such entitlement and whether the holders of preferred stock will be entitled to participate in the distribution of additional proceeds among holders of common stock, on an as-converted basis (“participating preferred”) or if the Investor must convert to participate in proceeds distributed to holders of common stock (“straight preferred” or “non-participating preferred”).

With “non-participating” preferred stock, upon a sale or liquidation of the Company, the preferred holders are entitled to receive only the amount of their preference (typically the amount paid for the stock), plus any accrued and unpaid dividends. Any remaining proceeds are distributed exclusively to the common holders. If the common holders would receive more per share than the preferred holders upon a sale or liquidation, typically when the Company is sold at a high valuation, the preferred holders can convert their shares into common stock and give up their preference in exchange for the right to share pro rata in the full liquidation proceeds. Management and other common holders generally favor non-participating preferred stock because it requires that the preferred holders to convert and stand on equal footing with the common holders to receive a gain on their Investment beyond the negotiated preference amount.

With “participating” preferred stock, preferred holders are entitled to receive their preference amount first in a liquidation event, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, and then any remaining proceeds are divided among holders of common stock and preferred stock on an as-converted basis. Participating preferred stock provides a significant benefit to the Investors, at the expense of the founders, whose right to any residual amount after payment of the preference is cut by Investors’ participation in the distribution of the remaining amounts. A participation feature may be more justified when the risk associated with the Investment, or in a later stage Investment, the possibility of a sale shortly after the Investment, justify a premium. One alternative is to provide the Investors with a participation feature, but cap the amount of participation at some multiple of the purchase price. This alternative can be used in situations when the risk of investment in the business, or closeness of a sale, justify it, but do not justify the Investors getting the benefit of the participation feature in a true “home run” exit. If the capital return is exceeded, the Investor would convert to common stock to receive the full upside if the exit was sufficiently lucrative.

Despite the common use of this feature, it is a term of great contention, as it is the one feature that can have the greatest impact on the exit returns of everyone from the founders to the preferred stock investors. Founders sometimes focus on initial public offering (“IPO”) scenarios, in which liquidation preferences typically do not come into play, without due regard for other, more likely liquidation scenarios, when Investors will have a preference. Investors should

exercise discretion when negotiating liquidation preferences. Liquidation preferences, particularly those that provide for multiple returns or participation rights, may result in skewing management incentives toward an IPO when an acquisition may be a more realistic or strategically desirable outcome. Therefore, all parties to a preferred stock financing must pay particular attention to the size and participation of the liquidation rights.

G. [Redemption or Repurchase Rights.](#)

If the securities are subject to redemption or repurchase at some point in the future, the Term Sheet should outline the circumstances under which such a redemption or repurchase may occur. For instance, the Term Sheet should indicate: (1) whether the redemption or repurchase is to be optional (and at whose option) or mandatory; (2) when the obligation to redeem or repurchase will arise (i.e., on the death of a principal in the Company, a public offering, or a particular date); (3) whether the redemption or repurchase obligation applies to only unconverted or unexercised securities, or also to the shares of common stock received upon such conversion or exercise; (4) the price, or method of computing the price, at which the redemption or repurchase will occur; and (5) the consequences for the failure to redeem (i.e., the ability to elect additional directors and control the board). In practice, redemption rights are not often used, however, they do provide a form of exit, and some possible leverage over the Company.

H. [Reimbursement of Investor Expenses.](#)

Investors often will require reimbursement for the legal, diligence and administrative costs of the financing, up to a predetermined cap. The Term Sheet should specify whether the Company will reimburse the Investors for out-of-pocket diligence and administrative fees, and for the expenses of Investor's counsel, the cap on expenses, and whether such expenses are reimbursable only upon the successful closing of the Investment, or regardless of whether the Investment closes.

I. [Vesting of Founder Shares.](#)

Term Sheets often include a discussion of the Investors' expectations regarding the vesting of founders' shares. Vesting of founders' shares can be a contentious issue, particularly if the founders' shares are not presently subject to vesting, or are subject to a different vesting schedule than contemplated by the Investors.

Investors will want founders' shares to be subject to vesting, even when shares have been purchased for value or have previously vested, to create an incentive for the founders to remain committed to the Company, particularly when a significant portion of the value of the enterprise lies in the "human capital" of the founders. Vesting also helps to mitigate the potential dilutive effect associated with filling a management position vacated by a departing founder (i.e., any unvested shares may be allocated to the new hire).

Founders may object to vesting requirements, particularly with respect to stock purchased for value or when vesting does not appropriately account for the time and effort already contributed by the founder. The Term Sheet should set forth any conditions regarding founder share vesting or "re-vesting."

J. [Employee Stock Options.](#)

Term Sheets often include vesting provisions applicable to employee stock options, as Investors want to ensure that key employees remain committed to the Company. When key employees are hired, they often are given shares or options to buy shares of the Company as part of their compensation. If such options are promised, they usually are earned over time. Step vesting often occurs in annual, quarterly, or monthly increments, usually over periods of two to four years. Cliff vesting occurs all at one time. It is common to see cliff vesting of a percentage of the shares or options after one year, with monthly step vesting for the remainder of the vesting term. The Term Sheet should set forth vesting provisions applicable to employee stock options or restricted stock.

K. [Stock Option Pool Increase.](#)

The Term Sheet should set forth the size of the equity plan pool immediately prior to the closing of the financing. The size of the equity plan reserve is often a point of negotiation in a financing. Investors typically insist that an equity plan be put in place in order to attract and retain employees. This pool of shares often is factored into the pre-investment capitalization when arriving at the price per share of preferred stock to be paid by the Investors. When calculated this way, Investors are not diluted by grants under the plan, only the pre-existing stockholders and the founders are diluted.

While the size of the equity pool is important, it can vary significantly from one transaction to the next. The more complete the Company's management team is at the time of funding, arguably, the lower the pool needs to be to attract and retain key hires. Investors generally take the position that there should be sufficient equity in reserve to cover the Company's hiring plan up to the time of the next round of institutional financing.

IV. [Terms that Impact Control Rights for Investors.](#)

A. [Stock Voting Rights.](#)

The nature of the Investor's voting rights should be indicated in the Term Sheet. The Investor commonly receives the number of votes equal to the number of shares of common stock into which its securities may convert at such point in time, including conversion of dividends, if applicable. The Term Sheet should describe whether the preferred stock purchased by the Investor has "class" or "protective" voting rights (i.e., the holders of preferred stock, or certain classes of preferred stock, voting separately from the holders of common stock must approve certain fundamental transactions), or whether the Investor has special rights to take control of the Company upon the occurrence of certain events of default. The Investor often will have the right to elect one or more members of the Board of Directors of the Company. The Term Sheet should set forth the means for effectuating these provisions. The preferred method is a required amendment to the Company's charter that provides for election (or appointment by the Company's stockholders) to the Board of Directors of a representative of the class of securities being purchased by the Investor. Such an amendment should be filed prior to, or contemporaneously with, the execution and consummation of the final agreements. If this method is either unavailable because of state law, or impractical because of the particular

transaction, then a majority or preferably all of the existing stockholders of the Company should execute a stockholders' agreement, either as a part of the purchase agreement or as a separate document, wherein they agree to vote their shares to elect a member of the Board of Directors appointed by the Investor.

B. [Investor Protective Provisions.](#)

Investors often will request special approval rights with respect to certain matters of particular significance to their Investment, in addition to class or series voting rights that may exist under relevant state corporate laws. These special class voting rights are generally referred to as "protective provisions." The nature and extent of the Investor's protective provisions should be indicated in the Term Sheet.

The Term Sheet should set forth any other significant or unusual covenants, both affirmative and negative, that are required to be met by the Company, such as an amendment to the Company's charter or bylaws limiting director liability, to the extent available. The Term Sheet should refer to appropriate negative covenants, such as: (1) the Company not merging, selling its assets, or otherwise implementing any fundamental changes in its business; (2) not amending its charter or bylaws without Investor approval; or (3) not creating or issuing any additional shares of capital stock each without the approval of the Investor. In addition, the Term Sheet should provide that other "standard and customary covenants" will be included in the final agreements.

Protective provisions can serve an important role in protecting the interests of the Investors, particularly when the Investors have a minority position in the Company), and there are a number of fairly standard protective provisions. It is in the interests of all parties, however, to exercise caution with respect to protective provisions. Care should be exercised to ensure that each protective provision is reasonable and appropriate in light of the expected benefit to the Investors and the administrative burden on the Company associated with having to regularly obtain stockholder approval. Protective provisions, particularly those with high vote thresholds, have the potential to expose the Company and the Investors to opportunistic behavior by other Investors. In addition, unnecessarily strict or vague restrictions may result in an inadvertent violation of the Company's charter, which can have a number of negative consequences.

It is prudent to provide that the protective provisions will terminate if the number of outstanding shares of preferred stock falls below a de minimus amount. In the unlikely event that a small number of preferred remain outstanding, the Company and the other Investors, including any preferred holders that have converted to common, will want to avoid a situation where the remaining preferred stockholders are able to exercise influence disproportionate to their holdings. The threshold should be determined based on the capitalization of the Company.

C. [Board Representation.](#)

Stockholders, typically the preferred holders and the major common holders, often will enter into a voting agreement to allocate board seats to particular groups of stockholders. Even if the Company's charter provides for class voting for directors, a voting agreement can specify how seats within a particular class will be allocated among holders of that class. For example, if

a particular class has the ability to elect two directors, a voting agreement can further specify which stockholders in the class have the right to designate one of the directors and which stockholders have the right to designate the other. Use of voting agreements may help venture capital funds qualify for the venture capital operating company exception under the plan asset regulations of the Employment Retirement Income Securities Act of 1974 (“ERISA”). The voting agreement generally will terminate upon an IPO of the Company.

D. [Matters Requiring Investor Director Approval.](#)

The Term Sheet may set forth corporate activities that require approval by the director appointed by the Investors. This category of investor rights attempts to give minority Investors protection against a laundry list of possible expropriation by managers and other Investors. The danger of a long list of matters requiring Investor director approval is that the Company may be hamstrung in its ability to operate its business. Investors must walk a fine line between protecting their Investment and encouraging corporate growth.

E. [Non-Compete and Non-Solicitation Agreements.](#)

Investors often request that employees of the Company execute Non-Compete and Non-Solicitation Agreements in order to protect their Investment in the Company. Note that non-compete restrictions, other than in connection with the sale of a business, are prohibited in California, and may not be enforceable in other jurisdictions as well. Some Investors do not require such agreements because they fear that employees will request additional consideration in exchange for signing a Non-Compete and Non-Solicitation Agreement. Indeed the agreement may arguably be invalid absent such additional consideration, although having an employee sign a non-compete contemporaneously with hiring constitutes adequate consideration. Others take the view that it should be up to the Company’s Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis to determine whether any particular key employee is required to sign such an agreement. Non-Competes often have a one year duration, although state law may permit two years or more. The Term Sheet should specify whether and which employees are required to execute Non-Compete and Non-Solicitation Agreements.

V. [Reasonable Market Investor Protections.](#)

A. [Anti-Dilution Provisions.](#)

If the Investor is purchasing securities that are convertible into or exercisable for shares of common stock, the Term Sheet should set forth the circumstances of conversion (i.e., optional or mandatory conversion), and the conversion ratio (i.e., one-for-one, one-for-two) upon which the conversion is to be based. Because common shares typically receive the residual amount in connection with any liquidation, after payment of any liquidation preference to the preferred, the ability of preferred shares to convert into common shares enables the preferred shares to participate in any upside in the event the liquidation amount exceeds the liquidation preference.

In most venture financings, each share of preferred stock is convertible into one share of common stock, subject to anti-dilution adjustments, as discussed later in this article. In rare cases, the conversion ratio may be adjusted from something other than one-for-one, in lieu of cumulative dividends or other guaranteed minimum returns.

Investors typically request protection against possible dilution in their holdings that may occur as a result of additional issuances of securities or other changes to the Company's capital structure. At a minimum, anti-dilution protections provide adjustments for mechanical changes resulting from stock splits and similar recapitalizations that do not effect the underlying economics. Provision for mechanical adjustments is generally not controversial and will normally be included in financing documents.

In addition to mechanical adjustments, major Investors typically request that the Company's charter provide for adjustments to account for the dilutive effect of future stock issuances at a lower purchase price than paid by the Investor. These price-based anti-dilution adjustment mechanisms typically effect some change to the conversion ratio of the preferred stock. In general, price-based adjustment mechanisms are divided into "weighted-average" formulas, "full ratchet" adjustments, or some combination of the two. Weighted-average formulas are the most common. Weighted-average formulas account for the number of shares issued in the new financing and the number of shares already outstanding (in addition to the respective prices at which the shares were issued) in adjusting the conversion price. Full-ratchet formulas adjust the conversion ratio of the preferred to reflect the new lower price at which the new securities are issued, without accounting for the number of shares to be issued or previously outstanding. Because it does not calibrate for differences in the size of a new issuance relative to previously outstanding shares, a full-ratchet formula tends to result in more dramatic changes than weighted-average formulas.

Note that exclusions to anti-dilution are frequently negotiated and included in preferred stock financings. Investors, however, sometimes may request additional protections to help ensure that their interests are protected. An efficient way to accomplish this is to require, in addition to board approval, approval by a director appointed by the Investors. Care should be exercised with respect to requiring unanimous board approval when other options are available. Requiring approval of a director appointed by the preferred may sufficiently safeguard the Investors' interests while avoiding some of the "hold up" risk associated with a unanimous approval requirement. Under a unanimous approval requirement, any single director can effectively hold up a transaction that might otherwise be considered by all of the other directors to be in the Company's best interest. Another approach is to impose caps on the number of shares that may be issued under the different exceptions. Consider, however, that these caps can be cumbersome to increase in the future, because an increase would require an amendment to the charter, and can expose the Company to the risk of inadvertently triggering an anti-dilution adjustment.

B. Mandatory Conversion.

The Term Sheet should specify the circumstances under which the Investor must convert all shares of the Company's preferred stock held by the Investor into shares of the Company's common stock. It is typical in preferred stock financings to include provisions for "automatic" conversion of all of the preferred stock into common stock upon the vote or written consent of holders of a defined minimum number of shares. This helps to avoid the risk of holdouts when the conversion, or a transaction contingent upon the conversion, is in the best interests of the Company and the stockholders as a whole. It is typical to provide for automatic conversion in connection with an IPO that meets specified criteria as to size and valuation. Underwriters for

the IPO will want the Company's capitalization structure to be simplified to the extent possible to facilitate the underwriters' marketing efforts.

Automatic conversion by stockholder vote provides a convenient means to simplify the Company's capitalization structure, without having to undertake to amend the charter or to get the unanimous agreement of the preferred holders to convert their shares. Automatic conversion may, for example, reduce the risk that a minority of stockholders, or the holders of a particular series, will effectively have the ability to block important transactions that may be contingent upon a more simplified capital structure (i.e., a highly-dilutive financing or an IPO that does not meet separate automatic conversion thresholds).

A new Investor in a later-stage financing should exercise care in negotiating the automatic conversion provisions, particularly if the new Investor is entitled to a larger preference or has priority relative to other series. The new Investor should be cognizant of the risk that the other Investors may be able to effectively eliminate any preferences or priority by effecting an automatic conversion through a class vote of all of the preferred voting as a whole. To protect its liquidation preference, the new Investor may want to request a higher vote threshold or a separate series vote.

Since the conversion of all preferred stock into common stock may be a practical condition precedent to a public offering of the Company's common stock, the Company will want lower thresholds. In contrast, the Investors will not want to be forced to convert to common stock unless they are assured of a sufficient return on their Investment and will want to ensure that there is sufficient liquidity to allow them to sell their shares. To ensure that the Investors receive an appropriate return on their Investment before an automatic conversion, the per share minimum offering price ensures that the Investor achieves a significant return on Investment before the Company can go public. The price is typically in the range of three to five times the original issue price.

C. [Representations and Warranties in the Preferred Stock Purchase Agreement.](#)

It usually is not necessary to set forth in the Term Sheet all of the representations and warranties that will be requested of the Company. It often is desirable, however, to set forth some of the key representations and warranties, especially those that are specific to the particular Company or transaction, in order to give the Company a sense of the scope of the representations and warranties that will be required. To avoid the appearance that these are the only representations and warranties that will be sought, the Term Sheet should provide that other "standard and customary representations and warranties" will be included in the final agreements. The Term Sheet should specify any issues relating to intellectual property of the Company that either the Investor is relying upon in making its investment decision or that will need to be contributed by the founder to the Company, or otherwise resolved prior to closing.

D. [Closing Conditions.](#)

The Term Sheet should set forth any conditions required to close the Investment. Customary closing conditions include satisfactory completion of financial and legal due diligence, qualification of the shares under applicable Blue Sky laws, the filing of an amended

charter establishing the rights and preferences of the newly authorized series of preferred stock, and an opinion of counsel to the Company.

E. [Closing](#).

The Term Sheet should set forth the anticipated closing date of the financing. The Term Sheet should set forth whether the Company will allow additional Investors to join after the initial closing within a reasonable time period, typically sixty to ninety days. This allows the Company to give Investors flexibility in coming up with capital, and also allows the Company to raise funds from smaller Investors that have not committed prior to the initial closing. Sometimes the parties will agree to stage or “tranche” an Investment in the Company, whereby the Investors will make an initial Investment in the Company and then agree to invest additional amounts upon the Company reaching certain milestones; typically financial targets, patent or regulatory approvals, or the execution of key customer contracts.

F. [Use of Proceeds](#).

The Investor may desire to set forth in the Term Sheet the use of the Investment proceeds by the Company.

G. [Registration Rights](#).

It is important for Investors to have a means to eventually liquidate their Investments. Securities sold in private financings typically are subject to restrictions on resale under securities laws. Although there are certain exemptions from these resale restrictions, these exemptions subject the Investors to holding periods and other potentially applicable conditions that may limit the ability of Investors to resell their shares.

The Term Sheet should indicate whether the Investor is to receive registration rights for public offerings of the shares purchased. If the Investor does receive registration rights, then the Term Sheet should indicate: (1) when, during what period, and how frequently the Investor may demand registration of its shares; (2) whether the Investor receives “piggyback”, “S-3”, or “demand registration rights”; and (3) who pays the expenses of each such registration. Although it is somewhat unusual for registration rights to be exercised, the availability of registration rights can serve as leverage in affecting the timing of an IPO or other liquidity event, and the extent to which Investors’ shares are included in any registered offering. In general, Companies will want to limit the scope of any registration rights due to the time, expense and liability associated with registrations. Note that founders and management sometimes seek registration rights, particularly if registration rights are extended to all shares of capital stock held by the Investors and not just those originating from the preferred stock.

It is typical for Investors to agree to a standard market stand-off agreement, sometimes referred to as a “lock-up”, in which the Investors agree not to sell Company securities for a certain period of time after a public offering. Underwriters for the Company’s IPO normally will require that all Company stockholders be subject to market stand-off agreements as a condition to the offering. This helps to ensure an orderly market for the Company’s shares following the offering. Because potential disagreements at the time of the offering may delay or threaten the

offering, it is ideal for the Company to obtain these lock-up agreements at the time of each securities issuance, rather than wait until the IPO.

H. [Management Rights.](#)

The Term Sheet should state whether the Company will grant “management rights” to an Investor. Management rights are contractual rights running directly from the Company to the Investor that give the Investor the right to participate substantially in, or substantially influence the conduct of, the management of the Company. The management rights typically include the ability to attend, advise and consult with management of the Company, attend board meetings and inspect the Company’s books and records. Venture funds often request a management rights letter when investing in a Company. Venture funds request these rights in order to obtain an exemption from regulations under the ERISA. Absent an exemption, if a pension plan subject to ERISA is a limited partner in a venture fund, then all of the venture fund’s assets are subject to regulations that require the venture fund assets to be held in trust, prohibit certain transactions and place fiduciary duties on fund managers.

A “venture capital operating company” however, is not deemed to hold ERISA plan assets. To qualify as a venture capital operating company, a venture fund must have at least 50% of its assets invested in venture capital investments. In order to qualify as a venture capital investment, the venture fund must receive certain management rights that give the fund the right to participate substantially in, or substantially influence the conduct of, the management of the portfolio company. In addition to obtaining management rights, the fund is required to actually exercise its management rights with respect to one or more of its portfolio companies every year.

I. [Information Rights.](#)

Companies will typically agree to provide Investors with periodic financial information and rights to inspect corporate records. These rights provide Investors with important ongoing information concerning their Investment and can also serve to address certain technical legal requirements that can be relevant to venture funds. It is common for Companies to agree to provide quarterly and annual information. Before instituting more extensive information requirements, the parties should consider whether the Company is equipped to comply with those requirements in a timely manner and the relative value of that information. The Term Sheet should set forth the extent of the Company’s information disclosure requirements.

J. [Pre-Emptive Rights.](#)

If the Investor is to have preemptive rights, the right of the Investor to acquire new securities issued by the Company to the extent necessary to maintain its percentage interest on an as converted basis, these rights should be set forth in the Term Sheet. These rights generally will terminate upon an IPO of the Company. Because pre-emptive rights can add time, expense and complexity to future financing efforts, it is important to ensure that appropriate limitations and exceptions are included in the final documentation.

K. [Pay-to-Play.](#)

The Term Sheet should set forth any “pay-to-play” provisions that are applicable to the Investors. In general, a pay-to-play provision requires that Investors participate in the present financing or future financings to retain anti-dilution or other rights. Pay-to-play is a nonstandard provision, and there can be some variation in the scope of the provision (i.e., the particular financings as to which the provisions apply, and the rights affected). Pay-to-play provisions are designed to encourage the participation of existing Investors in a subsequent financing round. Investors that fail to participate to their full pro-rata percentage of the financing are penalized by losing certain rights with respect to their existing preferred stock. Proponents of the provision assert the mechanism benefits both the Company and the Investor by aligning expectations at the outset of the transaction and incentivizing all Investors to continue to support theC, especially during challenging times when an incentive is most needed. Proponents further contend that absent pay-to-play provisions, those Investors who do not participate in the next financing and who continue to hold a preferential security will receive a “free ride” on the support of the participating Investors. Pay-to-play provisions are designed to eliminate this free-rider dilemma and further ensure that every Investor will pay in one way or another. However, pay-to-play provisions can limit the willingness of smaller funds and individual Investors with limited resources to participate in financings with larger Investors more likely to invoke the pay-to-play provision in the future.

L. [Confidentiality and Invention Assignment Agreements.](#)

Investors often request confirmation that employees of the Company execute Confidentiality and Invention Assignment Agreements in order to ensure that the Company owns all intellectual property developed by its employees and that confidential Company information is kept confidential.

M. [D&O Insurance.](#)

The Term Sheet should specify if the Company is obligated to maintain Directors and Officers Insurance (“D&O Insurance”). D&O Insurance covers the directors on the Board of Directors and the officers of the Company if they face a lawsuit in conjunction with the duties they are performing for the Company.

N. [Key Man Insurance.](#)

The Investor may require the Company to maintain “key man” life insurance on the lives of the top management personnel.

O. [Right of Refusal and Co-Sale Rights.](#)

If the Investor is to have a right of first refusal (right of the Investor to be first offered securities to be sold by the founders or other key stockholders) or a right of co-sale (right of the Investor to sell its securities along with any securities sold by the Company or the other stockholders), these rights should be set forth in the Term Sheet. These rights generally will terminate upon an IPO of the Company.

Investors often will require that any founder that intends to sell his or her shares offer those shares first to the Company and the Investors. The primary purpose of the “right of first refusal” is to provide the Company and the Investors with the ability to keep the Company’s capital stock within the existing ownership group. If the founders or other major stockholders elect to exit the Company, the Investors will want the ability to purchase their shares so that the Investors may either obtain greater control over the Company, or prevent the transfer of control to non-strategic or hostile parties. Rights of first refusal are typically granted to the Investors and applied against the founders. Occasionally, these rights may also be granted to founders or applied against other major stockholders.

Co-sale rights enable Investors to participate in any sales of the Company’s capital stock by founders or other large stockholders. Co-sale rights are principally designed to protect Investors’ interests in a situation where founders or others attempt to sell a significant block of common stock. Investors may want the option to participate in the sale since the sale of a controlling interest may involve a control premium and may have the effect of foreclosing other avenues to liquidity. In addition, Investors may generally want an opportunity to liquidate their Investment if the founders are seeking to exit the enterprise.

P. [Drag Along Rights.](#)

If the Investor is to have drag-along rights (the right to obligate other stockholders to sell their securities along with securities sold by the Investor), these rights should be set forth in the Term Sheet. These rights generally will terminate upon an IPO of the Company.

A drag-along provision obligates stockholders that are subject to the drag along to vote to approve a transaction that is otherwise approved by a specified percentage of the stockholders. Common holders may sometimes have different interests than preferred holders, particularly when liquidation preferences will have the effect of minimizing the return to the common holders. Drag-along rights provide the Investors with some assurance that the founders and other major common holders who are typically the focus of drag along provisions, and, in some cases, other stockholders, will not attempt to block a sale of the Company through the exercise of class voting rights or otherwise.

VI. [Other Customary Provisions.](#)

Because the Term Sheet should be designed to be a relatively short document, it will not contain all of the terms and conditions of the transaction. Therefore, it is customary to provide in the Term Sheet that the final agreements will contain “such other customary provisions as may be appropriate.” This will help prepare the Company for the day when it receives a twenty to thirty page document that the Investor will present as embodying the provisions of the Term Sheet.

VII. [Signatures.](#)

Although most of the provisions contained in the Term Sheet are not legally binding on the parties, it is nevertheless valuable to have it signed by all of the parties. The Term Sheet is one means of ensuring that any provisions regarding reimbursement of expenses will be binding upon the Company. An executed Term Sheet may be of considerable value to the Company. It

can be used as persuasive evidence of the forthcoming Investment when the Company deals with lenders, creditors, suppliers, customers and others. Finally, the execution of the Term Sheet will confirm that the parties agree to its contents, keeping in mind that even an executed Term Sheet is not designed to force the Company or the Investor to consummate the transaction.

Appendix A

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL TERMS

Offering Terms

I. Investment Overview

1. Securities Offered: Up to *[Insert maximum number of shares to be sold in the offering]* shares of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock, par value \$0.*[•]* per share (“Series A Preferred Stock”).
2. [Warrants: Investors purchasing Series A Preferred Stock will receive a warrant to purchase shares of *[Common Stock/Series A Preferred Stock]* at a purchase price of \$*[insert the purchase price for a share of stock under the warrant]* per share. Each warrant shall entitle the Investor to purchase the number of shares equal to *[insert warrant coverage percentage]*% of such Investors aggregate investment in the Series A Preferred Stock. Each warrant shall have a term of *[five/ten]* years.]
3. Closing Date: The closing of the transaction (the “Closing”) is expected to occur on or before *[•] [•], 201[•]*.
Multiple Closings Alternative: [The initial closing of the transaction is expected to occur on or before *[•] [•], 20[•]* (the “Initial Closing”). Thereafter, the Company may sell additional shares of Series A Preferred Stock, up to the maximum amount authorized in Section 1 above, in one or more additional closings for *[specify number of days; typically 60 to 90]* days following the Initial Closing to prospective investors reasonably acceptable to the Investors holding not less than *[specify percentage]* of the shares of Series A Preferred Stock sold at the Initial Closing. The term “Closing” shall apply to each such closing unless specified otherwise.]

Milestone Closing Alternative: [The initial closing of the transaction is expected to occur on or before *[•] [•], 20[•]* (the “Initial Closing”). After the Initial Closing, the Company shall sell, and the Investors shall purchase pro rata based on the amount invested in the Initial Closing, the following number of shares of Series A Preferred Stock upon the occurrence of the corresponding milestone event:
 1. *[Insert a description of each milestone closing trigger and the number of shares of Series A Preferred Stock required to be sold and purchased upon the occurrence of such milestone event.]*The term “Closing” shall apply to each such closing unless specified otherwise.]

4. Investors and Investments Amounts: Each investor (an “Investor” and collectively, the “Investors”) and their respective investment amounts are as set forth on Exhibit A attached hereto. Investors shall also include all other investors mutually agreed upon by the Investors and the Company.
5. Use of Proceeds: Subject to any specific restrictions set forth in any voting agreements between the Company, the Investors and certain key holders of Common Stock in the Company, the proceeds from the sale of the Series A Preferred Stock shall be used for product development and other general corporate purposes[; provided that none of the proceeds shall be used for *[insert any specific exclusions for which the investment proceeds should not be used (e.g. repaying certain indebtedness, paying bonus, etc.)]*].
6. Amount Raised: *[\$[insert aggregate amount of the investment], [including \$[insert aggregate amount of the investment that is attributable to the conversion of outstanding bridge notes] from the conversion of principal [and interest] on bridge notes].*
Multiple/Milestone Closings Alternative: [Up to \$[insert aggregate amount of the investment], with \$[insert amount to be invested at the Initial Closing][, including \$[insert aggregate amount of the investment that is attributable to the conversion of outstanding bridge notes] from the conversion of principal [and interest] on bridge notes,] being invested at the Initial Closing and up to \$[insert maximum amount that can be raised in the subsequent or milestone closings] being invested at the [subsequent/milestone] closings.]
7. Price Per Share: *[\$[insert the per share purchase price of the Series A Preferred Stock] per share (the “Original Purchase Price”).*
8. Pre-Money Valuation: The Original Purchase Price is based upon a “fully-diluted” pre-money valuation of *[\$[insert the aggregate pre-money valuation]*.
For purposes of the pre-money valuation, “fully-diluted” shall include all outstanding Common Stock, preferred stock (on as converted to Common Stock basis) and options [(whether issued or unissued, including any options to be authorized as a result of this transaction)/(whether issued or unissued but excluding any additional options to be authorized as a result of this transaction)/(excluding unissued options)], warrants and other convertible securities to purchase Common Stock, all as if fully exercised and converted.
9. Capitalization: The Company’s capital structure before and after the Closing is set forth on Exhibit B hereto.
- [Certificate of Incorporation]/[Articles of Incorporation]**
10. Dividends: *No Preferential Dividend Alternative: [Dividends will be paid on the Series A Preferred Stock (on an as-converted basis)*

when, as, and if paid on the Common Stock.]

Preferential Non-Cumulative Dividend Alternative: [Non-cumulative dividends will be paid on the Series A Preferred Stock in an amount equal to \$[*insert the amount of preferential dividend to be paid*] per share of Series A Preferred Stock when, as, and if declared by the Board. For any other dividends or distributions, the Series A Preferred Stock will participate with Common Stock on an as-converted basis.]

Preferential Cumulative Dividend Alternative: [The Series A Preferred Stock will carry an annual [*insert dividend percentage, typically in the range of 8%*]% cumulative dividend [compounded annually], payable upon a liquidation or redemption. For any other dividends or distributions, the Series A Preferred Stock will participate with Common Stock on an as-converted basis.]

11. Liquidation Preference:

In the event of any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, the proceeds shall be paid as follows:

Non-Participating Alternative:[First pay [*one*] times the Original Purchase Price [plus declared and unpaid dividends / plus accrued dividends] on each share of Series A Preferred Stock. The balance of any proceeds shall be distributed to the holders of Common Stock.]

Fully-Participating Alternative:[First pay [*one*] times the Original Purchase Price [plus declared and unpaid dividends / plus accrued dividends] on each share of Series A Preferred Stock. Thereafter, the Series A Preferred Stock participates with the Common Stock pro rata on an as-converted basis.]

Fully-Participating w/ Cap Alternative:[First pay [*one*] times the Original Purchase Price [plus declared and unpaid dividends / plus accrued dividends] on each share of Series A Preferred Stock. Thereafter, Series A Preferred Stock participates with Common Stock pro rata on an as-converted basis until the holders of Series A Preferred Stock receive an aggregate of [*insert a multiple of the original purchase as a cap on the participation feature; typically 3x to 4x*] times the Original Purchase Price.]

A merger or consolidation (other than one in which stockholders of the Company own a majority by voting power of the outstanding shares of the surviving or acquiring corporation) and a sale, lease, transfer or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company will be treated as a liquidation event (a “Deemed Liquidation Event”), thereby triggering payment of the liquidation preferences described above [unless the holders of [*insert the requisite waiver percentage*]% of the Series A Preferred Stock elect otherwise].

12. Voting Rights:

The Series A Preferred Stock shall vote together with the

Common Stock on an as-converted basis, and not as a separate class, except (i) the Series A Preferred Stock as a class shall be entitled to elect [*insert number of directors*] [(•)] members of the Board (the “Series A Directors”), (ii) as provided under “Protective Provisions” below or (iii) as required by law. [The Company’s Certificate of Incorporation will provide that the number of authorized shares of Common Stock may be increased or decreased with the approval of a majority of the Series A Preferred Stock and Common Stock, voting together as a single class, and without a separate class vote by the Common Stock].

13. Protective Provisions:

So long as [*insert a fixed number or “any”*] shares of Series A Preferred Stock are outstanding, the Company will not, without the written consent of the holders of at least [*insert the required approval percentage*]% of the Company’s Series A Preferred Stock, either directly or by amendment, merger, consolidation, or otherwise:

(i) liquidate, dissolve or wind-up the affairs of the Company, or effect any Deemed Liquidation Event; (ii) amend, alter, or repeal any provision of the Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws [in a manner adverse to the Series A Preferred Stock]; (iii) create or authorize the creation of or issue any other security convertible into or exercisable for any equity security, having rights, preferences or privileges senior to or on parity with the Series A Preferred Stock, or increase the authorized number of shares of Series A Preferred Stock; (iv) purchase or redeem or pay any dividend on any capital stock prior to the Series A Preferred Stock, [other than stock repurchased from former employees or consultants in connection with the cessation of their employment/services, at the lower of fair market value or cost;] [other than as approved by the Board, including the approval of [*insert required number of Series A Directors; typically one*] Series A Director(s)]; or (v) create or authorize the creation of any debt security [if the Company’s aggregate indebtedness would exceed \$[____]][other than equipment leases or bank lines of credit][other than debt with no equity feature][unless such debt security has received the prior approval of the Board of Directors, including the approval of [*insert required number of Series A Directors; typically one*] Series A Director(s)]; (vi) increase or decrease the size of the Board of Directors.

14. Optional Conversion:

The Series A Preferred Stock initially converts 1:1 to Common Stock at any time at option of holder, subject to adjustments for stock dividends, splits, combinations and similar events and as described below under “Anti-dilution Provisions.”

15. Anti-Dilution Provisions:

In the event that the Company issues additional securities at a

purchase price less than the current Series A Preferred Stock conversion price, such conversion price shall be adjusted in accordance with the following formula:

Broad-Based Weighted Average Alternative:

$$[CP_2 = CP_1 * (A+B) / (A+C)]$$

CP₂ = New Series A Conversion Price

CP₁ = Series A Conversion Price in effect immediately prior to new issue

A = Number of shares of Common Stock deemed to be outstanding immediately prior to new issue (includes all shares of outstanding common stock, all shares of outstanding preferred stock on an as-converted basis, and all outstanding options on an as-exercised basis; and does not include any convertible securities converting into this round of financing)

B = Aggregate consideration received by the Corporation with respect to the new issue divided by CP₁

C = Number of shares of stock issued in the subject transaction]

Full-Ratchet Alternative:[The Series A Conversion Price will be reduced to the price at which the new shares are issued.]

No Anti-Dilution Protection Alternative: [No price-based anti-dilution protection will be granted to the Series A Preferred Stock.]

The following issuances shall not trigger anti-dilution adjustment:

- (i) securities issuable upon conversion of any of the Series A Preferred Stock, or as a dividend or distribution on the Series A Preferred Stock;
- (ii) securities issued upon the conversion of any debenture, warrant, option, or other convertible security;
- (iii) Common Stock issuable upon a stock split, stock dividend, or any subdivision of shares of Common Stock;
- (iv) up to [_____] shares of Common Stock (or options to purchase such shares of Common Stock) issued or issuable to employees or directors of, or consultants to, the Company pursuant to any plan approved by the Company's Board of Directors [including at least [insert required number of Series A Directors, typically one] Series A Director(s)];
- (v) shares of Common Stock issued or issuable to banks, equipment lessors pursuant to a debt financing, equipment leasing or real property leasing transaction approved by the Board of Directors of the Corporation[, including at least [insert required number of Series A Directors; typically one] Series A Director(s)];
- or [(vi) the issuance of securities otherwise approved by the holders of at least [insert the required approval percentage]% of the Company's Series A Preferred Stock].

16. Mandatory Conversion:

Each share of Series A Preferred Stock will automatically be

converted into Common Stock at the then applicable conversion rate in the event of the closing of a [firm commitment] underwritten public offering with a price of [insert a multiple of the original purchase price per share] times the Original Purchase Price (subject to adjustments for stock dividends, splits, combinations and similar events) and [net/gross] proceeds to the Company of not less than \$[insert the aggregate offering amount required] (a “QPO”), or (ii) upon the written consent of the holders of [insert the required approval percentage, typically the same as that required for the protective provisions]% of the Series A Preferred Stock.

17. [Pay-to-Play:

Unless the holders of [insert the required approval percentage, typically the same as that required for the protective provisions]% of the Series A Preferred Stock elect otherwise,] on any subsequent down round all Investors are required to participate to the full extent of their participation rights (as described below under “Investor Rights Agreement – Right to Participate Pro Rata in Future Rounds”), unless the participation requirement is waived for all Investors by the Board [(including vote of at least [insert required number of Series A Directors] the Series A Director[s])]. All shares of Series A Preferred Stock of any Investor failing to do so will automatically [lose anti-dilution rights] [lose right to participate in future rounds] [convert to Common Stock and lose the right to a Board seat if applicable].

18. [Redemption Rights:

The Series A Preferred Stock shall be redeemable from funds legally available for distribution at the option of holders of at least [insert the required approval percentage, typically the same as that required for the protective provisions]% of the Series A Preferred Stock commencing [any time after / on] the fifth anniversary of the Closing at a price equal to the Original Purchase Price [plus all accrued or declared but unpaid dividends]. Redemption shall occur in three equal annual portions. Upon a redemption request from the holders of the required percentage of the Series A Preferred Stock, all Series A Preferred Stock shall be redeemed [(except for any Series A holders who affirmatively opt-out)].

[Upon the failure of the Company to redeem any shares of Series A Preferred Stock for cash on the date such redemption is required, the redemption amount shall be paid in the form of a one-year note to each unredeemed holder of Series A Preferred Stock, and the holders of a majority of the Series A Preferred Stock shall be entitled to elect a majority of the Company’s Board of Directors until such redemption amounts are paid in full.]

Series A Preferred Stock [and Warrant] Purchase Agreement

19. Reps and Warranties: The purchase agreement shall contain standard representations and warranties by the Company. [In addition, the purchase agreement shall contain representations and warranties by Founders regarding, *[insert specific representations that the founders will be required to make (e.g. capitalization, technology ownership, etc.)*].
20. Conditions to Closing: Standard conditions to Closing, which shall include, among other things, satisfactory completion of financial and legal due diligence, qualification of the shares under applicable Blue Sky laws, the filing of a Certificate of Incorporation establishing the rights and preferences of the Series A Preferred Stock, *[and an opinion of counsel to the Company]*.
21. Counsel and Expenses: [Investor/Company] counsel to draft closing documents. Company to pay all legal and administrative costs of the financing, including reasonable fees (not to exceed \$[25,000 - \$50,000]) and expenses of Investor counsel, [upon a successful closing of the transaction] [regardless of whether the transaction closes, unless the transaction is not completed because the Investors withdraw their commitment without cause].

Investor Rights Agreement

22. Registration Rights: *Registrable Securities* - All shares of Common Stock issuable upon conversion of the Series A Preferred Stock and [any other Common Stock held by the Investors] will be deemed “Registrable Securities.”
- Demand Registration* - Upon earliest of (i) *[three-five]* years after the Closing; or (ii) *[six]* months following an initial public offering (“IPO”), persons holding *[insert requisite demand percentage]*% of the Registrable Securities may request *[one/two]* (consummated) registrations by the Company of their shares. The aggregate offering price for such registration may not be less than \$*[5-10]* million. A registration will count for this purpose only if (i) all Registrable Securities requested to be registered are registered and (ii) it is closed, or withdrawn at the request of the Investors (other than as a result of a material adverse change to the Company).
- Registration on Form S-3* - The holders of *[20-30]*% of the Registrable Securities will have the right to require the Company to register on Form S-3, if available for use by the Company, Registrable Securities for an aggregate offering price of at least \$*[1-5 million]*. There will be no limit on the aggregate number of such Form S-3 registrations, provided that there are no more than *[two]* per year.
- Piggyback Registration* - The holders of Registrable Securities will be entitled to “piggyback” registration rights on all registration statements of the Company, subject to the right, however, of the Company and its underwriters to reduce the

number of shares proposed to be registered to a minimum of [20-30]% on a pro rata basis and to complete reduction on an IPO at the underwriter's discretion. In all events, the shares to be registered by holders of Registrable Securities will be reduced only after all other stockholders' shares are reduced.

Expenses - The registration expenses (exclusive of stock transfer taxes, underwriting discounts and commissions will be borne by the Company[, except for expenses related to registrations on Form S-3, [after the Company has conducted and paid the expenses of [] Form S-3 registrations,] which will be borne pro rata by the selling stockholders in such registration]. [The Company will also pay the reasonable fees and expenses[, not to exceed \$_____,] of one special counsel to represent all the participating stockholders].

Lock-up - Investors shall agree, if requested by the managing underwriter, not to sell or transfer any shares of Common Stock of the Company [(excluding shares acquired in or following the IPO)] for a period of up to 180 days following in IPO or up to 90 days following any registration other than an IPO (provided, in each case, all directors and officers of the Company and [1 - 5]% stockholders agree to the same lock-up). Such lock-up agreement shall provide that any discretionary waiver or termination of the restrictions of such agreements by the Company or representatives of the underwriters shall apply to Investors, pro rata, based on the number of shares held.

Termination - Earlier of [insert number of years, typically five] years after IPO, upon a Deemed Liquidation Event, or when all shares of an Investor are eligible to be sold without restriction under Rule 144(k) within any 90-day period.

No future registration rights may be granted without consent of the holders of a [majority] of the Registrable Securities unless subordinate to the Investor's rights.

23. Management and Information Rights:

[A Management Rights letter from the Company, in a form reasonably acceptable to the Investors, will be delivered prior to Closing to each Investor that requests one.]

Any Major Investor [(who is not a competitor)] will be granted access to Company facilities and personnel during normal business hours and with reasonable advance notification. The Company will deliver to such Major Investor (i) annual, quarterly, [and monthly] financial statements, and other information as determined by the Board; (ii) thirty days prior to the end of each fiscal year, a comprehensive operating budget forecasting the Company's revenues, expenses, and cash position on a month-to-month basis for the upcoming fiscal year; and (iii) promptly following the end of each quarter an up-to-date capitalization table, certified by the CFO. A "Major

Investor” means any Investor who purchases at least [*insert number minimum number of shares of Series A Preferred Stock necessary to receive such information rights.*] shares of Series A Preferred Stock.

24. Pre-emptive Rights:

All [Major] Investors shall have a pro rata right, based on [their percentage equity ownership in the Company (assuming the conversion of all outstanding Series A Preferred Stock into Common Stock and the exercise of all options outstanding [or issuable] under the Company’s stock plans)] / [the number of shares of Series A Preferred Stock held by such [Major] Investor compared all such [Major] Investors], to participate in subsequent issuances of equity securities of the Company (excluding those issuances listed at the end of the “Anti-dilution Provisions” section of this Term Sheet and issuances in connection with acquisitions by the Company). [In addition, should any [Major] Investor choose not to purchase its full pro rata share, the remaining [Major] Investors shall have the right to purchase the remaining pro rata shares.]

25. Matters Requiring Investor
Director Approval:

[So long as [*insert a fixed number or “any”*] of the originally issued Series A Preferred Stock remains outstanding] the Company will not, without Board approval, which approval must include the affirmative vote of [*insert appropriate number of required Series A Directors*] of the Series A Director(s):

(i) make any loan or advance to, or own any stock or other securities of, any subsidiary or other corporation, partnership, or other entity unless it is wholly owned by the Company;

(ii) make any loan or advance to any person, including, any employee or director, except advances and similar expenditures in the ordinary course of business or under the terms of a employee stock or option plan approved by the Board of Directors;

(iii) guarantee, any indebtedness except for trade accounts of the Company or any subsidiary arising in the ordinary course of business;

(iv) make any investment other than investments in prime commercial paper, money market funds, certificates of deposit in any United States bank having a net worth in excess of \$100,000,000 or obligations issued or guaranteed by the United States of America, in each case having a maturity not in excess of [*two years*];

(v) incur any aggregate indebtedness in excess of \$[*insert appropriate threshold amount given the nature and stage of the business*] that is not already included in a Board-approved budget, other than trade credit incurred in the ordinary course of business;

(vi) enter into or be a party to any transaction with any director, officer or employee of the Company or any “associate” (as defined in Rule 12b-2 promulgated under the Exchange Act) of

any such person [except transactions resulting in payments to or by the Company in an amount less than \$[60,000] per year], [or transactions made in the ordinary course of business and pursuant to reasonable requirements of the Company's business and upon fair and reasonable terms that are approved by a majority of the Board of Directors]; (vii) hire, fire, or change the compensation of the executive officers, including approving any option plans; (viii) change the principal business of the Company, enter new lines of business, or exit the current line of business; or (ix) sell, transfer, license, pledge or encumber technology or intellectual property, other than licenses granted in the ordinary course of business.

26. [Non-Competition and Non-Solicitation Agreements:

Each Founder and key employee will enter into a [one] year non-competition and non-solicitation agreement in a form reasonably acceptable to the Investors].

27. Non-Disclosure and Development Agreements:

Each current [and former] Founder, employee and consultant with access to Company confidential information/trade secrets will enter into a non-disclosure and proprietary rights assignment agreement in a form reasonably acceptable to the Investors.

28. Board Matter:

Each Board Committee shall include at least one Series A Director.

The Board of Directors shall meet at least [monthly/quarterly], unless otherwise agreed by a vote of the majority of Directors. The Company will bind D&O insurance with a carrier and in an amount satisfactory to the Board of Directors. In the event the Company merges with another entity and is not the surviving corporation, or transfers all of its assets, proper provisions shall be made so that successors of the Company assume Company's obligations with respect to indemnification of Directors.

29. Vesting of founder shares:

Shares and options held by all founders will be subject to four-year vesting, with 25% vesting on the first anniversary of [the commencement of services][the initial closing of this financing][date] and the remainder vesting monthly thereafter. The Company will have the right, upon termination of services, to repurchase any unvested shares.

30. Employee Stock Options:

All employee options to vest as follows: [25% after one year, with remaining vesting monthly over next 36 months]. [Immediately prior to the Series A Preferred Stock investment, [insert appropriate number of shares for option pool increase] shares will be added to the option pool creating an unallocated option pool of [insert appropriate number of shares for option pool increase] shares.]

31. [Key Person Insurance:

Company to acquire life insurance on Founders [name each Founder] in an amount satisfactory to the Board. Proceeds payable to the Company.]

33. Termination: All rights under the Investor Rights Agreement, other than registration rights, shall terminate upon the earlier of an IPO, upon a Deemed Liquidation Event or a transfer of more than 50% of Company's voting power.

Right of First Refusal and Co-Sale Agreement

34. ROFR/Co-Sale Rights: Company first and Investors second (to the extent assigned by the Board of Directors,) have a right of first refusal with respect to any shares of capital stock of the Company proposed to be sold by Founders [and employees holding greater than [1]% of Company Common Stock (assuming conversion of Preferred Stock)], with a right of oversubscription for Investors of shares unsubscribed by the other Investors. Before any such person may sell Common Stock, he will give the Investors an opportunity to participate in such sale on a basis proportionate to the amount of securities held by the seller and those held by the participating Investors.

These rights of first refusal and co-sale rights will be subject to certain customary exclusions, including, transfers to immediately family members, de minimis transfers, transfers to trusts, estates and the like.

35. Termination: All rights under the Right of First Refusal/Co-Sale and Voting Agreements shall terminate upon the earlier of an IPO, upon a Deemed Liquidation Event or a transfer of more than 50% of Company's voting power.

Voting Agreement

36. Board of Directors: At the Initial Closing, the Board shall have [*insert aggregate number of directors after the Initial Closing*] members and shall consist of [*insert number of directors the holders of Series A Preferred Stock have the right to designate*] designee[s] of the holders of Series A Preferred Stock, [*insert number of directors the Founders have the right to designate*] designee[s] of the Founders and [*insert number of independent directors to be appointed*] designee[s] who shall be outside director[s] [*with relevant industry experience*] mutually agreed by the holders of Series A Preferred Stock and Common Stock, voting together as a single class on an as-converted to Common Stock basis.

37. Drag-Along: Holders of Series A Preferred Stock and the Founders [and all current and future holders of greater than [1]% of Common Stock (on a fully-diluted as-converted basis)] shall be required to enter into an agreement with the Investors that provides that such stockholders will vote their shares in favor of a liquidation event (as such term is defined in the Company's charter) or transaction in which 50% or more of the voting power of the Company is transferred, approved by [the Board] [and the holders of at least [*insert appropriate approval percentage*,

typically the same as that of the protective provisions]% of the outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock, on an as-converted basis].

38. Termination:

All rights under the Right of First Refusal/Co-Sale and Voting Agreements shall terminate upon an IPO, a Deemed Liquidation Event or a transfer of more than 50% of Company's voting power.

Miscellaneous Matters

39. No Shop/Confidentiality:

The Company agrees to work in good faith expeditiously towards a closing. The Company and the Founders agree that they will not, for a period of *[six]* weeks from the date these terms are accepted, take any action to solicit, initiate, encourage or assist the submission of any proposal, negotiation or offer from any person or entity other than the Investors relating to the sale or issuance, of any of the capital stock of the Company [or the acquisition, sale, lease, license or other disposition of the Company or any material part of the stock or assets of the Company] and shall notify the Investors promptly of any inquiries by any third parties in regards to the foregoing. [In the event that the Company breaches this no-shop obligation and, prior to [•], closes any of the above-referenced transactions [without providing the Investors the opportunity to invest on the same terms as the other parties to such transaction], then the Company shall pay to the Investors \$[•] upon the closing of any such transaction as liquidated damages.] The Company will not disclose the terms of this Term Sheet to any person other than officers, members of the Board of Directors and the Company's accountants and attorneys and other potential Investors [*acceptable to [insert name of lead investor], as lead investor, without the written consent of such investors.*]

Morgan Lewis Emerging Business and Technology Team Card

For more information please contact:

Co-Chairs	Steven M. Cohen	609.919.6655	scohen@morganlewis.com	Princeton
	Thomas W. Kellerman	650.843.7550	tkellerman@morganlewis.com	Palo Alto

Partners	Richard B. Aldridge	215.963.4829	raldridge@morganlewis.com	Philadelphia
	Jeffrey P. Bodle	215.963.5417	jbodle@morganlewis.com	Philadelphia
	Lucas S. Chang, Ph.D.	650.843.7258 +86 10 5876 3688	lchang@morganlewis.com	Palo Alto/China
	Robert W. Dickey	212.309.6687	rdickey@morganlewis.com	New York
	David G. Glazer	609.919.6624	dglazer@morganlewis.com	Princeton
	Stephen M. Goodman	215.963.5086	sgoodman@morganlewis.com	Philadelphia
	Andrew Hamilton	215.963.4837	ahamilton@morganlewis.com	Philadelphia
	Stephen A. Jannetta	215.963.5092	sjannetta@morganlewis.com	Philadelphia
	Scott D. Karchmer	415.442.1091	skarchmer@morganlewis.com	San Francisco
	Tony K. Mou	650.843.7268 +86 10 5876 3566	tmou@morganlewis.com	Palo Alto/China
	Marlee S. Myers	412.560.3310	msmyers@morganlewis.com	Pittsburgh
	E. John Park	650.843.7595	john.park@morganlewis.com	Palo Alto
	David W. Pollak	212.309.6001	dpollak@morganlewis.com	New York
	Emilio Ragosa	609.919.6633	eragosa@morganlewis.com	Princeton
	Fahd M.T. Riaz	215.963.5372	friaz@morganlewis.com	Philadelphia
	Denis Segota	609.919.6622	dsegota@morganlewis.com	Princeton
	Wayne W. Song	213.612.7385	wsong@morganlewis.com	Los Angeles
	Joanne R. Soslow	215.963.5262	jsoslow@morganlewis.com	Philadelphia
	Randall B. Sunberg	609.919.6606	rsunberg@morganlewis.com	Princeton
	Peter M. Watt-Morse	412.560.3320	pwatt-morse@morganlewis.com	Pittsburgh
Lisa Yano	+81 3 4578 2507	lyano@morganlewis.com	Tokyo	