

Angie's List, Inc.
Form 10-K
February 28, 2014
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UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

Annual Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013

OR

Transition Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the transition period from to

Commission file number 001-35339

ANGIE'S LIST, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of

27-2440197
(I.R.S. Employer

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Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the voting common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2013, computed by reference to the number of shares outstanding and using the price at which the stock was last sold, was \$1,134,108,866.

As of February 27, 2014, the number of shares of the registrant's common stock outstanding was 58,507,109.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement relating to its 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, to be filed subsequent to the date hereof, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K where indicated. Such Definitive Proxy Statement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission not later than 120 days after the conclusion of the registrant's fiscal year ended December 31, 2013. Except with respect to information specifically incorporated by reference in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the Definitive Proxy Statement is not deemed to be filed as part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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PART I.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS AND INDUSTRY DATA

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains “forward-looking statements” that involve substantial risks and uncertainties. The statements contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K that are not purely historical are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), including, but not limited to, statements regarding our expectations, beliefs, intentions, strategies, future operations, future financial position, future revenue, projected expenses and plans and objectives of management. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as “anticipate,” “believe,” “estimate,” “expect,” “intend,” “may,” “might,” “plan,” “project,” “will,” “would,” “should,” “could,” “can,” “predict,” “potential,” “continue,” “objective,” or the negative of these terms, and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. However, not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words. In addition, some of the industry and market data contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K are based on data collected by third parties, including The Nielsen Company (“Nielsen”) and Merkle Inc. This information involves a number of assumptions and limitations. Although we believe that each source is reliable as of its respective date, we have not independently verified the accuracy or completeness of this information. These forward-looking statements reflect our current views about future events and involve known risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievement to be materially different from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, those identified below, and those discussed in the section entitled “Risk Factors” included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Furthermore, such forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this report. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of such statements. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Overview

Angie’s List operates a consumer-driven service for members to research, hire, rate and review local professionals for critical needs, such as home, health care and automotive services. Our ratings and reviews, which are available only to our members, help our members find the best provider for their local service needs. We allow local service providers who are highly rated by our members to advertise discounts and other promotions to our members. As of December 31, 2013, we offered our service to approximately 2.5 million paying members in 253 local markets in the United States.

We help consumers purchase “high cost of failure” services in an extremely fragmented local marketplace. These services, which include home remodeling, plumbing, roof repair, health care and automobile repair, are typically expensive and carry a high cost to the consumer if performed poorly. Consumers seeking reputable providers of these services generally are forced to rely on incomplete data from word-of-mouth testimonials, local advertisements, the Yellow Pages or Internet search results, all of which may be incomplete, unreliable or misleading. Our ratings are based exclusively on reviews from our members and we accept no anonymous reviews. As a result, we believe our reviews are a trusted resource for consumers to find high quality local service providers.

We also help local service providers find quality customers and differentiate themselves in a competitive marketplace. Our members represent an attractive, targeted group of consumers for service providers. Our typical member is between the ages of 35 and 64, is married, owns a home, is college educated and has an annual household income of at least \$100,000, based on information derived and interpreted by us as a result of our own analysis from general demographic data provided by Nielsen.

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The value proposition we offer to both consumers and local service providers strengthens our position as a trusted resource and allows us to derive revenue from both members and service providers. As more members contribute reviews to our service, we increase the breadth and depth of content offered to members, attracting more members and enhancing the value of our service to reputable local service providers, for whom our members constitute a large pool of qualified customers for their services. We believe our high level of member engagement and our consistently high membership and service provider renewal rates are evidence of the value we offer both members and service providers.

Our Services

We offer an efficient way for consumers and reputable service providers to find each other, always placing the interests of the consumer first.

Member Services

Applying the “ask-your-neighbor” approach across our target markets, we compile a breadth of highly relevant, member-generated ratings and reviews that provide insights consumers cannot obtain on their own. We collect reviews from both members and non-members, and we prohibit anonymous reviews. Only our members’ reviews factor into service providers’ ratings, and consumers must subscribe to access our ratings and reviews. We actively monitor for fraudulent reviews.

Our members’ reviews span more than 720 categories of high cost of failure services such as home, health care and automotive services. Consumers may purchase monthly, annual and multi-year memberships to Angie’s List, Angie’s List Health & Wellness or Angie’s List Classic Cars in certain markets, or bundled membership packages that include access to reports on local service providers in all three lists. The following table highlights some of the service provider categories included in each of our three lists.

Angie’s List	Angie’s List Health & Wellness	Angie’s List Classic Cars
Carpet cleaning	Dentists	Appraisals
Electrical	Dermatologists	Bodywork
Handymen	Elder care	Chrome work
Heating & A/C	Hospitals	Custom painting
Housecleaning	OB/GYN	Detailing
Painting	Ophthalmologists	Engine modification
Plumbing	Pediatricians	Parts locators

Remodeling	Plastic surgeons	Restoration
Roofing	Primary care	Storage
Windows	Psychiatrists	Wheels and tires

Our members rate local service providers on an “A” through “F” grading scale based on six criteria: overall experience, price, quality, responsiveness, punctuality and professionalism. Ratings on each criterion are averaged across all member reviews submitted for the service provider to produce the service provider’s grade on Angie’s List. Non-member reviews do not factor into the ratings, but appear in a separate section from the member reviews on a service provider’s profile. Service providers cannot influence their ratings on Angie’s List. In addition to a letter grade, we encourage members to provide a detailed description and commentary on the service experience. We also ask for the approximate cost of the service, the date that the service was provided and whether the member would hire the local service provider again. Members can report on each unique experience they have with a service provider. However, if a member submits more than one review on the same service provider within 180 days, the second review is published only if we determine that it is for a separate service experience. Member ratings determine which local service providers are eligible to offer discounts and other money-saving promotions.

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We do not allow our members to submit reviews anonymously. We believe that this policy is critical to maintaining the integrity of our reviews. We permit local service providers to respond to reviews, both positive and negative, to provide our members both sides of the story. We also deploy a variety of other resources, including a team of internal audit personnel and our proprietary fraud detection technology, to ensure that our members can trust the reviews they find through our service. We use automated techniques to screen all reviews for fraudulent activity, duplicate reviews and vulgar language prior to their publication. Flagged reviews receive additional screening to ensure their accuracy, reliability and propriety.

We provide convenient access to our members' reviews on the Internet, by smartphone and telephone. We also provide our members with live customer support from our inbound member call center and help our members resolve disputes with service providers through our complaint resolution process.

In 2013, 2012, and 2011, membership revenue accounted for approximately 27%, 31% and 38% of our total revenue, respectively.

Service Provider Services

Our members are looking for reputable providers of high cost of failure services, and use our service to find them. Consumers subscribe to our service when they are ready to purchase. Local service providers with high ratings from our members benefit from access to this large, qualified pool of demand.

We offer local service providers with an average grade of "B" or better and at least two reviews submitted in the last three years the opportunity to offer exclusive discounts to our members through their online profiles, through our inbound member call center and in *Angie's List Magazine*. If a service provider's grade falls below a "B" during the term of its contract, or if a service provider refuses to engage in our complaint resolution process or engages in what we determine to be dishonest behavior on our service, we immediately terminate its contract and suspend its discounts and other promotions. This policy, which may cause us to forgo revenue that we otherwise would receive, is guided by our commitment to our consumer-first philosophy.

In addition to traditional advertising on our website and publications, we offer our members the opportunity to purchase services through us from service providers rated on our website, which we refer to as e-commerce. These offerings are available through both email promotions and through postings on our website. When the member purchases the service, the transaction is processed through Angie's List. The member then can work directly with the service provider to schedule the service. These e-commerce offerings provide our members a discount and an easier way to complete their service needs.

Because our membership, not Angie's List, determines which local service providers are eligible to advertise with us based on their reviews, service providers who advertise are known to be reputable. We believe that smaller local service providers particularly benefit from our service because they compete based on the quality and value of their services rather than the size of their marketing budgets.

A local service provider does not need to advertise with us to be included on Angie's List or to manage its online profile. We encourage local service providers to take an active role in managing their profiles and monitoring members' ratings and reviews through our free Business Center service. Through this service, local service providers can update their profile contact information, sign up for email notification when we receive a new review of their services and respond to members' reviews.

In 2013, 2012, and 2011, service provider revenue accounted for approximately 73%, 69% and 62% of our total revenue, respectively.

Our Technology

Our proprietary technology platform is designed to create an engaging user experience for our members, to enable us to collect and verify the integrity of our members' reviews and to help us to connect our members with relevant local service providers. We have a team of product and engineering professionals at our headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana and in Palo Alto, California dedicated to enhancing our technology platform, developing new services for members and service providers and conducting product and quality assurance testing.

Key elements of our proprietary technology platform include:

Search. Our search technology combines structured and free-form content to allow members to search for service providers in numerous categories. Our search uses a number of factors, such as grade, number of reviews, service area and current discounts or other promotions to connect our members with the most relevant local service providers.

Targeted review acquisition. We have developed a review targeting engine for collecting reviews on local service providers from our members. This engine enables us to identify members who may have hired a service provider they found through Angie's List, and we encourage these members to submit a review of their service experience.

As of December 31, 2013, we had 1,637 full-time personnel in the United States. None of our personnel is covered by a collective bargaining agreement. We believe that relations with our personnel are good.

Seasonality

While we believe seasonal trends have affected and will continue to affect our quarterly results, our trajectory of rapid growth may have overshadowed these effects to date. We believe that our business will be subject to seasonality in the future, which may result in fluctuations in our financial results.

Operating Segments and Geographic Areas

We manage our business on the basis of one operating segment. Substantially all of our revenue in the year ended December 31, 2013 was from members and participating service providers in the United States.

Available Information

We were organized in the State of Indiana in April 1995 as Brownstone Publishing, LLC. In April 2010, we became a Delaware corporation and changed our name to Angie's List, Inc. Our principal executive offices are located at 1030 E. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46202, and our telephone number is (888) 888-5478.

We have incurred significant net losses each year since inception. As a result, we had an accumulated deficit of \$252.3 million as of December 31, 2013. Consequently, we have funded our operations through equity and debt financings. A key element of our strategy has been to aggressively grow both the number of markets in which we offer our service and our penetration in each of these markets. In addition, we have expanded the number of local service provider categories that we maintain for our members' review, launched new products and services for members and local service providers and significantly grown our service provider sales headcount and sales activity. We anticipate that our expenses will continue to increase as we continue to invest in growing our paid membership base, increase the number and variety of our service provider categories, increase the number of service providers participating as advertisers, develop new marketing initiatives and enhance our technology platform. In particular, we intend to continue to invest substantial resources in marketing to acquire new paid memberships, in selling to grow our base of participating service providers and in technology to enhance our product offerings. These planned investments may consume a portion of our cash flow and may result in additional net losses and negative cash flow. We also expect to incur increased operating expenses as we hire additional personnel and invest in our infrastructure to support anticipated future growth and the reporting and compliance obligations to which we are subject as a public company. In addition, in our efforts to increase revenue as the number of members has grown, we have expanded and expect to continue to expand our sales personnel. If our hiring of additional sales personnel does not result in a sufficient increase in revenue, the cost of this additional headcount will not be offset, which would harm our operating results and financial condition.

If our revenue does not grow or declines, or if our operating expenses exceed our expectations, we may not become profitable on a sustained basis. In addition, if our future growth and operating performance or our negative cash flow or losses resulting from our investment in membership acquisition fail to meet investor or analyst expectations, our operating results, financial condition and stock price could be materially adversely affected.

Trust in the integrity of the “Angie’s List” brand and in the objective, unbiased nature of our ratings and reviews has contributed significantly to our ability to attract new paid memberships and participating service providers. Maintaining consumer trust and enhancing our brand will depend largely on our ability to maintain our commitment to and reputation for placing the interests of the consumer first. If our existing or potential members perceive that we are not focused primarily on helping them make more informed purchasing decisions about local services transactions or that the advertising revenue we receive from service providers interferes with the objective rating of service providers on the basis of member reviews, our reputation and the strength of our brand will be adversely affected. Complaints or negative publicity about our sales and business practices, services, personnel and customer service, irrespective of their validity, and data privacy and security issues could diminish consumers’ confidence in our service and adversely impact our brand. For example, in August 2012, a lawsuit seeking class action status, *Fritzinger v. Angie’s List, Inc.*, was filed against us in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, alleging that we automatically renew membership fees at a higher rate than customers are led to believe, breaching our membership agreements.

In addition, we have historically relied upon high membership renewal rates and “word of mouth” referrals from existing members to maintain and grow our paid membership base. If our efforts to satisfy our existing members are not successful, we may not be able to maintain our renewal rates or continue receiving those referrals. Furthermore, although we use our number of paid memberships as one indicator of the growth of our business, some of our members may not actively use our service or submit reviews of local service providers to our database. If member engagement does not meet our expectations, we may lose members or service providers who advertise with us, and our revenue may not increase or may decline.

Our ability to increase the number of our paid memberships and to maintain high levels of member engagement will require us to address a number of challenges, and we may fail to do so successfully. Some of these challenges include:

- continuing to build our database of member-generated ratings and reviews of local service providers;
- increasing the number and variety of local service providers reviewed by our members;
- convincing consumers of the benefits of our service, and making it easy for them to become paid members;
- delivering an optimal member experience, including relevant, high-quality discount, coupon and other promotional offers from our participating local service providers and compelling, easy-to-use e-commerce offerings; and
- continuing to innovate and keep pace with changes in technology and our competitors.

Our inability to increase the number of our paid memberships and to maintain high levels of member engagement would have an adverse effect on our growth prospects, operating results and financial condition.

Our success depends in part upon our ability to increase our service provider revenue per paid membership as we increase our market penetration.

Historically, our service provider revenue per paid membership in a given market has generally increased with market penetration as we attracted more service providers and charged higher advertising rates as the pool of members using our service to actively seek local service providers has grown. Because we only increase advertising rates at the time of contract renewal, such rate increases in a given market may trail increases in market penetration. In addition, in certain markets we have not increased our advertising rates as rapidly as the number of paid memberships has grown. Moreover, trends in market penetration and growth in service provider revenue per paid membership in our larger or less penetrated markets have differed from our experiences in our smaller or more penetrated markets. Accordingly, growth of our membership may not result in service provider revenue increases until future periods, if at all. In addition, we are subject to risks associated with the credit quality of our service providers. If service providers to whom we have provided advertising services are unable to meet their contractual obligations to us, our service provider revenue could decrease, and our results of operations could be harmed.

penetration rate in these larger markets has lagged, on a percentage basis, those of our mid-size markets that converted in the same time frame. We believe that a principal reason for the lower penetration rates in our larger markets is the manner in which we market Angie's List. We have chosen to spend the majority of our marketing dollars on national advertising. We believe that this advertising strategy provides us the most cost-efficient manner of acquiring new paid memberships. However, advertising nationally means we deliver the same volume of advertising regardless of the size of market. Since each market differs in terms of the number of advertising outlets available, the impact of our spending on national advertising varies across markets. In our experience, smaller markets typically have fewer advertising outlets available than larger markets. We believe the same volume of advertising in a smaller market is more effective in building brand awareness and generating new memberships than in larger markets. We expect to continue to allocate our marketing dollars in accordance with our national advertising strategy and accordingly expect to continue to see lower relative penetration rates in the larger markets.

Slower penetration of our larger markets may delay or prevent us from increasing total revenue per paid membership in these markets. If we are unable to replicate the performance we have achieved in our most mature markets in our larger and less penetrated markets, or if growth in larger or less penetrated markets is significantly slower than we anticipate, our operating results and financial condition could be harmed.

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Treasury stock, at cost: 8,558,712 shares of common stock at December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012	(23,719)	(23,719)
Accumulated deficit	(252,343)	(219,354)
Total stockholders' equity (deficit)	(18,490)	5,319
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity (deficit)	\$ 105,643	\$ 96,229

See accompanying notes.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Company maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts and money market funds with contractual maturities of three months or less, which, at times, may exceed federally insured limits. The Company has not experienced any losses in such accounts.

Restricted Cash

Restricted cash relates to monies held in reserve at institutions pursuant to credit card processing agreements. The restricted cash is not available for operating activities.

Sales and use tax expenses are included within operations and support in the consolidated statements of operations. The Company does not separately collect sales and use taxes from its members.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In July 2013, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2013-11: Income Taxes (Topic 740), Presentation of an Unrecognized Tax Benefit When a Net Operating Loss Carryforward, a Similar Tax Loss, or a Tax Credit Carryforward Exists (a consensus of the FASB Emerging Issues Task Force) (“ASU 2013-11”). An entity is required to present unrecognized tax benefits as a decrease in a net operating loss, similar tax loss or tax credit carryforward if certain criteria are met. The determination of whether a deferred tax asset is available is based on the unrecognized tax benefit and the deferred tax asset that exists at the reporting date and presumes disallowance of the tax position at the reporting date. The guidance will eliminate the diversity in practice in the presentation of unrecognized tax benefits but will not alter the way in which entities assess deferred tax assets for realizability. ASU 2013-11 will be effective for the company in fiscal 2014. The Company is currently assessing the impact to the consolidated financial statements.

2. Net Loss Per Common Share

Basic and diluted net loss per common share is computed by dividing consolidated net loss by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Basic and diluted net loss per common share were \$(0.57) and \$(0.92) for the years ended December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively.

The following potential dilutive equity securities are not included in the diluted net loss per common share calculation because they would have an antidilutive effect:

	December 31, 2013	December 31, 2012
Stock options	3,310,764	2,820,619

On October 31, 2011, the Company effected an eight-for-one split of its common stock by way of a stock dividend declared. As a result of the stock split, holders of the Company's common stock received seven additional shares of common stock for every share held on such date, and a proportionate adjustment was made to the applicable conversion prices for each share of the Company's outstanding convertible preferred stock, resulting in a conversion ratio of one-to-eight. As a result of the initial public offering of stock at a price greater than the pre-split adjusted price of \$70.74, all preferred shares were converted to common shares on November 17, 2011.

Rent expense to Henry Amalgamated was \$11, \$977 and \$856 for 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The Company did not owe Henry Amalgamated any amounts as of December 31, 2013 and 2012.

