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Virgin America Inc. Form S-1 March 16, 2015 Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 16, 2015

Registration No. 333-

# **UNITED STATES**

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

# FORM S-1

## REGISTRATION STATEMENT

**UNDER** 

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

# VIRGIN AMERICA INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction

4512

(Primary Standard Industrial

**20-1585173** (I.R.S. Employer

of incorporation or organization)

Classification Code Number) 555 Airport Boulevard

Identification Number)

Burlingame, California 94010

(650) 762-7000

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant s principal executive offices)

C. David Cush

**President and Chief Executive Officer** 

Virgin America Inc.

555 Airport Boulevard, Burlingame, California 94010

(650) 762-7000

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

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 ${\it (650)\,762-7000}$  Approximate date of commencement of the proposed sale to the public:

As soon as practicable after this Registration Statement becomes effective.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

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 x (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company "

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

		Proposed		
		Troposed	Proposed	
		Maximum		
			Maximum	
Title of Each Class of		Offering Price		Amount of
	Amount to be		Aggregate	
Securities to be Registered	Registered (1)	Per Share (2)	Offering Price (2)	Registration Fee (3)
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	5,580,883	\$34.56	\$192,875,316.48	\$22,412.12

- (1) Includes shares of common stock subject to the underwriters option to purchase additional shares.
- (2) Estimated solely for the purpose of computing the amount of the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.
- (3) Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, based on the average of the high and low trading prices for the common stock on The NASDAQ Global Select Market on March 12, 2015.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a),

may determine.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. These securities may not be sold until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This preliminary prospectus is not an offer to sell nor does it seek an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, dated March 16, 2015.

4,852,942 Shares

### Common Stock

The selling stockholders identified in this prospectus are offering 4,852,942 shares of our common stock. The selling stockholders will receive all of the net proceeds from the sale of the shares of our common stock in this offering.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol VA. On March 13, 2015, the last sale price of the shares on the NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$34.77 per share.

Investing in the common stock involves risks. See <u>Risk Factors</u> beginning on page 16 of this prospectus.

	Per Share	Total
Price to the Public	\$	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions (1)	\$	\$
Proceeds to selling stockholders (before expenses)	\$	\$

(1) We refer you to Underwriting beginning on page 130 of this prospectus for additional information regarding underwriting compensation. The selling stockholders have granted the underwriters an option to purchase up to 727,941 additional shares of common stock. Such selling stockholders will receive the net proceeds from any shares sold pursuant to the underwriters—option to purchase additional shares, if such option is exercised.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The underwriters expect to deliver the shares of common stock to purchasers on or about March , 2015.

# **Barclays**

# **Deutsche Bank Securities**

Cowen and Company Imperial Capital Raymond James
March , 2015

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We are responsible for the information contained in this prospectus or contained in any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us to which we have referred you. Neither we, any of the selling stockholders nor the underwriters, have authorized anyone to provide you with additional information or information different from that contained in this prospectus or in any free writing prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and we take no responsibility for any other information that others may give you. The selling stockholders are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, shares of our common stock only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The information contained in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or of any sale of our common stock. Our business, results of operations or financial condition may have changed since such date.

For investors outside the United States: Neither we, any of the selling stockholders nor any of the underwriters have taken any action that would permit this offering or possession or distribution of this prospectus in any jurisdiction where action for that purpose is required, other than in the United States. You are required to inform yourselves about and to observe any restrictions relating to this offering and the distribution of this prospectus.

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### **SUMMARY**

This summary highlights selected information about us and the common stock being offered by the selling stockholders. It may not contain all of the information that is important to you. Before investing in our common stock, you should read this entire prospectus carefully for a more complete understanding of our business and this offering, including our financial statements and the accompanying notes and the sections entitled Risk Factors and Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

#### Overview

Virgin America is a premium-branded, low-cost airline based in California that provides scheduled air travel in the continental United States and Mexico. We operate primarily from our focus cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco, with a smaller presence at Dallas Love Field (DAL), to other major business and leisure destinations in North America. We provide a distinctive offering for our passengers, whom we call guests, that is centered around our brand and our premium travel experience, while at the same time maintaining a low-cost structure through our point-to-point network and high utilization of our efficient, single fleet type, consisting of Airbus A320-Family aircraft. Our distinctive business model allows us to offer a product that is attractive to guests who historically favored legacy airlines but at a lower cost than that of legacy airlines. This business model enables us to compete effectively with other low-cost carriers, or LCCs, by generating a higher stage-length adjusted revenue per available seat mile. Conversely, while our lower density seating configuration and the cost of our premium services contribute to a higher stage-length adjusted cost per available seat mile than that of other LCCs, our underlying cost structure principally stemming from our single fleet type and point-to-point network is competitive within the industry. As of December 31, 2014, we provided service to 21 airports in the United States and Mexico with a fleet of 53 narrow-body aircraft.

Leveraging the reputation of the Virgin brand, a global brand founded by Sir Richard Branson, we target guests who value the experience associated with the Virgin brand and the high-quality product and service that we offer. Our employees, whom we call teammates, provide a personalized level of service to our guests that is a key component of our product. Other elements of our premium product available fleetwide include power outlets adjacent to every seat, inflight wireless internet access, distinctive on-board mood lighting, leather seats, high-quality food and beverage offerings and our Red® inflight entertainment system, which we believe is industry leading, featuring a nine-inch personal touch-screen interface with a variety of features available on-demand, including live television, movies, seat-to-seat text chat, games, interactive maps and music. We have won numerous awards for our product, including Best Domestic Airline in *Travel + Leisure Magazine* s World s Best Awards and Best Domestic Airline in *Condé Nast Traveler Magazine* s Readers Choice Awards for the past seven consecutive years as well as Best U.S. Business/First Class Airline in *Condé Nast Traveler Magazine* s Business Travel Poll for the past six consecutive years.

LCCs in the United States generally operate point-to-point networks with a single fleet type, a single class of service with a relatively high density seating configuration, high degree of outsourced operational services and high aircraft utilization. While we have many of these characteristics, we differentiate ourselves from other LCCs in the United States with additional attributes that business and high-end leisure travelers value. In contrast to most LCCs, we have three classes of service onboard our aircraft. In addition to our Main Cabin economy product, we offer our guests a First Class product and a premium economy class product called Main Cabin Select. We also provide a number of other amenities that are important to frequent travelers, including our Elevate® loyalty program with tiered benefits for our most loyal guests, lounge access in certain airports, including our own Virgin America Loft at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), interline and codeshare partnerships with other airlines and a wide range of distribution channels and contractual travel discounts for over 250 major corporate customers and travel agents. While these amenities result in a higher cost per available seat mile, or CASM, than we could otherwise achieve with a more traditional LCC model, we believe that these

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amenities, along with our premium on-board features, enabled us to realize the highest average passenger revenue per available seat mile, or PRASM, during the twelve months ended September 30, 2014, among U.S. LCCs within most of our markets.

Our disciplined cost control is also core to our strategy, and we maintain the cost simplicity of other LCCs. We operate one of the youngest fleets among U.S. airlines, comprised entirely of fuel-efficient Airbus A320-family aircraft. Our single fleet type allows us to avoid the operational complexities and cost disadvantages of carriers with multiple and older fleet types. In addition, our long-haul, point-to-point network results in high aircraft utilization and efficient scheduling of our aircraft and crews. We believe that our teammates are productive and attentive to our guests, contributing to our cost advantage while maintaining our high-quality travel experience. We also outsource many non-core functions, such as certain ground handling activities, major airframe and engine maintenance and call center functions, leading to efficient, cost-competitive services and flexibility in these areas.

Executing our strategy of providing a premium travel experience within a disciplined, competitive cost structure has led to improved financial results. For 2014, we recorded operating revenues of \$1.5 billion, operating income of \$96.4 million and net income of \$60.1 million. We increased our revenue per available seat mile, or RASM, in 2014 by 4.6% compared to 2013. Furthermore, our CASM of 11.38 cents increased by only 3.6% from 2013. In 2014, our stage-length adjusted CASM, excluding profit sharing, was competitive within the industry and below that of legacy airlines.

Our business model relies on attracting guests who value the premium product that we provide. Because we provide a high level of amenities to our guests, it generally requires a longer period of time for us to reach profitability in each new market that we enter than it might require for a traditional LCC that does not provide this higher level of service. However, we believe that in the long term, our business model enables us to have financially successful routes as evidenced by our PRASM premium over other LCCs in our markets and in part by our history of operating profitability in 2013 and 2014 after two years of rapid growth into new markets in 2011 and 2012.

### **Our Competitive Strengths**

We believe the following strengths allow us to compete successfully in the U.S. airline industry:

Premium Travel Experience. We believe our premium guest experience, attractive amenities, customer-focused teammates and wide array of inflight entertainment options differentiate us from other airlines in the United States. A key component of our product strength is the consistency across our entire fleet. In contrast to airlines with multiple aircraft types, our product offering is identical on every Airbus 320-family aircraft, allowing for the same enhanced travel experience on every flight. We also differentiate ourselves from other LCCs by providing both First Class and Main Cabin Select products in addition to our Main Cabin economy product. With just eight seats on every aircraft fewer than most first class cabins offered on competing airlines, our First Class cabin has an exclusive feel with a dedicated attendant providing a personal level of service. Unlike many other airlines, we do not provide complimentary upgrades to First Class, enhancing the exclusivity of this product. In addition to more leg room, which is a standard feature of most premium economy products, we offer additional features within Main Cabin Select, such as complimentary on-demand current-run movies, premium television programs, premium beverages and Main Cabin meals and snacks.

World-Class Virgin Brand. We believe that the Virgin brand is widely recognized in the United States and is known for being innovative, stylish, entrepreneurial and hip. We believe that the brand is recognized worldwide from the Virgin Group s offerings in music, air travel, wireless service and a wide variety of other products. We capitalize on the strength of the Virgin brand to target guests who value an enhanced travel experience and association with the Virgin brand. We believe that the Virgin brand has helped us to establish

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ourselves as a premium airline in the domestic market in a short period of time. When we enter a new market, awareness of the Virgin brand generates interest from new guests. The power of the Virgin brand provides an opportunity for low-cost public relations events that generate extensive media coverage in new markets and has led to other cooperative marketing relationships for us with major companies. In addition to capitalizing on the Virgin brand strength, we are rapidly establishing Virgin America as a distinct and premium brand for air travel in the United States in its own right. We believe our guests associate the Virgin and Virgin America brands with a distinctive high-quality and high-value travel experience.

Low-Cost, Disciplined Operating Structure. A core component of our business model is our disciplined cost structure. Key components of this low cost structure include our modern, fuel-efficient single-aircraft fleet, our high aircraft utilization, our point-to-point operations, our productive and engaged workforce, our outsourcing of non-core activities and our lean, scalable overhead structure. We are committed to maintaining this disciplined cost structure and believe we will continue to improve our competitive cost position in future years as we grow and further leverage our existing infrastructure. In 2014, the average stage-length adjusted domestic CASM of legacy airlines was 25% higher, and the average stage-length adjusted domestic CASM of LCCs was only 13% lower, than our stage-length adjusted CASM. We believe our lower seating density and three-class cabin configuration, which is a similar configuration to that of many legacy airlines, is the primary reason that our stage-length adjusted CASM was higher than that of other LCCs in 2014. However, our seating configuration with three classes of service was also a primary contributor to our higher stage-length adjusted PRASM for the twelve months ended September 30, 2014 when compared to other LCCs. For example, Spirit Airlines configures an Airbus A320 aircraft with 178 seats in a single class of service compared to our seating density of 146-149 seats for the same aircraft. We believe that Spirit Airlines s 19% higher seating density per aircraft contributed to a lower stage-length adjusted PRASM and lower stage-length adjusted CASM for the twelve months ended September 30, 2014 when compared to ours.

Established Presence in Los Angeles and San Francisco. We have built our network around the Los Angeles and San Francisco metropolitan areas, the second- and third-largest domestic air travel markets in the United States in 2013. We believe that these two markets, with a combined population of approximately 27 million people and strong economic bases in the technology, media and entertainment industries, serve as an excellent platform for long-term growth. Los Angeles and San Francisco both have large populations of technologically savvy, entrepreneurial and innovative individuals who we believe value our brand and premium guest experience. We have made significant investments in these key markets since 2010, and as of December 31, 2014, we provide service to 18 destinations from Los Angeles and 20 destinations from San Francisco. These destinations include seven of the top ten domestic destinations served from LAX and nine of the top ten domestic destinations served from San Francisco International Airport (SFO), based on passenger volume. This investment provides greater network coverage across North America for travelers from these two focus markets, and we expect that this investment will allow us to continue to grow by leveraging the loyal guest base that we have established in each market.

Our Team and Entrepreneurial Culture. Our teammates and culture are essential elements of our success because they contribute significantly to our premium travel experience. We start by hiring the right teammates through a rigorous process that includes numerous interviews, as well as pre-employment testing for our frontline teammates and our pilots. Key characteristics of Virgin America teammates include a friendly, personable nature, a willingness to think differently, a passionate approach to his or her work and intense pride in Virgin America and our product. We empower our teammates with a high level of authority to resolve guest issues throughout the travel experience, from making flight reservations to interactions at the airport and in flight. We strive to create an environment for our teammates where open communication is both encouraged and expected and where we celebrate our successes together. We believe our positive work environment has contributed to our having one of the highest customer satisfaction rankings in the airline industry.

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### **Our Growth Strategy**

Our goal is to generate above-average RASM in each market we serve by providing the leading domestic air travel product through our brand and our premium guest experience, while at the same time maintaining our competitive cost structure through the efficient operations we have established. Key elements of our growth strategy include:

Expand Our Route Network. We currently serve only 14 of the 50 largest metropolitan areas in the United States and three leisure destinations in Mexico. We believe there are significant opportunities to expand our service from our focus cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco to other large markets throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. We have firm commitments to take delivery of ten Airbus A320-family aircraft from July 2015 through June 2016, and we expect to continue to grow at a measured, disciplined pace beyond 2016. While we expect most of our expansion in the next several years will focus on the opportunities we have at Los Angeles and San Francisco, we are also growing our presence in Dallas, Texas. Through the use of recently acquired slots at New York LaGuardia Airport (LGA) and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), we added service at DAL to these markets in October 2014. We also moved our service between Dallas and LAX and Dallas and SFO from Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) to DAL. DAL is located in a growing, affluent section of the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area and is the closest airport to downtown Dallas. In addition, the airline facilities at DAL are limited by federal law to only 20 gates, providing a structural barrier to entry. Our new service at DAL further diversifies our route network and allows us to provide service to LGA and DCA. In addition, we intend to expand our codeshare and interline relationships with other airlines that are complementary to our network, expanding travel destination options for our guests while adding new sources of revenue and more guests.

Maintain Competitive Unit Operating Costs. We are highly focused on maintaining competitive unit operating costs. We expect to realize economies of scale as we continue to grow by leveraging our distribution, marketing and technology costs across our platform and by better utilizing our facilities and ground assets across a larger network. Our fleet is 100% financed by operating leases, of which 26 leases will expire between 2016 and 2022. As our leases expire, we expect to have the opportunity to lower our costs by renewing at lower lease rates or by opportunistically replacing these aircraft with new Airbus A320-family aircraft with lower operating costs sourced in the open market. In addition, we expect our cost structure will continue to benefit from our highly productive and flexible workforce as we grow our fleet and network.

Continue to Grow Our Base of Frequent Travelers. We intend to continue to grow our share of business travelers, a focus that is uncommon among U.S. LCCs, because we believe this population of airline travelers allows us to achieve increased RASM. We target the business community by providing a premium travel service between our focus cities and many of the most important business destinations in North America, as well as key leisure destinations that we believe are important to business travelers when flying for leisure travel. We have already attracted a significant base of frequent business and premium leisure travelers who regularly fly with us and who we believe prefer our premium product attributes. We believe that these types of guests also value a larger route network and frequent flights within markets. As we grow our network from California and expand our interline and codeshare partnerships, we believe we will be well positioned to attract additional business and high-end leisure travelers. We consider guests who book within 14 days of departure as business travelers. Using this as a measure, we believe that approximately 29% of our guests in 2014 were business travelers, representing approximately 39% of our revenue from ticket sales in 2014.

Continue to Enhance Our Product and Guest Experience. We believe our guest experience is unique in the industry and revolves around our teammates focus on guest service, extensive entertainment options, compelling passenger comfort features and an association with our brand that would be difficult to replicate. We nevertheless are continually developing new enhancements to our product. For example, in early 2014, we further expanded our First Class food service on select flights to include enhanced gourmet food offerings and

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linen service. In the second quarter of 2014, we launched a redesigned version of the Virgin America website, enhancing the ease of use and functionality as well as providing a more customized experience for our guests. In 2015, we plan to upgrade the monitors within our inflight entertainment system to include a swipe touch capability, similar to that found on many modern personal electronic devices. This upgrade will include a redesign of the software behind our Red inflight entertainment system, allowing for future software features to what we believe is already an industry-leading system. Additionally, we continually analyze new technologies for longer-term enhancements to our fleet, inflight product and airport experience.

### **Route Network**

We served 21 airports throughout North America as of December 31, 2014. The majority of our routes operate to and from our focus cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco, with a smaller presence located at DAL. Our current network is a mix of long-haul, transcontinental service combined with short-haul West coast service and select Mexico leisure destinations. Below is a route map of our network.

We use publicly available data related to existing traffic, fares and capacity in domestic markets to identify growth opportunities. To monitor the profitability of each route, we analyze monthly profitability reports as well as near-term forecasting. We routinely make adjustments to capacity and frequency of flights within our network based on the financial performance of our markets, and we discontinue service in markets where we determine that long-term profitability is not likely to meet our expectations.

Our future network plans include growing from our focus cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco to other major markets in North America. By continuing to add destinations in select markets from Los Angeles and San Francisco, we can leverage our existing base of loyal guests and grow our share of revenue within these focus

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cities while also expanding our customer base as we gain new guests in new markets. In 2014, we added service from DAL to LGA and DCA. We believe this DAL opportunity increased the diversity of our route network and provided growth into strategic airports that are limited by regulation.

### Fleet

We fly only Airbus A320-family aircraft and operate only CFM engines, which provide us significant operational and cost advantages compared to airlines that operate multiple fleet and engine types. Flight crews are entirely interchangeable across all of our aircraft, and maintenance, spare parts inventories and other operational support are highly simplified relative to more complex fleets. Due to this commonality among Airbus single-aisle aircraft, we retain the benefits of a fleet consisting of a single family of aircraft while still having flexibility to match the capacity and range of the aircraft to the demands of many routes.

We have a fleet of 53 Airbus single-aisle aircraft, consisting of ten Airbus A319s and 43 Airbus A320s. The average age of the fleet was 5.8 years at December 31, 2014. Our Airbus A319 aircraft accommodate 119 guests, and our Airbus A320 aircraft accommodate 146-149 guests. All of our existing aircraft are financed under operating leases.

We plan to grow our fleet with additional Airbus A320-family aircraft, and we currently have an order with Airbus for ten Airbus A320 aircraft to be delivered between July 2015 and June 2016 and 30 Airbus A320 new engine option, or A320neo, aircraft to be delivered between 2020 and 2022. We have an option to cancel our Airbus A320neo positions up to two years in advance of delivery in groups of five aircraft, but we could incur a loss of deposits and credits as a cancellation fee. We may elect to supplement these deliveries by additional acquisitions from Airbus or in the open market if demand conditions merit. Twenty-six of our existing operating leases will expire between 2016 and 2022, and we believe there will be an opportunity to extend these leases at a reduced lease rate or to replace them with new or used Airbus A320-family aircraft. Although we expect to grow our fleet as we increase our flights on our existing route network and expand our route network to new markets, we are only committed to grow to 63 aircraft. As a result, our fleet plan provides significant flexibility.

Our Airbus A320 aircraft deliveries in 2015 and 2016 will be equipped with sharklets, a new wingtip device that we believe will create up to 3.0% additional fuel efficiency in our network. In addition to lowering our average fuel cost per flight, the sharklets provide increased range. This will reduce technical stops on our transcontinental flights that occasionally occur during specific weather patterns as well as allow for the possibility of operations to the state of Hawaii. Operating to Hawaii will require additional Federal Aviation Authority, or FAA, certification for extended twin-engine over-water operations, and we are currently evaluating these markets and the additional operational requirements.

### **Recent Developments**

### First Quarter 2015 Outlook

Along with most of the U.S. airline industry, we experienced a high level of cancellations throughout January and February due to severe Northeast winter storms. We do not expect winter cancellations to result in a material change to the revenue we expect to generate in the first quarter of 2015 or the guidance we previously provided. However, we now believe that our capacity, as measured by available seat miles, will increase by approximately 1.5% to 2.0% for the first quarter of 2015, versus the 2.0% to 3.0% previously expected, as compared to the first quarter of 2014.

We have generally experienced stable revenue performance across most of our markets to date during the first quarter of 2015. The three exceptions are performance in our Dallas markets, New York City transcontinental markets and Seattle markets. There have been significant capacity increases at Dallas Love Field

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(DAL) following the repeal of the Wright Amendment in October 2014. We believe this additional capacity at DAL has had a negative impact on unit revenue in a number of markets from the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area, including the four markets that we serve from DAL. In addition, we believe that increased capacity on the JFK-LAX and JFK-SFO routes, particularly with respect to premium cabin capacity, has caused fares in these two markets to decrease. Finally, in the Seattle markets, we believe new flights added by other carriers in the LAX-SEA and SEA-SFO markets have continued to impact unit revenues negatively in these city pairs. Based on these current trends as well as generally stable trends in other markets that we serve, we currently expect PRASM for the first quarter of 2015 to range between a decrease of 1.0% and an increase of 1.0% versus the first quarter of 2014.

We believe that CASM, excluding fuel and profit sharing, for the first quarter of 2015 will increase between 1.0% and 3.0% versus the first quarter of 2014. We further believe that our economic fuel cost per gallon, which consists of our actual fuel costs, related fuel taxes and any gains or losses on any hedge instruments that settle during the quarter but excluding any gains or losses on hedges that will settle in future quarters, to average between \$2.45 and \$2.55 for the first quarter of 2015. This number may change depending on fluctuations in market prices for jet fuel during the remainder of the quarter.

Our projected results for the first quarter of 2015 are based on currently available information. Projections of results are inherently uncertain and subject to change. These projections may differ from actual results. We undertake no obligation to update or revise the projections set forth in this prospectus as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as otherwise required by law. Therefore, you should not place undue reliance upon these projections.

#### Risk Factors

Our business is subject to numerous risks and uncertainties, including those highlighted in the section entitled Risk Factors immediately following this prospectus summary, that represent potential challenges we face in connection with the successful implementation of our strategy and the growth of our business. We expect a number of factors to cause our results of operations to fluctuate on a quarterly and annual basis, which may make it difficult to predict our future performance. Such factors include:

the price and availability of aircraft fuel;
our ability to compete in an extremely competitive industry;
the successful execution and implementation of our strategy;
security concerns resulting from any threatened or actual terrorist attacks or other hostilities;
our reliance upon technology and automated systems to operate our business;
our reputation and business being adversely affected in the event of an emergency, accident or similar incident;
changes in economic conditions;
our limited profitable operating history;
changes in governmental regulation; and

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our ability to obtain financing or access capital markets.

### **Corporate Information**

We were incorporated in the state of Delaware in 2004 as Best Air Holdings, Inc. We changed our name to Virgin America Inc. in November 2005. Our principal executive offices are located at 555 Airport Boulevard,

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Burlingame, California 94010. Our general telephone number is (650) 762-7000, and our website address is www.virginamerica.com. We have not incorporated by reference into this prospectus any of the information on, or accessible through, our website, and you should not consider our website to be a part of this document. Our website address is included in this document for reference only.

Virgin America®, the Virgin America logo and the Virgin signature are trademarks of Virgin America Inc. in the United States and other countries by license from certain entities affiliated with the Virgin Group. This prospectus also contains trademarks and trade names of other companies.

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### THE OFFERING

Common stock offered by the selling stockholders 4,852,942 shares

Shares outstanding after the offering 43,119,886 shares (1)

Underwriters option to purchase additional shares The selling stockholders have granted the underwriters an option to purchase up to

727,941 additional shares of common stock.

Use of proceeds We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of common stock by the selling

stockholders in this offering. The selling stockholders include our principal stockholders, affiliates of Virgin Group Holdings Limited, which we refer to in this prospectus collectively as the Virgin Group, and Cyrus Aviation Holdings, LLC, which we refer to as Cyrus Holdings and, together with CM Finance Inc, Cyrus Capital. Please see

Principal and Selling Stockholders.

Risk factors See Risk Factors and the other information included elsewhere in this prospectus for a

discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our

common stock.

NASDAQ Global Select Market symbol VA

(1) The number of shares outstanding after the offering is based on 43,119,886 shares of our common stock (including non-voting common stock) outstanding as of December 31, 2014, and excludes:

1,047,857 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options outstanding as of December 31, 2014 at a weighted-average exercise price of \$15.95 per share, of which 115,839 are vested and exercisable;

295,779 shares of common stock issuable upon the vesting of restricted stock units, or RSUs, as of December 31, 2014 under our 2005 Stock Incentive Plan that vest once the price of our stock equals or exceeds \$30.20 per share on a daily moving-average basis over a 90-day period after May 18, 2015, the expiration date of the lockup agreements to which such RSUs are subject;

655,904 shares of common stock issuable upon the vesting of additional RSUs outstanding as of December 31, 2014, of which an aggregate of 604,384 shares vest only if the price of our stock meets certain price thresholds, which range from \$18.87 to \$37.74 per share, on a daily moving-average basis over a six-month period, (provided that 298,054 of such shares are also subject to additional service conditions which range from 12 to 36 months) and 51,520 of which have no stock price thresholds and vest over service terms ending between January 2015 and January 2017;

340,411 shares of common stock issuable upon the vesting of additional RSUs outstanding as of December 31, 2014, granted to certain of our executive officers, members of our board of directors and other management, which vest over a three-year service term;

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an aggregate of 1,017,570 shares of common stock reserved for issuance under our 2014 Equity Incentive Award Plan; and

an aggregate of 160,000 shares of common stock reserved for issuance under our 2014 Employee Stock Purchase Plan. Except as otherwise indicated, information in this prospectus reflects or assumes no exercise of the underwriters option to purchase additional shares of common stock from the selling stockholders.

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### SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL AND OPERATING DATA

The following tables summarize the consolidated financial and operating data for our business for the periods presented. You should read this summary consolidated financial and operating data in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated financial statements and related notes, included elsewhere in this prospectus. We derived the summary consolidated statements of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2013 and 2014 and the summary consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2013 and 2014 from our audited consolidated financial statements included in this prospectus. Our historical results are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected in the future.

	Year Ended December 31, 2012 2013 2014				2014
		usands, except per share data			
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:			• •		
Operating revenues	\$ 1,332,837	\$	1,424,678	\$	1,489,967
Operating expenses	1,364,570		1,343,797		1,393,552
Operating income (loss)	(31,733)		80,881		96,415
Other expense	(113,640)		(70,420)		(35,127)
Net income (loss) before income tax	(145,373)		10,461		61,288
Income tax expense	15		317		1,179
Net income (loss)	\$ (145,388)	\$	10,144	\$	60,109
Net income (loss) per share:					
Basic (1)	\$ (207.20)	\$	5.60	\$	8.42
Diluted (1)	\$ (207.20)	\$	3.68	\$	7.13
Shares used in per share calculation:					
Basic (1)	701,671		701,671		6,175,186
Diluted (1)	701,671		1,646,821		7,470,396
Non-GAAP Financial Data:					
EBITDA (2)	\$ (20,473)	\$	94,844	\$	110,901
EBITDAR (2)	216,327		296,915		295,258

<sup>(1)</sup> See Note 15 to our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus for an explanation of the method used to calculate basic and diluted earnings per share.

<sup>(2)</sup> EBITDA is earnings before interest, income taxes, and depreciation and amortization. EBITDAR is earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization and aircraft rent. EBITDA and EBITDAR are included as supplemental disclosure because we believe they are useful indicators of our operating performance. Derivations of EBITDA and EBITDAR are well recognized performance measurements in the airline industry that are frequently used by companies, investors, securities analysts and other interested parties in comparing the operating performance of companies in our industry. We also believe EBITDA is useful for evaluating performance of our senior management team. EBITDAR is useful in evaluating our operating performance compared to our competitors because its calculation isolates the effects of financing in general, the accounting effects of capital spending and acquisitions (primarily aircraft, which may be acquired directly, directly subject to acquisition debt, by capital lease or by operating lease, each of which is presented differently for accounting purposes) and income taxes, which may vary significantly between periods and for different companies for reasons unrelated to overall operating performance. However, because derivations of EBITDA and EBITDAR are not determined in accordance with GAAP, such measures are susceptible to varying calculations, and not all companies calculate the measures in the same

manner. As a result, derivations of EBITDA and EBITDAR as presented may not be directly comparable to similarly titled measures presented by other companies.

These non-GAAP financial measures have limitations as an analytical tool. Some of these limitations are: they do not reflect our cash expenditures or future requirements for capital expenditures or contractual commitments; they do not reflect changes in, or cash requirements for, our working capital needs; they do not reflect the significant interest expense, or the cash requirements necessary to service interest or principal payments, on our debt; although depreciation and amortization are non-cash charges, the assets being depreciated and amortized will often have to be replaced in the future, and these measures do not reflect any cash requirements for such replacements; and other companies in our industry may calculate EBITDA and EBITDAR differently than we do, limiting their usefulness as a comparative measure. Because of these limitations, EBITDA and EBITDAR should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for performance measures calculated in accordance with GAAP.

The following table represents the reconciliation of net income (loss) to EBITDA and EBITDAR for the periods presented below:

	Year Ended December 31,			
	2012	2013	2014	
		(in thousands)		
Reconciliation:				
Net income (loss)	\$ (145,388)	\$ 10,144	\$ 60,109	
Interest expense	116,110	71,293	37,519	
Capitalized interest	(2,176)	(534)	(2,668)	
Interest income	(294)	(339)	276	
Income tax expense	15	317	1,179	
Depreciation and amortization	11,260	13,963	14,486	
EBITDA	\$ (20,473)	\$ 94,844	\$ 110,901	
Aircraft rent	236,800	202,071	184,357	
EBITDAR	\$ 216,327	\$ 296,915	\$ 295,258	

### OPERATING STATISTICS

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2012	2013	2014
Operating Statistics (unaudited): (1)			
Available seat miles ASMs (millions)	12,514	12,243	12,240
Departures	56,362	58,215	58,432
Average stage length (statute miles)	1,567	1,474	1,466
Aircraft in service end of period	52	53	53
Fleet utilization	11.6	10.8	10.8
Passengers (thousands)	6,219	6,329	6,507
Average fare	\$ 195.38	\$ 203.70	\$ 204.27
Yield per passenger mile (cents)	12.26	13.14	13.19
Revenue passenger miles RPMs (millions)	9,912	9,814	10,074
Load factor	79.2%	80.2%	82.3%
Passenger revenue per available seat mile PRASM (cents)	9.71	10.53	10.86
Total revenue per available seat mile RASM (cents)	10.65	11.64	12.17
Cost per available seat mile CASM (cents)	10.90	10.98	11.38
CASM, excluding fuel (cents)	6.61	6.83	7.30
CASM, excluding fuel and profit sharing (in cents)	6.61	6.82	7.19
Fuel cost per gallon	\$ 3.32	\$ 3.18	\$ 3.08
Fuel gallons consumed (thousands)	161,404	159,326	161,791
Teammates (FTE)	2,395	2,482	2,492

<sup>(1)</sup> See Glossary of Airline Terms beginning on the next page of this prospectus for definitions of terms used in this table.

### GLOSSARY OF AIRLINE TERMS

Set forth below is a glossary of industry terms used in this prospectus:

**Airbus A320-family** includes A318, A319, A320 and A321 aircraft manufactured by the Airbus Group. The Airbus A320-family have common engine, airframe and cockpit design, leading to shared maintenance and flight operations procedures. We currently operate A319 and A320 aircraft.

**Ancillary revenue** means the amount of non-ticket revenue received from passengers, including baggage fees, change fees, seat selection fees, on-board sales and other revenue, including charter revenue.

**Ancillary revenue** per passenger means the total ancillary revenue divided by passengers.

**ASMs,** or available seat miles, refer to the number of seats available for passengers multiplied by the number of miles the seats are flown. **Average fare** means total passenger revenue divided by passengers.

**Block hours** means the hours during which the aircraft is in revenue service, measured from the time of gate departure before take-off until the time of gate arrival at the destination.

CASM, or cost per available seat mile, means the airline s total operating costs divided by available seat miles.

**CASM**, excluding fuel, or CASM ex-fuel, means operating costs less aircraft fuel expense divided by ASMs.

**CASM, excluding fuel and profit sharing** means operating costs less aircraft fuel expense and profit sharing expense divided by ASMs. Under our annual profit sharing program, we accrue 15% of cumulative year-to-date income before income taxes and profit sharing for the benefit of our eligible teammates each quarter to the extent that we have cumulative year-to-date pre-tax income.

Codeshare refers to a type of arrangement where two or more airlines share the same flight and where a seat can be purchased through one airline but actually operated by a cooperating airline under a different flight number or code.

**Fleet utilization,** or aircraft utilization, means block hours in the period divided by average number of aircraft in our fleet divided by number of days in the period.

Flight equipment means all types of property and equipment used in the inflight operation of aircraft.

**Flight hours** means the total time an aircraft is in the air between an origin-destination airport pair, i.e. from wheels-up at the origin airport to wheels-down at the destination airport.

**Hub-and-spoke network** refers to a method of organizing an airline network in which one major airport is used as a connecting point for passengers traveling to other destinations, including smaller local airports and international destinations.

Interline refers to a type of agreement among airline partners that allow guests to create itineraries connecting from one airline to another.

Load factor means the proportion of airline capacity (ASMs) that is actually consumed, calculated by dividing RPMs by ASMs.

Passenger revenue means revenue received by the airline from the carriage of passengers in scheduled operations.

Passengers means the total number of passengers flown on all flight segments.

**PDP** means pre-delivery payments, which are payments required by aircraft manufacturers in advance of delivery of the aircraft; typically aircraft-specific payments begin 24 months prior to aircraft delivery.

**Pitch,** or seat pitch, means the measure of distance between seat rows on an aircraft, measured in inches from the middle of one seat to the middle of the seat directly in front of it.

**Point-to-point network** means a method of organizing an airline network in which flights travel directly to a destination rather than going through a central hub.

**PRASM**, or passenger revenue per available seat mile, refers to a measure of passenger unit revenue calculated by dividing passenger revenue by available seat miles, or ASMs.

**RASM,** revenue per available seat mile or unit revenue refers to a measure of unit revenue calculated by dividing the airline s total revenue by available seat miles, or ASMs.

RPMs, or revenue passenger miles, means the number of miles flown by revenue passengers.

Seat-weighted stage length means the average distance flown, measured in statute miles, per seat, calculated by dividing total ASMs by the number of total seats flown.

**Stage length** means the average distance flown, measured in statute miles, per aircraft departure, calculated by dividing total aircraft miles flown by the number of total aircraft departures performed.

Stage length adjusted CASM means CASM adjusted for a seat-weighted stage length.

Stage-length adjustment refers to an adjustment to enable comparison of CASM and RASM across airlines. All other things being equal, the same airline will have lower CASM and RASM as stage length increases since fixed and departure related costs are spread over increasingly larger average flight lengths. Therefore, to properly compare these quantities across airlines (or even across the same airline for two different periods if the airline s average stage length has changed significantly) requires settling on a common assumed stage length and then adjusting CASM and RASM appropriately. This requires some judgment and different observers may use different stage-length adjustment techniques. We adjust for stage-length using the MIT Global Airline Industry Program s methodology for adjusting both PRASM and CASM, which we believe to be the most commonly accepted methodology in the industry. For comparisons in this prospectus in which CASM is stage-length adjusted, the stage-length being utilized is a seat-weighted distance, or the average of the distances flown by each seat divided by total seats flown. For comparisons where PRASM is stage-length adjusted, the stage being utilized is the passenger-weighted distance, or the average of the individual distances flown by the airlines passengers.

U.S. citizen means a citizen of the United States as that term is defined in 49 U.S.C. §40102(a)(15).

Yield refers to a measure of average fare paid per mile per passenger, calculated by dividing passenger revenue by revenue passenger miles.

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### **Virgin America Destinations:**

- AUS Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (Austin, Texas).
- BOS General Edward Lawrence Logan International Airport (Boston, Massachusetts).
- CUN Cancún International Airport (Cancún, Mexico).
- **DAL** Dallas Love Field (Dallas, Texas).
- DCA Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (Washington, D.C.).
- EWR Newark Liberty International Airport (Newark, New Jersey).
- **FLL** Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (Fort Lauderdale, Florida).
- IAD Washington Dulles International Airport (Dulles, Virginia).
- JFK John F. Kennedy International Airport (Jamaica, New York).
- LAS McCarran International Airport (Las Vegas, Nevada).
- LAX Los Angeles International Airport (Los Angeles, California).
- LGA LaGuardia Airport (New York, New York).
- MCO Orlando International Airport (Orlando, Florida).
- ORD Chicago O Hare International Airport (Chicago, Illinois).
- PDX Portland International Airport (Portland, Oregon).
- PSP Palm Springs International Airport (Palm Springs, California).
- PVR Licenciado Gustavo Díaz Ordaz International Airport (Puerto Vallarta, Mexico).
- SAN San Diego International Airport (San Diego, California).
- SEA Seattle Tacoma International Airport (Seattle, Washington).
- SFO San Francisco International Airport (San Francisco, California).
- SJD Los Cabos International Airport (Los Cabos, Mexico).

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### RISK FACTORS

Our business involves significant risks, some of which are described below. You should carefully consider these risks, as well as the other information in this prospectus, including our financial statements and the related notes and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations. The occurrence of any of the events or developments described below, as well as additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial, could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and growth prospects.

Our business has been and in the future may be materially adversely affected by the price and availability of aircraft fuel. High fuel costs and increases in fuel prices or a shortage or disruption in the supply of aircraft fuel would have a material adverse effect on our business.

The price of aircraft fuel may be high or volatile. The cost of aircraft fuel is highly volatile and is our largest individual operating expense, accounting for 35.8%, 37.7%, and 39.4% of our operating expenses for 2014, 2013, and 2012. High fuel costs or increases in fuel costs (or in the price of crude oil) could materially adversely affect our business. Since August 2014, the price of jet fuel has fallen by approximately forty percent, which benefits us by lowering our expenses. However, because fuel prices are highly volatile, the price of jet fuel may increase significantly at any time. We may be more susceptible to fuel-price volatility than most of our competitors since fuel represents a larger proportion of our total costs due to the longer average stage length of our flights.

Availability of aircraft fuel may be low. Our business is also dependent on the availability of aircraft fuel (or crude oil), which is not predictable. Weather-related events, natural disasters, terrorism, wars, political disruption or instability involving oil-producing countries, changes in governmental or cartel policy concerning crude oil or aircraft fuel production, labor strikes or other events affecting refinery production, transportation, taxes or marketing, environmental concerns, market manipulation, price speculation and other unpredictable events may drive actual or perceived fuel supply shortages. Shortages in the availability of, or increases in demand for, crude oil in general, other crude-oil-based fuel derivatives and aircraft fuel in particular could result in increased fuel prices and could materially adversely affect our business.

Fare increases may not cover increased fuel costs. We may not be able to increase ticket prices sufficiently to cover increased fuel costs, particularly when fuel prices rise quickly. We sell a significant number of tickets to passengers well in advance of travel, and, as a result, fares sold for future travel may not reflect increased fuel costs. In addition, our ability to increase ticket prices to offset an increase in fuel costs is limited by the competitive nature of the airline industry and the price sensitivity associated with air travel, particularly leisure travel, and any increases in fares may reduce the general demand for air travel.

Our fuel hedging program may not be effective. We cannot assure you our fuel hedging program, including our forward fixed price contracts, or FFPs, which we use as part of our hedging strategy, will be effective or that we will maintain a fuel hedging program. Even if we are able to hedge portions of our future fuel requirements, we cannot guarantee that our hedge contracts will provide an adequate level of protection against increased fuel costs or that the counterparties to our hedge contracts will be able to perform. Certain of our fuel hedge contracts may contain margin funding requirements that could require us to post collateral to counterparties in the event of a significant drop in fuel prices. For example, the recent decrease in the price of jet fuel has triggered unrealized losses on certain hedge positions of \$27.1 million at December 31, 2014. Additionally, our ability to realize the benefit of declining fuel prices will be delayed by the impact of fuel hedges in place, and we may record significant losses on fuel hedges during periods of declining prices. A failure of our fuel hedging strategy, significant margin funding requirements, overpaying for fuel through the use of FFPs or our failure to maintain a fuel hedging program could prevent us from adequately mitigating the risk of fuel price increases and could materially adversely affect our business.

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The airline industry is exceedingly competitive, and we compete against both legacy airlines and low-cost carriers; if we are not able to compete successfully in the domestic airline industry, our business will be materially adversely affected.

The domestic airline industry is characterized by significant competition from both large legacy airlines and low-cost carriers, or LCCs. Airlines compete for passengers with a variety of fares, discounts, route networks, flight schedules, flight frequencies, frequent flyer programs and other products and services, including seating, food, entertainment and other on-board amenities. Airlines also compete on the basis of customer-service performance statistics, such as on-time arrivals, customer complaints and mishandled baggage reports. We face significant competition from both large legacy airlines and LCCs on the routes we operate, and if we are unable to compete effectively, our business will be materially adversely affected.

Large legacy airlines have numerous competitive advantages in competing for airline passengers, particularly following the consolidation in the domestic airline industry that occurred between 2008 and 2013, which resulted in the creation of four dominant domestic airlines with significant breadth of network coverage and financial resources. We face competition from one or more of these legacy carriers with respect to nearly all of the routes we serve. The legacy carriers have a number of competitive advantages relative to us that may enable them to attain higher average fares, more passenger traffic and a greater percentage of business passengers than we attain. These advantages include a much larger route network with domestic and international connections, more flights and convenient flight schedules in routes that overlap with ours. These carriers also offer frequent flyer programs and lounge access benefits that reward and create loyalty with travelers, particularly business travelers. Moreover, several legacy carriers have corporate travel contracts that direct employees to fly with a preferred carrier. The enormous route networks operated by these airlines, combined with their marketing and partnership relationships with regional airlines and international alliance partner carriers, allow them to generate increased passenger traffic from domestic and international cities. Our smaller, point-to-point route network and lack of connecting traffic and marketing alliances puts us at a competitive disadvantage to legacy carriers, particularly with respect to our appeal to higher-fare business travelers.

Each of the legacy carriers operates a much larger fleet of aircraft and has greater financial resources than we do, which permits them to add service in response to our entry into new markets. For example, United Airlines operates a hub at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) and has engaged in aggressive competitive practices, such as increasing seat capacity by introducing larger-gauge aircraft or adding incremental flights in response to our entry into new markets served from SFO. Due to our relatively small size, we are more susceptible to a fare war or other competitive activities in one or more of the markets we serve, which could prevent us from attaining the level of passenger traffic or maintaining the level of ticket sales required to sustain profitable operations in new or existing markets.

LCCs also have numerous competitive advantages in competing for airline passengers. LCCs generally offer a more basic service to travelers and therefore have lower cost structures than other airlines. The lower cost structure of LCCs permits them to offer flights to and from many of the same markets as most major airlines, which are defined by the U.S. Department of Transportation, or DOT, as U.S.-based air carriers with annual operating revenues in excess of one billion dollars during a fiscal year, but at lower prices. LCCs also typically fly direct, point-to-point flights, which tends to improve aircraft and crew scheduling efficiency. Many LCCs also provide only a single class of service, thereby avoiding the incremental cost of offering premium-class services like those that we offer.

In addition, some LCCs have a relentless focus on lowering costs and provide only a very basic level of service to passengers. These carriers configure their aircraft with high-density seating configurations and offer minimal amenities during the flight, and as a result, they incur lower unit costs than we do. Some LCCs also charge ancillary fees for basic services that we provide free of charge, such as making a reservation, printing boarding passes at the airport and carrying bags onboard the cabin for stowage in the overhead bins. In general, LCCs have lower unit costs and therefore are able to offer lower base fares.

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### If we fail to implement our business strategy successfully, our business will be materially adversely affected.

Our business strategy is to target business and leisure travelers who are willing to pay a premium for our newer aircraft, more comfortable seating, better customer service and the latest on-board amenities while maintaining a cost structure that is lower than that of the legacy airlines that these business and premium travelers have historically favored. We may not be successful in attracting enough passengers willing to pay a premium over the fares offered by the LCCs, which we require to offset the additional costs embedded within our premium service model. In addition, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines and JetBlue Airways are increasing the quality of their seating and on-board amenities in some of the routes where they compete with us, making it more challenging to attract passengers who are loyal to those airlines. Continuing to grow our business profitably is also critical to our business strategy. Growth poses various operational and financial challenges, including securing additional financing for aircraft acquisition, obtaining airport gates and facilities at congested airports that serve business and premium travelers and hiring qualified personnel while maintaining our culture, which we believe is vital to the continued success of our airline. We cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully and profitably expand our fleet, enter new markets or grow existing markets in order to achieve additional economies of scale and maintain or increase our profitability. If we are unsuccessful in deploying our strategy, or if our strategy is unsustainable, our business will be materially adversely affected.

### Threatened or actual terrorist attacks or security concerns involving airlines could materially adversely affect our business.

Past terrorist attacks against airlines have caused substantial revenue losses and increased security costs. As a result, any actual or threatened terrorist attack or security breach, even if not directly against an airline, could materially adversely affect our business by weakening the demand for air travel and resulting in increased safety and security costs for us and the airline industry generally. Terrorist attacks made directly on a domestic airline, or the fear of such attacks or other hostilities (including elevated national threat warnings or selective cancellation or redirection of flights due to terror threats), would have a negative impact on the airline industry and materially adversely affect our business.

We rely heavily on technology and automated systems to operate our business, and any failure of these technologies or systems could materially adversely affect our business.

We are highly dependent on technology and computer systems and networks to operate our business. These technologies and systems include our computerized airline reservation system, flight operations systems, telecommunications systems, airline website, maintenance systems and check-in kiosks.

In order for our operations to work efficiently, our website and reservation system must be able to accommodate a high volume of traffic, maintain secure information and deliver flight information. We depend on our reservation system, which is hosted and maintained under a long-term contract by a third-party service provider, to issue, track and accept electronic tickets, conduct check-in, board and manage our passengers through the airports we serve and provide us with access to global distribution systems, which enlarge our pool of potential passengers. In May 2011, we experienced significant reservations system outages, which resulted in lost ticket sales on our website which materially adversely affected our business and goodwill. If our reservation system fails or experiences interruptions again, and we are unable to book seats for any period of time, we could lose a significant amount of revenue as customers book seats on other airlines, and our reputation could be harmed.

We also rely on third-party service providers to maintain our flight operations systems, and if those systems are not functioning, we could experience service disruptions, which could result in the loss of important data, increase our expenses, decrease our operational performance and temporarily stall our operations. Replacement services may not be readily available on a timely basis, at competitive rates or at all, and any transition time to a new system may be significant. In the event that one or more of our primary technology or systems vendors fails to perform and a replacement system is not available, our business could be materially adversely affected.

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Our business could be materially adversely affected from an accident or safety incident involving our aircraft.

An accident or safety incident involving one of our aircraft could expose us to significant liability and a public perception that our airline is unsafe or unreliable. In the event of a major accident, we could be subject to significant personal injury and property claims. While we maintain liability insurance in amounts and of the type generally consistent with industry practice, the amount of such coverage may not be adequate to cover fully all claims, and we may be forced to bear substantial losses from an accident. In addition, any accident or incident involving one of our aircraft (or an accident involving another Virgin-branded airline), even if fully insured, could harm our reputation and result in a loss of future passenger demand if it creates a public perception that our operation is unsafe or unreliable as compared to other airlines or means of transportation. As a result, any accident or safety incident involving our aircraft could materially adversely affect our business.

The demand for airline services is sensitive to changes in economic conditions, and another recession would weaken demand for our services and materially adversely affect our business.

The demand for business and leisure travel is affected by U.S. and global economic conditions. Unfavorable economic conditions have historically reduced airline travel spending. For most leisure consumers, travel is a discretionary expense, and during unfavorable economic conditions, travelers have often replaced air travel with car travel or other forms of ground transportation or have opted not to travel at all. Likewise, during unfavorable economic conditions, businesses have foregone or deferred air travel. Travelers have also reduced spending by purchasing less expensive tickets, which can result in a decrease in average revenue per seat. Because we have relatively high fixed costs, much of which cannot be mitigated during periods of lower demand for air travel, our business is particularly sensitive to changes in U.S. economic conditions. A reduction in the demand for air travel due to unfavorable economic conditions also limits our ability to raise fares to counteract increased fuel, labor and other costs. If U.S. or global economic conditions are unfavorable or uncertain for an extended period of time, it would materially adversely affect our business.

We have a limited operating history and have only recorded two years of profit, and we may not sustain or increase profitability in the future.

We have a history of losses and only a limited operating history upon which you can evaluate our business and prospects. While we recorded an annual profit in 2013 and 2014, we cannot assure you that we will be able to sustain or increase profitability on a quarterly or an annual basis. In turn, this may cause the trading price of our common stock to decline and may materially adversely affect our business.

Airlines are subject to extensive regulation and taxation by governmental authorities, and compliance with new regulations and any new or higher taxes will increase our operating costs and may materially adversely affect our business.

We are subject to extensive regulatory and legal compliance requirements. Congress regularly passes laws that affect the airline industry, and the DOT, the Federal Aviation Administration, or FAA, and the Transportation Security Administration, or TSA, continually issue regulations, orders, rulings and guidance relating to the operation, safety and security of airlines that require significant expenditures and investment by us. For example, the DOT has broad authority over airlines to prevent unfair and deceptive practices and has used this authority to impose numerous airline regulations, including rules and fines relating to airline advertising, pricing, baggage compensation, denied boarding compensation and tarmac delayed flights. The DOT frequently considers the adoption of new regulations, such as rules relating to congestion-based landing fees at airports and limits or disclosures concerning ancillary passenger fees. For example, in June 2014, the DOT issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to further enhance passenger protections that addresses several areas of regulation, including post-purchase ticket increases, ancillary fee disclosures and code-share data reporting and disclosure. Compliance with existing requirements drives administrative, legal and operational costs and subjects us to potential fines, and any new regulatory requirements issued by the DOT may increase our compliance costs, reduce our revenues and materially adversely affect our business.

The FAA has broad authority to address airline safety issues, including inspection authority over our flight, technical and safety operations, and has the ability to issue mandatory orders relating to, among other things, the grounding of aircraft, installation of mandatory equipment and removal and replacement of aircraft parts that have failed or may fail in the future. Any decision by the FAA to require aircraft inspections, complete aircraft maintenance or ground aircraft types operated by us could materially adversely affect our business. For example, on January 4, 2014, the FAA s new and more stringent pilot flight and duty time requirements under Part 117 of the Federal Aviation Regulations took effect, which has increased costs and could further increase our costs in the future.

The FAA also has extensive authority to address airspace/airport congestion issues and has imposed limitations on take-off and landing slots at four airports: Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), LaGuardia Airport (LGA), John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) and Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR). The FAA could reduce the number of slots allocated at these airports or impose new slot restrictions at other airports.

The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey maintains a so-called perimeter rule that prohibits, with certain exceptions, weekday non-stop flights longer than 1,500 statutory miles from LGA, a restriction that does not exist at JFK and EWR. We currently have a limited number of take-off and landing slots at LGA, compared to certain of our competitors. If the LGA perimeter rule were relaxed or eliminated, it could increase competition at LGA for high-revenue longer haul routes favored by business travelers and higher revenue passengers. If New York business travelers and higher revenue passengers elect to travel out of LGA rather than JFK and EWR, airports that are farther from Manhattan, the financial performance of our operations at JFK and EWR may be materially adversely affected. Additionally, we may not have sufficient slots at LGA to compete, which could materially adversely affect our business.

We are also subject to restrictions imposed by federal law that require that no more than 24.9% of our stock be voted, directly or indirectly, by persons who are not U.S. citizens, that no more than 49.9% of our outstanding stock be owned by persons who are not U.S. citizens and that our president and at least two-thirds of the members of our board of directors and senior management be U.S. citizens. For more information on these requirements, see — Our corporate charter and bylaws include provisions limiting voting and ownership by non-U.S. citizens and specifying an exclusive forum for stockholder disputes. We are currently in compliance with these ownership restrictions. Our high level of foreign ownership may limit our opportunity to participate in U.S. government travel contracts and the Civilian Reserve Air Fleet program, however, if we are unable to satisfy policies and procedures of the U.S. Department of Defense for the mitigation of foreign ownership, control or influence required of cleared U.S. contractors.

Domestic airlines are also subject to significant taxation, including taxes on jet fuel, passenger tickets and security fees to compensate the federal government for its role in regulating airlines, providing air traffic controls and implementing security measures related to airlines and airports. In July 2014, the TSA implemented an increased passenger security fee at a flat rate of \$5.60 per passenger. Any significant increase in ticket taxes or security fees could weaken the demand for air travel, increase our costs and materially adversely affect our business.

Many aspects of airlines—operations are also subject to increasingly stringent environmental regulations, and growing concerns about climate change may result in the imposition of additional regulation. Since the domestic airline industry is highly price sensitive, we may not be able to recover from our passengers the cost of compliance with new or more stringent environmental laws and regulations, which could materially adversely affect our business. Although we do not expect the costs of complying with current environmental regulations will have a material adverse effect on our business, we cannot assure you that the costs of complying with environmental regulations would not materially adversely affect us in the future.

Almost all commercial service airports are owned and/or operated by units of local or state governments. Airlines are largely dependent on these governmental entities to provide adequate airport facilities and capacity

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at an affordable cost. Many airports have increased their rates and charges to air carriers because of higher security costs, increased costs related to updated infrastructures and other costs. Additional laws, regulations, taxes and airport rates and charges have been proposed from time to time that could significantly increase the cost of airline operations or reduce the demand for air travel. Although lawmakers may impose these additional fees and consider them pass-through costs, we believe that a higher total ticket price will influence consumer purchase and travel decisions and may result in an overall decline in passenger traffic, which could materially adversely affect our business.

### Our ability to obtain financing or access capital markets may be limited.

We have significant obligations to purchase aircraft and spare engines that we have on order from Airbus and CFM International, or CFM, and we have historically relied solely on lessors to provide financing for our aircraft acquisition needs. As of December 31, 2014, committed expenditures for these aircraft and spare engines, including estimated amounts for contractual price escalations and \$94.3 million of pre-delivery payment commitments, were approximately \$396.1 million. Because we may not have sufficient liquidity or creditworthiness to fund the purchase of aircraft and engines, including payment of pre-delivery payments, we expect to seek external financing for these expenses. There are a number of factors that may affect our ability to raise financing or access the capital markets, including our liquidity and credit status, our operating cash flows, market conditions in the airline industry, U.S. and global economic conditions, the general state of the capital markets and the financial position of the major providers of commercial aircraft financing. We cannot assure you that we will be able to source external financing for our planned aircraft acquisitions or for other significant capital needs, and if we are unable to source financing on acceptable terms, or unable to source financing at all, our business could be materially adversely affected. To the extent we finance our activities with additional debt, we may become subject to financial and other covenants that may restrict our ability to pursue our strategy or otherwise constrain our growth and operations.

In addition, we may be unable to fully finance future aircraft acquisitions if the aircraft are perceived to be less valuable for any reason. We presently have ten Airbus A320-family, current technology aircraft on order for delivery between July 2015 and June 2016. If Airbus s newer A320neo-family aircraft provide expected improvements in the fuel consumption and an increase in nautical mile range, the Airbus A320-family current-technology aircraft may be perceived to be less valuable. If we are unable to fully finance our acquisition of these aircraft, our business may be materially adversely affected.

# The Virgin brand is not under our control, and negative publicity related to the Virgin brand name could materially adversely affect our business.

We believe the Virgin brand, which is integral to our corporate identity, represents quality, innovation, creativity, fun, a sense of competitive challenge and employee-friendliness. We license rights to the Virgin brand from certain entities affiliated with the Virgin Group on a non-exclusive basis. The Virgin brand is also licensed to and used by a number of other companies, including two airlines, Virgin Atlantic Airways and Virgin Australia Airlines, operating in other geographies. We rely on the general goodwill of consumers and our employees, whom we call teammates, towards the Virgin brand as part of our internal corporate culture and external marketing strategy. Consequently, any adverse publicity in relation to the Virgin brand name or its principals, particularly Sir Richard Branson who is closely associated with the brand, or in relation to another Virgin-branded company over which we have no control or influence, could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We obtain our rights to use the Virgin brand under agreements with certain entities affiliated with the Virgin Group, and we would lose those rights if these agreements are terminated or not renewed.

We are party to license agreements with certain entities affiliated with the Virgin Group pursuant to which we obtain rights to use the Virgin brand. The licensor may terminate the agreements upon the occurrence of a number of specified events including if we commit a material breach of our obligations under the agreements that

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is uncured for more than 10 business days or if we materially damage the Virgin brand. If we lose our rights to use the Virgin brand, we would lose the goodwill associated with our brand name and be forced to develop a new brand name, which would likely require substantial expenditures, and our business would likely be materially adversely affected.

### We are subject to labor-related disruptions that could materially adversely affect our business.

On August 13, 2014, our inflight teammates (whom other airlines refer to as flight attendants), representing approximately 32% of our workforce at the time, voted for representation by the Transport Workers Union, or TWU. As a result, the TWU has been certified as the representative of our inflight teammates, and we will be engaged with the TWU in a collective bargaining process for a first contract for those teammates in accordance with the requirements of the Railway Labor Act. Although we currently have a direct relationship with our remaining teammates, airline workers are one of the most heavily unionized private-sector employee groups, and any of our other non-management teammates could also seek to unionize. If we are not able to reach agreement with the TWU on the terms of the collective bargaining agreement for our inflight teammates, or if one or more of our other teammate groups elects a union to represent them, it could create a risk of work stoppages which could materially adversely affect our business.

### We depend on the Los Angeles and San Francisco markets to be successful.

Most of our current flights operate from our two focus cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco. In 2014, passengers to and from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and to and from SFO accounted for 43.2% and 54.1% of our total passengers. We believe that concentrating our service offerings in this way allows us to maximize our investment in personnel, aircraft and ground facilities and to leverage sales and marketing efforts in those regions. As a result, we are highly dependent on the LAX and SFO markets.

At LAX, we operate out of Terminal Three under an airport lease agreement that runs through 2019, subject to our completion of certain leasehold improvement projects. Under the LAX lease, we have the preferential use of six airport gates with the opportunity to build a new seventh gate with a jet-boarding bridge, and shared access with other airlines to additional common-use gates. At SFO, we primarily operate out of recently renovated Terminal Two, under an operating lease that runs through June 2021, with the occasional use of a gate in the international terminal for flights from Mexico. Under the SFO lease, we have preferential access to seven Terminal Two gates, shared access with other airlines to one common-use Terminal Two gate and shared access to international terminal gates. In the past, we have used SFO international gates for domestic flights. While gate space is limited at both LAX and SFO, we believe that our gate access at each airport is capable of handling our planned growth in operations for at least the next several years.

However, both LAX and SFO are high-traffic airports with limited excess facilities and capacity, which may restrict our growth at these two bases or may even constrict our existing operations. If either LAX or SFO are fully utilized by other airlines, we may be unable to increase our operations at such airport. Additionally, under our LAX and SFO leases, each airport has reserved the right to reevaluate the airlines collective utilization of the airport facilities to re-allocate preferential gates among the airlines based on certain usage standards. If we are unable to meet future minimum usage standards, we may lose access to our preferential gates. If we are unable to increase flights in these and other key markets, if any events cause a reduction in demand for air transportation in these key markets, if increases in competition cause us to reduce fares in these key markets, or if we lose access to our preferential gates, our business may be materially adversely affected.

### Our quarterly results of operations fluctuate due to a number of factors, including seasonality.

We expect our quarterly results of operations to continue to fluctuate due to a number of factors, including actions by our competitors, price changes in aircraft fuel and the timing and amount of maintenance expenses. As a result of these and other factors, quarter-to-quarter comparisons of our results of operations may not be reliable indicators of our future performance. In addition, seasonality may cause our quarterly results of operations to

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fluctuate since passengers tend to fly more during the summer months and less in the winter months. We cannot assure you that we will find profitable markets in which to operate during the winter season. Lower demand for air travel during the winter months may materially adversely affect our business.

### We have a significant amount of fixed obligations.

The airline business is capital intensive, and many airlines, including us, are highly leveraged. We currently lease all of our aircraft, and these leases contain provisions requiring the payment of monthly rent regardless of usage. As of December 31, 2014, we had undiscounted future operating lease obligations of approximately \$1.5 billion, as well as significant maintenance reserve requirements associated with these leases that are variable in nature. In addition, we have ordered aircraft and spare engines from Airbus and CFM for delivery over the next eight years. Under those agreements, we are obligated to make pre-delivery payments to Airbus and CFM on regular intervals in advance of the delivery of our ordered aircraft and spare engines. Moreover, we expect to incur additional fixed expenses as we take delivery of new aircraft, with ten aircraft scheduled for delivery between July 2015 and June 2016 and 30 aircraft scheduled for delivery in 2020 through 2022 but that can be canceled by forfeiting amounts on deposit with Airbus.

The amount of our current and expected future fixed obligations could strain our cash flows from operations, reducing the availability of our cash flows to fund working capital, capital expenditures and other general corporate purposes and limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the industry in which we compete. Our substantial fixed obligations could reduce our credit, which would negatively impact our ability to obtain additional financing and could place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to less leveraged competitors and competitors that have better access to capital resources or more favorable terms. We cannot assure you that we will be able to generate sufficient cash flows from our operations or from capital market activities to pay our debt and other fixed obligations as they become due or that we will be able to finance these obligations on favorable terms, or at all. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flows for any reason, we may be unable to meet our fixed obligations, and our business may be materially adversely affected. In particular, if we are unable to make our required aircraft lease rental payments, we could lose access to one or more aircraft and forfeit our rent deposits, and our lessors could exercise their remedies under the lease agreements. Also, an event of default under any of our leases and our debt financing agreements could trigger cross-default provisions under other agreements.

### Our credit card processors have the right to impose larger holdbacks which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Most of our tickets are sold to customers using credit cards as the form of payment. Our credit card processors have rights in their agreements to hold back receivable monies related to tickets sold for future travel services (i.e., a holdback). Any related holdback is remitted to us shortly after the customer travels. Holdbacks are commonly imposed on newer or less creditworthy airlines. Prior to our IPO, we had significant holdback requirements with our two primary credit card processors, Elavon Inc. for Visa/MasterCard and American Express. In connection with the IPO, the Virgin Group obtained a \$100.0 million letter of credit on our behalf which was issued to our credit card processors in order to release \$100.0 million of our credit card holdbacks. We had no amounts in excess of the letter of credit held back as of December 31, 2014. Our outstanding receivable from our processors, which consists of amounts held back for future travel as well as ordinary course receivables, was \$9.6 million at December 31, 2014. If a credit card processor determines there is a material risk with respect to our business or liquidity, it has the right to increase the amount or duration of the holdback. Any increase in the amount or duration of our holdbacks may negatively impact our liquidity and materially adversely affect our business.

### Significant flight delays, cancellations or aircraft unavailability may materially adversely affect our business.

Various factors, many of which are beyond our control, such as air traffic congestion at airports, other air traffic control problems, security requirements, unscheduled maintenance and adverse weather conditions, can

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cause flight delays or cancellations or cause certain of our aircraft to be unavailable for a period of time. SFO, one of our two primary focus airports, is particularly vulnerable to air traffic constraints and other delays due to fog and inclement weather. Factors that cause flight delays frustrate passengers, and reduced aircraft availability could lead to customer dissatisfaction that harms our reputation. Additionally, if we are forced to cancel a flight due to an event within our control, we will be liable to re-accommodate our guests, including by purchasing tickets for them on other airlines. If one or more of our aircraft is unavailable to fly revenue service for any amount of time, our capacity will be reduced. Significant flight delays, cancellations or aircraft unavailability for any reason could have a material adverse effect on our business.

### Our maintenance costs will increase as our fleet ages.

As of December 31, 2014, the average age of aircraft in our fleet of Airbus A320-family aircraft was 5.8 years. Our aircraft will require more scheduled and unscheduled maintenance as they age. We are beginning to incur substantial costs for major maintenance visits for our aircraft, and because of the pattern of our historical fleet growth, we expect to have several aircraft undergoing major maintenance at roughly the same time. These more significant maintenance activities result in out-of-service periods during which certain of our aircraft are unavailable to fly passengers. Any significant increase in maintenance and repair expenses, as well as resulting out-of-service periods, could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We expect that costs associated with the final qualifying major engine maintenance events for our aircraft will be amortized over the remaining lease term rather than until the next estimated major maintenance event, because we account for major maintenance under the deferral method. This could result in significantly higher depreciation and amortization expense related to major maintenance in the last few years of the leases as compared to the expenses in earlier periods.

In addition, the terms of our lease agreements require us to pay supplemental rent, also known as maintenance reserves, to our lessor in advance of the performance of major maintenance, resulting in our recording significant aircraft maintenance deposits on our consolidated balance sheet. However, the payments made after the final qualifying major engine maintenance event during the lease term are generally fully expensed, as the majority of these amounts are not reimbursable from the lessor. As such, it will result in both additional rent expense and depreciation and amortization expense for previously capitalized maintenance being recorded in the period after the final qualifying major engine maintenance event and just prior to the termination of the lease.

### We depend on sole-source suppliers for our aircraft and engines.

A critical cost-saving element of our business strategy is to operate a single-family aircraft fleet; however, our dependence on the Airbus A320-family aircraft and CFM engines for all of our flights makes us more vulnerable to any design defects or mechanical problems associated with this aircraft type or these engines. In the event of any actual or suspected design defects or mechanical problems with the Airbus A320-family aircraft or CFM engines, whether involving our aircraft or that of another airline, we may choose or be required to suspend or restrict the use of our aircraft. Our business could also be materially adversely affected if the public avoids flying on our aircraft due to an adverse perception of the Airbus A320-family aircraft or CFM engines, whether because of safety concerns or other problems, real or perceived, or in the event of an accident involving such aircraft or engines. Separately, if Airbus or CFM becomes unable to perform its contractual obligations and we must lease or purchase aircraft from another supplier, we would incur substantial transition costs, including expenses related to acquiring new aircraft, engines, spare parts, maintenance facilities and training activities, and we would lose the cost benefits from our current single-fleet composition, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

### We rely on third-party service providers to perform functions integral to our operations.

We depend on third-party service providers to provide the majority of the services required for our operations, including fueling, maintenance, catering, passenger handling, reservations and airport ground

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handling, as well as certain administrative and support services. We are likely to enter into similar service agreements for new markets we enter, and we cannot assure you that we will be able to obtain the necessary services at acceptable rates. Moreover, although we do enter into agreements with many of our third-party service providers that define expected service performance, we do not directly control these third-party service providers. Any of these third-party service providers may fail to meet their service performance commitments to us, suffer disruptions to their systems that could negatively impact their services or fail to perform their services reliably, professionally or at the high standard of quality that we expect. Any such failure of our third-party service providers may prevent us from operating one or more flights or providing other services to our customers and may materially adversely affect our business. In addition, our business could be materially adversely affected if our customers believe that our services are unreliable or unsatisfactory.

Our business could be affected by severe weather conditions, natural disasters or the outbreak of contagious disease, any of which could materially adversely affect our business.

Our operations may be materially adversely affected by factors beyond our control, including severe weather conditions, natural disasters and the outbreak of disease. Severe weather conditions, such as winter snowstorms, hurricanes or other weather events, can cause flight cancellations, turbulence or significant delays that may result in increased costs and reduced revenue. Also, our two focus cities, Los Angeles and San Francisco, and our headquarters in Burlingame, California, are located on or near active seismic faults, and an earthquake could occur at any time, which could disrupt our operations at those locations. Similarly, outbreaks of pandemic or contagious diseases, such as avian flu, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), H1N1 (swine) flu and the Ebola virus could significantly reduce demand for passenger traffic and result in travel restrictions. Any interruption in our ability to operate flights or reduction in airline passenger demand because of such events could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Increases in insurance costs or reductions in insurance coverage may materially adversely affect our business.

If any of our aircraft were to be involved in an accident or if our property or operations were to be affected by a significant natural catastrophe or other event, we could be exposed to significant liability or loss. If we are unable to obtain sufficient insurance (including aviation hull and liability insurance and property and business interruption coverage) to cover such liabilities or losses, whether due to insurance market conditions or otherwise, our business could be materially adversely affected.

We currently obtain third-party war risk (terrorism) insurance, which is a separate policy from our commercial aviation hull and liability policy, from private insurance companies. Our current war risk insurance from commercial underwriters excludes NBCR (nuclear, biological, chemical and radiological) events. If we are unable to obtain adequate third-party war risk (terrorism) insurance or if a NBCR attack were to take place, our business could be materially adversely affected.

Security breaches involving a compromise of customer information or personal data could expose us to liability, damage our reputation and materially adversely affect our business.

We are subject to laws relating to privacy of personal data. In the processing of our customer transactions and as part of our ordinary business operations, we and certain of our third-party service providers collect, process, transmit and store a large volume of personally identifiable information, including financial data such as credit card information. The security of the systems and network where we and our service providers store this data is a critical element of our business. Any security breach in which employee or customer data is improperly released or disclosed could result in the loss, disclosure or improper use of this data and subject us to regulatory penalties and litigation, disrupt our operation, damage our reputation and materially adversely affect our business. Additionally, any material failure by us or our service providers to maintain compliance with the Payment Card Industry security requirements or rectify a data security issue may result in fines and restrictions on our ability to accept credit cards as a form of payment.

Our business could be materially adversely affected if we lose the services of our key personnel.

Our success depends to a significant extent upon the efforts and abilities of our officers, senior management team and key operating personnel. Competition for highly qualified personnel is intense, and a substantial turnover in key employees without adequate replacement or the inability to attract new qualified personnel could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Concentrated ownership by our principal stockholders could materially adversely affect our other stockholders.

As of December 31, 2014, the Virgin Group and Cyrus Holdings own approximately 19.0% (which does not include the Virgin Group s non-voting common stock) and 24.4% of our outstanding common stock, respectively. After giving effect to this offering (and assuming no exercise of the option to purchase additional shares), and assuming conversions by the Virgin Group of certain shares of non-voting common stock to shares of voting common stock, while remaining within contractual limitations agreed to between the Virgin Group and us, the Virgin Group and Cyrus Holdings will own approximately 19.0% (which does not include the Virgin Group s non-voting common stock) and 19.9% of our outstanding common stock, respectively. This concentrated ownership may limit the ability of other stockholders to influence corporate matters; as a result, these stockholders may cause us to take actions that our other stockholders do not view as beneficial. For example, this concentration of ownership could delay or prevent a change in control or otherwise discourage a potential acquirer from attempting to obtain control of us, which in turn could cause the trading price of our common stock to decline or prevent our stockholders from realizing a premium over the market price for their common stock.

The requirements of being a public company may strain our resources, divert management s attention and affect our ability to attract and retain qualified board members or executive officers.

As a public company, we have incurred and will incur significant legal, accounting and other expenses that we did not incur as a private company, including costs associated with public company reporting requirements. We also have incurred and will incur costs associated with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as amended, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, related rules implemented or to be implemented by the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, and the listing rules of the NASDAQ Global Select Market. The expenses incurred by public companies generally for reporting and corporate governance purposes have been increasing. We expect these rules and regulations to increase our legal and financial compliance costs and to make some activities more time-consuming and costly, although we are currently unable to estimate these costs with any degree of certainty. These laws and regulations could also make it more costly for us to obtain certain types of insurance, including director and officer liability insurance, and we may be forced to accept reduced policy limits and coverage or incur substantially higher costs to obtain the same or similar coverage. These laws and regulations could also make it more difficult for us to attract and retain qualified persons to serve on our board of directors or our board committees or as our executive officers and may divert management s attention. Furthermore, if we are unable to satisfy our obligations as a public company, our common stock could be delisted, and we could be subject to fines, sanctions and other regulatory action and potentially civil litigation.

We will be required to assess our internal control over financial reporting on an annual basis, and any future adverse findings from such assessment could result in a loss of investor confidence in our financial reports, result in significant expenses to remediate any internal control deficiencies and have a material adverse effect on our business.

Pursuant to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as amended, and beginning with our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ending December 31, 2015, our management will be required to report on, and our independent registered public accounting firm to attest to, the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. The rules governing management s assessment of our internal control over financial reporting

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are complex and require significant documentation, testing and possible remediation. We are currently in the process of reviewing, documenting and testing our internal control over financial reporting. We may encounter problems or delays in completing the implementation of any changes necessary to make a favorable assessment of our internal control over financial reporting. In connection with the attestation process by our independent registered public accounting firm, we may encounter problems or delays in implementing any requested improvements and receiving a favorable attestation. In addition, if we fail to maintain the adequacy of our internal control over financial reporting, we will not be able to conclude on an ongoing basis that we have effective internal control over financial reporting in accordance with Section 404. If we fail to achieve and maintain an effective internal control environment, we could suffer material misstatements in our financial statements and fail to meet our reporting obligations, which would likely cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information. Additionally, ineffective internal control over financial reporting could expose us to increased risk of fraud or misuse of corporate assets and subject us to potential delisting from the NASDAQ Global Select Market, regulatory investigations, civil or criminal sanctions and litigation, any of which would materially adversely affect our business.

The market price of our common stock may be volatile, which could cause the value of an investment in our stock to decline.

We completed our initial public offering in November 2014. Prior to that offering, there was no public market for shares of our common stock, and an active public market for our shares may not be sustained. From November 14, 2014, the first date of trading of our common stock, through March 13, 2015, the last reported sale price of our common stock has fluctuated between \$30.00 and \$43.81 per share. In addition, the market price of our common stock may fluctuate substantially due to a variety of factors, many of which are beyond our control, including:

announcements concerning our competitors, the airline industry or the economy in general; strategic actions by us or our competitors, such as acquisitions or restructurings; media reports and publications about the safety of our aircraft or the aircraft type we operate; new regulatory pronouncements and changes in regulatory guidelines; changes in the price of aircraft fuel; announcements concerning the availability of the type of aircraft we use; general and industry-specific economic conditions; changes in financial estimates or recommendations by securities analysts or failure to meet analysts performance expectations; sales of our common stock or other actions by investors with significant shareholdings, including sales by our principal stockholders; trading strategies related to changes in fuel or oil prices; and general market, political and other economic conditions.

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The stock markets in general have experienced substantial volatility that has often been unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies. Broad market fluctuations may materially adversely affect the trading price of our common stock.

In the past, stockholders have sometimes instituted securities class action litigation against companies following periods of volatility in the market price of their securities. Any similar litigation against us could result in substantial costs, divert management s attention and resources and materially adversely affect our business.

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If securities or industry analysts cease to publish research or reports about our business or publish negative reports about our business, our stock price and trading volume could decline.

The trading market for our common stock depends in part on the research and reports that securities and industry analysts may publish about us or our business. If one or more of the analysts who cover us downgrade our stock or publish inaccurate or unfavorable research about our business, the trading price of our common stock would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts ceases to cover our company or fails to publish reports on us regularly, demand for our stock could decrease, which may cause the trading price of our common stock and our trading volume to decline.

Our anti-takeover provisions may delay or prevent a change of control, which could materially adversely affect the price of our common stock.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws contain provisions that may make it difficult to remove our board of directors and management and may discourage or delay change of control transactions, which could materially adversely affect the price of our common stock. These provisions include, among others:

our board of directors is divided into three staggered classes, with each class serving a three-year term, which prevents stockholders from electing an entirely new board of directors at a single annual meeting;

actions to be taken by our stockholders may only be effected at an annual or special meeting of our stockholders and not by written consent;

special meetings of our stockholders can be called only by our board of directors, the Chairman of the Board, our chief executive officer or our president;

advance notice procedures that stockholders must comply with in order to nominate candidates to our board of directors and propose matters to be brought before an annual meeting of our stockholders may discourage or deter a potential acquirer from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect the acquirer s own slate of directors or otherwise attempting to obtain control of our company; and

our board of directors may, without stockholder approval, issue series of preferred stock, or rights to acquire preferred stock, that could dilute the interest of, or impair the voting power of, holders of our common stock or could also be used as a method of discouraging, delaying or preventing a change of control.

The value of our common stock may be materially adversely affected by additional issuances of common stock or preferred stock by us or sales by our principal stockholders.

Any future issuances or sales of our common stock by us will be dilutive to our existing common stockholders. Prior to this offering, Cyrus Holdings and the Virgin Group collectively hold an aggregate of 17,399,966 shares of our voting common stock, or 48.0% of our voting common stock outstanding, and 56.2% of the total outstanding equity interests in our company as of December 31, 2014 (which includes 6,852,738 shares of non-voting common stock held by the Virgin Group). After giving effect to this offering (and assuming no exercise of the option to purchase additional shares), and assuming conversions by the Virgin Group of certain shares of non-voting common stock to shares of voting common stock, while remaining within contractual limitations agreed to between the Virgin Group and us, Cyrus Holdings and the Virgin Group will hold an aggregate of 16,178,106 shares of our voting common stock, or 40.5% of our voting common stock outstanding, and 45.0% of our total outstanding equity interests in our company (which includes certain shares of non-voting common stock held by the Virgin Group). Cyrus Capital and the Virgin Group are entitled to rights with respect to registration of such shares under the Securities Act. Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock in the public or private market, a perception in the market that such sales could occur, or the issuance or exercise of securities exercisable or convertible into our common stock, including warrants to purchase our common stock, could materially adversely affect the prevailing price of our common stock.

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Our corporate charter and bylaws include provisions limiting voting and ownership by non-U.S. citizens and specifying an exclusive forum for stockholder disputes.

To comply with restrictions imposed by federal law on foreign ownership of U.S. airlines, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws restrict voting of shares of our common stock by non-U.S. citizens. The restrictions imposed by federal law currently require that no more than 24.9% of our stock be voted, directly or indirectly, by persons who are not U.S. citizens, that no more than 49.9% of our outstanding stock be owned (beneficially or of record) by persons who are not U.S. citizens and that our president and at least two-thirds of the members of our board of directors and senior management be U.S. citizens. Our amended and restated bylaws provide that the failure of non-U.S. citizens to register their shares on a separate stock record, which we refer to as the foreign stock record, would result in a suspension of their voting rights in the event that the aggregate foreign ownership of the outstanding common stock exceeds the foreign ownership restrictions imposed by federal law. Our amended and restated bylaws also provide that any transfer or issuance of our stock that would cause the amount of our stock owned by persons who are not U.S. citizens to exceed foreign ownership restrictions imposed by federal law will be void and of no effect.

Our amended and restated bylaws further provide that no shares of our common stock will be registered on the foreign stock record if the amount so registered would exceed the foreign ownership restrictions imposed by federal law. If it is determined that the amount registered in the foreign stock record exceeds the foreign ownership restrictions imposed by federal law, shares will be removed from the foreign stock record in reverse chronological order based on the date of registration therein, until the number of shares registered therein does not exceed the foreign ownership restrictions imposed by federal law. We are currently in compliance with these ownership restrictions.

As of January 2, 2015, non-U.S. citizens owned, in the aggregate, 7,215,503 shares of voting common stock (representing approximately 19.9% of the total voting rights and approximately 16.7% of the total outstanding equity interests in our company).

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that, unless we consent in writing to an alternative forum, the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware will, to the fullest extent permitted by law, be the sole and exclusive forum for (i) any derivative action or proceeding brought on behalf of us; (ii) any action asserting a claim of breach of a fiduciary duty owed by, or otherwise wrongdoing by, any of our directors, officers or other employees to us or our stockholders; (iii) any action asserting a claim against us arising pursuant to any provision of the Delaware General Corporation Law or our amended and restated certificate of incorporation or amended and restated bylaws; (iv) any action to interpret, apply, enforce or determine the validity of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation or the bylaws; or (v) any action asserting a claim against us or any of our directors, officers or employees governed by the internal affairs doctrine. Accordingly, you may be limited in your ability to pursue legal actions.

#### We do not intend to pay cash dividends for the foreseeable future.

We have never declared or paid cash dividends on our common stock. We currently intend to retain our future earnings, if any, to finance the further development and expansion of our business and do not intend to pay cash dividends in the foreseeable future. Any future determination to pay dividends will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on our financial condition, results of operations, capital requirements, restrictions contained in current or future financing instruments, business prospects and such other factors as our board of directors deems relevant.

## We may become involved in litigation that may materially adversely affect us.

From time to time, we may become involved in various legal proceedings relating to matters incidental to the ordinary course of our business, including patent, commercial, product liability, employment, class action, whistleblower and other litigation and claims, and governmental and other regulatory investigations and

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proceedings. In particular, in recent years, there has been significant litigation in the United States and abroad involving patents and other intellectual property rights. We have in the past faced, and may face in the future, claims by third parties that we infringe upon their intellectual property rights. Such matters can be time-consuming, divert management s attention and resources, cause us to incur significant expenses or liability and/or require us to change our business practices. Because of the potential risks, expenses and uncertainties of litigation, we may, from time to time, settle disputes, even where we believe that we have meritorious claims or defenses. Because litigation is inherently unpredictable, we cannot assure you that the results of any of these actions will not have a material adverse effect on our business.

Risks associated with our presence in international emerging markets, including political or economic instability, and failure to adequately comply with existing legal requirements, may materially adversely affect us.

Countries with less developed economies, legal systems, financial markets and business and political environments are vulnerable to economic and political problems, such as significant fluctuations in gross domestic product, interest and currency exchange rates, civil disturbances, government instability, nationalization and expropriation of private assets, trafficking and the imposition of taxes or other charges by governments. The occurrence of any of these events in markets served by us now or in the future and the resulting instability may materially adversely affect our business.

We emphasize legal compliance and have implemented and continue to implement and refresh policies, procedures and certain ongoing training of our teammates with regard to business ethics and many key legal requirements; however, we cannot assure you that our teammates will adhere to our code of business ethics, other policies or other legal requirements. If we fail to enforce our policies and procedures properly or maintain adequate record-keeping and internal accounting practices to record our transactions accurately, we may be subject to sanctions. In the event we believe or have reason to believe our teammates have or may have violated applicable laws or regulations, we may incur investigation costs, potential penalties and other related costs which in turn may materially adversely affect our reputation and business.

#### Our ability to utilize our net operating loss carryforwards and certain other tax attributes may be limited.

We incurred significant cumulative net taxable losses through 2014. Our unused losses generally carry forward to offset future taxable income, if any, until such unused losses expire. We may be unable to use these losses to offset income before such unused losses expire. In addition, if a corporation undergoes an ownership change (generally defined as a greater than 50-percentage-point cumulative change in the equity ownership of certain stockholders over a rolling three-year period) under Sections 382 and 383 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the corporation sability to use its pre-change net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs and other pre-change tax attributes to offset future taxable income or taxes may be limited. We have experienced ownership changes in the past, including in connection with our IPO and 2014 Recapitalization, that could limit our ability to use pre-change NOLs to offset future taxable income. In addition, we may experience ownership changes as a result of future changes in our stock ownership (some of which changes may not be within our control), including in connection with this offering or other sales of our common stock by Cyrus Capital or the Virgin Group. This, in turn, could materially reduce or eliminate our ability to use our losses or tax attributes to offset future taxable income or tax and have an adverse effect on our future cash flows.

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#### SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus includes forward-looking statements. We have based these forward-looking statements largely on our current expectations and projections about future events and financial trends affecting the financial condition of our business. Forward-looking statements should not be read as a guarantee of future performance or results and will not necessarily be accurate indications of the times at which or by which such performance or results will be achieved. Forward-looking statements are based on information available at the time those statements are made and/or management s good-faith belief as of that time with respect to future events and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual performance or results to differ materially from those expressed in or suggested by the forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause such differences include, but are not limited to:

the price and availability of aircraft fuel;
our ability to compete in an extremely competitive industry;
the successful execution and implementation of our strategy;
security concerns resulting from any threatened or actual terrorist attacks or other hostilities;
our reliance upon technology and automated systems to operate our business;
our reputation and business being adversely affected in the event of an emergency, accident or similar incident;
changes in economic conditions;
our limited profitable operating history;
changes in governmental regulation; and

our ability to obtain financing or access capital markets.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and we do not undertake any obligation to update them in light of new information or future developments or to release publicly any revisions to these statements in order to reflect later events or circumstances or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

## USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of shares of our common stock in this offering. We will pay substantially all of the expenses of the selling stockholders other than underwriting discounts and commissions.

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#### PRICE RANGE OF OUR COMMON STOCK AND DIVIDEND POLICY

Our common stock has been listed and traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol VA since November 14, 2014 when our IPO priced at \$23.00 per share. Prior to that time, there was no public market for our common stock. The following table shows, for the periods indicated, the high and low closing sales price per share for our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market.

	High	Low
Year ended December 31, 2014		
Fourth Quarter	\$ 43.80	\$ 30.00
Year ending December 31, 2015		
First Quarter (through March 13, 2015)	\$ 43.81	\$ 33.21

On March 13, 2015, the last sale price of our common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$34.77 per share. As of March 12, 2015, there were 65 holders of record of our common stock. Because many of our shares are held by brokers and other institutions on behalf of stockholders, we are unable to estimate the total number of stockholders represented by these recordholders. As of March 12, 2015, there was one holder of record of our non-voting common stock, which class is not listed or traded on any stock exchange.

We have never declared or paid, and do not anticipate declaring or paying, any cash dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. In addition, certain of our current debt instruments currently, and debt instruments we may enter into in the future may, contain covenants that restrict our ability to declare or pay dividends. Any future determination as to the declaration and payment of dividends, if any, will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on then existing conditions, including our financial condition, results of operations, contractual restrictions, capital requirements, business prospects and other factors our board of directors may deem relevant.

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#### **CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our cash and cash equivalents, credit card holdbacks and capitalization as of December 31, 2014.

You should read this table together with our financial statements and the related notes appearing at the end of this prospectus, Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations elsewhere in this prospectus and the other financial information included in this prospectus.

	December 31, 2014 thousands)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 394,643
Long-term debt-current portion	\$ 33,824
Long-term debt-related parties	38,848
Long-term debt	57,416
Total long-term debt	130,088
Stockholders equity:	
Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share. 10,000,000 authorized, no shares issued and outstanding	
Common stock, \$0.01 par value per share. 750,000,000 shares authorized, 43,119,886 shares issued and	
outstanding	431
Additional paid-in capital	1,237,944
Accumulated deficit	(753,016)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	(26,106)
Total stockholders equity	459,253
Total capitalization	\$ 589,341

The above table is based on 43,119,886 shares of our common stock outstanding as of December 31, 2014, and excludes:

1,047,857 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options outstanding as of December 31, 2014 at a weighted-average exercise price of \$15.95 per share, of which 115,839 are vested and exercisable;

636,190 shares of common stock issuable upon the vesting of RSUs outstanding as of December 31, 2014 under our 2005 Stock Incentive Plan and 2014 Equity Award Incentive Plan;

655,904 shares of common stock issuable upon the vesting of additional RSUs outstanding as of December 31, 2014;

an aggregate of 1,017,570 shares of common stock reserved for issuance under our 2014 Equity Incentive Award Plan; and

an aggregate of 160,000 shares of common stock reserved for issuance under our 2014 Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

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#### UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The unaudited pro forma consolidated statement of operations is presented as if the recapitalization and our initial public offering, which we refer to as our IPO, both of which occurred in November 2014, and each of which are described below, had occurred on January 1, 2014, by applying adjustments to our historical consolidated statement of operations included elsewhere in this prospectus.

The unaudited pro forma consolidated statement of operations has been adjusted to illustrate the effect of our IPO and the agreement we entered into in connection with our recapitalization in 2014, which we refer to as the 2014 Recapitalization Agreement, and which effected the following transactions: (a) the repayment of \$156.5 million of certain secured related-party notes, which we refer to as the Related-Party Notes, including \$56.5 million from the proceeds of our IPO and \$100.0 million from the release of cash collateral to us in connection with a \$100.0 million letter of credit facility issued on our behalf to certain of our credit card processors by the Virgin Group, which we refer to as the Letter of Credit Facility, (b) the issuance of a new \$50.0 million note to the Virgin Group, which we refer to as the Post-IPO Note, in exchange for the cancellation of \$50.0 million of certain Related-Party Notes previously outstanding and held by the Virgin Group, (c) the exchange of the remaining outstanding Related-Party Notes for 22.2 million shares of our common stock based on the IPO offering price and the remaining outstanding contractual value of the debt, except for principal and accrued interest under certain secured notes issued in December 2011, which we refer to as the FNPA Notes, and certain secured notes issued in May 2013, which we refer to as the FNPA II Notes, both held by Cyrus Capital, which were converted at a premium of 117% of the outstanding contractual value, (d) the exchange of certain related-party warrants, which we refer to as the Related-Party Warrants, for 5.7 million shares of our common stock without receipt of cash consideration and (e) the issuance of 13.1 million shares in connection with our IPO.

The unaudited pro forma consolidated statement of operations should be read in conjunction with the sections entitled Selected Consolidated Financial and Operating Data and Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our historical consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this prospectus.

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## Virgin America Inc.

## **Unaudited Pro Forma Statement of Operations**

## For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

(in thousands, except share and per share data)

	Actual	Adj	justments			o Forma naudited)
Operating revenues:						
Passenger	\$ 1,329,211				\$ 1	,329,211
Other	160,756					160,756
Total operating revenues	1,489,967				1	,489,967
Operating expenses:						
Aircraft fuel	499,102					499,102
Salaries, wages and benefits	257,367					257,367
Aircraft rent	184,357					184,357
Landing fees and other rents	133,128					133,128
Sales and marketing	113,203					113,203
Aircraft maintenance	60,069					60,069
Depreciation and amortization	14,486					14,486
Other operating expenses	131,840					131,840
Total operating expenses	1,393,552				1	,393,552
Operating income (loss):	96,415					96,415
Other income (expense):						
Interest expense-related-party	(33,708)		33,414	(a)		(3,268)
T	(2.011)		(2,974)	(b)		(2.011)
Interest expense	(3,811)					(3,811)
Capitalized interest	2,668		(4.077)	( )		2,668
Interest income and other	(276)		(4,877)	(c)		(5,153)
Total other expense	(35,127)		25,563			(9,564)
Income (loss) before income tax	61,288		25,563			86,851
Income tax expense	1,179			(d)		1,179
Net income (loss)	\$ 60,109	\$	25,563		\$	85,672
Net income (loss) per share:						
Basic	\$ 8.42	\$	(6.43)	(e)	\$	1.99
Diluted	\$ 7.13	\$	(5.21)	(e)	\$	1.92
Shares used for computation:			` ,	` /		
Basic	6,175,786	36	5,944,100	(e)	43	3,119,886
Diluted	7,470,396		7,112,393	(e)		1,582,789
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#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONSOLIDATED

#### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

#### (1) Basis of Presentation

The unaudited pro forma consolidated statement of operations and per share data for the year ended December 31, 2014 have been adjusted to illustrate the effect of the recapitalization in 2014, or the 2014 Recapitalization, and initial public offering, as if they had occurred on January 1, 2014.

The unaudited pro forma consolidated statement of operations has been presented for informational purposes only. The unaudited pro forma consolidated statement of operations does not purport to represent what our results of operations or financial condition would have been had the transactions to which the adjustments relate actually occurred as of the dates indicated. In addition, the unaudited pro forma consolidated statement of operations does not purport to project our future financial position or operating results for any future period or as of any future date.

The adjustments reflected give effect to events that are (1) directly attributable to transactions, (2) factually supportable, (3) expected to have a continuing impact on the consolidated results. The assumptions underlying the adjustments reflected are described in the accompanying notes, which should be read in conjunction with this unaudited pro forma consolidated statement of operations.

The pro forma consolidated statement of operations does not reflect the indirect effects of the transaction on our teammate annual profit sharing program, under which we pay 15% of profit before income taxes and profit sharing to substantially all of our teammates (other than officers and certain management teammates who are not eligible). The effects of stock compensation and other IPO related compensation of \$18.9 million from our initial public offering are reflected in the historical financial statements and have not been adjusted.

#### (2) Pro Forma Adjustments

- (a) Reflects the elimination of all historical interest expense on related-party debt of \$33.4 million. All of this indebtedness was repaid, converted to common stock or exchanged for the Post-IPO Note as part of the 2014 Recapitalization and initial public offering.
- (b) Reflects the addition of interest expense of \$3.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 on the \$50.0 million note, or the Post-IPO Note, issued in exchange for the cancellation of \$50.0 million of Related-Party Notes held by the Virgin Group, recorded at the estimated fair value of \$38.5 million, calculated using an effective interest rate of 8.5%, determined based on an estimated market rate for unsecured instruments with similar terms. The Post-IPO Note bears payment-in-kind interest at 5.0% per year, compounded annually, and is due in November 2022, or in November 2020 if the Company terminates the Letter of Credit Facility prior to its expiration
- (c) Reflects the annual commitment fee of 5.0% and estimated other fees of 0.48% associated with the issuance and maintenance of the \$100.0 million Letter of Credit Facility, the terms of which we believe approximate fair value.
- (d) As a result of our existing income tax loss carry-forwards in the United States, for which full valuation allowances have been provided, no deferred income taxes have been established and no income tax has been provided related to the pro forma adjustments for the 2014 Recapitalization.
- (e) The weighted-average number of shares used to compute pro forma basic and diluted earnings per share is calculated to give effect to the issuance of 42.3 million shares in connection with the 2014 Recapitalization and our initial public offering as if they had occurred as of the beginning of the period. Pro forma dilutive shares include the weighted average effect of 1,462,904 dilutive shares

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associated with outstanding stock options and RSUs.

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#### SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL AND OPERATING DATA

The following tables summarize the consolidated financial and operating data for our business for the periods presented. You should read this selected consolidated financial and operating data in conjunction with Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this prospectus.

We derived the selected consolidated statements of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2013 and 2014 and the selected consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2013 and 2014 from our audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus. We derived the selected consolidated statements of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2011 and the selected consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012 from our audited consolidated financial statements not included in this prospectus. Our historical results are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected in the future.

	2010	2011		Ended Decemb 2012 ccept share and		2013	2014
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:			,		F		
Operating revenues:							
Passenger	\$ 655,448	\$ 950,933	\$	1,215,178	\$	1,289,268	\$ 1,329,211
Other	68,598	86,175		117,659		135,410	160,756
Operating revenues	724,046	1,037,108		1,332,837		1,424,678	1,489,967
Operating expenses:							
Aircraft fuel (1)	246,699	417,815		537,501		507,035	499,102
Salaries, wages and benefits	108,901	138,276		176,216		196,477	257,367
Aircraft rent	138,422	187,876		236,800		202,071	184,357
Landing fees and other rents	69,036	87,133		110,165		122,621	133,128
Sales and marketing	59,990	81,901		107,136		106,599	113,203
Aircraft maintenance	23,017	34,596		58,934		61,854	60,069
Depreciation and amortization	10,530	10,155		11,260		13,963	14,486
Other operating expenses	79,888	106,752		126,558		133,177	131,840
Total operating expenses	736,483	1,064,504		1,364,570		1,343,797	1,393,552
Operating income (loss)	(12,437)	(27,396)		(31,733)		80,881	96,415
Other income (expense):							
Interest expense related party	(53,896)	(71,925)		(113,708)		(68,439)	(33,708)
Interest expense	(6,247)	(3,652)		(2,402)		(2,854)	(3,811)
Capitalized interest (2)	3,541	2,320		2,176		534	2,668
Interest income and other	227	264		294		339	(276)
	((0.010)	(400.000)		(4.47.070)		10.161	<4.200
Net income (loss) before income tax	(68,812)	(100,389)		(145,373)		10,461	61,288
Income tax expense	(137)	14		15		317	1,179
Net income (loss)	\$ (68,675)	\$ (100,403)	\$	(145,388)	\$	10,144	\$ 60,109
Net income (loss) per share:							
Basic (3)	\$ (97.87)	\$ (143.09)	\$	(207.20)	\$	5.60	\$ 8.42
Diluted (3)	\$ (97.87)	\$ (143.09)	\$	(207.20)	\$	3.68	\$ 7.13
Shares used in per share calculation:							
Basic (3)	701,671	701,671		701,671		701,671	6,175,786
Diluted (3)	701,671	701,671		701,671		1,646,821	7,470,396
Non-GAAP Financial Data (unaudited):							
EBITDA (4)	\$ (1,907)	\$ (17,241)	\$	(20,473)	\$	94,844	\$ 110,881

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EBITDAR (4) 136,515 170,635 216,327 296,915 295,238

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- (1) Aircraft fuel expense is the sum of (i) the cost of jet fuel and certain other charges such as fuel taxes and certain transportation and distribution costs; (ii) settlement gains and losses arising from fuel price hedging activity; and (iii) unrealized mark-to-market gains and losses associated with open fuel hedge contracts.
- (2) Interest attributable to funds used to finance the acquisition of new aircraft, including pre-delivery payments, or PDPs, is capitalized as an additional cost of the related asset approximately two years prior to the intended delivery date. Interest is capitalized at our weighted-average interest rate on long-term debt or, where applicable, the interest rate related to specific borrowings.
- (3) See Note 15 to our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus for an explanation of the method used to calculate basic and diluted earnings per share.
- (4) EBITDA is earnings before interest, income taxes, and depreciation and amortization. EBITDAR is earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization and aircraft rent. EBITDA and EBITDAR are included as supplemental disclosure because we believe they are useful indicators of our operating performance. Derivations of EBITDA and EBITDAR are well recognized performance measurements in the airline industry that are frequently used by companies, investors, securities analysts and other interested parties in comparing the operating performance of companies in our industry. We also believe EBITDA is useful for evaluating performance of our senior management team. EBITDAR is useful in evaluating our operating performance compared to our competitors because its calculation isolates the effects of financing in general, the accounting effects of capital spending and acquisitions (primarily aircraft, which may be acquired directly, directly subject to acquisition debt, by capital lease or by operating lease, each of which is presented differently for accounting purposes) and income taxes, which may vary significantly between periods and for different companies for reasons unrelated to overall operating performance. However, because derivations of EBITDA and EBITDAR are not determined in accordance with GAAP, such measures are susceptible to varying calculations, and not all companies calculate the measures in the same manner. As a result, derivations of EBITDA and EBITDAR as presented may not be directly comparable to similarly titled measures presented by other companies.

These non-GAAP financial measures have limitations as an analytical tool. Some of these limitations are: they do not reflect our cash expenditures or future requirements for capital expenditures or contractual commitments; they do not reflect changes in, or cash requirements for, our working capital needs; they do not reflect the significant interest expense, or the cash requirements necessary to service interest or principal payments, on our debt; although depreciation and amortization are non-cash charges, the assets being depreciated and amortized will often have to be replaced in the future, and these measures do not reflect any cash requirements for such replacements; and other companies in our industry may calculate EBITDA and EBITDAR differently than we do, limiting their usefulness as a comparative measure. Because of these limitations, EBITDA and EBITDAR should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for performance measures calculated in accordance with GAAP.

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The following table represents the reconciliation of net income (loss) to EBITDA and EBITDAR for the periods presented:

		1	As of	December 31,	,		
	2010	2011		2012		2013	2014
			(in	thousands)			
Reconciliation:							
Net income (loss)	\$ (68,675)	\$ (100,403)	\$	(145,388)	\$	10,144	\$ 60,109
Interest expense	60,143	75,577		116,110		71,293	37,519
Capitalized interest	(3,541)	(2,320)		(2,176)		(534)	(2,688)
Interest income	(227)	(264)		(294)		(339)	276
Income tax expense	(137)	14		15		317	1,179
Depreciation and amortization	10,530	10,155		11,260		13,963	14,486
EBITDA	(1,907)	(17,241)		(20,473)		94,844	110,881
Aircraft rent	138,422	187,876		236,800		202,071	184,357
EBITDAR	\$ 136,515	\$ 170,635	\$	216,327	\$	296,915	\$ 295,238

The following table presents our historical selected consolidated balance sheet data for the periods presented:

	2010	2011	As of December 31 2012 (in thousands)	2013	2014
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 29,904	\$ 159,815	\$ 76,018	\$ 155,659	\$ 394,643
Total assets	298,250	505,644	511,022	700,996	1,000,176
Long-term debt, including current portion	489,053	726,954	857,034	747,431	130,088
Convertible preferred stock	21,406	21,406	21,406	21,406	
Total stockholders equity (deficit)	(393,025)	(484,473)	(630,924)	(384,027)	459,253

## OPERATING STATISTICS

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Operating Statistics (unaudited): (1)					
Available seat miles ASMs (millions)	7,652	9,853	12,514	12,243	12,240
Departures	35,737	44,696	56,362	58,215	58,432
Average stage length (statute miles)	1,546	1,571	1,567	1,474	1,466
Aircraft in service end of period	33	44	52	53	53
Fleet utilization	12.7	12.1	11.6	10.8	10.8
Passengers (thousands)	3,909	5,030	6,219	6,329	6,507
Average fare	\$ 167.51	\$ 189.05	\$ 195.38	\$ 203.70	\$ 204.27
Yield per passenger mile (cents)	10.50	11.82	12.26	13.14	13.19
Revenue passenger miles RPMs (millions)	6,236	8,034	9,912	9,814	10,074
Load factor	81.5%	81.5%	79.2%	80.2%	82.3%
Passenger revenue per available seat mile PRASM (cents)	8.56	9.64	9.71	10.53	10.86
Total revenue per available seat mile RASM (cents)	9.46	10.53	10.65	11.64	12.17
Cost per available seat mile CASM (cents)	9.62	10.80	10.90	10.98	11.38
CASM, excluding fuel (cents)	6.40	6.56	6.61	6.83	7.30
CASM, excluding fuel and profit sharing (in cents)	6.40	6.56	6.61	6.82	7.19
Fuel cost per gallon	\$ 2.43	\$ 3.24	\$ 3.32	\$ 3.18	\$ 3.08
Fuel gallons consumed (thousands)	101,482	128,852	161,404	159,326	161,791
Teammates (FTE)	1,781	2,002	2,395	2,482	2,492

<sup>(1)</sup> See Glossary of Airline Terms elsewhere in this prospectus for definitions of terms used in this table.

#### MANAGEMENT S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND

#### RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this prospectus. The following discussion contains forward-looking statements that reflect our plans, estimates and beliefs. Our actual results could differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to these differences include those discussed below and elsewhere in this prospectus, particularly in Risk Factors.

#### Overview

Virgin America is a premium-branded, low-cost airline based in California that provides scheduled air travel in the continental United States and Mexico. We operate primarily from our focus cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco, with a smaller presence at Dallas Love Field, to other major business and leisure destinations in North America. We provide a distinctive offering for our passengers, whom we call guests, that is centered around our brand and our premium travel experience, while at the same time maintaining a low-cost structure through our point-to-point network and high utilization of our efficient, single fleet type. As of December 31, 2014, we provided service to 21 airports in the United States and Mexico with a fleet of 53 narrow-body aircraft.

#### 2014 Highlights

2014 marked our highest level of profitability since our inception in 2005, with net income of \$60.1 million. This represents an increase of \$50.0 million over net income of \$10.1 million in 2013. We continued to strengthen our financial performance in 2014 with improvement in RASM and with the full year impact of reductions in aircraft rent and interest expense resulting from our 2013 Recapitalization (as further described below). Highlights for 2014 include the following:

RASM for 2014 increased by 4.6% as compared to 2013, to 12.17 cents.

CASM increased 3.6% as compared to 2013, with increases in salaries wages and benefits, landing fees and other rent, and sales and marketing partially offset by decreases in aircraft rent, aircraft fuel and aircraft maintenance.

We incurred \$24.2 million of special items in 2014 related to compensation expense recorded upon the completion of our initial public offering, certain costs associated with terminating service in two markets and certain mark-to-market adjustments for fuel hedges related to 2015 that did not qualify for hedge accounting treatment. Special items refers to items of revenue or expense that we have not incurred on a regular basis in the past and do not expect to incur on a regular basis in the future.

Profit-sharing increased by \$12.3 million in 2014.

Net other non-operating expense declined 50.1% to \$35.3 million from the 2013 Recapitalization and, to a lesser degree, from the 2014 Recapitalization described below.

We maintained a stable fleet size of 53 aircraft throughout 2014, and our capacity, as measured by ASMs, was flat as compared to 2013. We did take a number of steps, however, to realign capacity within our network into new growth opportunities that we believe will increase profitability in the long term. We successfully acquired two gates at Dallas Love Field (DAL) and we purchased rights to operate four round trip flights from Washington Reagan National Airport (DCA) in 2014, and we purchased rights to operate six round trip flights from New York La Guardia Airport (LGA) in late 2013. In October 2014 we began operations at DAL by transferring our existing California flights from Dallas/Forth Worth International Airport to DAL, and we initiated service from DAL to DCA and LGA. In April 2015 we will initiate service between DAL and Austin Bergstrom International Airport. We provided the capacity for this expansion at DAL by exiting the markets of Los Angeles San Jose, CA, Los Angeles Philadelphia, and San Francisco Philadelphia, and reducing capacity on certain other routes.

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We plan to take delivery of five A320 aircraft in the second half of 2015 and five A320 aircraft in the first half of 2016, all of which are on order with Airbus. We expect to add new markets from this expansion, as well as increase frequency in some of our existing markets. We currently expect to purchase these aircraft and finance the majority of the purchase price with long-term debt obtained from commercial banks.

In November 2014, we also completed our IPO and the related 2014 Recapitalization, increasing our cash and cash equivalents by \$214.9 million and reducing our outstanding debt by \$689.8 million. We believe this solid improvement in our balance sheet will enhance our ability to obtain financing for our future growth opportunities.

#### 2014 Recapitalization

In November 2014, immediately prior to the consummation of our IPO, we entered into the 2014 Recapitalization Agreement. In accordance with the terms of the 2014 Recapitalization Agreement, the majority of our Related Party Notes and warrants to purchase stock were either repaid or exchanged for shares of our common stock. The following table summarizes our long-term debt and components of equity before and after the 2014 Recapitalization and IPO (in thousands, except share numbers):

	<b>Balance Pre-</b>		Ba	lance Post-
	Recapital IPO		Reca	apitalization/ IPO
Long-term debt current portion	\$	27,059	\$	27,059
Long-term debt related parties (1)	,	728,257		38,463
Long-term debt		58,012		58,012
Total long-term debt	;	813,328		123,534
Convertible preferred stock		21,406		
Common stock (2)		8		430
Additional paid-in capital (2)	\$	427,834	\$	1,282,108
Shares of common stock outstanding (3) Convertible preferred stock outstanding (3)		841,126 109,811		42,958,927
Warrants to purchase shares of common stock (3)	42,	242,601		

(1) As of the date of the 2014 Recapitalization, the Related-Party Notes had contractual value of \$684.8 million, which differed from the recorded value primarily due to the application of accounting guidance established for troubled debt restructurings, or TDR, in connection with the 2013 Recapitalization. For more information, see Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations 2013 Recapitalization, as well as our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus. Related-Party Notes were repaid by \$156.5 million in cash, including \$56.5 million from the proceeds of our IPO and \$100.0 million from the release of cash collateral to us in connection with a \$100.0 million letter of credit facility issued on our behalf to certain of our credit card processors by the Virgin Group. For more information, see Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements, as well as our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus. In addition Related-Party Notes were exchanged for a \$50.0 million Post-IPO Note held by the Virgin Group. The Post-IPO Note was recorded at the estimated fair value of \$38.5 million, calculated using an effective interest rate of 8.5%, determined based on an estimated market rate for unsecured instruments with similar terms. The remainder of the outstanding related party debt was exchanged for 22,159,070 shares of our common stock based on the IPO offering price and the remaining outstanding contractual value of the debt, except for principal and accrued interest under the FNPA Notes and the FNPA II Notes held by Cyrus Capital, which were converted at a premium of 117% of the outstanding contractual value The application of the premium to FNPA had the effect of effectively transferring common ownership between the two principal shareholders, Virgin Group and Cyrus Capital just prior to the IPO.

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- (2) Common stock and additional paid-in-capital were increased on a net basis as a result of the following (i) sale of shares of voting common stock to the public, (ii) the difference between the recorded amount of the Related-Party Notes and cash consideration paid, the fair value adjustment associated with of the Post-IPO Note and a \$34.1 million fair value adjustment to record the present value of estimated license fee payments under a revised license agreement in excess of the estimated payments determined under our existing license agreement, refer to our consolidated financial statements for additional information, and (iii) proceeds from the IPO of \$277.6 million, which exclude share-based compensation triggered by the IPO.
- (3) Each issued and outstanding share of our Class A, Class A-1, Class B and Class G common stock and each issued and outstanding share of our convertible preferred stock were converted into one share of common stock in accordance with our certificate of incorporation. Related-Party Warrants to purchase 26,067,475 shares of our common stock were exchanged without receipt of cash consideration for 5,742,543 shares of our common stock and the remaining Related-Party Warrants to purchase an aggregate of 16,175,126 shares of our common stock were canceled in their entirety. The following table summarizes the shares of our common stock outstanding immediately after the 2014 Recapitalization and the IPO:

841,126
1,109,811
5,742,543
22,159,070
13,106,377

Total shares of common stock outstanding after the IPO

42,958,927

#### 2013 Recapitalization

In May 2013, we, the Virgin Group and Cyrus Capital agreed to modify and exchange a portion of our then outstanding related-party debt. The Virgin Group and Cyrus Capital reduced \$318.4 million of our related-party debt and reduced the interest rates ranging from 15.0% to 20.0% on certain of our remaining related-party debt to 5.0% per year in exchange for the issuance of \$75.0 million of new debt and certain Related-Party Warrants. We recognized a \$150.5 million restructuring gain as a capital contribution with a direct increase in additional paid-in-capital due to the debt being issued to related parties. In addition, we also recorded Related-Party Warrants at fair value of \$83.4 million on the date of issuance as a reduction to the carrying amount of the related-party debt and a corresponding increase to stockholders equity.

We also amended substantially all of our lease agreements with our existing aircraft lessors to reduce monthly base rent and/or maintenance reserve payments through monthly cash rent rebates. We estimate these amendments resulted in expense savings on base aircraft rent of approximately \$47.2 million in 2014 as compared to what would have been recorded as aircraft rent expense under the original lease terms. Under some of our leases, we also extended the lease terms by three to five years.

For more information, see Notes 3, 8 and 10 to our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus.

#### Fleet Plan

We are scheduled to take delivery of two A320 CEO aircraft in the third quarter of 2015 and three A320 CEO aircraft in the fourth quarter of 2015 under our purchase agreement with Airbus. After taking delivery of these aircraft, we expect to end 2015 with a total of 58 aircraft in service. In addition, we have five A320 CEO aircraft scheduled for delivery in the first half of 2016. We will incur capital costs on these aircraft prior to placing them in service.

We believe that, based on our scheduled flight activity, our capacity, as measured by available seat miles, may increase by approximately 2.0% to 3.0% for the full year 2015. We believe that capacity will increase

between 2.0% to 3.0% in the first quarter of 2015. We believe there may be relatively flat year-over-year capacity changes in the second and third quarters of 2015 and year-over-year growth of 6.0% to 8.0% in the fourth quarter of 2015 as we place our new aircraft into service.

### **Operating Revenues**

Our operating revenues consist of passenger revenue and other revenue.

Passenger Revenue. Passenger revenue consists of base fares for air travel, including upgrades, points redeemed under our loyalty program, unused and expired passenger credits, which we call credit files, and other redeemed or expiring travel credits.

Other Revenue. Other revenue consists primarily of revenue generated from air-travel-related services such as baggage fees, change fees, seat selection fees, passenger-related service fees and inflight meals and entertainment. Other revenue also includes advertising and brand revenues resulting from our co-branded consumer credit card agreement.

#### **Operating Expenses**

Our operating expenses consist of the following items:

Aircraft Fuel. Aircraft fuel expense is our single largest operating expense. It includes the cost of jet fuel, related federal and state taxes and certain fuel transportation and distribution costs. It also includes realized and unrealized settlement gains and losses arising from any fuel price hedging activity.

Aircraft Rent. Aircraft rent expense consists of monthly lease rents for aircraft and spare engines under the terms of the related operating leases and is recognized on a straight-line basis. Aircraft rent expense also includes that portion of maintenance reserves, also referred to as supplemental rent, which is paid monthly to aircraft lessors for the cost of future major maintenance activities and which is not probable of being reimbursed to us by the lessor during the lease term. Aircraft rent expense is net of the amortization of manufacturer credits and gains on sale and leaseback transactions on our flight equipment. Presently, all of our aircraft and spare engines are financed under operating leases.

*Salaries, Wages and Benefits.* Salaries, wages and benefits expense includes salaries, hourly wages, cash incentive compensation, teammate profit sharing and equity compensation paid to teammates for their services, as well as related expenses associated with employee benefit plans and employer payroll taxes.

Landing Fees and Other Rents. Landing fees and other rents include both fixed and variable facilities expenses, such as the fees charged by airports for the use or lease of airport facilities, fueling into-plane fees and overfly fees paid to other countries.

*Sales and Marketing.* Sales and marketing expense includes credit card processing fees, costs associated with our loyalty programs, advertising and distribution costs such as the costs of web support, our third-party call center, travel agent commissions and related global distribution systems, or GDS, fees. Sales and marketing also includes the license fee that we pay for use of the Virgin brand.

Aircraft Maintenance. Aircraft maintenance expense includes the cost of all parts, materials and fees for repairs performed by third-party vendors directly required to maintain our fleet. It excludes direct labor cost related to our own mechanics, which is included in salaries, wages and benefits. It also excludes the amortization of major engine maintenance expenses, which we defer under the deferral method of accounting and amortize on a straight-line basis as a component of depreciation and amortization expense until the next estimated overhaul event or end of the engine lease, whichever is earlier.

Depreciation and Amortization. Depreciation and amortization expense includes depreciation of fixed assets we own and amortization of software licenses, major engine maintenance and leasehold improvements.

Other Operating Expenses. Other operating expenses include guest services and supplies, crew and teammate travel, data and communications, legal and professional fees, facilities, aircraft insurance and all other administrative and operational overhead expenses.

#### Other Income (Expense)

*Interest Expense*. Interest expense on related-party long-term debt accounted for 98%, 96%, and 96% of our interest expense in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Paid-in-kind interest was 85%, 68%, and 40% of total interest expense incurred in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Capitalized Interest. We capitalize interest attributable to pre-delivery payments (PDPs) as an additional cost of the related asset beginning two years prior to the intended delivery date, when we estimate the related aircraft has begun to be manufactured and when PDPs are required to be paid under the terms of our existing aircraft purchase contract. We capitalize interest at our weighted-average interest rate on long-term debt or, where applicable, the interest rate related to specific borrowings. Capitalization of interest ceases and expensing begins when the asset is ready for its intended use.

*Interest Income and Other*. Interest income and other includes interest income on our cash and cash equivalent balances, as well as activity not classified in any other area of the consolidated statements of operations.

#### **Income Taxes**

We account for income taxes using the asset and liability method. We record deferred taxes based on differences between the financial statement basis and tax basis of assets and liabilities and available tax loss and credit carryforwards. In evaluating our ability to utilize our deferred tax assets, we consider available evidence, both positive and negative, in determining future taxable income on a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction basis. We record a valuation allowance against deferred tax assets reported if, based on the weight of the evidence, it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. Judgment is required in evaluating our ability to utilize our deferred tax assets, assessing our uncertain tax positions and determining our provision for income taxes. Although we believe our estimates are reasonable, we cannot assure you that the final tax outcome of these matters will not be different from that which is reflected in our historical income tax provisions and accruals.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, we recorded a deferred tax liability and tax expense of \$1.2 million resulting from the difference between the book and tax basis of indefinite-lived intangible assets that are not available to cover net deferred tax assets subject to a valuation allowance.

#### **Trends and Uncertainties Affecting Our Business**

We believe our operating and business performance is driven by various factors that affect airlines and their markets, including trends which affect the broader travel industry, as well as trends which affect the specific markets and customer base that we target. The following key factors may affect our future performance.

Competition. The airline industry is exceedingly competitive. The principal competitive factors in the airline industry are the fare and total price, flight schedules, number of routes served from a city, frequent flier programs, product and passenger amenities, customer service, fleet type, safety record and reputation and code-sharing relationships. The airline industry is particularly susceptible to price discounting because, once a flight is scheduled, airlines incur only nominal incremental costs to provide service to passengers occupying otherwise

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unsold seats. Airlines typically use discount fares and other promotions to stimulate traffic during normally slower travel periods to generate cash flow and to increase RASM. The prevalence of discount fares can be particularly acute when a competitor has excess capacity to sell.

Seasonality and Volatility. Our results of operations for any interim period are not necessarily indicative of those for the entire year because the air transportation business and our route network are subject to significant seasonal fluctuations. We believe our operations, as they are focused on Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and San Francisco International Airport (SFO), are more susceptible to seasonality than some of the other domestic airlines because our discretionary customers in California may be less likely to fly to other regions of the United States during the colder seasons. We generally expect demand to be greater in the second and third quarters compared to the rest of the year. The air transportation business is also volatile and highly affected by economic cycles and trends. Consumer confidence and discretionary spending, fear of terrorism or war, weakening economic conditions, fare initiatives, labor actions, weather and other factors have resulted in significant fluctuations in revenues and results of operations in the past.

Aircraft Fuel. Aircraft fuel expense for 2014, which includes the effect of our fuel hedges, decreased by \$7.9 million, or 1.6%, from 2013. The decrease was primarily due to a decrease of \$0.10, or 3.1%, in the average fuel cost per gallon offset in part by a 1.5% increase in fuel consumption. The increased fuel consumption was primarily the result of a slight increase in departures.

We maintain an active FFP and hedging program to reduce the impact of sudden, sharp increases in fuel prices. We enter into a variety of hedging instruments, such as forward swaps, options and collar contracts on jet fuel and highly correlated commodities such as heating oil and crude oil. We also use FFPs, which allow us to lock in the price of jet fuel for specified quantities and at specified locations in future periods. At December 31, 2014, we had entered into derivative hedging instruments and FFPs for approximately 27% of our then expected twelve-month fuel requirements, with all of our then existing hedge contracts expected to settle by the end of the third quarter of 2015. Due to the impact of declining fuel prices, we recognized \$10.6 million in fuel hedge losses in the year ended December 31, 2014, of which \$3.4 million were unrealized losses for fuel hedges that will mature in 2015.

Labor. On August 13, 2014, our inflight teammates (whom other airlines refer to as flight attendants), representing approximately 32% of our workforce, voted for representation by the Transport Workers Union, or TWU. As a result, the TWU has been certified as the representative of our inflight teammates, and we will be engaged with the TWU in a collective bargaining process for a first contract for those teammates in accordance with the requirements of the Railway Labor Act. Although we currently have a direct relationship with our remaining teammates, airline industry employees are one of the most heavily unionized private sector employee groups, and any of our non-management teammates could seek unionization at any time. If one or more of our other teammate groups elects a union to represent them, that would require us to collectively bargain with the teammate group s certified representative.

Aircraft Maintenance. As of December 31, 2014, the average age of our aircraft was 5.8 years. Due to the relatively young age of our fleet, our aircraft require less maintenance now than they will in the future. As the fleet ages, we expect that maintenance costs will increase in absolute terms and as a percentage of revenue. The amount of total maintenance costs and related amortization of major engine maintenance expense is subject to variables such as estimated usage, government regulations, the size and makeup of the fleet in future periods and the level of unscheduled maintenance events and their actual costs. Accordingly, we cannot reliably quantify future maintenance-related expenses for any significant period of time.

We expect that the final qualifying major engine maintenance events will be amortized over the remaining lease term rather than until the next estimated major maintenance event. This would result in significantly higher depreciation and amortization expense related to major maintenance in the last few years of the leases as compared to the expenses in earlier periods. Moreover, because our current aircraft were acquired over a

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relatively short period, significant maintenance that is scheduled on each of these aircraft occurs at roughly the same time, meaning we will incur our most expensive scheduled maintenance obligations, known as major maintenance, across our present fleet at approximately the same time. These more significant maintenance activities result in out-of-service periods during which aircraft are dedicated to maintenance activities and unavailable to fly revenue service.

In addition, the terms of some of our lease agreements require us to pay supplemental rent, also known as maintenance reserves, to our lessor in advance of the performance of major maintenance, resulting in our recording significant aircraft maintenance deposits on our consolidated balance sheet. However, the payments made after the final qualifying major engine maintenance event during the lease term are fully expensed, as these amounts are not reimbursable from the lessor. As such, it will result in both additional rent expense and depreciation and amortization expense for previously capitalized maintenance being recorded in the period after the final qualifying major engine maintenance event and just prior to the termination of the lease. For more information, see Critical Accounting Estimates-Aircraft and Engine Maintenance and Repair elsewhere in this prospectus.

#### **Critical Accounting Estimates**

We prepare our consolidated financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States, or U.S. GAAP. In doing so, we have to make estimates and assumptions that affect our reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses, as well as related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. To the extent that there are material differences between these estimates and actual results, our financial condition or results of operations would be affected. We base our estimates on past experience and other assumptions that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances, and we evaluate these estimates on an ongoing basis. We refer to accounting estimates of this type as critical accounting estimates, which we discuss further below.

Revenue Recognition including Loyalty Programs

We generate the majority of our revenue from sales of passenger tickets. We initially defer ticket sales as air traffic liability and recognize passenger revenue when the passenger flight occurs. Passenger revenue also includes upgrade fees, which we recognize when the related flights occur.

Tickets expire one year from the date of issuance, if unused by the passenger. We also issue travel credits to passengers for certain changes to flights if a residual value exists after application of any applicable change fee. Travel credits also expire one year from the date of issuance. We estimate and record advanced breakage for tickets and travel credits we expect will expire unused. These estimates are based on our historical experience of expired tickets and travel credits and consider other facts, such as recent aging trends, program changes and modifications that could affect the ultimate expiration patterns of tickets and travel credits.

Other revenue consists of baggage fees, change fees, seat selection fees, passenger-related service fees and inflight meals and entertainment. We recognize revenue for baggage fees, seat selection fees and passenger-related service fees when the associated flight occurs. We recognize change fee revenues as they occur.

Our Elevate® loyalty program provides frequent flyer travel awards to program members based on accumulated points. Points are accumulated as a result of travel, purchases using the co-branded credit card and purchases from other participating partners. The program has an 18-month expiration period for unused points from the month of last account activity. For all points earned under the Elevate program, we have an obligation to provide future travel when these reward points are redeemed.

With respect to points earned as a result of travel, or flown points, we recognize a liability and a corresponding sales and marketing expense, representing the incremental cost associated with the obligation to

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provide travel in the future, as points are earned by passengers. We offer redemption of points for our Elevate program members through travel on our flights and our partner airlines. Incremental cost for points to be redeemed on our flights is estimated based on historical costs, which include the cost of fuel, passenger fees, complimentary beverages, insurance, miscellaneous passenger supplies and other airline payments. We adjust our liability periodically for changes in our estimate of incremental cost, average points to redeem and breakage estimates.

We account for member points sold to our partners, or sold points, including points related to our participation in other providers affinity loyalty programs and member purchases with partner credit card companies as multiple-element arrangements. These arrangements have historically consisted of two elements: transportation and brand marketing-related activities. The transportation element represents the fair value of the travel that we will ultimately provide when the sold points are redeemed. The brand and marketing element consists of brand marketing related activities that we conduct with participating partners.

For points earned from purchases through our original co-branded credit card agreement, we recorded deferred revenue using the residual method. The fair value of a point is estimated using the average points redeemed and the estimated value of purchased tickets. We recognize points redeemed as passenger revenue when the awards are redeemed and the related travel occurs. We recognized the residual portion, if any, upon sale of points as other revenue associated with the other marketing services delivered.

In 2013, we entered into a new co-branded credit card agreement with a new partner, which we refer to as the New Co-Brand Agreement. The New Co-Brand Agreement has a seven-year term beginning January 1, 2014, when the new co-branded card was introduced and services to our members began. Services with standalone value provided under this agreement include: (i) the points earned or the travel component; (ii) companion certificates for annual travel discounts up to \$150; (iii) unlimited access to the use of our brand and customer list; (iv) advertising; (v) waived bag fees, which are limited to the first checked bag for the cardholder and their companion traveling on the same flight which must be purchased using the card; (vi) unlimited waived change fees provided the ticket is purchased using the premium card; and (vii) unlimited discounts on purchases made through our Red® inflight entertainment system using the co-branded credit card. Under the New Co-Brand Agreement, our partner is required to provide annual guaranteed advance payments over the contract term. Any unearned advance at the end of the calendar year is carried over to the following year until the contract expires. At the end of the contract, we have no obligation to refund any unearned advances to the partner. As of December 31, 2014, excess advances totaled \$8.5 million, which we recorded as air traffic liability.

Under the revenue recognition rules for multiple element arrangements, we determine the best estimated selling price, or BESP, of each element and allocate the arrangement consideration using the relative selling price of each element. Based on our valuation of the New Co-Brand Agreement, the majority of the value is attributable to points or the travel component and brand and customer list, for which the BESP is determined using our own and market assumptions as well as other judgments necessary to determine the estimated selling price of each element. When developing the relative selling price allocation attributable to the points or travel component, we primarily considered the total number of points expected to be issued, the BESP for points (specifically the value at which points could be redeemed for free or discounted travel), the number of points expected to be redeemed and the timing of redemptions. The BESP for points is derived based on our estimate of the redemption rate used by our guests to convert points into the equivalent ticket value for travel with us or with one of our airline partners. For brand and customer list, we considered brand power, the size of our customer list and the market royalty rate for equivalent programs. Our estimates of the BESP will not change, but the allocation between elements may change based on changes in the ultimate volume of sales of each element during the term of the contract.

We recognize and record revenue for the majority of the travel-related elements in accordance with our existing policies for such services. Revenue for brand and advertising is recognized in other revenue as such

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services are provided ratably over the contract term. Revenue from making available unlimited services such as waived bag fees, waived change fees and inflight discounts is recognized in other revenue on a ratable basis over the contract term subject to a contract limitation based on the proportion of cumulative points issued to total contract points expected to be issued.

We estimate breakage for sold points using a regression analysis model supplemented with qualitative considerations, which include the history and success of the program as well as member behavior. In addition, we also consider redemption trends by performing a weighted-average redemption rate calculation to evaluate the reasonableness of our calculated breakage rates. Breakage is recorded for sold points under the redemption method using points expected to be redeemed and our recorded deferred revenue balance to determine a weighted-average rate, which is then applied to actual points redeemed. A change in assumptions as to the period over which points are expected to be redeemed, the actual redemption patterns or the estimated fair value of points expected to be redeemed could have a material impact on our revenue in the year in which the change occurs as well as in future years. Our estimates could change in the future as our members behavior changes and more historical data is collected.

#### Aircraft and Engine Maintenance & Repair

Under our aircraft operating lease agreements and FAA operating regulations, we are obligated to perform all required maintenance activities on our fleet, including component repairs, scheduled air frame checks and major engine restoration events. We estimate the timing of the next major maintenance event based on assumptions including estimated usage, FAA-mandated maintenance intervals and average removal times as recommended by the manufacturer. The timing and the cost of maintenance are based on third-party estimates, which can be impacted by changes in utilization of our aircraft, changes in government regulations and suggested manufacturer maintenance intervals. Major maintenance events represent six-year and 12-year airframe checks, engine restorations and overhauls to major components. We account for qualifying major engine maintenance under the deferral method wherein restoration costs and replacement of engine life limited parts are capitalized and amortized as a component of depreciation and amortization expense up to the earlier of the lease end or the estimated date for the next engine overhaul. Regular airframe and other routine maintenance costs are expensed as incurred.

In connection with our aircraft operating lease agreements, we are required to make supplemental rent payments to our aircraft lessors, which represent maintenance reserves made to collateralize the lessor. Our lease agreements provide that maintenance reserves are reimbursable to us upon completion of the major maintenance event in an amount equal to the lesser of (i) the amount of the maintenance reserve held by the lessor associated with the specific major maintenance event or (ii) the qualifying costs related to the specific major maintenance event, although in some instances we expect to receive a credit at the end of the lease for a portion of any excess reserves remaining after each event. We record the supplemental payments or maintenance reserves that we expect to recover as aircraft maintenance deposits in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. When it is not probable that amounts on deposit with lessors will be recovered, we expense such amounts as a component of aircraft rent expense. When the underlying maintenance event is performed, the cost is either capitalized and amortized as a component of depreciation and amortization expense for qualified major engine maintenance or expensed for all other major maintenance, and the deposit is reclassified to a receivable in our consolidated balance sheet.

The terms of most of our aircraft lease agreements also provide that most maintenance reserves held by the lessor which relate to major maintenance events that fall outside of the lease term are nonrefundable to us at the expiration of the lease and will be retained by the lessor, although in some instances we may receive reimbursement for any maintenance costs we incur to meet return conditions under the related lease. We charge supplemental rent payments to aircraft rent expense in our consolidated statement of operations when it becomes less than probable that these amounts will be recovered.

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We make certain assumptions at the inception of the lease and at each balance sheet date to determine the recoverability of maintenance deposits. Our assumptions are based on various factors such as the estimated timing of major maintenance events, including replacement of engine life limited parts, the cost of future maintenance events and the number of flight hours and cycles for which we estimate the aircraft will be utilized before it is returned to the lessor. We account for changes in estimates related to maintenance reserve payments on a prospective basis.

For regular maintenance of our leased aircraft, we have maintenance-cost-per-hour contracts for management and repair of certain rotable parts to support scheduled and unscheduled airframe and engine maintenance and repair. These agreements require us to make monthly payments based on utilization, such as flight hours, cycles and age of the aircraft, and in turn, the agreements transfer certain risks related to the supply and repair of component parts to the third-party service provider. We recognize expense based on the contractual payments, which substantially match the service being received over the contract period. In addition, we have an engine service agreement under which a third party is required to perform major engine restoration maintenance for substantially all of our aircraft engines. Under this agreement, we have an agreed rate with the maintenance provider based on engine utilization, which applies when the engines are inducted into an overhaul.

#### 2014 Recapitalization

In connection with the 2014 Recapitalization, we and certain entities affiliated with the Virgin Group entered into amended and restated license agreements related to our use of the Virgin name and brand, which provided for, among other things, an increase in the license fee that we pay to the Virgin Group from 0.5% to 0.7% of total revenue commencing in the first quarter of 2016 until our annual revenue exceeds \$4.5 billion. We recorded the fair value of the increase in the license fee as a component of the 2014 Recapitalization with an offsetting increase in other long-term liabilities as it constituted part of the consideration to the Virgin Group for completing the 2014 Recapitalization. We estimated the incremental license fee obligation based on the present value of the additional cash flows of 0.2% of estimated total revenue over the estimated period required to reach the \$4.5 billion cap. We estimated the discount rate based on airline specific weighted average cost of capital, factoring in a judgmental risk spread based on a variety of cash flow estimates.

Also in connection with the 2014 Recapitalization, the Virgin Group arranged for the \$100.0 million Letter of Credit Facility to be issued on our behalf to certain companies that process substantially all of our credit card transactions. See Note 2 to our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus for more information. The Letter of Credit Facility will be provided for a period of up to five years from November 18, 2014 and contains an annual commitment fee equal to 5% per annum of the daily maximum amount available to be drawn, accruing on a daily basis from the date of issuance. The fee is payable quarterly by us to the Virgin Group. The Letter of Credit Facility would only become an obligation if one or both of its credit card processors were to draw on the Letter of Credit Facility upon a default by us under our credit card processing agreements. We are restricted from incurring any future secured indebtedness related to our unencumbered assets, unless the reimbursement obligations to the Virgin Group are secured on a *pari passu* basis with such secured debt. As the fee was provided as part of a transaction with a related party, we evaluated whether the fee is at fair value by comparing it to rates that have been obtained in similar transactions that were made at arm—s length. We concluded that the contractual rate for the fee is reasonably comparable to a rate that would be obtained from a third party, and as a result, we record the fee on monthly basis as related-party expense in other income (expense) in the accompanying consolidated statement of operations.

#### 2013 Debt Modification

In connection with the 2013 Recapitalization, we entered into a series of agreements with the Virgin Group and Cyrus Capital (our primary lenders) to modify certain existing debt agreements, issue new debt for \$75.0 million of cash proceeds and issue certain Related-Party Warrants. Pursuant to these agreements, our lenders exchanged \$556.0 million of related-party debt which previously had contractual interest rates ranging from 15%

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to 20% per year for \$369.1 million of related-party debt with a lower interest rate of 5% per year, compounded annually, and for new Related Party Warrants to purchase 21.2 million shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$18.87 per share. One of our lenders also exchanged subordinated notes with outstanding principal and accrued interest of approximately \$131.5 million, along with certain associated warrants, for new Related-Party Warrants to purchase 1.0 million shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$0.08 per share. Finally, our lenders also funded \$75.0 million in cash proceeds to us, and we issued \$75.0 million aggregate principal amount of new Related-Party Notes with a stated interest rate of 17%, compounded annually, and new Related-Party Warrants to purchase 1.0 million shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$18.87 per share.

We evaluated these transactions in accordance with the accounting guidance on troubled debt restructurings, which requires that the debtor must be experiencing financial difficulty and that the creditor must have granted a concession, and we determined that we met both criteria. We also made certain assumptions, judgments and estimates to account for the debt modification, which included: (i) excluding an existing Related-Party Note payable from the analysis as it was completely unmodified in the transaction; (ii) analyzing and applying the accounting guidance at the creditor level; and (iii) determining the fair value of the Related-Party Warrants issued, which required us to make assumptions about the fair value of our common stock.

To account for the debt modification, we compared the recorded value of the modified debt and the new debt, less the fair value of the Related-Party Warrants issued, to the restructured aggregate undiscounted cash flows at maturity at the creditor level. The fair value of Related-Party Warrants was based on the Black Scholes option pricing model using the following key assumptions: expected term of 5.0 years; a risk-free interest rate of 0.83%; no expected dividends; a fair value price per share based on an independent third-party valuation at May 2013; and 70.0% estimated share price volatility. When the recorded value of the existing debt exceeded the aggregate undiscounted cash flows associated with the restructured debt, we adjusted the carrying amount of the debt on our balance sheet and recognized a gain equal to the difference as a capital contribution. When the recorded value of the existing debt did not exceed the undiscounted cash flows associated with restructured debt, we calculated the effective interest rate that will be used to accrete the debt to its maturity value.

See Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus for further discussion of the accounting of the 2013 Recapitalization.

#### Lease Amendments

In connection with the 2013 Recapitalization, we amended most of our lease agreements with our existing aircraft lessors to provide us with a reduction in monthly base rent and/or maintenance deposits through monthly cash rent rebates, which we refer to as the Lease Rebates. In certain cases, we also extended the lease terms by three to five years. Payment of future Lease Rebates are contingent on us maintaining \$75.0 million of unrestricted cash and cash equivalents as of the last day of each month.

We concluded that all amended leases were deemed to be new leases, and we re-evaluated these to determine if they qualified as capital or operating leases. We determined that each of our leases, as amended, continued to be an operating lease. Our lease analysis required us to make certain assumptions and estimates including: (i) the interest rate, which represented a blended rate of recent secured borrowing rates of peer companies and our unsecured borrowing rates; (ii) the fair value of the aircraft at the time of the new lease; and (iii) the fair value rental rates during the non-cancelable lease extension period. We estimated the extension rates utilizing fixed lease extension rates negotiated in other modified agreements based on current independent aircraft appraisals and current market lease rates. We also considered future demand for the leased aircraft while giving consideration to newer, more fuel-efficient aircraft expected to be delivered in the marketplace during the extension period.

We recognize rent expense on a straight-line basis over the non-cancelable lease term, using rates specified in the contract and for certain leases, estimated fixed rates based upon the fair market value of the aircraft as

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determined by a qualified appraisal at the start of the lease extension period if not specified in the contract. We estimated the extension rates utilizing current independent aircraft appraisals, current market lease rates, and factored in future demand for the leased aircraft while giving consideration to newer, more fuel efficient aircraft expected to be delivered in the marketplace during the extension period. We periodically review and update our estimates of the rental rates as required if significant adjustments become necessary. No adjustments were necessary as of December 31, 2014. We accounted for Lease Rebates received at the start of the amended leases as an incentive to be recorded as a reduction of rent expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Future Lease Rebates are considered contingent and are recognized as a reduction in rent expense when the liquidity requirement is met. Under the amended lease agreements, we receive \$1.6 million in Lease Rebates on a monthly basis and we are obligated to refund 25.0% of substantially all the Lease Rebates from monthly base rent received through December 31, 2016 in the first quarter of 2017 or on a pro-rata basis with any debt repayment occurring prior to the first quarter of 2017. Therefore, we accrue 25.0% of the Lease Rebates as a component of the deferred rent balance in our consolidated financial statements.

In addition, as certain of our lease terms are now extended, certain major aircraft and engine maintenance events are expected to occur within the extended lease terms. As a result, we recorded \$30.1 million of lease incentives associated with previously expensed supplemental rent payments that we now expect to be recoverable by virtue of the lease term extensions. We recorded these lease incentives as an increase to aircraft maintenance deposits and an increase to other liabilities in our consolidated balance sheet in 2013. We determined that a lease incentive resulted from the lease extension when the amount that we expect to be reimbursed in the future exceeds the amount of maintenance deposit currently on our balance sheet plus any future payments to be made through the date of the qualifying maintenance event. We recorded any excess amount as an incentive to the extent there were supplemental rent payments made during the lease term that had previously been expensed. We calculated our lease incentives on a maintenance event by maintenance event basis, consistent with the manner in which supplemental rent payments are made to our lessors.

#### Intangible Assets

Our intangible assets consist of take-off and landing slots at LaGuardia Airport (LGA) and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) acquired in 2013 and in 2014. Slots are rights to take-off or land at a slot-controlled airport during a specific time period during the day and are a means by which the FAA manages airspace/airport congestion. The FAA controls slots at four airports, including LGA and DCA. The slots at DCA do not have a stated expiration date. Although the slots at LGA have expiration dates coinciding with the expiration date of the FAA s slot orders, the FAA s practice has been to renew the FAA slot orders, and we can continue to hold and use the slots as long as we comply with the FAA s minimum use requirements. Unlike other assets at slot-controlled airports that are generally depreciated over their expected useful lives, slots require no maintenance and do not have an established residual value. As the demands for air travel at these airports have remained very strong, we expect to use these slots in perpetuity and have determined our slots to be indefinite-lived intangible assets. Intangible assets with indefinite lives are not amortized but rather tested for impairment annually, or more frequently when events and circumstances indicate that impairment may exist.

We apply a fair value based impairment test to the carrying value of indefinite-lived intangible assets on an annual basis during Q4, or more frequently if certain events or circumstances indicate that an impairment loss may have been incurred. The FASB standard Testing Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets for Impairment gives companies the option to perform a qualitative assessment to determine whether it is more likely than not that an indefinite-lived intangible asset is impaired rather than calculating the fair value of the indefinite-lived intangible asset. We applied the provisions to our annual indefinite-lived intangible asset impairment testing in 2014.

We first utilize a qualitative approach and analyze various factors to determine if events and circumstances have affected the fair value of the goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets. If we determine it is more likely than not that the asset value may be impaired, we then use the quantitative approach to assess the asset s fair value and amount of impairment.

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Factors which could result in future impairment of owned landing slots, holding other assumptions constant, could include, but are not limited to: (i) increased competition in the slotted airport; (ii) a change in competition in the slotted airport; (iii) significantly higher prices for jet fuel; and (iv) increased competition at a nearby airport. As part of this evaluation we assess whether changes in (i) macroeconomic conditions; (ii) industry and market conditions; (iii) cost factors; (iv) overall financial performance; and (v) certain events specific to our company, had occurred which would impact the use and/or fair value of these assets.

As a result of our qualitative analyses performed during 2014 (October 1), we concluded it was more likely than not that the fair values of our indefinite-lived intangible assets was greater than the carrying value and therefore, a quantitative assessment was not necessary. Thus, as a result of the annual impairment test conducted during fourth quarter 2014, no impairment was noted.

#### Income Taxes

We account for income taxes using the asset and liability method. We record deferred taxes based on differences between the financial statement basis and tax basis of assets and liabilities and available tax loss and credit carryforwards. In evaluating our ability to utilize our deferred tax assets, we consider available evidence, both positive and negative, in determining future taxable income on a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction basis. We record a valuation allowance against deferred tax assets reported if, based on the weight of the evidence, it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. Judgment is required in evaluating our ability to utilize our deferred tax assets, assessing our uncertain tax positions and determining our provision for income taxes. Although we believe our estimates are reasonable, we cannot assure you that the final tax outcome of these matters will not be different from that which is reflected in our historical income tax provisions and accruals.

Although we recorded pretax income in 2014, we have a cumulative loss over the three year period ended December 31, 2014. We believe this cumulative loss, despite earnings in recent years, precludes us from being able to project sufficient taxable income to conclude that our net deferred tax assets are more likely than not of being recovered. As a result, we have maintained a full valuation allowance on our net deferred tax assets. We will continue to evaluate future financial performance to determine whether such performance provides sufficient evidence to support reversal of the valuation allowance in the future.

Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or Section 382, imposes limitations on a corporation s ability to utilize net operating loss carryforwards, if it experiences an ownership change. In general terms, an ownership change results from a cumulative change in the equity ownership of certain stockholders by more than 50 percentage points over a rolling three-year period. In the event of an ownership change, utilization of our pre-change NOLs would be subject to annual limitation under Section 382 determined by multiplying the value of our stock at the time of the ownership change by the applicable long-term tax-exempt rate, increased in the five-year period following such ownership change by recognized built-in gains under certain circumstances. Multiple Section 382 limitations can be created by multiple ownership changes. In cases of multiple ownership changes, a subsequent ownership change can reduce, but not increase, the size of the Section 382 limitation that applies to pre-change losses from an earlier ownership change.

We had NOLs of approximately \$633.2 million and \$433.9 million for federal and state income tax purposes at December 31, 2014. Our federal NOLs expire between 2027 and 2034. As a result of a January 2010 equity restructuring, we experienced a Section 382 ownership change. We have \$329.7 million of NOLs generated prior to the change that may be subject to limitation as a result of this change. As a result of the 2014 Recapitalization and our IPO, we believe we have experienced another Section 382 ownership change. We have not yet completed the final calculation of the estimated limitation for the 2014 ownership change, but based on our current calculations, we do not believe we will experience limitations on the use of these NOLs in the near term. We expect to finalize this analysis before the filing of 2014 tax returns.

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#### Share-Based Compensation

Prior to our IPO, we granted performance-based and market-based stock options and restricted stock units to employees and directors. The performance-based vesting condition was achieved at the completion of the IPO in November 2014. Thus we recognized \$7.7 million expense in the fourth quarter 2014 for performance shares for which service had already been rendered. As of December 31, 2014, total unamortized compensation for such performance-based awards was \$2.3 million, which we will recognize over the remaining service term of the awards. In addition, market-based vesting conditions, such as targeted minimum market prices, further restrict the exercisability or settlement of such awards. Any awards, including those that have vested over a fixed service period, have not become exercisable before an employee s termination are forfeited.

In connection with our IPO, our board of directors approved 340,411 shares of common stock to be issued upon the vesting of RSUs which were granted at the completion of the IPO in November 2014. These awards will vest over three years following the completion of the offering. Total compensation expense over the three-year service term will be \$7.8 million, based on the number of shares multiplied by the initial offering price of \$23.00. In addition to stock compensation associated with options and RSUs as described in the preceding notes, 217,898 shares of fully vested common stock were issued to employees and directors at the completion of IPO in November 2014, as approved by our board of directors. We recorded \$5.0 million in stock compensation expense and an increase in additional paid in capital, based on the number of shares multiplied by the initial price of the common stock of \$23.00.

#### **Results of Operations**

#### 2014 Compared to 2013

In 2014, we had net income of \$60.1 million compared to net income of \$10.1 million in 2013. Our operating income of \$96.4 million for 2014 increased by \$15.5 million, or 19.2%, compared to 2013. Our operating margin increased by 0.8 points to 6.5% in 2014 as compared to 5.7% in 2013.

Our operating capacity, as measured by ASMs, remained consistent for 2013 and 2014. Our number of passengers increased by 2.8% in 2014 as compared to 2013, and our yield remained relatively consistent.

Our CASM increased by 3.6% to 11.38 cents for 2014 as compared to 10.98 cents for 2013. This was primarily a result of increased salaries, wages and benefits, a significant portion of which was due to one-time share-based compensation expense recognized upon our IPO, profit sharing expense related to our increase in pre-tax income and higher landing fees, partially offset by lower aircraft rent and fuel costs.

In addition, interest expense for 2014 decreased by \$33.8 million from the prior year period, primarily as a result of our 2013 Recapitalization and 2014 Recapitalization.

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## **Operating Revenues**

	Year Ended l	December 31,	Change		
	2013	2014	Amount	%	
Operating revenues (in thousands):					
Passenger	\$ 1,289,268	\$ 1,329,211	\$ 39,943	3.1	
Other	135,410	160,756	25,346	18.7	
Total operating revenues	\$ 1,424,678	\$ 1,489,967	\$ 65,289	4.6	
	. , ,	. , ,	,		
Operating statistics:					
Available seat miles (millions)	12,243	12,240	(3)		
Revenue passenger miles (millions)	9,814	10,074	260	2.6	
Average stage length (statute miles)	1,474	1,466	(8)	(0.5)	
Load factor	80.2%	82.3%	2.1 pts.		
Total revenue per available seat mile RASM (cents)	11.64	12.17	0.53	4.6	
Yield (cents)	13.14	13.19	0.05	0.4	
Average fare	\$ 203.70	\$ 204.27	\$ 0.57	0.3	
Passengers (thousands)	6,329	6,507	178	2.8	

Passenger revenue for 2014 increased 3.1% from 2013 on the same level of capacity, measured by ASMs. Full year 2014 PRASM increased year-over-year due to a 0.4% increase in passenger yield and a 2.1 point increase in load factor. Total RASM for 2014 increased 4.6% from 2013, primarily from the increase in PRASM and an 18.7% increase in other revenue.

The 18.7% increase in other revenue for 2014 from 2013 was primarily due to increased advertising and brand revenues resulting from our new co-branded consumer credit card program that we launched in January 2014. In addition, seat selection fee revenue and change fee revenue increased, primarily due to a 2.8% increase in passengers as well as higher fees for ancillary products.

#### **Operating Expenses**

	Year Ended December 31,				Change		Cost per ASM		Change
		2013		2014	Amount	%	2013	2014	%
					(in cents)				
Operating expenses (in thousands):									
Aircraft fuel	\$	507,035	\$	499,102	\$ (7,933)	(1.6)	4.14	4.08	(1.4)
Salaries, wages and benefits		196,477		257,367	60,890	31.0	1.61	2.10	30.4
Aircraft rent		202,071		184,357	(17,714)	(8.8)	1.65	1.50	(9.1)
Landing fees and other rents		122,621		133,128	10,507	8.6	1.00	1.09	9.0
Sales and marketing		106,599		113,203	6,604	6.2	0.87	0.92	5.7
Aircraft maintenance		61,854		60,069	(1,785)	(2.9)	0.51	0.49	(3.9)
Depreciation and amortization		13,963		14,486	523	3.7	0.11	0.11	
Other operating expenses		133,177		131,840	(1,337)	(1.0)	1.09	1.09	
Total operating expenses	\$ 1	1,343,797	\$	1,393,552	\$ 49,755	3.7	10.98	11.38	3.6
Operating statistics:									
Available seat miles (millions)		12,243		12,240	(3)				
Average stage length (statute miles)		1,474		1,466	(8)	(0.5)			
Departures		58,215		58,432	217	0.4			
CASM (excluding fuel)		6.83		7.30	0.47	6.9			
CASM (excluding fuel and profit sharing)		6.82		7.19	0.37	5.4			
Fuel cost per gallon	\$	3.18	\$	3.08	(0.10)	(3.1)			
Fuel gallons consumed (thousands)		159,326		161,791	2,465	1.5			

Teammates (FTE) 2,482 2,492 10 0.4

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Aircraft fuel

Aircraft fuel expense for 2014, which includes the effect of our fuel hedges, decreased by \$7.9 million, or 1.6%, from 2013. The decrease was primarily due to a decrease of \$0.10, or 3.1%, in the average fuel cost per gallon offset in part by a 1.5% increase in fuel consumption. The increased fuel consumption was primarily the result of a slight increase in departures.

We maintain an active FFP and hedging program to reduce the impact of sudden, sharp increases in fuel prices. We enter into a variety of hedging instruments, such as forward swaps, options and collar contracts on jet fuel and highly correlated commodities such as heating oil and crude oil. We also use FFPs, which allow us to lock in the price of jet fuel for specified quantities and at specified locations in future periods. At December 31, 2014, we had entered into derivative hedging instruments and FFPs for approximately 27% of our then expected twelve-month fuel requirements, with all of our then existing hedge contracts expected to settle by the end of the third quarter of 2015. Due to the impact of declining fuel prices, we recognized \$10.6 million in fuel hedge losses in the year ended December 31, 2014, of which \$3.4 million were unrealized losses for fuel hedges that will mature in 2015.

Salaries, wages and benefits

Salaries, wages and benefits expense for 2014 increased by \$60.9 million, or 31.0%, from 2013. Salaries and wages for flight crews increased significantly as a result of the competitive marketplace for talent and increasing seniority of our pilots and inflight teammates. In addition, salaries, wages and benefits expense for the year ended December 31, 2014 include an increase of \$20.9 million in profit sharing and bonus expense, including a \$5.3 million expense recognized for the value of shares distributed by our employee stock ownership vehicle to teammates, and \$14.0 million in share-based compensation expense primarily associated with our IPO. Share-based compensation expense reflects the effect of pre-IPO performance-based stock compensation which achieved the IPO performance trigger in November 2014 and therefore were recognized in the fourth quarter of 2014. Under our annual profit sharing program, we accrued 15% of cumulative year-to-date income before income taxes and profit sharing (excluding certain special items) for the benefit of our eligible teammates in 2014 and 2013. In early 2015, we announced a change to our annual profit sharing program under which profit sharing will still be accrued based on 15% pre-tax income, however income will be 1) net of profit sharing expense and 2) accrued on income above a threshold which is based on \$1.5 million times the weighted average number of aircraft in our fleet. For 2015, we estimate the threshold to be approximately \$81.0 million.

We expect salaries, wages and benefit expense to grow at a faster rate than our capacity as market and tenure-related adjustments continue. In 2015, a new employee stock purchase program called the Teammate Stock Purchase Plan (TSPP) will begin under which employees may purchase our stock at a 10% discount of the market value at the end of each offering period. Also, subsequent to year end, a new discretionary 401(k) company contribution called 401(k) Plus will go into effect under which we will make additional 401(k) contributions of up to 4.5% of salary for pilots and 1.5% for all other teammates.

Additionally, in 2015 we will begin incurring costs associated with hiring and training new teammates in connection with our new aircraft deliveries.

Our overall benefit plan costs for 2014 increased from the prior year period due to an increase in the amount of the 401(k) match benefits paid to our teammates and an increase in healthcare costs.

Aircraft rent

Aircraft rent expense for 2014 decreased by \$17.7 million, or 8.8% from 2013, primarily due to the full year effect of aircraft lease amendments that we executed in connection with the 2013 Recapitalization in May 2013.

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Landing fees and other rents

Landing fees and other rents expense for 2014 increased by \$10.5 million, or 8.6%, from 2013, primarily as a result of rate increases for facilities at our destination airports.

For 2013 and for a part of 2014, we received the benefit of landing fee and rent incentives for our added destinations of Austin and San Jose. The expiry of these incentives in the second quarter of 2014 and the additional rate increases at a majority of the airports at which we operate led to an increase in our landing fees and other rents both in absolute dollars and as a percentage of revenue. Additionally, we will begin incurring costs in 2015 associated with opening new destinations.

Sales and marketing

Sales and marketing expense for 2014 increased \$6.6 million, or 6.2%, from 2013, primarily due to \$5.0 million in one-time credits recognized in 2013. These one-time credits consisted of a contract termination payment from a former software system provider and a contractual marketing incentive.

Aircraft maintenance

Aircraft maintenance expense remained relatively consistent for 2014 and 2013.

Depreciation and amortization

Depreciation and amortization expense remained relatively consistent for 2014 and 2013.

Other operating expenses

Other operating expense remained relatively consistent for 2014 and 2013.

# Other Income (Expense)

Other income (expense) for 2014 decreased by \$35.3 million, or 50.1%, from 2013, primarily due to the \$34.7 million reduction in related-party interest expense as a result of the 2013 Recapitalization. As part of the 2013 Recapitalization, we reduced our related-party debt of \$687.5 million with stated interest rates ranging from 4.7% to 20.0% to related-party debt with a recorded value of \$529.8 million with effective interest rates of 0.0% to 10.0% per year. Furthermore, in November 2014 in connection the 2014 Recapitalization, we reduced our remaining related-party debt and accrued interest to a recorded value of \$38.5 million with an effective interest rate of 8.5%. See Notes 2 and 3 to our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus for further details and a discussion of the accounting for these transactions.

#### **Income Taxes**

The income tax provision associated with our income in 2014 was largely offset by the release of a valuation allowance against net deferred tax assets. For the year ended December 31, 2014, we recorded a deferred tax liability and tax expense of \$1.2 million resulting from the difference between the book and tax basis of indefinite-lived intangible assets that are not available to cover net deferred tax assets subject to a valuation allowance.

#### 2013 Compared to 2012

In 2013, we had net income of \$10.1 million compared to a net loss of \$145.4 million in 2012. In 2013, we had operating income of \$80.9 million, compared to an operating loss of \$31.7 million in 2012.

Our 2013 results reflected our strategic decisions to defer and cancel aircraft deliveries, thereby reducing capacity growth in our network, to reduce aircraft utilization across our operations, to eliminate low margin

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flights and to focus on improving revenue management techniques to increase RASM. We also implemented new ancillary revenue strategies that, when combined with our network and revenue management strategy changes, improved our unit revenue performance. Our RASM increased from 10.65 cents in 2012 to 11.64 cents in 2013, and our average fare increased by 4.3% to \$203.70. We also added three new destinations during 2013 by shifting capacity from existing markets.

We continued our disciplined approach to cost control. Our CASM increased by 0.7% to 10.98 cents, primarily due to a 2.2% reduction in ASM and a 5.9% decrease in average stage length from 2012 to 2013. Partially offsetting this increase was a 4.2% reduction in fuel cost per gallon. Our 2013 results also reflect the impact of our debt and lease restructurings described under the 2013 Recapitalization. Through our aircraft lease renegotiations, we reduced aircraft rent expense by \$34.7 million in 2013 or 12.8% per ASM. We also reduced interest expense by \$44.8 million as a result of the 2013 Recapitalization.

#### **Operating Revenue**

	,	Year Ended December 31,			re		
		2012	201	,	Am	Chang nount	%
Operating revenues (in thousands):							
Passenger	\$ 1	,215,178	\$ 1,289	,268	\$ 74	4,090	6.1
Other		117,659	135	,410	1'	7,751	15.1
Total operating revenues	\$ 1	,332,837	\$ 1,424	,678	\$9	1,841	6.9
		,				,	
Operating statistics:							
Available seat miles (millions)		12,514	12	,243		(271)	(2.2)
Revenue passenger miles (millions)		9,912	9	,814		(98)	(1.0)
Average stage length (statute miles)		1,567	1	,474		(93)	(5.9)
Load factor		79.2%		80.2%	1	.0 pts	
Total revenue per available seat mile RASM (cents)		10.65	1	1.64		0.99	9.3
Yield (in cents)		12.26	1	3.14		0.88	7.2
Average fare	\$	195.38	\$ 20	3.70	\$	8.32	4.3
Passengers (thousands)		6.219	6	.329		110	1.8

Passenger revenue increased by \$74.1 million, or 6.1%, from 2012 to 2013. Passenger revenue accounted for 90.5% of our total operating revenues for the year ended December 31, 2013. Load factor increased one percentage point year-over-year, and average fare increased 4.3% as we focused on maximizing the value of our network by shifting capacity away from seasonally weaker routes, such as transcontinental flights during the winter. During 2013, we added three new destinations: Newark (from LAX and SFO), San Jose (from LAX) and Austin (from SFO). Our network changes resulted in a 5.9% reduction in our average stage length in 2013 as compared to 2012.

Other revenue increased by \$17.8 million, or 15.1%, from 2012 to 2013, primarily due to a full year of fees from our Express program that we launched in September 2012, which allows guests to select a reserved seat assignment near the front of the cabin, purchase priority boarding and receive other premium privileges.

## **Operating Expenses**

	Year Ended December 31,		Chang	ge	Cost pe	Change		
	2012		2013	Amount	%	2012	2013	%
						(in ce	nts)	
Operating expenses (in thousands):	A 707 701			<b>*</b> (20.455)				(2.5)
Aircraft fuel	\$ 537,501	\$	507,035	\$ (30,466)	(5.7)	4.30	4.14	(3.6)
Aircraft rent	236,800		202,071	(34,729)	(14.7)	1.89	1.65	(12.8)
Salaries, wages and benefits	176,216		196,477	20,261	11.5	1.40	1.61	14.0
Landing fees and other rents	110,165		122,621	12,456	11.3	0.88	1.00	13.8
Sales and marketing	107,136		106,599	(537)	(0.5)	0.86	0.87	1.7
Aircraft maintenance	58,934		61,854	2,920	5.0	0.47	0.51	7.3
Depreciation and amortization	11,260		13,963	2,703	24.0	0.09	0.11	26.8
Other operating expenses	126,558		133,177	6,619	5.2	1.01	1.09	7.6
Total operating expenses	\$ 1,364,570	\$ 1	,343,797	\$ (20,773)	(1.5)	10.90	10.98	0.7
Operating statistics:								
Available seat miles (millions)	12,514		12,243	(271)	(2.2)			
Average stage length (statute miles)	1,567		1,474	(93)	(5.9)			
Departures	56,362		58,215	1,853	3.3			
CASM (excluding fuel)	6.61		6.83	0.22	3.3			
CASM (excluding fuel and profit sharing)	6.61		6.82	0.21	3.2			
Fuel cost per gallon	\$ 3.32	\$	3.18	(0.14)	(4.2)			
Fuel gallons consumed (thousands)	161,404		159,326	(2,078)	(1.3)			
Teammates (FTE)	2,395		2,482	87	3.6			
Aircraft fuel	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		, -					

Aircraft fuel expense decreased by \$30.5 million, or 5.7%, from 2012 to 2013. The decrease was primarily due to the decline in the fuel cost per gallon and in our fuel consumption. Fuel cost declined to \$3.18 per gallon in 2013 from \$3.33 per gallon in 2012, or 4.2%, and our fuel gallons consumed also declined by 1.3%, primarily due to our reduction in ASMs.

# Aircraft rent

Aircraft rent expense decreased by \$34.7 million, or 14.7%, from 2012 to 2013 as a result of our aircraft lease amendments entered into in connection with the 2013 Recapitalization. This decrease was partly offset by a full year of rent in 2013 for eight aircraft added to the fleet during 2012, as well as the delivery of one additional aircraft in March 2013.

#### Salaries, wages and benefits

Salaries, wages and benefits expense increased by \$20.3 million, or 11.5%, from 2012 to 2013, primarily due to market and tenure related adjustments and profit sharing for our teammates. In addition, the average number of full-time equivalent teammates increased by 3.6% during 2013, and the average tenure of our teammate population was 3.5 years as of December 31, 2013 as compared to 3.0 years as of December 31, 2012. Salaries, wages and benefits expense in 2013 includes profit sharing expense under our profit sharing program, whereby 15.0% of our pre-profit sharing pre-tax income is paid to our teammates. No such expense was recorded in 2012 because we had a net loss.

Landing fees and other rents

Landing fees and other rents expense increased by \$12.5 million, or 11.3%, from 2012 to 2013, primarily due to the addition of our Newark service and the related airport rent, landing fees and slot rental payments. In addition, we also experienced rent increases at some of our major existing airports while landing fee incentives received in 2012 for Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) expired in the second quarter of 2013.

Sales and marketing

Sales and marketing expense remained relatively consistent from 2012 to 2013. During 2013, we received \$5.0 million in one-time credits, which consisted of a contract termination payment from a former software system provider and a contractual marketing incentive. These credits were offset by additional expenses commensurate with our revenue growth during 2013.

Aircraft maintenance

Aircraft maintenance costs increased by \$2.9 million, or 5.0%, from 2012 to 2013, primarily due to an increase in the number of major airframe checks and engine repairs in 2013 as compared to 2012, as well as an increase in rates, which are correlated to aircraft age, under certain of our maintenance-cost-per-hour agreements.

Depreciation and amortization

Depreciation and amortization expense increased by \$2.7 million, or 24.0%, from 2012 to 2013, primarily due to depreciation of our new software licenses and aircraft leasehold improvements.

Other operating expenses

Other operating expenses increased by \$6.6 million, or 5.2%, from 2012 to 2013, primarily due to our lower utilization and an increase in our data communication costs associated with new software.

## Other Income (Expense)

Other income (expense) decreased by \$43.2 million, or 38.0%, from 2012 to 2013, primarily due to the \$44.8 million reduction in interest expense under our related-party long-term debt as a result of the 2013 Recapitalization, in which we reduced our related-party debt of \$687.5 million with stated interest rates ranging from 4.7% to 20% per year to related-party debt with a recorded value of \$529.8 million and effective interest rates of 0% to 10% a year.

#### **Income Taxes**

The income tax provision associated with our income in 2013 was largely offset by the release of a valuation allowance against the utilization of prior-year NOLs.

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#### **Quarterly Financial Data and Operating Statistics (unaudited)**

The following table sets forth our unaudited quarterly condensed consolidated statements of operations data for each of the eight quarters ended December 31, 2014. The unaudited interim financial statements have been prepared on the same basis as the audited financial statements and include all adjustments, which include only normal recurring adjustments, necessary for the fair presentation of the financial information set forth in those statements. Our historical results are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected in the future and quarterly results are not indicative of the results expected for a full year.

								Three Mon	nths	Ended						
	M	larch 31,	J	June 30,	Sep	tember 30,	Dec	cember 31,	N.	larch 31,	J	June 30,	Sep	otember 30,	Dec	ember 31,
		2013		2013		2013	,	2013		2014		2014		2014		2014
C						(in thou	sanc	ls, except pe	r sn	are data, u	nau	aitea)				
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:																
Operating revenues	\$	301,332	\$	376,074	\$	387,345	\$	359,927	\$	313,390	\$	398,845	\$	405,534	\$	372,198
Operating expenses (1)		316,308		348,202		342,949		336,338		326,521		351,719		353,209		362,103
Operating income (loss)		(14,976)		27,872		44,396		23,589		(13,131)		47,126		52,325		10,095
Other expense		(31,412)		(19,023)		(10,893)		(9,092)		(9,174)		(9,876)		(10,005)		(6,072)
Net income (loss) before																
income tax		(46,388)		8,849		33,503		14,497		(22,305)		37,250		42,320		4,023
Income tax expense								317		49		267		712		151
Net income (loss)	\$	(46,388)	\$	8,849	\$	33,503	\$	14,180	\$	(22,354)	\$	36,983	\$	41,608	\$	3,872
Tee meeme (1888)	Ψ	(10,500)	Ψ	0,0.5	Ψ	00,000	Ψ	1.,100	Ψ	(22,55 1)	Ψ	20,702	Ψ	.1,000	Ψ	5,072
Net income (loss) per share:																
Basic	\$	(66.11)	\$	4.89	\$	18.49	\$	7.83	\$	(31.86)	\$	20.42	\$	22.97	\$	0.17
Diluted	\$	(66.11)	\$	3.31	\$	10.80	\$	4.57	\$	(31.86)	\$	11.92	\$	13.41	\$	0.16
Shares used in per share	-	(00122)	_				-		-	(=====)	_		-		-	
calculation:																
Basic		701,671		701,671		701,671		701,671		701,671		701,671		701,671	2	2,419,625
Diluted		701,671		1,565,409		1,992,446		1,992,446		701,671		1,992,446		1,992,446	2	23,716,305
Non-GAAP Financial Data:																
EBITDA (2)	\$	(11,817)	\$	31,121	\$	47,755	\$	27,785	\$	(9,862)	\$	50,610	\$	55,989	\$	14,164
EBITDAR (2)		47,201		82,828		93,089		73,797		36,634		96,471		101,072		61,081

- (1) Fourth quarter of 2014 includes approximately \$19.6 million of salaries, wages and benefits charges resulting from the IPO.
- (2) EBITDA is earnings before interest, income taxes, and depreciation and amortization. EBITDAR is earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization and aircraft rent. EBITDA and EBITDAR are included as supplemental disclosure because we believe they are useful indicators of our operating performance. Derivations of EBITDA and EBITDAR are well recognized performance measurements in the airline industry that are frequently used by companies, investors, securities analysts and other interested parties in comparing the operating performance of companies in our industry. We also believe EBITDA is useful for evaluating performance of our senior management team. EBITDAR is useful in evaluating our operating performance compared to our competitors because its calculation isolates the effects of financing in general, the accounting effects of capital spending and acquisitions (primarily aircraft, which may be acquired directly, directly subject to acquisition debt, by capital lease or by operating lease, each of which is presented differently for accounting purposes) and income taxes, which may vary significantly between periods and for different companies for reasons unrelated to overall operating performance. However, because derivations of EBITDA and EBITDAR are not determined in accordance with GAAP, such measures are susceptible to varying calculations, and not all companies calculate the measures in the same manner. As a result, derivations of EBITDA and EBITDAR as presented may not be directly comparable to similarly titled measures presented by other companies.

These non-GAAP financial measures have limitations as an analytical tool. Some of these limitations are: they do not reflect our cash expenditures or future requirements for capital expenditures or contractual commitments; they do not reflect changes in, or cash requirements for, our working capital needs; they do not reflect the significant interest expense, or the cash requirements necessary to service interest or principal payments, on our debt; although depreciation and amortization are non-cash charges, the assets being depreciated and amortized will often have to be replaced in the future, and these measures do not reflect any cash requirements for such replacements; and other companies in our industry may calculate EBITDA and EBITDAR differently than we do, limiting their usefulness as a comparative measure. Because of these limitations, EBITDA and EBITDAR should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for performance measures calculated in accordance with GAAP.

The following table represents the reconciliation of net income (loss) to EBITDA and EBITDAR for the periods presented below:

				Three Mo	nths Ended			
	March 31, 2013	June 30, 2013	September 30, 2013	December 31, 2013	March 31, 2014	June 30, 2014	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2014
	2015	2013		2013 Isands, except pe			2014	2014
Reconciliation:			(iii tiiot	виния, смеере ре	or share data, a	induction)		
Net income (loss)	\$ (46,388)	\$ 8,849	\$ 33,503	\$ 14,180	\$ (22,354)	\$ 36,983	\$ 41,608	\$ 3,872
Interest expense	31,520	19,108	10,946	9,719	9,915	10,509	10,801	6,294
Capitalized interest				(534)	(481)	(635)	(724)	(828)
Interest income	(108)	(85)	(53)	(93)	(260)	2	(72)	606
Income tax expense				317	49	267	712	151
Depreciation and								
amortization	3,159	3,249	3,359	4,196	3,269	3,484	3,664	4,069
EBITDA	(11,817)	31,121	47,755	27,785	(9,862)	50,610	55,989	14,164
Aircraft rent	59,018	51,707	45,334	46,012	46,496	45,861	45,083	46,917
FRITDAR	\$ 47.201	\$ 82 828	\$ 93.089	\$ 73.797	\$ 36,634	\$ 96 471	\$ 101.072	\$ 61.081

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#### **OPERATING STATISTICS**

						Three Mon	ths	Ended						
	March 31, 2013	June 30, 2013	Sept	ember 30, 2013	Dec	ember 31, 2013	M	larch 31, 2014	J	une 30, 2014	Sep	tember 30, 2014	Dec	ember 31, 2014
Operating Statistics (1)														
Available seat miles-ASMs														
(millions)	2,695	3,253		3,243		3,052		2,777		3,202		3,217		3,044
Departures	12,582	15,130		15,577		14,926		13,825		15,137		14,816		14,654
Average stage length (statute														
miles)	1,511	1,510		1,457		1,426		1,406		1,482		1,522		1,451
Aircraft in service-end of														
period	52	53		53		53		53		53		53		53
Fleet utilization	9.8	11.5		11.2		10.6		10.0		11.3		11.1		10.7
Passengers (thousands)	1,337	1,730		1,685		1,577		1,479		1,729		1,680		1,619
Average fare	\$ 201.18	\$ 197.07	\$	209.09	\$	207.33	\$	186.73	\$	206.81	\$	217.04	\$	204.33
Yield per passenger mile														
(cents)	12.9	12.5		13.5		13.6		12.6		13.2		13.6		13.4
Revenue passenger														
miles-RPMs (millions)	2,082	2,723		2,612		2,397		2,199		2,719		2,685		2,472
Load factor	77.3%	83.7%	)	80.5%		78.5%		79.2%		84.9%		83.5%		81.2%
Passenger revenue per available seat mile-PRASM														
(cents)	10.0	10.5		10.9		10.7		9.9		11.2		11.3		10.9
Total revenue per available														
seat mile-RASM (cents)	11.2	11.6		11.9		11.8		11.3		12.5		12.6		12.2
Cost per available seat														
mile-CASM (cents)	11.7	10.7		10.6		11.0		11.8		11.0		11.0		11.9
CASM, excluding fuel (cents)	7.4	6.6		6.5		6.9		7.6		6.9		6.8		8.0
CASM, excluding fuel and														
profit sharing (cents)	7.4	6.6		6.5		6.9		7.6		6.8		6.6		7.9
Fuel cost per gallon	\$ 3.36	\$ 3.13	\$	3.13	\$	3.15	\$	3.17	\$	3.11	\$	3.13	\$	2.93
Fuel gallons consumed														
(thousands)	34,724	42,642		42,443		39,516		36,547		42,281		42,594		40,369
Teammates (FTE)	2,255	2,375		2,376		2,482		2,426		2,500		2,428		2,492

(1) See Glossary of Airlines Terms elsewhere in this prospectus for definitions of terms used in this table.

# **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

As of December 31, 2014, our principal sources of liquidity were cash and cash equivalents of \$394.6 million. We also had restricted cash of \$18.8 million as of December 31, 2014. Restricted cash primarily represents cash collateral securing our letters of credit for airport facility leases. In addition, we had \$14.4 million of cash collateral posted with various third parties related to losses under our fuel hedging program. This cash collateral will be released during the first half of 2015 as we settle the underlying hedges with such counterparties.

Our primary uses of liquidity are to fund our operations, which include working capital, sales and marketing activities, general and administrative matters and capital expenditures. We retained \$214.9 million of the

remaining net proceeds from the sale of 13,106,377 shares of common stock by us in our IPO, after repayment of expenses and related-party debt, to be used for general corporate purposes. In connection with the 2014 Recapitalization, the Virgin Group issued the Letter of Credit Facility, available until November 2019, on our behalf to our credit card processors in exchange for their release of \$100.0 million of credit card holdback collateral. Refer to Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements for further information.

As of December 31, 2014, we had \$33.8 million of short-term debt and \$96.3 million of long-term debt, of which \$38.8 million was related-party debt. Included in our long-term debt balance is a five-year term loan credit facility we entered into in April 2014 for \$40.0 million to finance airport slot purchases. This loan was funded in two tranches in April and May 2014. Principal is repayable in full at the end of five years. We accrue interest on this loan at a variable rate based on LIBOR and pay quarterly in arrears.

Currently our single largest capital expense is the acquisition cost of our aircraft. We operate all of our existing 53 aircraft under operating leases, which required a smaller up-front investment than if we had financed these aircraft with debt. Pre-delivery payments, or PDPs, relating to future deliveries under our agreement with Airbus, are required at various times prior to each aircraft s delivery date. As of December 31, 2014, we paid \$94.3 million of PDPs to Airbus, \$51.2 million of which were financed by a third party payable upon delivery of aircraft. We expect that committed expenditures for ten future aircraft deliveries between July 2015 and June 2016, separately sourced spare engines and related aircraft equipment, including estimated amounts for contractual price escalations and PDPs, will total approximately \$211.9 million in 2015 and \$184.3 million in 2016. We believe that commercially available financing and our cash resources will be sufficient to satisfy these purchase commitments. For six out of the next ten aircraft deliveries, we have obtained a manufacturer back-stop debt-financing commitment, which we presently do not expect to utilize. We do not have financing commitments in place for the remaining 30 Airbus aircraft orders scheduled for delivery between 2020 and 2022. We have the right to cancel the last 30 aircraft, and as a result these are not considered firm commitments. If we ultimately exercise our cancellation rights for up to 30 aircraft, we would incur a loss of deposits and credits of up to \$26.0 million as a cancellation fee.

In addition to funding the acquisition of our future fleet, we are required to make maintenance reserve payments to our lessors for our current fleet. Qualifying payments that are expected to be recovered from lessors are recorded as aircraft maintenance deposits in our consolidated balance sheets. Maintenance reserves are paid to aircraft lessors and are held as collateral in advance of our performance of major maintenance activities. In 2013 and 2014, we made \$54.8 million and \$57.5 million, respectively, of maintenance deposit payments to our lessors, net of certain rebates. We received \$5.3 million in 2013 and \$4.9 million in 2014 of maintenance reimbursements, due to qualifying maintenance events taking place during the respective periods. In addition, as a result of the lease amendments in 2013, we are entitled to lease rebates either to base rent or maintenance deposits on a monthly basis. We received \$9.2 million in maintenance deposit rebates from our lessors in 2014, which are treated as reductions to maintenance deposits on our consolidated balance sheets when earned.

In connection with various lease amendments entered into with our aircraft lessors in 2013, we are entitled to approximately \$1.6 million of lease rebates on a monthly basis or \$19.8 million annually. Lease rebates will decline over time as aircraft leases expire. Receipt of any future lease rebates is contingent on us maintaining \$75.0 million of unrestricted cash and cash equivalents as of the last day of each month. Under the amended lease agreements, we are obligated to refund 25.0% of substantially all the monthly base rent lease rebates received through December 31, 2016 in the first quarter of 2017 or on a pro-rata basis with any debt repayment occurring prior to the first quarter of 2017. As a result of the repayment of related-party debt in connection with the 2014 Recapitalization, we accelerated \$2.5 million of lease obligation repayments. As of December 31, 2014, the aggregate amount of lease rebates earned was \$39.6 million, net of \$7.1 million recorded as a payable to the lessors.

We expect to meet our obligations as they become due through available cash, internally generated funds from our operating cash flows, supplemented by financing activities as necessary and as they may become

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available to us, although we cannot assure that adequate financing will be available on acceptable terms, or at all. We cannot predict what the effect on our business and financial position might be from the extremely competitive environment in which we operate or from events beyond our control, such as volatile fuel prices, economic conditions, weather-related disruptions, the impact of airline bankruptcies, restructurings or consolidations, U.S. military actions or acts of terrorism. We believe the working capital available to us will be sufficient to meet our cash requirements for at least the next 12 months.

#### Cash Flows

The following table presents information regarding our cash flows in 2012, 2013 and 2014:

	Year Ended December 31				
	2012	2013	2014		
Net cash provided (used in) by operating activities	\$ (50,645)	\$ 50,603	\$ 135,605		
Net cash used in investing activities	(27,184)	(41,996)	(55,160)		
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(5,968)	71,034	158,539		
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(83,797)	79,641	238,984		
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	76,018	155,659	394,643		

Net Cash Flow Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities

During 2014, net cash flow provided by operating activities was \$135.6 million. We had net income of \$60.1 million adjusted for the following non-cash items: paid in-kind interest expense of \$20.7 million, depreciation and amortization of \$14.5 million and share-based compensation expense of \$14.0 million. Our air traffic liability and credit card holdbacks contributed \$92.0 million of operating cash flow, primarily due to a \$100.0 million release of holdbacks in connection with the 2014 Recapitalization in exchange for a letter of credit issued by the Virgin Group on our behalf. We increased our maintenance deposits by \$29.8 million, primarily due to our reserve payments for future maintenance events. Other non-current assets increased by \$31.6 million primarily due to expensing rent on a straight-line basis at a rate that is lower than our cash payments during the period.

During 2013, net cash flow provided by operating activities was \$50.6 million. We had net income of \$10.1 million adjusted for the following non-cash items: paid in-kind interest expense of \$54.3 million and depreciation and amortization of \$14.0 million. We increased our maintenance deposits by \$38.1 million and reduced other non-current liabilities by \$8.5 million, primarily due to our aircraft lease amendments entered into in connection with the 2013 Recapitalization. Air traffic liability, net of credit card holdbacks, contributed \$17.8 million of cash flow, primarily due to a \$10.0 million advance payment received from our new co-branded credit card partner, increased credit card points deferrals and the timing of receipt of credit card settlements. Other current liabilities increased by \$10.6 million, primarily due to the growth of our business, including the addition of three new airports, timing of payments and salary and wage increases.

During 2012, net cash flow used in operating activities was \$50.6 million. We had a net loss of \$145.4 million adjusted for the following non-cash items: paid-in-kind interest expense of \$99.1 million and depreciation and amortization of \$11.3 million. During 2012, we added eight additional aircraft to our fleet, which, combined with required payments under our existing leases, resulted in increased maintenance deposits of \$33.6 million. Our air traffic liability and credit card holdbacks contributed \$15.6 million to our cash flow, primarily as a result of a reduction in the holdback percentage by one of our credit card processors, our 18.2% increase in fleet size, a 3.3% increase in average fare and, to a lesser extent, the timing of our credit card settlements.

Net Cash Flows Used In Investing Activities

During 2014, net cash flow used in investing activities was \$55.2 million. We invested \$41.8 million in domestic airport operating rights, flight equipment and software and made \$13.4 million in pre-delivery payments for our aircraft scheduled to be delivered in 2015 and 2016.

During 2013, net cash flow used in investing activities was \$42.0 million. We invested \$27.0 million in domestic airport operating rights, and \$15.0 million in equipment, software, and aircraft improvements to improve our fleet efficiency and to comply with FAA requirements.

During 2012, net cash flow used in investing activities was \$27.2 million. We made pre-delivery payments of \$19.2 million in cash for future aircraft deliveries. We also invested \$8.0 million for the purchase of equipment for our new leased aircraft placed in service during the year.

Net Cash Flows Provided By (Used In) Financing Activities

During 2014, net cash flow provided by financing activities was \$158.5 million primarily as a result of \$277.6 million of net proceeds from our IPO, partially offset by \$156.5 million of long-term debt repayments. We also borrowed \$40.0 million under our April 2014 credit facility related to our purchase of domestic airport operating rights.

During 2013, net cash flow provided by financing activities was \$71.0 million, primarily as a result of our related-party debt issuance of \$75.0 million in connection with the 2013 Recapitalization.

During 2012, net cash flow used in financing activities was \$6.0 million, which represents principal repayments on our third-party debt and capital lease obligations.

#### **Commitments and Contractual Obligations**

The following table presents aggregate information about our contractual payment commitments as of December 31, 2014 and the periods in which payments are due (in thousands):

	Total	Less than 1 Year	1 to 3 Years	3 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years
Long-term debt including related-party (1)	\$ 141,535	\$ 33,824	\$ 17,416	\$ 90,295	\$
Aircraft and engine purchases (2)	396,149	211,899	184,250		
Aircraft and engine leases (3)	1,493,251	225,123	420,800	360,505	486,823
Maintenance deposits (4)	88,404	8,906	18,466	20,350	40,682
Other leases (5)	153,614	27,047	53,498	40,967	32,102
	\$ 2,272,953	\$ 506,799	\$ 694,430	\$ 512,117	\$ 559,607

- (1) Includes accrued interest, excludes future interest of \$23.5 million to be accrued through November 2022.
- (2) Represents non-cancelable contractual payment commitments for aircraft and engines.
- (3) Represents future minimum lease payments under non-cancelable operating leases with initial terms in excess of one year, including renewal payments for signed lease extensions and excluding lease rebates.
- (4) Represents the fixed portion of supplemental rent under lessor contracts for maintenance reserve payment commitments; excludes variable future amounts that will be based on actual flight hours.
- (5) Represents future minimum lease payments under non-cancelable building, airport station and equipment leases.

The table above does not include our commitment to pay royalties to the Virgin Group pursuant to amended and restated license agreements related to our use of the Virgin name and brand.

The table above also does not include our obligation to provide a holdback of up to \$100.0 million to our credit card processors upon the expiration of the Letter of Credit Facility in 2019, if the holdback requirements have not

been eliminated by that time. The Virgin Group issued the Letter of Credit Facility, available until November 2019, on our behalf to our credit card processors in exchange for their release of \$100.0 million of credit card holdback collateral. Refer to Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements for further information.

Certain of our aircraft operating leases and debt instruments include certain financial covenants and cross-default provisions. As of December 31, 2014, we were in compliance with all covenants under these agreements.

#### **Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

We have significant obligations for aircraft that are classified as operating leases and therefore are not reflected in our consolidated balance sheets. As of December 31, 2014, all 53 aircraft in our fleet were subject to operating leases. These leases expire between 2016 and 2025. Aircraft rent expense related to operating leases, net of rebates earned during each of the periods, were \$236.8 million, \$202.1 million, and \$184.4 million, in 2012, 2013 and 2014, including expense of \$15.5 million, \$3.0 million, and \$3.8 million in 2012, 2013 and 2014, for supplemental rent for maintenance related reserves as required by our lessors.

Our contractual purchase commitments consist primarily of aircraft and spare engine acquisitions through manufacturers and aircraft leasing companies. Our firm aircraft order consists of ten aircraft scheduled for delivery between July 2015 and June 2016. Committed expenditures for these aircraft and related flight equipment, including estimated amounts for contractual price escalations and pre-delivery payment commitments, will be approximately \$211.9 million in 2015 and \$184.3 million in 2016.

In November 2014, in connection with the 2014 Recapitalization Agreement, the Virgin Group arranged for the \$100.0 million Letter of Credit Facility issued on our behalf to certain companies that process substantially all of our credit card transactions, which allowed these companies to release \$100.0 million of cash collateral to us. The Letter of Credit Facility contains an annual commitment fee of 5.0% of the amount available to be drawn that is payable by us to the Virgin Group, and the Letter of Credit Facility will be provided for a period of up to five years from the date of our IPO. In addition, we are also responsible for annual fees associated with the issuance and maintenance of the Letter of Credit Facility. The Letter of Credit Facility would only become an obligation of ours if one or both of our credit card processors were to draw on the Letter of Credit Facility, and it will be reduced or terminated to the extent that collateral requirements are decreased or eliminated by our credit card transaction processors. In addition, we are restricted from incurring any future secured indebtedness related to our assets that were unencumbered after the 2014 Recapitalization unless our guaranty obligations to the Virgin Group are secured on a *pari passu* basis with such secured debt. For more information, see Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations 2014 Recapitalization and Note 9 to our consolidated financial statements elsewhere in this prospectus.

We have also made certain guarantees and indemnities to other unrelated parties that are not reflected on our consolidated balance sheets which we believe will not have a significant impact on our results of operations, financial condition or cash flows.

We have no other off-balance sheet arrangements.

## Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk

We are subject to market risks in the ordinary course of our business. These risks include commodity price risk, specifically with respect to aircraft fuel, as well as interest rate risk. The adverse effects of changes in these markets could pose a potential loss as discussed below. The sensitivity analysis provided does not consider the effects that such adverse changes may have on overall economic activity, nor does it consider additional actions we may take to mitigate our exposure to such changes. Actual results may differ.

Aircraft Fuel. Our results of operations can vary materially, due to changes in the price and availability of aircraft fuel and are also impacted by the number of aircraft in use and the number of flights we operate. Aircraft

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fuel expense for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2013 and 2014 represented approximately 39.4%, 37.7% and 35.8% of our operating expenses. Increases in aircraft fuel prices or a shortage of supply could have a material adverse effect on our operations and results of operations. Based on December 2014 aircraft fuel market prices and our projected 2015 fuel consumption, a 10% increase in the average price per gallon would increase our annual aircraft fuel expense, net of our hedge portfolio, by approximately \$17.8 million. To manage economic risks associated with the fluctuations of aircraft fuel prices, we periodically enter into FFPs, forward swaps, call options for crude oil and collar contracts for heating oil. As of December 31, 2014, we had entered into fuel derivative contracts and FFPs that fixed or established a floor on the price associated with 27% of our forecasted aircraft fuel requirements for the next twelve months at an approximate cost per gallon of \$2.51, which is in excess of current market prices. All of our then existing fuel hedge contracts are expected to settle by the end of the second quarter of 2015.

The fair value of our fuel derivative contracts as of December 31, 2014 was a net liability of \$27.1 million offset by margin call deposits of \$14.4 million, resulting in an overall net liability of \$12.7 million. As of December 31, 2013, our fuel hedge net asset was \$2.4 million. We measure our fuel derivative instruments at fair value, which is determined using standard option valuation models that use observable market inputs including contractual terms, market prices, yield curves, fuel price curves and measures of volatility. Changes in the related commodity derivative instrument cash flows may change by more or less than the fair value based on further fluctuations in futures prices. Outstanding financial derivative instruments expose us to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the counterparties to the agreements. As of December 31, 2014, we believe the credit exposure related to these fuel forward contracts was minimal and do not expect the counterparties to fail to meet their obligations.

*Interest Rates*. We are subject to market risk associated with changing interest rates, due to LIBOR-based interest rates on an applicable portion of our aircraft pre-delivery payments loan and airport slot financing. A hypothetical 10% change in LIBOR in 2014 would have had an immaterial effect on total interest expense in 2014.

Our long-term debt consists of fixed rate notes payable. A hypothetical 10% change in market interest rates as of December 31, 2014 would have no effect on our interest expense but would reduce the fair value of our fixed-rate related-party debt instruments by \$2.3 million.

#### **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

In May 2014, the FASB and IASB jointly issued a comprehensive new revenue recognition standard that will replace most existing revenue recognition standards under U.S. GAAP and IFRS. The new standard will require the Company to recognize revenue when goods or services are transferred to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which it expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. As a result, the Company will need to use more judgments and estimates to determine when and how revenue is recognized than U.S. GAAP currently requires. The new standard will become effective for the Company on January 1, 2017. The Company believes the most significant effect of this accounting standards update will be the elimination of the incremental cost method for frequent flyer accounting, which would require the Company to re-value its liability earned by customers associated with flights points with a relative fair value approach. The Company is continuing to evaluate the new guidance and plans to provide additional information about its expected financial effect at a future date.

In June 2014, the FASB issued an accounting standards update that provides guidance on accounting for share-based compensation when the terms of an award provide that a performance target could be achieved after the requisite service period. The standard provides guidance that this performance target should not be included in the estimate of the award s grant date fair value. The standard requires compensation cost to be recognized over the required service period if it is probable that the service condition will be achieved. This guidance will be effective for fiscal years and interim periods within those fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015 and can

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be applied either prospectively or retrospectively to all awards outstanding as of the beginning of the earliest annual period presented as an adjustment to opening retained earnings. Early adoption is permitted. The Company does not expect this accounting standards update to have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

In July 2013, the FASB issued an accounting standards update that provides guidance on the financial statement presentation of unrecognized tax benefits when a net operating loss carryforward (NOL) or a tax credit carryforward exists. Under the new standard update, unrecognized tax benefits related to NOLs or tax credit carryforwards are to be presented in the financial statements as a reduction to a deferred tax asset. This accounting standard update became effective for the Company as of January 1, 2014. The adoption of the accounting standard update did not have a material impact on the Company s consolidated financial statements.

In August 2014, the FASB issued an accounting standards update to require evaluation of whether there are conditions and events that raise substantial doubt about an entity sability to continue as a going concern within one year after its financial statements are issued (or available to be issued when applicable) and, if so, disclosure of that fact. The standard requires the Company to make this evaluation for both annual and interim reporting periods, if applicable, and disclose whether its plans alleviate that doubt. The standard is effective for annual periods ending after December 15, 2016 and interim periods within annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016. The Company does not expect this accounting standards update to have an impact on its consolidated financial statements.

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#### INDUSTRY BACKGROUND

The airline industry in the United States has changed dramatically since 2001. The events of September 11, 2001 and the economic recession in the United States that followed resulted in significant losses for the airline industry. In addition, the cost of jet fuel increased from a low of \$0.28 per gallon in the late 1990s to a high of \$4.81 per gallon in 2008. Airlines were unable to increase the price of tickets enough to offset this increase in the cost of jet fuel. These conditions led to significant losses within the industry, bankruptcy restructurings and some airline failures. Some airlines that restructured through bankruptcy were able to reduce high labor costs, decrease debt, modify or terminate pension plans and generally reduce their cost structure. This period of restructuring also led to extensive consolidation within the industry. Since 2008, four large mergers have reshaped the domestic landscape: Delta Air Lines combined with Northwest Airlines, United Airlines combined with Continental Airlines, Southwest Airlines acquired AirTran Airways and American Airlines combined with US Airways. Together, these four airlines represented approximately 80% of the capacity and traffic within the U.S. domestic airline industry in 2014.

The industry has also demonstrated significant capacity constraint over the past several years. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, or BTS, U.S. annual domestic capacity growth has been 0.3%, 1.5% and 1.7% for 2012, 2013 and 2014. In each of these years, U.S. airlines also had a cumulative passenger load factor of approximately 83%. Carriers were able to increase air fares by better matching capacity with demand. According to the BTS, the average domestic air fare has climbed from \$339.71 in the third quarter of 2010 to \$396.37 in the third quarter of 2014. Strong revenue performance from capacity discipline combined with consolidation has led to improved financial performance within the domestic airline industry.

U.S. airlines can broadly be divided into legacy airlines and low-cost carriers, or LCCs. The legacy airlines, including United Airlines, Delta Air Lines and American Airlines, have traditionally operated a hub-and-spoke system which permits travelers to fly from a given point of origin to more destinations with only one connecting flight and without switching airlines. Hub airports permit airlines to transport passengers between large numbers of destinations more efficiently than by serving each route directly. However, while hub-and-spoke systems result in low marginal costs for each additional passenger, they also result in high fixed costs. The costs incurred by legacy airlines to provide the number of gates, runways and maintenance facilities needed to support a hub-and-spoke operation are higher than those of most LCCs. Aircraft schedules at legacy airlines also tend to be inefficient to meet the requirements of connecting banks of flights in hubs, resulting in lower aircraft utilization and crew productivity. Serving a large number of markets of different sizes typically requires multiple fleet types along with the related complexities and additional costs in crew training and maintenance. Additionally, legacy airlines pay fees to contract with regional airlines that fly short-haul jets and turbo-prop aircraft into the legacy airlines hub airports from smaller cities, which tends to increase unit costs due to the higher operating expenses of aircraft operated by regional airlines.

In contrast, the LCC model focuses on operating a more simplified operation, providing point-to-point service in large and medium-sized markets without the high fixed investments required for a hub-and-spoke system. The lower cost structure of LCCs permits them to offer flights to and from many of the same markets as the major airlines at lower prices, though LCCs often serve major markets through secondary, lower-cost airports in the same region. LCCs typically fly direct, point-to-point flights, which enables improved aircraft and crew scheduling efficiency. Many LCCs provide only a single class of service, thereby avoiding the incremental cost of offering premium-class services. Finally, LCCs tend to operate fleets with very few aircraft families in order to maximize the utilization of flight crews across the fleet, to improve aircraft scheduling flexibility and to minimize inventory and aircraft maintenance costs. The major U.S.-based airlines that define themselves as LCCs include Southwest Airlines, JetBlue Airways, Spirit Airlines, Allegiant Travel Company and Frontier Airlines.

We believe that Virgin America represents a new breed of LCC. While we share many of the low cost structure characteristics of other LCCs such as point-to-point service and a single aircraft family fleet, we target

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primary airports and offer a premium travel experience across three classes of service. This business model enables us to compete effectively with other low-cost carriers, or LCCs, by generating a higher stage-length adjusted revenue per available seat mile. Conversely, while our lower density seating configuration and the cost of our premium services contribute to a higher stage-length adjusted cost per available seat mile than that of other LCCs, our underlying cost structure principally stemming from our single fleet type and point-to-point network is competitive within the industry. We believe that we can effectively compete with both legacy airlines and other LCCs in our business and leisure travel markets because of our premium product, brand recognition and competitive cost structure.

#### BUSINESS

#### Overview

Virgin America is a premium-branded, low-cost airline based in California that provides scheduled air travel in the continental United States and Mexico. We were incorporated in the state of Delaware in 2004 as Best Air Holdings, Inc., and we changed our name to Virgin America Inc. in November 2005. We operate primarily from our focus cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco, with a smaller presence at Dallas Love Field (DAL), to other major business and leisure destinations in North America. We provide a distinctive offering for our passengers, whom we call guests, that is centered around our brand and our premium travel experience, while at the same time maintaining a low-cost structure through our point-to-point network and high utilization of our efficient, single fleet type, consisting of Airbus A320-Family aircraft. Our distinctive business model allows us to offer a product that is attractive to guests who historically favored legacy airlines but at a lower cost than that of legacy airlines. This business model enables us to compete effectively with other low-cost carriers, or LCCs, by generating a higher stage-length adjusted revenue per available seat mile. Conversely, while our lower density seating configuration and the cost of our premium services contribute to a higher stage-length adjusted cost per available seat mile than that of other LCCs, our underlying cost structure principally stemming from our single fleet type and point-to-point network is competitive within the industry. As of December 31, 2014, we provided service to 21 airports in the United States and Mexico with a fleet of 53 narrow-body aircraft.

Leveraging the reputation of the Virgin brand, a global brand founded by Sir Richard Branson, we target guests who value the experience associated with the Virgin brand and the high-quality product and service that we offer. Our employees, whom we call teammates, provide a personalized level of service to our guests that is a key component of our product. Other elements of our premium product available fleetwide include power outlets adjacent to every seat, inflight wireless internet access, distinctive on-board mood lighting, leather seats, high-quality food and beverage offerings and our Red<sup>®</sup> inflight entertainment system, which we believe is industry leading, featuring a nine-inch personal touch-screen interface with a variety of features available on-demand, including live television, movies, seat-to-seat text chat, games, interactive maps and music. We have won numerous awards for our product, including Best Domestic Airline in *Travel + Leisure Magazine* s World s Best Awards and Best Domestic Airline in *Condé Nast Traveler Magazine* s Readers Choice Awards for the past seven consecutive years as well as Best U.S. Business/First Class Airline in *Condé Nast Traveler Magazine* s Business Travel Poll for the past six consecutive years.

LCCs in the United States generally operate point-to-point networks with a single fleet type, a single class of service with a relatively high density seating configuration, high degree of outsourced operational services and high aircraft utilization. While we have many of these characteristics, we differentiate ourselves from other LCCs in the United States with additional attributes that business and high-end leisure travelers value. In contrast to most LCCs, we have three classes of service onboard our aircraft. In addition to our Main Cabin economy product, we offer our guests a First Class product and a premium economy class product called Main Cabin Select. We also provide a number of other amenities that are important to frequent travelers, including our Elevate® loyalty program with tiered benefits for our most loyal guests, lounge access in certain airports, including our own Virgin America Loft at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), interline and codeshare partnerships with other airlines and a wide range of distribution channels and contractual travel discounts for over 250 major corporate customers and travel agents. While these amenities result in a higher cost per available seat mile, or CASM, than we could otherwise achieve with a more traditional LCC model, we believe that these amenities, along with our premium on-board features, enabled us to realize the highest average passenger revenue per available seat mile, or PRASM, during the twelve months ended September 30, 2014 among U.S. LCCs within most of our markets.

Our disciplined cost control is also core to our strategy, and we maintain the cost simplicity of other LCCs. We operate one of the youngest fleets among U.S. airlines, comprised entirely of fuel-efficient Airbus A320-family aircraft. Our single fleet type allows us to avoid the operational complexities and cost disadvantages of carriers with multiple and older fleet types. In addition, our long-haul, point-to-point network results in high

aircraft utilization and efficient scheduling of our aircraft and crews. We believe that our teammates are productive and attentive to our guests, contributing to our cost advantage while maintaining our high-quality travel experience. We also outsource many non-core functions, such as certain ground handling activities, major airframe and engine maintenance and call center functions, leading to efficient, cost-competitive services and flexibility in these areas.

Executing our strategy of providing a premium travel experience within a disciplined, competitive cost structure has led to improved financial results. For 2014, we recorded operating revenues of \$1.5 billion, operating income of \$96.4 million and net income of \$60.1 million. We increased our revenue per available seat mile, or RASM in 2014 by 4.6% compared to 2013. Furthermore, our CASM of \$11.38 cents increased by only 3.6% from 2013. In 2014, our stage-length adjusted CASM, excluding profit sharing, was competitive within the industry and below that of legacy airlines. We completed a recapitalization of a majority of our operating lease and debt obligations in May 2013, contributing to a \$17.7 million decline in aircraft rent expense and a \$35.3 million decline in interest expense for 2014 compared to 2013. As a result of our RASM increase and the reduction in rent and interest expense, our financial performance improved from a net income of \$10.1 million in 2013 to net income of \$60.1 million in 2014.

Our business model relies on attracting guests who value the premium product that we provide. Because we provide a high level of amenities to our guests, it generally requires a longer period of time for us to reach profitability in each new market that we enter than it might require for a traditional LCC that does not provide this higher level of service. However, we believe that in the long term, our business model enables us to have financially successful routes as evidenced by our PRASM premium over other LCCs in our markets and in part by our recent history of operating profitability in 2013 and 2014 after two years of rapid growth into new markets in 2011 and 2012.

#### The Virgin America Business Model

We believe our business model, which combines a premium product and guest experience with a competitive cost structure, is distinctive within the domestic airline industry. We seek to achieve higher RASM than that of any other LCC, while maintaining a cost structure lower than that of the legacy airlines and competitive with that of other LCCs.

## **Our Product**

We believe that our service is highly differentiated from that of our competitors. Our cabins have a distinctive appearance through innovative design and use of technology. We employ special mood lighting within our cabins that we designed to create a calming, low-stress environment for our guests. We have installed custom-designed leather seats throughout our cabin that are tailored to provide comfort, especially on our long-haul flights. We were the first airline to offer inflight wireless internet access across our entire fleet, and we also provide electrical power outlets adjacent to every seat. Unlike legacy carriers, which offer certain services on a variety of aircraft types and subcontract some flying to regional airlines, our service, which we believe remains highly differentiated, remains consistent throughout our fleet and on every flight. We believe that it would be significantly more difficult for legacy airlines to achieve our level of product consistency because of their multiple fleet types.

All of our guests have access to our Red® inflight entertainment system. The Red system allows each guest to customize his or her inflight experience through a host of entertainment options, including 17 channels of free live television and six pre-recorded channels, on-demand current movies and premium television programs, a free music library with approximately 3,000 MP-3 files from which each guest can create customized playlists, interactive video games and moving map technology that allows guests to track their flights progress. A key component of the Red system is our on-demand food and beverage ordering system. Guests can order and pay for high-quality food or beverage items for themselves or for other guests during the flight through the Red system,

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and our inflight teammates promptly deliver the order. The Red system also features a seat-to-seat chat function which allows guests to message passengers in other seats or send a drink or menu item to another guest. These features provide a distinctive experience for guests to interact during their flight.

Our teammates are a key element of our product. We have a highly engaged workforce that strives to provide a high degree of service and friendliness to our guests both at the airport and in flight. We heavily emphasize our service standards with our teammates through training and education programs and monetary incentives related to operational performance and guest surveys.

Within the cabin, we offer three levels of service: First Class, Main Cabin Select, which is our premium economy product, and Main Cabin. Some highlights of our service levels include the following:

First Class:

Exclusive, eight-seat cabin with a dedicated inflight teammate to provide a high level of attention and service; Custom-designed 165 degree reclining leather seat with massage functions; 55 inches of pitch between rows one of the most spacious First Class configurations in the U.S. domestic market; Complimentary gourmet meals and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages with linen table service; Individual Red inflight entertainment system; Unlimited complimentary on-demand movies and premium television programs; Complimentary live television; Two free checked bags; and Priority boarding and priority security access. Main Cabin Select: 38 inches of pitch, providing generous leg room; Individual Red inflight entertainment system at every seatback;

Complimentary on-demand movies and premium television programs on our Red inflight entertainment system;

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	Complimentary live television;
	Complimentary Main Cabin meals, snacks and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages;
	One free checked bag; and
Main Ca	Priority boarding and priority security access.  bin:
	32 or 33 inches of pitch one of the most spacious economy configurations in the U.S. domestic market;
	Individual Red inflight entertainment system at every seatback;
	Complimentary live television;
	Power outlets adjacent to every seat;

On-demand movies and premium television programs available for purchase;

A variety of fresh meals, snacks and alcoholic and premium non-alcoholic beverage offerings available for purchase on demand;

Complimentary non-alcoholic beverages; and

The ability to purchase reserved seating near the front of the Main Cabin, priority boarding and priority security access with our Express product.

#### **Our Cost Structure**

We employ disciplined strategies to maintain a competitive cost structure. Our CASM was 11.38 cents in 2014. On a stage-length adjusted basis, our CASM was competitive within the industry and below that of legacy airlines. Key components of our low cost structure include the following:

Operating a modern, fuel-efficient single-aircraft fleet type of Airbus A320-family aircraft, with an average age of 5.8 years as of December 31, 2014, resulting in lower maintenance costs and common flight crew training across the entire fleet;

High aircraft utilization, which averaged 10.8 hours per aircraft day during 2014;

Point-to-point operations, avoiding the complexities and inefficiencies of a hub-and-spoke system;

Our productive and engaged workforce;

The strategic use of outsourcing for non-core activities, such as certain airport ground handling functions, many maintenance functions and call center activities; and

Lean overhead structure in information technology, finance, human resources and planning that is scalable and can be leveraged as we continue to grow.

The productivity of our workforce contributes significantly to our competitive cost structure. Our long-haul network provides a naturally efficient environment for crew scheduling, and we believe that our teammates are highly productive as a result. In 2014, our pilots flew an average of 59 block hours per month. Over the same period, our inflight teammates flew an average of 60 block hours per month. We believe that this high degree of productivity benefits our flight crews by reducing unproductive time.

While we maintain our focus on costs, we have chosen to invest in certain areas of our product that we believe support our high RASM strategy. These areas include:

Configuring our First Class and Main Cabin seating capacity with lower density than most airlines. Our Airbus A320 aircraft are configured with 146-149 seats, and our Airbus A319 aircraft are configured with 119 seats.

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Providing a premium travel experience favored by business travelers, including inflight entertainment options, an enhanced cabin with custom leather seats, inflight wireless internet and power outlets adjacent to every seat.

Focusing on serving primary airports that provide convenience for business travelers but that generally have higher costs than alternative, secondary airports.

Maintaining a distribution strategy through multiple channels, including global distribution systems, or GDS, and corporate agencies that frequent business travelers value.

This business model enables us to compete effectively with other low-cost carriers, or LCCs, by generating higher stage-length adjusted RASM but at a stage-length adjusted CASM competitive with that of other LCCs and lower than that of legacy airlines.

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#### **Our Competitive Strengths**

We believe the following strengths allow us to compete successfully in the U.S. airline industry:

Premium Travel Experience. We believe our premium guest experience, attractive amenities, customer-focused teammates and wide array of inflight entertainment options differentiate us from other airlines in the United States. A key component of our product strength is the consistency across our entire fleet. In contrast to airlines with multiple aircraft types, our product offering is identical on every Airbus 320-family aircraft, allowing for the same enhanced travel experience on every flight. We also differentiate ourselves from other LCCs by providing both First Class and Main Cabin Select products in addition to our Main Cabin economy product. With just eight seats on every aircraft fewer than most first class cabins offered on competing airlines, our First Class cabin has an exclusive feel with a dedicated attendant providing a personal level of service. Unlike many other airlines, we do not provide complimentary upgrades to First Class, enhancing the exclusivity of this product. In addition to more leg room, which is a standard feature of most premium economy products, we offer additional features within Main Cabin Select, such as complimentary on-demand current-run movies, premium television programs, premium beverages and Main Cabin meals and snacks.

World-Class Virgin Brand. We believe that the Virgin brand is widely recognized in the United States and is known for being innovative, stylish, entrepreneurial and hip. We believe that the brand is recognized worldwide from the Virgin Group's offerings in music, air travel, wireless service and a wide variety of other products. We capitalize on the strength of the Virgin brand to target guests who value an enhanced travel experience and association with the Virgin brand. We believe that the Virgin brand has helped us to establish ourselves as a premium airline in the domestic market in a short period of time. When we enter a new market, awareness of the Virgin brand generates interest from new guests. The power of the Virgin brand provides an opportunity for low-cost public relations events that generate extensive media coverage in new markets and has led to other cooperative marketing relationships for us with major companies. In addition to capitalizing on the Virgin brand strength, we are rapidly establishing Virgin America as a distinct and premium brand for air travel in the United States in its own right. We believe our guests associate the Virgin and Virgin America brands with a distinctive high-quality and high-value travel experience.

Low-Cost, Disciplined Operating Structure. A core component of our business model is our disciplined cost structure. Key components of this low cost structure include our modern, fuel-efficient single-aircraft fleet, our high aircraft utilization, our point-to-point operations, our productive and engaged workforce, our outsourcing of non-core activities and our lean, scalable overhead structure. We are committed to maintaining this disciplined cost structure and believe we will continue to improve our competitive cost position in future years as we grow and further leverage our existing infrastructure. In 2014, the average stage-length adjusted domestic CASM of legacy airlines was 25% higher, and the average stage-length adjusted domestic CASM of LCCs was only 13% lower, than our stage-length adjusted CASM. We believe our lower seating density and three-class cabin configuration, which is a similar configuration to that of many legacy airlines, is the primary reason that our stage-length adjusted CASM was higher than that of other LCCs in 2014. However, our seating configuration with three classes of service was also a primary contributor to our higher stage-length adjusted PRASM for the twelve months ended September 30, 2014 when compared to other LCCs. For example, Spirit Airlines configures an Airbus A320 aircraft with 178 seats in a single class of service compared to our seating density of 146 seats for the same aircraft. We believe that Spirit Airlines s 19% higher seating density per aircraft contributed to a lower stage-length adjusted PRASM and lower stage-length adjusted CASM for the twelve months ended September 30, 2014 when compared to ours.

Established Presence in Los Angeles and San Francisco. We have built our network around the Los Angeles and San Francisco metropolitan areas, the second- and third-largest domestic air travel markets in the United States in 2013. We believe that these two markets, with a combined population of approximately 27 million people and strong economic bases in the technology, media and entertainment industries, serve as an excellent platform for long-term growth. Los Angeles and San Francisco both have large populations of technologically savvy, entrepreneurial and innovative individuals who we believe value our brand and premium

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guest experience. We have made significant investments in these key markets since 2010, and as of December 31, 2014, we provide service to 18 destinations from Los Angeles and 20 destinations from San Francisco. These destinations include seven of the top ten domestic destinations served from LAX and nine of the top ten domestic destinations served from San Francisco International Airport (SFO), based on passenger volume. This investment provides greater network coverage across North America for travelers from these two focus markets, and we expect that this investment will allow us to continue to grow by leveraging the loyal guest base that we have established in each market.

Our Team and Entrepreneurial Culture. Our teammates and culture are essential elements of our success because they contribute significantly to our premium travel experience. We start by hiring the right teammates through a rigorous process that includes numerous interviews, as well as pre-employment testing for our frontline teammates and our pilots. Key characteristics of Virgin America teammates include a friendly, personable nature, a willingness to think differently, a passionate approach to his or her work and intense pride in Virgin America and our product. We empower our teammates with a high level of authority to resolve guest issues throughout the travel experience, from making flight reservations to interactions at the airport and in flight. We strive to create an environment for our teammates where open communication is both encouraged and expected and where we celebrate our successes together. We believe our positive work environment has contributed to our having one of the highest customer satisfaction rankings in the airline industry.

## **Our Growth Strategy**

Our goal is to generate above-average RASM in each market we serve by providing the leading domestic air travel product through our brand and our premium guest experience, while at the same time maintaining our competitive cost structure through the efficient operations we have established. Key elements of our growth strategy include:

Expand Our Route Network. We currently serve only 14 of the 50 largest metropolitan areas in the United States and three leisure destinations in Mexico. We believe there are significant opportunities to expand our service from our focus cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco to other large markets throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. We have firm commitments to take delivery of ten Airbus A320-family aircraft from July 2015 through June 2016, and we expect to continue to grow at a measured, disciplined pace beyond 2016. While we expect most of our expansion in the next several years will focus on the opportunities we have at Los Angeles and San Francisco, we are also growing our presence in Dallas, Texas. Through the use of recently acquired slots at New York LaGuardia Airport (LGA) and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), we added service at DAL to these markets in October 2014. We also moved our service between Dallas and LAX and Dallas and SFO from Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) to DAL. DAL is located in a growing, affluent section of the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area and is the closest airport to downtown Dallas. In addition, the airline facilities at DAL are limited by federal law to only 20 gates, providing a structural barrier to entry. We believe our new service at DAL will further diversify our route network and allow us to provide service to LGA and DCA. In addition, we intend to expand our codeshare and interline relationships with other airlines that are complementary to our network, expanding travel destination options for our guests while adding new sources of revenue and more guests.

Maintain Competitive Unit Operating Costs. We are highly focused on maintaining competitive unit operating costs. We expect to realize economies of scale as we continue to grow by leveraging our distribution, marketing and technology costs across our platform and by better utilizing our facilities and ground assets across a larger network. Our fleet is 100% financed by operating leases, of which 26 leases will expire between 2015 and 2022. As our leases expire, we expect to have the opportunity to lower our costs by renewing at lower lease rates or by opportunistically replacing these aircraft with new Airbus A320-family aircraft with lower operating costs sourced in the open market. In addition, we expect our cost structure will continue to benefit from our highly productive and flexible workforce as we grow our fleet and network.

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Continue to Grow Our Base of Frequent Travelers. We intend to continue to grow our share of business travelers, a focus that is uncommon among U.S. LCCs, because we believe this population of airline travelers allows us to achieve increased RASM. We target the business community by providing a premium travel service between our focus cities and many of the most important business destinations in North America, as well as key leisure destinations that we believe are important to business travelers when flying for leisure travel. We have already attracted a significant base of frequent business and premium leisure travelers who regularly fly with us and who we believe prefer our premium product attributes. We believe that these types of guests also value a larger route network and frequent flights within markets. As we grow our network from California and expand our interline and codeshare partnerships, we believe we will be well positioned to attract additional business and high-end leisure travelers. We consider guests who book within 14 days of departure as business travelers. Using this as a measure, we believe that approximately 29% of our guests in 2014 were business travelers, representing approximately 39% of our revenue from ticket sales in 2014.

Continue to Enhance Our Product and Guest Experience. We believe our guest experience is unique in the industry and revolves around our teammates focus on guest service, extensive entertainment options, compelling passenger comfort features and an association with our brand that would be difficult to replicate. We nevertheless are continually developing new enhancements to our product. For example, in early 2014, we further expanded our First Class food service on select flights to include enhanced gourmet food offerings and linen service. In the second quarter of 2014, we launched a redesigned version of the Virgin America website, enhancing the ease of use and functionality as well as providing a more customized experience for our guests. In 2015, we plan to upgrade the monitors within our inflight entertainment system to include a swipe touch capability, similar to that found on many modern personal electronic devices. This upgrade will include a redesign of the software behind our Red inflight entertainment system, allowing for future software features to what we believe is already an industry-leading system. Additionally, we continually analyze new technologies for longer-term enhancements to our fleet, inflight product and airport experience.

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#### **Route Network**

We served 21 airports throughout North America as of December 31, 2014. The majority of our routes operate to and from our focus cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco, with a smaller presence located at DAL. Our current network is a mix of long-haul, transcontinental service combined with short-haul West coast service and select Mexico leisure destinations. Below is a route map of our network.

We use publicly available data related to existing traffic, fares and capacity in domestic markets to identify growth opportunities. To monitor the profitability of each route, we analyze monthly profitability reports as well as near-term forecasting. We routinely make adjustments to capacity and frequency of flights within our network based on the financial performance of our markets, and we discontinue service in markets where we determine that long-term profitability is not likely to meet our expectations.

Our future network plans include growing from our focus cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco to other major markets in North America. By continuing to add destinations in select markets from Los Angeles and San Francisco, we can leverage our existing base of loyal guests and grow our share of revenue within these focus cities while also expanding our customer base as we gain new guests in new markets. In 2014, we added service from DAL to LGA and DCA, and we intend to initiate service between DAL and AUS in April 2015. We believe this DAL opportunity increased the diversity of our route network and will provide growth into strategic airports that are limited by regulation.

# **Commercial Partnerships**

We have codeshare and interline agreements with a number of other high-quality airlines to support our revenue strategy. Our codeshare relationships provide for cross-selling of seamless connecting itineraries from our partners international and domestic flights onto our network and, in some instances, also provide for frequent-flyer reciprocity whereby guests can earn and use reward travel on both airlines. Los Angeles and San

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Francisco are gateways to the U.S. mainland from Asian and trans-Pacific destinations, as well as Hawaii, and our domestic network from these cities provides a natural extension for our codeshare partners.

We currently have codeshare agreements with China Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Singapore Airlines and Virgin Australia, and we plan to add additional codeshare partners in the future, focusing on Asia/Pacific partnership opportunities. We also have interline agreements with 28 additional airlines. Interline agreements allow guests to create itineraries connecting from one airline to another but are more limited in scope than codeshare agreements. Our commercial partnerships contribute to our RASM growth by adding incremental international and domestic guests and revenue and by providing international network opportunities to our existing guests.

## **Ancillary Revenue**

While some of our product features are included in our base pricing, we have unbundled certain ancillary features that our guests separately value. Major ancillary revenue products include checked baggage fees, ticket change fees and our Express product providing reserved seating near the front of the Main Cabin, priority boarding and security access. Guests also pay a reservation fee if they choose to make their reservation through our call center. Additionally, we market certain products from our partners such as travel insurance on our website and recognize revenue in connection with our co-branded credit card program. We also promote and sell products in flight to enhance the guest experience, including meals, snacks, alcoholic and premium non-alcoholic beverages, on-demand current-run movies and premium television programs, headphones and sleep kits. In 2014, other revenue, of which the majority represents the ancillary revenue items noted above, represented 10.8% of our total revenue.

#### **Guest Loyalty Program**

We maintain an extensive guest loyalty program called the Elevate® frequent flyer program. Our guests earn points for purchasing travel that are redeemable for travel rewards throughout our network and the networks of our partners. We were the first U.S. airline to adopt a loyalty program based on the value of ticket purchases. The number of points that guests earn is tied directly to the purchase price of the ticket; likewise, guests may redeem Elevate points for any fare within our inventory, without any blackout dates, because our rewards pricing is variable. In 2012, we enhanced the Elevate program by adding tiered status benefits for our most frequent guests. In 2012, we enhanced the Elevate program by adding tiered status benefits for our most frequent guests. Elevate members with Gold or Silver status enjoy earning bonus Elevate points on purchases, advance access to purchase upgrade options, complimentary upgrades to Main Cabin Select on a space-available basis, free checked bags and priority check-in boarding and security access. At the end of 2014, we had approximately 3.5 million Elevate members, which represented a 16.2% increase over the end of 2013.

We maintain partnerships with other companies through our Elevate program. Companies purchase Elevate points from us to reward their own customers. We benefit from the direct sale of Elevate points as well as additional loyalty from guests that earn points through these other channels. Our most significant third-party Elevate relationship is our co-branded consumer credit card issued by Alliance Data Services, or ADS, which replaced our prior co-branded card program in early 2014. The new program provides enhanced features to our Elevate members such as point accumulation, free first checked bag and waived change fees, and various discounts for companion travel and inflight purchases. ADS provides annual guarantees of Elevate points activity significantly greater than our past activity. As a result, we expect this new relationship to result in significant growth in our Elevate program and an increase in revenue for Elevate points sold through this relationship.

# Marketing and Distribution

We are focused on direct-to-consumer marketing targeted at our core business and leisure guests. Our principal marketing messages are our association with the Virgin brand, our premium travel experience, popular destinations within our network, our innovative product offerings and competitive fares. Consistent with our

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business model and our brand, we use edgy and fun marketing messages to engage our key demographic. We are early adopters of technology including social networks, generating significant engagement from our advocates on Facebook, Twitter and other social media channels. We consider these channels important for generating awareness around our product and brand as well as creating a positive connection and communication channel with our guests, teammates and other advocates.

Our primary advertising mediums include online search-and-display advertising, targeted direct email marketing, strategically located outdoor advertisements in our key markets, partnerships with sports teams including the San Francisco Giants as well as sponsorships of sports teams, select events and entertainment venues. We are also able to leverage the Virgin brand to create public relations events and low-cost viral marketing campaigns that generate extensive media coverage.

We sell our product through three primary distribution channels: our website, our outsourced call center and third parties such as travel agents who access us through global distribution systems, or GDS, (e.g., Amadeus, Sabre and Travelport), and select online travel agents, or OTAs (e.g., Orbitz and Travelocity). We use our website as the primary platform for ticket sales, and approximately 60% of our total tickets sold in 2014 were through direct internet bookings using our website. We implemented a redesigned website in June 2014 to increase functionality and ease of use for our guests.

We also have a dedicated sales team that focuses on corporate and travel agent accounts. We have contractual relationships with over 250 major corporate customers and travel agents. We focus on this segment because corporate accounts and agencies booking through a global distribution system generated average fares 36% higher than those generated through other channels in 2014.

#### **Teammates**

We believe maintaining a positive relationship with our teammates is a valuable part of our culture. We believe our relationship with our workforce allows us a highly productive working environment that benefits both the company and our teammates.

In addition to evaluating functional skills, we extensively screen recruits to better ensure a strong cultural fit and ability to represent our brand. We also reinforce our culture through our initial corporate orientation program as well as during events and training programs at our headquarters designed to share our strategy with our teammates and keep them engaged and immersed in our culture.

We believe that open and frequent communication with our teammates fosters our culture. To that end, our leadership team actively engages with our teammates through regular onsite visits throughout our operations and through routine written communications. We also collaborate with volunteer teammate committees selected by certain of our major work groups, which provides a forum for teammates to provide feedback to us and to collaborate in developing solutions in a timely manner. We also plan social events for our teammates that celebrate our brand and promote interaction throughout our company. These events include special celebrations around the anniversary date of the commencement of operations, holiday parties and involvement in community events.

We have implemented our own internal social networking and corporate intranet site. Known as VXConnect, our site provides a forum for our teammates to communicate with each other and with our leadership team. Teammates can also post photos, begin discussion threads on topics of interest and post messages directly to each other, features similar to those on other current popular social media websites. We also provide regularly updated content on VXConnect to keep our teammates informed of company news, events and major corporate accomplishments.

At December 31, 2014, our active teammates consisted of 595 pilots, 825 inflight teammates (whom other airlines refer to as flight attendants), 632 guest services teammates, 120 maintenance technicians and 568 management and other personnel. We have a direct working relationship with all of our teammates, other than our inflight teammates, who voted for representation by the Transport Workers Union on August 13, 2014.

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#### Competition

The airline industry is highly competitive. The principal competitive factors in the airline industry are the fare and total price, flight schedules, product and passenger amenities, customer service, number of routes served from a city, fleet type, safety record and reputation, code-sharing relationships and frequent flier programs. Our competitors and potential competitors include traditional legacy airlines, LCCs and ultra-low-cost carriers, or ULCCs. We typically compete in markets served by traditional legacy airlines and LCCs and, to a lesser extent, ULCCs.

Our principal competitors on domestic routes are Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, JetBlue Airways, Southwest Airlines and United Airlines. Our principal competitive advantages are our premium product and brand, distinctive culture and low cost structure. We believe our business model enables us to compete effectively with other low-cost carriers, or LCCs, by generating higher stage-length adjusted RASM but at a stage-length adjusted CASM competitive within the industry and lower than that of legacy airlines.

The airline industry is particularly susceptible to price discounting because, once a flight is scheduled, airlines incur only nominal incremental costs to provide service to passengers occupying otherwise unsold seats. The expenses of a scheduled aircraft flight do not vary significantly with the number of passengers carried, and as a result, a relatively small change in the number of passengers or in pricing can have a disproportionate effect on an airline s operating and financial results. Price competition occurs on a market-by-market basis through price discounts, changes in pricing structures, fare matching, target promotions and frequent flier initiatives. Airlines typically use discount fares and other promotions to stimulate traffic during normally slower travel periods to generate cash flow and to maximize RASM. The prevalence of discount fares can be particularly acute when a competitor has excess capacity to sell.

#### **Operational Performance**

Operational reliability is paramount to success in the airline industry. We strive to achieve high levels of operational performance through careful planning of our flight schedules, an extensive maintenance reliability program and the use of an operating spare aircraft and spare engines. For both 2014 and 2013, we were the top-ranked airline in the Airline Quality Rating, an annual analysis of airline performance conducted by Wichita State University and Embry-Riddle. The U.S. Department of Transportation, or DOT, publishes statistics regarding measures of customer satisfaction for domestic airlines and can assess civil penalties for failure to comply with certain customer service obligations. Our domestic performance under customer service measures for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 was as follows:

	2014	2013
On-Time Performance (1)	81.5%	82.1%
Completion Factor (2)	99.4%	99.5%
Mishandled Baggage (3)	0.95	0.97

- (1) Percentage of our scheduled flights that were operated by us that were on-time (within 15 minutes).
- (2) Percentage of our scheduled flights that were operated by us, whether or not delayed (i.e., not cancelled), derived from DOT cancellation statistics.
- (3) Our incidence of delayed, mishandled or lost baggage per 1,000 passengers.

#### Fleet

We fly only Airbus A320-family aircraft and operate only CFM engines, which provide us significant operational and cost advantages compared to airlines that operate multiple fleet and engine types. Flight crews are entirely interchangeable across all of our aircraft, and maintenance, spare parts inventories and other operational support are highly simplified relative to more complex fleets. Due to this commonality among Airbus single-aisle aircraft, we retain the benefits of a fleet consisting of a single family of aircraft while still having flexibility to match the capacity and range of the aircraft to the demands of many routes.

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We have a fleet of 53 Airbus single-aisle aircraft, consisting of ten Airbus A319s and 43 Airbus A320s. The average age of the fleet was 5.8 years at December 31, 2014. Our Airbus A319 aircraft accommodate 119 guests, and our Airbus A320 aircraft accommodate 146-149 guests. All of our existing aircraft are financed under operating leases.

We plan to grow our fleet with additional Airbus A320-family aircraft, and we currently have an order with Airbus for ten Airbus A320 aircraft to be delivered between July 2015 and June 2016 and 30 Airbus A320 new engine option, or A320neo, aircraft to be delivered between 2020 and 2022. We have an option to cancel our Airbus A320neo positions up to two years in advance of delivery in groups of five aircraft, but we could incur a loss of pre-delivery payments and credits as a cancellation fee. We may elect to supplement these deliveries by additional acquisitions from Airbus or in the open market if demand conditions merit. Twenty-six of our existing operating leases will expire between 2016 and 2022, and we believe there will be an opportunity to extend these leases at a reduced lease rate or to replace them with new or used Airbus A320-family aircraft. Although we expect to grow our fleet as we increase our flights on our existing route network and expand our route network to new markets, we are only committed to grow to 63 aircraft. As a result, our fleet plan provides significant flexibility.

Our Airbus A320 aircraft deliveries in 2015 and 2016 will be equipped with sharklets, a new wingtip device that we believe will create up to 3.0% additional fuel efficiency in our network. In addition to lowering our average fuel cost per flight, the sharklets provide increased range. This will reduce technical stops on our transcontinental flights that occasionally occur during specific weather patterns as well as allow for the possibility of operations to the state of Hawaii. Operating to Hawaii will require additional Federal Aviation Authority, or FAA, certification for extended twin-engine over-water operations, and we are currently evaluating these markets and the additional operational requirements.

#### Aircraft Fuel

Aircraft fuel is our largest expense representing 35.8% of our total operating costs in 2014. The price and availability of jet fuel are volatile due to global economic and geopolitical factors as well as domestic and local supply factors. We use a third-party fuel management vendor to procure most of our fuel. Our historical fuel consumption and costs were as follows:

Total cost and average price per gallon each include related fuel fees and taxes as well as effective fuel-hedging gains and losses.

	Year E	Year Ended December 31,					
	2014	2013	2012				
Gallons consumed (millions)	162	159	161				
Total cost (millions)	\$ 499	\$ 507	\$ 538				
Average price per gallon	\$ 3.08	\$ 3.18	\$ 3.32				
Percent of operating expenses	35.8%	37.7%	39.4%				

We maintain an active fuel hedging program to reduce our exposure to sudden, sharp increases in fuel prices. We enter into a variety of hedging instruments, such as forward swaps, options and collar contracts on jet fuel and highly correlated commodities such as heating oil and crude oil. We also use fixed forward price contracts, or FFPs, which allow us to lock in the price of jet fuel for specified quantities and at specified locations in future periods. At December 31, 2014, we had entered into derivative hedging instruments and FFPs for approximately 27% of our then expected 12 month fuel volume.

# **Maintenance and Repairs**

We have an FAA-mandated and approved maintenance program, which is administered by our technical operations department. Our maintenance technicians undergo extensive initial and ongoing training to ensure the safety of our aircraft.

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Aircraft maintenance and repair consist of routine and non-routine maintenance, and work performed is divided into three general categories: line maintenance, major maintenance and component service. Line maintenance consists of routine daily and weekly scheduled maintenance checks on our aircraft, including pre-flight, daily, weekly and overnight checks, diagnostics, routine repairs and any unscheduled items on an as-needed basis. Line maintenance events are currently serviced by our mechanics in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dallas and New York and are supplemented by contract vendors in other locations. Major airframe maintenance checks consist of a series of more complex tasks that can take from one to four weeks to accomplish and typically are required approximately every 20 months. We outsource our major airframe maintenance to an FAA-certified maintenance provider in the United States. Engine overhauls and engine performance restoration events are quite extensive and can take one to two months. We keep spare engines to maintain continued operations during engine maintenance events. We expect to begin the initial engine maintenance overhauls on our engine fleet approximately eight to ten years after the date of manufacture and introduction into our fleet, with subsequent engine maintenance every four to six years thereafter. We have entered into a long-term flight hour agreement with General Electric for our engine overhaul services. Lufthansa Technik covers our component repair and inventory management services on an hourly basis and also provides all of our aircraft component inventory acquisition, replacement and repairs, thereby eliminating the need to carry expensive spare parts inventory.

Our recent maintenance expenses have been lower than what we expect to incur in the future because of the relatively young age of our aircraft fleet. We expect our maintenance costs to increase as the frequency of repair increases with aircraft age. As our aircraft age, the scheduled scope of work and the frequency of unscheduled maintenance events are likely to increase as with any mature fleet. Our aircraft utilization rate could decrease with the increase in aircraft maintenance. In addition, we account for qualifying major engine maintenance under the deferral method wherein overhaul costs and replacement of engine life limited parts are capitalized and amortized. We expect that the final qualifying major engine maintenance events will be amortized over the remaining lease term rather than until the next estimated major maintenance event, which will result in significantly higher depreciation and amortization expense related to major maintenance in the last few years of the leases as compared to expenses in earlier periods.

#### **Facilities**

We lease all of our facilities at each of the airports we serve. Our leases for our terminal passenger service facilities, which include ticket counter and gate space, operations support areas and baggage carousel areas, contain provisions for periodic adjustments of lease rates. We are typically responsible for maintenance, insurance and other facility-related expenses and services under these agreements. We have also entered into use agreements at many of the airports we serve that provide for the non-exclusive use of runways, taxiways and other facilities. Landing fees under these agreements are generally based on the number of landings and weight of the aircraft.

We primarily operate out of recently renovated Terminal Two at SFO under an operating lease extending through June 2021, with occasional use of a gate in the international terminal for incoming flights from Mexico. We have preferential access to eight Terminal Two gates, common use access to one Terminal Two gate and common use access to all 28 international terminal gates. Currently, the FAA has not imposed or proposed to impose take-off and landing restrictions at SFO, and we believe that the facility is capable of handling our planned growth of operations. We cannot assure you that the FAA would not impose take-off and landing restrictions at SFO in the future. Additionally, under our SFO lease, SFO periodically reevaluates the airlines collective utilization of the airport facilities and re-allocates preferential gates among the airlines based on certain usage standards. If we are unable to meet future minimum usage standards, we cannot assure you that we will continue to have preferential access to eight Terminal Two gates.

Our second largest operation is at LAX, where we operate out of Terminal Three under an airport lease agreement that provides us with the preferential use of six airport gates and access to additional common-use gates as necessary. Our lease agreement extends through 2019, subject to our completion of certain leasehold

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improvement projects, including the addition of a new seventh gate with a jet-boarding bridge, the renovation of certain gate areas and ticket counters and the completion of infrastructure improvements such as a new HVAC system. Under our lease agreement, the airport authority reimburses us for these renovations as they are completed. While space is limited at LAX, we believe that our leased gates are capable of handling our expected growth in operations and that the planned facility improvements will enhance our airport guest experience. Under our LAX lease, LAX has reserved the right to reevaluate the airlines—collective utilization of the airport facilities and to impose minimum usage standards on the airlines in order for each airline to maintain preferential gates. If we are unable to meet future minimum usage standards, we cannot assure you that we will continue to have preferential use of six airport gates at LAX. In addition to our ticket counters and gate areas, we also lease and operate a premium guest lounge in Terminal Three known as the Virgin America Loft. We provide complimentary access to the Virgin America Loft to our First Class guests and generally charge a one-time fee for other guests.

Our principal executive offices and headquarters are located in a leased facility at 555 Airport Boulevard, Burlingame, California 94010, consisting of approximately 85,674 square feet. This lease expires in 2017.

#### **Insurance**

We maintain multiple insurance policies customary in the airline industry and as required by the DOT. The policies principally provide liability coverage for public and passenger injury, damage to property, loss of or damage to flight equipment, third-party war risk (terrorism), fire and extended coverage, directors and officers liability and workers compensation and employer s liability. Although we currently believe our insurance coverage is adequate, we cannot assure you that the amount of such coverage will not be changed or that we will not be forced to bear substantial losses from any accidents.

## **Foreign Ownership**

Under DOT regulations and federal law, we must be controlled by U.S. citizens. In order to qualify, no more than 24.9% of our voting stock may be voted, directly or indirectly, by persons who are non-U.S. citizens, no more than 49.9% of our outstanding stock may be owned (beneficially or of record) by persons who are not U.S. citizens and our president and at least two-thirds of the members of our board of directors and senior management must be U.S. citizens. We are currently in compliance with these ownership provisions. For a discussion of the procedures we instituted to ensure compliance with these foreign ownership rules, see Description of Capital Stock Anti-Takeover Provisions of Our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws Limitations on Foreign Owners elsewhere in this prospectus.

## **Government Regulation**

# Aviation Regulation

The DOT and FAA have regulatory authority over air transportation in the United States. The DOT has authority to issue certificates of public convenience and necessity required for airlines to provide domestic air transportation. International routes and international code-sharing arrangements are regulated by the DOT and by the governments of the foreign countries involved. An airline s ability to operate flights to international destinations is subject to the aviation agreement in place between the United States and the foreign country and the carrier s ability to obtain necessary authority from the DOT and the applicable foreign government.

The U.S. government has negotiated open skies agreements with many countries, which allow unrestricted access between the United States and foreign markets. Our international flights to Mexico are governed by a bilateral agreement between the United States and Mexico. Changes in U.S. or Mexico aviation policies could result in the alteration or termination of that agreement, diminish the value of our route authorities or otherwise affect our Mexico operations.

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The FAA is responsible for regulating and overseeing matters relating to the safety of air carrier flight operations, including the control of navigable air space, the qualification of flight personnel, flight training practices, compliance with FAA airline operating certificate requirements, aircraft certification and maintenance and other matters affecting air safety. The FAA requires each commercial airline to obtain and hold an FAA air carrier certificate. In January 2014, the FAA implemented a rule to amend flight, duty and rest regulations pertaining to pilots. The new rule may reduce our staffing flexibility, and we increased our level of reserve pilots to meet the operational requirements of these rules.

#### Airport Access

Flights at four major domestic airports are regulated through allocations of slots or similar regulatory mechanisms, which limit take-offs and landings at those airports. Each slot represents the authorization to land at or take off from the particular airport during a specified time period.

In the United States, the FAA currently regulates the allocation of slots, slot exemptions, operating authorizations or similar capacity allocation mechanisms at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) in Washington, D.C., Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) in New Jersey and New York s LaGuardia Airport (LGA) and John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK). Our operations at these airports generally require the allocation of slots or analogous regulatory authorizations. We currently have sufficient slots or operating authorizations to operate our existing flights, but there is no assurance that we will be able to do so in the future because, among other reasons, such allocations are subject to changes in governmental policies.

## **Consumer Protection Regulation**

The DOT also has jurisdiction over certain economic issues affecting air transportation and consumer protection matters, including unfair or deceptive practices and unfair methods of competition by air carriers, airline advertising, denied boarding compensation, ticket refunds, baggage liability and disabled passenger transportation. The DOT frequently adopts new consumer protection regulations, such as recent rules to protect passengers addressing tarmac delays and chronically delayed flights, and is reviewing new guidelines to address the disclosure and sale of ancillary services and related fees. The DOT also has authority to review certain joint venture agreements between major carriers and engages in regulation of economic matters such as slot transactions.

## Security Regulation

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, each a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, are responsible for certain civil aviation security matters, including passenger and baggage screening at U.S. airports and international passenger prescreening prior to entry into or departure from the U.S. International flights are subject to customs, border, immigration and similar requirements of equivalent foreign governmental agencies.

## **Environmental Regulation**

We are subject to various federal, state and local laws and regulations and foreign government requirements relating to the protection of the environment and affecting matters such as aircraft engine emissions, aircraft noise emissions and the discharge or disposal of materials and chemicals.

*Emissions*. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, is authorized to regulate aircraft emissions, including air carrier operations, which affect the quality of air in the United States. We believe the aircraft in our fleet meet the emission standards issued by the EPA. Concern about climate change and greenhouse gases may result in additional regulation or taxation of aircraft emissions in the United States and abroad. Cap and trade restrictions have also been proposed in the United States. In addition, other legislative or regulatory action,

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including by the EPA, to regulate greenhouse gas emissions is possible. In particular, the EPA has found that greenhouse gases threaten the public health and welfare, which could result in regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from aircraft. In the event that legislation or regulation is enacted in the United States or in the event similar legislation or regulation is enacted in jurisdictions where we operate or where we may operate in the future, it could result in significant costs for us and the airline industry. In addition to direct costs, such regulation may have a greater effect on the airline industry through increases in fuel costs that could result from fuel suppliers passing on increased costs that they incur under such a system. We seek to minimize the impact of greenhouse gas emissions from our operations by operating with newer, more fuel-efficient aircraft. In addition, we have implemented fuel saving procedures in our flight and ground support operations as part of our efforts to reduce our emissions and minimize our impact on the environment.

*Noise*. Federal law recognizes the right of airport operators with special noise problems to implement local noise abatement procedures so long as those procedures do not interfere unreasonably with interstate and foreign commerce and the national air transportation system. These restrictions can include limiting nighttime operations, directing specific aircraft operational procedures during take-off and initial climb and limiting the overall number of flights at an airport. While we have had sufficient scheduling flexibility to accommodate local noise restrictions in the past, our operations could be adversely impacted if locally imposed regulations become more restrictive or widespread.

## Other Regulations

Airlines are also subject to various other federal, state, local and foreign laws and regulations. For example, the U.S. Department of Justice has jurisdiction over airline competition matters. Labor relations in the airline industry are generally governed by the Railway Labor Act. The privacy and security of passenger and employee data is regulated by various domestic and foreign laws and regulations.

## **Future Regulations**

The U.S. government and foreign governments may consider and adopt new laws, regulations, interpretations and policies regarding a wide variety of matters that could directly or indirectly affect our results of operations. We cannot predict what laws, regulations, interpretations and policies might be considered in the future, nor can we judge what impact, if any, the implementation of any of these proposals or changes might have on our business.

## **Legal Proceedings**

We are subject to litigation claims and to administrative and regulatory proceedings and reviews that may be asserted or maintained from time to time. We currently believe that the ultimate outcome of such lawsuits, proceedings and reviews will not, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on our financial position, liquidity or results of operations.

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#### MANAGEMENT

The following table provides information regarding our executive officers and directors as of December 31, 2014:

Name	Age	Position(s)
<b>Executive Officers</b>		
C. David Cush	54	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
E. Frances Fiorillo	62	Senior Vice President, People and In-flight Services
Stephen A. Forte	58	Chief Operating Officer
Peter D. Hunt	45	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
John A. MacLeod	55	Senior Vice President, Planning and Sales
John J. Varley	58	Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Non-Employee Directors		
Donald J. Carty (2)(3)	68	Director and Chairman of the Board
Samuel K. Skinner (1)(3)	76	Director and Vice Chairman of the Board
Cyrus F. Freidheim, Jr. (2)	79	Director
Stephen C. Freidheim (3)	50	Director
Evan M. Lovell (4)	45	Director
Robert A. Nickell (1)(2)(4)	68	Director
John R. Rapaport (4)	33	Director
Stacy J. Smith (1)	52	Director

- (1) Member of the compensation committee.
- (2) Member of the audit committee.
- (3) Member of the nominating and corporate governance committee.
- (4) Member of the finance committee.

## **Executive Officers**

C. David Cush has served as our President, our Chief Executive Officer and a member of our board of directors, since December 2007. From 2004 to 2007, Mr. Cush served as Senior Vice President of Global Sales at American Airlines, where he was responsible for worldwide sales activity. Prior to that role, Mr. Cush also served in various leadership roles in operations, planning, global alliances, financial planning and international marketing and operations at American Airlines. In addition to his 20 years of experience with American Airlines, Mr. Cush previously served as Chief Operating Officer of Aerolineas Argentinas, the national carrier of Argentina from 1998 to 2000. As our President and Chief Executive Officer for over seven years, Mr. Cush brings expertise and knowledge regarding our business and operations to our board of directors. He also brings to our board of directors leadership skills, strategic guidance and operational visions for his prior experience in our industry.

**E. Frances Fiorillo** has served as our Senior Vice President, People and In-flight Services, since January 2005. Prior to joining us, Ms. Fiorillo held various executive-level leadership roles with Canadian Airlines and with Air Canada s 2002 low-fare start up, ZIP. In these positions, Ms. Fiorillo had senior-level responsibility in areas of inflight service, human resources, labor and employee relations, wellness, learning and development. Immediately prior to joining Virgin America, Ms. Fiorillo served as the Chief Human Resources Officer for the British Columbia Provincial Health Services Authority.

**Stephen A. Forte** has served as our Chief Operating Officer and Director of Operations since April 2013. From 2012 to 2013, Mr. Forte was Chief Executive Officer of iJet Onboard, a provider of platform-based aviation software services. From 2007 to 2012, Mr. Forte was Chief Executive Officer of Naverus, Inc., a provider of performance-based navigation software, which was acquired by GE Aviation in 2009. Prior to 2007, Mr. Forte held senior management roles in flight operations at United Airlines, including Senior Vice President of Flight Operations and Director of Operations from 1999 to 2006.

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**Peter D. Hunt** has served as our Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, since July 2011. From 2004 to 2011, Mr. Hunt served as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Pinnacle Airlines Corp., which filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in April 2012. From 1996 to 2004, Mr. Hunt served in several finance positions with Continental Airlines, including Managing Director of Corporate Finance. Mr. Hunt began his career in public accounting.

**John A. MacLeod** has served as our Senior Vice President, Planning and Sales, since August 2012. From 2010 to 2012, Mr. MacLeod served as Vice President of Network Management and Alliances at WestJet, where he was responsible for corporate development, network planning, revenue management and alliances. From 2003 to 2010, Mr. MacLeod held positions at Alaska Air Group, where he was responsible for revenue management, network planning and alliances. Prior to his work with Alaska Air Group, Mr. MacLeod served in several management positions related to network planning, marketing, reservations and alliances at Air New Zealand Group and Canadian Airlines International.

**John J. Varley** has served as our Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, since July 2010. From 1986 to 2008, Mr. Varley served as internal counsel at Delta Air Lines, serving as Vice President, Associate General Counsel and Vice President and Deputy General Counsel from 2004 to 2008.

#### **Non-Employee Directors**

Donald J. Carty has served as our Chairman of the Board since 2006. Mr. Carty is currently a private investor. Mr. Carty served as Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer of Dell from 2007 until 2008. Mr. Carty previously served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and held a variety of other executive positions, for AMR Corporation and American Airlines. Mr. Carty also previously served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Canadian Pacific Air Lines, known in Canada as CP Air. Mr. Carty is a director of Talisman Energy Inc. and Canadian National Railway Company. Mr. Carty has been a member of the board of directors of EMC Corporation, a provider of IT storage hardware, since January 2015 and was a member of the boards of directors of Hawaiian Holdings Inc., the sole owner of Hawaiian Airlines, Inc., from July 2004 until February 2007 and again from April 2008 until May 2011, Barrick Gold Corporation, a gold mining company, from February 2006 until December 2013, Dell Inc., a computer technology company, from December 1992 until November 2013 and Gluskin Sheff and Associates, a wealth management firm, from June 2006 until December 2006 and again from April 2008 until May 2011. Mr. Carty brings to our board of directors significant expertise in the airline industry from previous executive leadership positions. In addition, Mr. Carty s experience as a director of public companies provides the board of directors with valuable insights to assist in achieving our goals.

Samuel K. Skinner has served as our Vice-Chairman of the Board since 2007. Mr. Skinner is of counsel to the law firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP, where he has worked since 2004, concentrating on corporate, governmental and regulatory matters. From 2000 to 2003, Mr. Skinner served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of USF Corporation, a North American shipping company. Mr. Skinner also previously served as President of Commonwealth Edison Company, a utility company, and its holding company, Unicom Corporation (Exelon Corporation). Mr. Skinner previously served as White House Chief of Staff to President George H.W. Bush and served as U.S. Secretary of Transportation from February 1989 to December 1991. Mr. Skinner previously was U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois from 1975 to 1977, having served in that office for eight years. Mr. Skinner also serves on the boards of directors of CBOE Holdings, Inc., the holding company for the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Navigant Consulting, Inc., a management consulting company, and Echo Global Logistics, Inc., a provider of technology-enabled transportation and supply chain management services. He has previously served on the boards of Diamond Management and Technology Consultants, a management consulting company, Dade Behring, a manufacturer of medical diagnostics equipment, APAC Customer Services, Inc., a customer care outsourcing company, Midwest Air Group, the owner of Midwest Airlines, Inc., Express Scripts, Inc., a pharmacy benefit management organization, and MedAssets, Inc., a healthcare performance improvement company. Mr. Skinner s experience as a director of public companies and working in government positions provides the board of directors with valuable insights to assist in achieving our goals.

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Cyrus F. Freidheim, Jr. has served as a member of our board of directors since 2006. Mr. Freidheim has been a private investor since 2009. From 2006 to 2009, Mr. Freidheim served as the Chief Executive Officer and President of Sun-Times Media Group Inc., a parent company of Sun-Times News Group (formerly Hollinger International Inc.), which filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in March 2009. Previously, Mr. Freidheim served as Chief Executive Officer and President of Chiquita Brands International Inc., a produce company. Mr. Freidheim also previously held various leadership roles with Booz Allen & Hamilton Inc., a management consulting firm, including Vice Chairman and President of BoozAllen International. Mr. Freidheim brings to our board of directors significant expertise in executive leadership positions and knowledge of our company. Mr. Freidheim is the father of Stephen C. Freidheim, another member of our board of directors.

Stephen C. Freidheim has served as a member of our board of directors since 2006. Mr. Freidheim has served as the Managing Partner and Chief Investment Officer of Cyrus Capital Partners, L.P., a registered investment advisor to private investment funds, since 2005. From 1999 to 2004, Mr. Freidheim was the Senior Managing Member, Chief Investment Officer and Co-Founder of Och-Ziff Freidheim Capital Management, the predecessor of Cyrus Capital Partners. Previously, Mr. Freidheim held leadership roles at Bankers Trust Company, a banking organization, Nomura Securities International, a financial services company, and Kidder, Peabody & Co. Incorporated, a securities firm. Mr. Freidheim brings financial expertise, knowledge of our company and general business experience to our board of directors. Mr. Freidheim is the son of Cyrus F. Freidheim, Jr., a member of our board of directors.

**Evan M. Lovell** has served as a member of our board of directors since April 2013. Since 2012, Mr. Lovell has been a partner in the Virgin Group and has been responsible for managing the Virgin Group s portfolio and investments in North America. From 2008 to 2012, Mr. Lovell was the Founding Partner of Virgin Green Fund, a private equity fund investing in the energy and resource sector. From 1998 to 2008, Mr. Lovell served as an investment professional at TPG Capital, where he also served on the board of directors of a number of TPG portfolio companies. Prior to joining TPG, Mr. Lovell served as Director of International Development for Culligan International Inc., a water filtration company, when it was owned by Apollo Global Management, and was Assistant to the Chairman for International Development at Astrum International, the holding company for Samsonite and American Tourister Luggage, Botany 500 Menswear, Culligan, Anvil Knitwear and Pet Specialties. Mr. Lovell brings financial expertise, knowledge of our company and the Virgin brand and general business experience to our board of directors.

**Robert A. Nickell** has served as a member of our board of directors since 2010. Mr. Nickell has been a private investor since 1995. Prior to his retirement in 1995, Mr. Nickell served as the President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Ed Tucker Distributor, Inc., a wholesale distribution company which Mr. Nickell sold to Lacy Diversified Industries in 1989. Previously, Mr. Nickell was a pilot with Braniff Airlines, reaching the post of captain. Mr. Nickell brings to our board of directors financial expertise, general business experience and aviation experience.

**John R. Rapaport** has served as a member of our board of directors since 2009. Since 2008, Mr. Rapaport has served in various roles at Cyrus Capital Partners, L.P., and he is currently a partner responsible for certain investments in the airline, industrial, transportation and energy sectors. Previously, Mr. Rapaport was an associate at Sankaty Advisors LLC, a division of Bain Capital LLC, where he covered various sectors including the airline, aerospace and transportation industries. Mr. Rapaport brings to our board of directors financial expertise and knowledge of the airline and transportation industries.

**Stacy J. Smith** has served as a member of our board of directors since January 2014. Since 1988, Mr. Smith has held various finance, sales and marketing and information technology leadership positions at Intel Corporation, a semiconductor company, where he currently serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Smith also serves on the board of directors of Autodesk Inc., a 3-D design, engineering and entertainment software company, and Gevo, Inc., a renewable chemicals and advanced biofuels company. Mr. Smith brings to our board of directors financial expertise and general business experience from executive

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leadership positions. In addition, Mr. Smith s experience as a director of public companies provides the board of directors with valuable insights to assist in achieving our goals.

## **Board Composition**

Our board of directors consists of nine members. In accordance with our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our board of directors is divided into three staggered classes with three-year terms. At each annual general meeting of stockholders, the successors to directors whose terms then expire will be elected to serve from the time of election and qualification until the next annual meeting following election. Our directors are divided among the three classes as follows:

The Class I directors are Messrs. Cush, Carty and Smith, and their terms will expire at the annual general meeting of stockholders to be held on or about May 14, 2015;

The Class II directors are Mr. Cyrus F. Freidheim, Jr. and Messrs. Skinner and Nickell, and their terms will expire at the annual general meeting of stockholders to be held in 2016; and

The Class III directors are Mr. Stephen C. Freidheim and Messrs. Lovell and Rapaport, and their terms will expire at the annual general meeting of stockholders to be held in 2017.

Any additional directorships resulting from an increase in the number of directors will be distributed among the three classes so that, as nearly as possible, each class will consist of one-third of the directors.

The division of our board of directors into three classes with staggered three-year terms may delay or prevent a change of our management or a change in control of our company.

As required under the NASDAQ Stock Market rules, a majority of the members of a listed company s board of directors must qualify as independent, as affirmatively determined by the board of directors. The board of directors consults with the company s counsel to ensure that the board of directors determinations are consistent with all relevant securities and other laws and regulations regarding the definition of independent, including those set forth in pertinent listing standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market, as in effect from time to time.

Consistent with these considerations, after review of all relevant transactions or relationships between each director, or any of his or her family members, and the company, its senior management and its independent registered public accounting firm, the board of directors has affirmatively determined that Mr. Cyrus F. Freidheim, Jr., Mr. Stephen C. Freidheim, and Messrs. Carty, Nickell, Rapaport, Skinner and Smith are independent directors within the meaning of the applicable NASDAQ Stock Market listing standards. In doing so, the Board considered the interest that Mr. Cyrus F. Freidheim, Jr., Mr. Stephen C. Freidheim and Mr. Rapaport each have in Cyrus Capital Partners, L.P., or funds related to or affiliated with Cyrus Capital Partners, L.P., and have determined that these relationships do not conflict with the elements of independence set forth in the NASDAQ Stock Market listing standards.

As required under the NASDAQ Stock Market rules, our independent directors meet in regularly scheduled executive sessions at which only independent directors are present.

#### **Leadership Structure**

We have historically separated the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board in recognition of the differences between the two roles. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for setting our strategic direction and our day-to-day leadership and performance, while the Chairman of the Board provides guidance to the Chief Executive Officer and sets the agenda for board meetings and presides over meetings of the full board of directors. In addition, our amended and restated bylaws provide that the independent directors may appoint a lead director from among them to perform such duties as may be assigned by our board of directors.

#### Agreements or Understandings

In connection with the 2014 Recapitalization, we and certain entities affiliated with the Virgin Group have entered into amended and restated license agreements related to our use of the Virgin name and brand. These amended and restated license agreements provide for, among other things, the right for certain entities affiliated with the Virgin Group to designate a member of our board of directors. Mr. Evan Lovell, a member of our board of directors since April 2013 and a partner of the Virgin Group, remained on our board of directors following our initial public offering as the Virgin Group s designee. For more information, see Certain Relationships and Related Transactions-Virgin License Agreements elsewhere in this prospectus.

#### **Board Committees**

Our board of directors has the following committees: an audit committee, a compensation committee, a finance committee and a nominating and corporate governance committee. The composition and responsibilities of each committee are described below. Members serve on these committees until their resignation or until otherwise determined by our board of directors.

#### Audit Committee

Our audit committee oversees our corporate accounting and financial reporting process. Among other matters, the audit committee evaluates the independent auditors qualifications, independence and performance; determines the engagement of the independent auditors; reviews and approves the scope of the annual audit and the audit fee; discusses with management and the independent auditors the results of the annual audit and the review of our quarterly financial statements; approves the retention of the independent auditors to perform any proposed permissible non-audit services; monitors the rotation of partners of the independent auditors on the company s engagement team as required by law; reviews our critical accounting policies and estimates; oversees our internal audit function and annually reviews the audit committee charter and the committee s performance. The current members of our audit committee are Cyrus F. Freidheim, Jr., who is the chair of the committee, Donald J. Carty and Robert A. Nickell. Our board of directors has determined that Mr. Carty is an audit committee financial expert as defined under the applicable rules of the SEC and has the requisite financial sophistication under the applicable rules and regulations of NASDAQ. All members of our audit committee are independent. The audit committee operates under a written charter that satisfies the applicable standards of the SEC and the NASDAQ Global Select Market. A copy of the audit committee charter is available to security holders in the Corporate Governance section of our website at http://ir.virginamerica.com. The contents of our website are not incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

#### Compensation Committee

Our compensation committee reviews and recommends policies relating to compensation and benefits of our officers and teammates. The compensation committee reviews and approves corporate goals and objectives relevant to compensation of our Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers, evaluates our performance in light of those goals and objectives and recommends to the board of directors which sets the compensation of these officers based on such evaluations. The compensation committee also considers recommendations of our Chief Executive Officer with respect to the compensation of other executive officers. Our Chief Executive Officer evaluates each other executive officer is overall performance and contributions to us at the end of each fiscal year and reports to the compensation committee his recommendations of the other executive officers compensation. The compensation committee also administers the issuance of stock options and other awards under our stock plans. The compensation committee will review and evaluate, at least annually, the performance of the compensation committee and its members, including compliance of the compensation committee with its charter. The current members of our compensation committee are Stacy J. Smith, Robert A. Nickell and Samuel K. Skinner, with Mr. Skinner serving as the chair of the committee.

In order for our compensation committee to continue to make recommendations or determinations with respect to executive compensation, such committee must be composed of a majority of independent directors

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within 90 days from the date our common stock was listed on NASDAQ and entirely of independent directors within one year from the date our common stock was listed on NASDAQ. Our board of directors has affirmatively determined that each of Messrs. Smith, Nickell and Skinner meets the definition of independent director for purposes of NASDAQ listing rules and for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. A copy of the compensation committee charter is available to security holders in the Corporate Governance section of our website at http://ir.virginamerica.com. The contents of our website are not incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

#### Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Our nominating and corporate governance committee is responsible for making recommendations regarding candidates for directorships and the size and composition of our board of directors. In addition, the nominating and corporate governance committee is responsible for overseeing our corporate governance guidelines and reporting and making recommendations concerning governance matters. The nominating and corporate governance committee is comprised of Mr. Stephen C. Freidheim and Messrs. Carty and Skinner, with Mr. Carty serving as the chair of the committee.

In order for our nominating and corporate governance committee to continue to make selections or recommendations with respect to directors, such committee must be composed of a majority of independent directors within 90 days from the date our common stock was listed on NASDAQ and entirely of independent directors within one year from the date our common stock was listed on NASDAQ. Our Board has affirmatively determined that each of Mr. Stephen C. Freidheim and Messrs. Carty and Skinner meets the definition of independent director for purposes of the NASDAQ listing rules. A copy of the nominating and corporate governance committee charter is available to security holders in the Corporate Governance section of our website at http://ir.virginamerica.com. The contents of our website are not incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

#### Finance Committee

Our finance committee reviews and recommends matters relating to the financial condition and capital structure of our company, including those related to fuel hedging and investment strategies. The current members of our finance committee are Messrs. Lovell, Nickell and Rapaport, with Mr. Nickell serving as the chair of the committee. A copy of the finance committee charter is available to security holders in the Corporate Governance section of our website at http://ir.virginamerica.com. The contents of our website are not incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

#### Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

None of the members of our compensation committee is or has at any time during the past year been an officer or employee of ours. None of our executive officers currently serves or in the past year has served as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving on our board or compensation committee.

#### Restrictions on Committee Membership by a Virgin Group Director

Pursuant to an agreement reached with the U.S. Department of Transportation, our bylaws contain a provision that prohibits a director appointed by or serving as an officer, director, employee, agent or other representative of Virgin Group Holdings Limited or any of its affiliates (as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) from membership on (i) the compensation committee without the prior written approval of the U.S. Department of Transportation; or (ii) the audit, compensation or nominating and corporate governance committee if the director is prohibited from serving as a member of the respective committee due to the applicable committee independence requirements of the NASDAQ Stock Market listing rules.

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#### **Code of Business Conduct and Ethics**

Our board of directors has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is applicable to our executive officers and teammates, including our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and principal accounting officer. The Code of Business Conduct is available in the Corporate Governance section of our website at http://ir.virginamerica.com. The contents of our website are not incorporated by reference into this prospectus. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics addresses, among other things, issues relating to conflicts of interests, including internal reporting of violations and disclosures, and compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations. The purpose of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is to deter wrongdoing and to promote, among other things, honest and ethical conduct and to ensure to the greatest possible extent that our business is conducted in a legal and ethical manner. We intend to promptly disclose (1) the nature of any amendment to our code of ethics that applies to our directors, executive officers or other principal financial officers and (2) the nature of any waiver, including an implicit waiver, from a provision of our code of ethics that is granted to one of these specified directors, officers or other principal financial officers, the name of such person who is granted the waiver and the date of the waiver on our website in the future.

## **Limitation of Liability and Indemnification**

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation contains provisions that limit the liability of our directors for monetary damages to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. Consequently, our directors will not be personally liable to us or our stockholders for monetary damages for any breach of fiduciary duties as directors, except liability for:

any breach of the director s duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders;

any act or omission not in good faith or that involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

unlawful payments of dividends or unlawful stock repurchases or redemptions as provided in Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law; or

any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that we may indemnify our directors and officers, in each case to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. Our amended and restated bylaws provide that we are obligated to indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law and advance expenses incurred by a director or officer in advance of the final disposition of any action or proceeding and permit us to secure insurance on behalf of any officer, director, employee or other agent for any liability arising out of his or her actions in that capacity regardless of whether we would otherwise be permitted to indemnify him or her under the provisions of Delaware law. We enter into agreements to indemnify our directors, and certain of our executive officers and other employees as determined by our board of directors. With specified exceptions, these agreements provide for indemnification for related expenses including, among other things, attorneys fees, judgments, fines and settlement amounts incurred by any of these individuals in any action or proceeding. We believe these limitations of liability provisions and indemnification agreements are necessary to attract and retain qualified persons as directors and officers. We also maintain directors and officers liability insurance.

The limitation of liability and indemnification provisions in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, amended and restated bylaws and indemnification agreements may discourage stockholders from bringing a lawsuit against our directors and officers for breach of their fiduciary duty. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that any such lawsuit must be brought in the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware. The foregoing provisions may also reduce the likelihood of derivative litigation against our directors and officers, even though an action, if successful, might benefit us and other stockholders. Further, a stockholder s investment may be adversely affected to the extent that we pay the costs of settlement and damage awards against directors and officers as required by these indemnification provisions. Insofar as indemnification for liabilities

arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to our directors, officers and controlling persons pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, we have been advised that, in the opinion of the SEC, such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act, and is, therefore, unenforceable. At present, there is no pending litigation or proceeding involving any of our directors, officers or employees for which indemnification is sought, and we are not aware of any threatened litigation that may result in claims for indemnification.

#### Compensation Arrangements for our Non-Employee Directors

We compensate our non-employee directors for their service on our board of directors but do not pay director fees to directors who are our employees. In 2014, each non-employee director was entitled to receive an annual retainer of \$60,000 paid in quarterly installments and an annual grant of 3,974 restricted stock units, which vest on the first anniversary of the date of grant. In addition, we reimburse our non-employee directors for their reasonable expenses incurred in attending meetings of our board of directors and committees of our board of directors. Our non-employee directors are not currently entitled to receive any additional fees for their service as a director.

The program also provides for the Chairman of the Board, the Vice-Chairman of the Board, the Chair of the Audit Committee and the Chair of the Compensation Committee to receive additional annual retainers of \$30,000, \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$7,000. In addition, each non-employee director and his or her immediate family members are entitled to certain positive-space travel privileges on our flights, along with a payment to compensate the director for any taxes on the benefit, while serving as a director consistent with the practices of our competitors in the airline industry. We believe that providing these benefits is a relatively inexpensive way to enhance the competitiveness of the non-employee director compensation package and is consistent with industry practice. These benefits (except the tax gross-up) are provided for a non-employee director s lifetime if the director (i) has served for four or more years on our board of directors or (ii) was a member of the board of directors at the completion of our initial public offering. A non-employee director who serves less than four years on the board of directors and was not a member of the board of directors at the completion of our initial public offering is entitled to one year of positive-space travel privileges on our flights for each year of service as a director.

#### Fiscal 2014 Director Equity Awards

Our board of directors made a supplemental grant of 19,870 restricted stock units, or RSUs, to a new director, Stacy J. Smith, at the time he joined the board in January 2014. One-third of these RSUs vest on each of the first, second and third anniversary of the date Mr. Smith joined our board of directors, subject to his continued service. In addition, in September 2014, our board of directors contingently awarded 19,870 RSUs to each of the four non-employee directors who are not affiliated with our principal shareholders, namely, Messrs. Carty, Nickell, Skinner and Cyrus Freidheim. These awards, which were contingent upon the successful completion of our initial public offering, were a one-time grant made in recognition of the contributions made by these outside directors who served on the board prior to 2013 without an annual equity grant for their board service, and vest in equal installments over the same period as Mr. Smith s RSU awards, subject to their continued service.

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#### **Director Compensation Table**

The following table sets forth information regarding compensation earned by our non-employee directors during 2014.

Name	Fees Ea Paid Casl	l in	Stock ards (\$) (4)	Т	otal (\$)
Donald J. Carty		90,000	\$ 490,609		580,609
Samuel K. Skinner	;	32,000	490,609		572,609
Cyrus F. Freidheim Jr.	,	70,000	490,609		560,609
Stephen C. Freidheim (1)	(	60,000	33,599		93,599
Evan M. Lovell (2)	(	60,000	33,599		93,599
Robert Nickell	(	60,000	490,609		550,609
John R. Rapaport (1)	(	60,000	33,599		93,599
Stacy J. Smith (3)		57,833	199,635		257,468

- (1) Fees and stock awards are issued to Cyrus Capital Partners, L.P. These individuals disclaim beneficial ownership of the shares except to the extent of any pecuniary interest therein.
- (2) Fees and stock awards are issued to the Virgin Group. Mr. Lovell disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares except to the extent of any pecuniary interest therein.
- (3) Mr. Smith joined the board of directors on January 14, 2014.
- (4) Represents the grant date fair value of RSUs issued to the director as computed in accordance with Financial Accounting Standard Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718. RSUs granted for annual service on the board of directors vested on January 1, 2015. Mr. Smith was also granted a one-time sign-on grant of 19,780 RSUs, of which one-third vested on January 15, 2015. Messrs. Carty, Nickell, Skinner and C. Freidheim each received a one-time grant of 19,870 RSUs contingent on the completion of our initial public offering, one-third of which vested on January 15, 2015, and one-third of which vests on each of January 15, 2016, and 2017, in recognition of the contributions made by these outside directors who served on the board prior to 2013 without an annual equity grant for their board service. As noted in (1) and (2) above, each of Mr. S. Freidheim, Mr. Lovell and Mr. Rapaport disclaimed beneficial ownership of their 2014 restricted stock unit awards. None of our non-employee directors held any stock options as of December 31, 2014.

## Revisions to Director Compensation in 2015

In 2014, our board of directors requested its independent consultant, Frederic W. Cook & Co., review our compensation program for non-employee directors. Based on that review, the board of directors decided to make certain adjustments to cash and equity compensation elements in our program for non-employee directors effective January 1, 2015. Under the revised program, each non-employee director will receive an annual cash retainer of \$60,000 paid in quarterly installments. In addition, each non-employee director will be entitled to receive an annual grant of RSUs with an aggregate value of \$75,000 determined based upon the closing price of our common stock on the date of the grant. The Chairman of the Board, the Vice-Chairman of the Board, and the Chair of the Audit Committee will receive additional annual cash retainers of \$30,000, \$15,000 and \$15,000. The Chairs of the Compensation, Finance, and Nominating & Corporate Governance Committees will receive additional annual cash retainers of \$7,500 each. Non-chair members of the Audit Committee will receive additional annual cash retainers of \$5,000 each. For 2015, the RSU grants for non-employee directors will be made following the annual stockholders meeting to align with directors service.

## Stock Ownership Guidelines.

In 2014, our board of directors adopted stock ownership guidelines for the board of directors. Under these guidelines, non-employee directors who are not affiliated with our principle stockholders (currently, Messrs. Carty, Nickell, Skinner and Smith) are required to own the shares of our common stock equal or greater than

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three times their annual board cash retainer (\$180,000) within five years of their date of initial election to the board or, if later, the date of our initial public offering. In the event the stock ownership guidelines are not met within the five-year period, then each director must hold at least 50% of all net shares received through RSU or realized through stock option exercises until the stock ownership guidelines are achieved. For these purposes, net shares means all shares retained after applicable withholding of any shares for tax purposes, and stock ownership includes shares (including restricted stock) owned directly or held in trust by the executive officer or an immediate family member who resides in the same household but does not include shares a director has the right to acquire through the exercise of stock options.

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#### **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

#### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis provides an overview of our executive compensation philosophy, the overall objectives of our executive compensation program and each material element of compensation for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 that we provided to our named executive officers, or NEOs.

Our NEOs for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 were as follows:

C. David Cush, President and Chief Executive Officer;

Peter D. Hunt, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer;

E. Frances Fiorillo, Senior Vice President, People and In-flight Services;

Stephen A. Forte, Chief Operating Officer; and

John J. Varley, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary. Compensation Philosophy and Objectives

We compete with airlines and many other companies in seeking to attract and retain a highly skilled executive team. The overall goal of our compensation program is to attract and retain a skilled executive team to manage our business functions, maintain our culture and enhance the value of our business. In doing so, we draw upon a pool of talent that is highly sought after by other airlines and companies.

We regard as fundamental that executive officer compensation be structured to provide competitive base salaries and benefits to attract and retain executive officers and to provide incentive compensation to motivate executive officers to attain, and to recognize executive officers for attaining, financial, operational, individual and other goals that are consistent with increasing stockholder value. We also believe that our executive compensation program should include a long-term incentive component that aligns executives interests with our stockholders interests. The objectives of our long-term incentive awards, including equity-based compensation, are to encourage executives to focus on our long-term growth and to incentivize executives to manage our company from the perspective of stockholders with a meaningful stake in our success.

In determining the form and amount of compensation payable to the NEOs, we are guided by the following objectives and principles:

*Market-based, competitive compensation levels should attract and retain a skilled team.* Set compensation at market-based, competitive levels that enable us to hire and retain high-performance teammates throughout the organization.

Pay for performance should motivate executive officers to attain financial, operational and other goals consistent with increasing stockholder value. Link a significant portion of the total compensation opportunities of our executive officers to our annual strategic objectives, reflecting our financial, operational, guest service, safety and teammate engagement performance targets, to motivate those officers to attain goals that are consistent with increasing stockholder value.

Long-term equity compensation should align executives interests with our stockholders interests. Provide equity-based compensation opportunities, consistent with the interests of our stockholders, to encourage our executives to focus on our long-term business strategy and growth prospects.

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#### **Determination of Compensation**

The compensation committee conducts an annual review of our Chief Executive Officer's compensation and makes recommendations to our board of directors regarding adjustments, if any, to his compensation,. The compensation committee also reviews and considers the recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer with respect to the other NEOs compensation, including base salaries and annual incentive compensation, when establishing the other NEOs compensation on no less than an annual basis. As part of its review, the compensation committee evaluates our company s performance each year against the approved operating plan objectives. Our Chief Executive Officer recuses himself from compensation committee and board of director discussions when his compensation is reviewed.

The compensation committee evaluates our executive compensation policies and practices on an ongoing basis to ensure that they are structured to motivate attainment of certain short-term and long-term financial and operational goals. Subjective factors considered in compensation determinations include an executive s skills and capabilities, contributions as a member of the executive management team, influence on our overall performance and whether the total compensation potential and structure is sufficient to ensure the retention of an executive when considering the compensation potential that may be available elsewhere.

In making compensation determinations historically, the compensation committee has not undertaken any formal benchmarking or reviewed any formal surveys of compensation for our competitors but has instead relied primarily on its general knowledge of the competitive market for executive talent, including in our industry. In 2014, the committee engaged an independent compensation consultant, Frederic W. Cook & Co., Inc., or F.W. Cook, to assist the committee with its review of our executive compensation program in connection with our transition to a public reporting company and to develop potential revisions to our executive compensation program consistent with the practices of other comparable publicly traded companies in the airline and transportation sector. That consultant has performed no prior consulting or other services for our company.

In 2014, the compensation committee established a peer group for purposes of evaluating our executive compensation program as our company neared its initial public offering. The peer group was approved by the committee based upon the recommendation of F.W. Cook. Companies were selected using objective screening criteria including revenue, market value, and industry classification. The peer group is intended to include companies that we compete with for business, executive talent and investor capital. For 2014, our peer group comprised the following 16 airline and transportation/logistics companies:

Air Transport Services Group Heartland Express Spirit Airlines
Alaska Air Group Hub Group Werner Enterprises
Allegiant Travel Co JetBlue Airways WestJet Airlines
Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings Knight Transportation XPO Logistics

Forward Air Corp Republic Airways Holdings

Hawaiian Holdings SkyWest

As of December 31, 2014, our revenue value ranked between the 25th percentile and the median of the peers.

	Annual Revenue	Market Capitalization (in millions)		
	(in millions.)			
75th Percentile	\$ 3,261	\$ 3,291		
Median	1,830	2,305		
25th Percentile	1,128	1,361		
Virgin America	1,478	1,857		

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In addition, in order to understand pay practices in the larger airline industry, the compensation committee reviewed the pay design practices at a separate group of larger commercial airlines, including: Air Canada, American Airlines Group, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines and United Continental Holdings. These pay levels were not included in statistics viewed by the compensation committee and were not used for decision-making. The data were to allow context on compensation and information regarding incentive design within larger, high-profile airline industry competitors for talent.

The pay data from the peer group companies are used as points of reference when setting our executive officers compensation, but we do not target a particular level of pay in comparison to our peers.

#### Components of Compensation for 2014

In 2014, the compensation program for our NEOs consisted of four components:

base salary;
annual cash incentive;
equity-based incentives; and

other benefits.

We are continuing to build our executive compensation program around each of the above elements because each individual component is beneficial in achieving one or more of the objectives of the program, and we believe that, collectively, they are effective in achieving our overall objectives.

#### Base Salary

We believe a competitive base salary is essential in attracting and retaining key executive talent, and we provide our NEOs with a base salary to compensate them for services rendered during the fiscal year. The base salary payable to each NEO provides a fixed component of compensation reflecting the executive s role, qualifications, experience and scope of responsibilities. Base salary amounts also consider, among other factors, the NEO s potential to take on additional responsibilities, competitive market practices (using the compensation committee members general knowledge of the competitive market, based on, among other things, experience with other companies and our industry) and internal parity. In general, the compensation committee reviews potential adjustments to the base salaries of our NEOs on an annual basis.

The base salary of each of our named executive officers was initially established by the compensation committee or the board of directors in connection with the hiring of the officer and reflected arm s length negotiation as well as the application of general market experience by members of the board of directors or compensation committee. In 2014, the compensation committee did not recommend an increase in NEO base salary amounts. The amounts paid to our NEOs as base salaries in 2014 are set forth under the 2014 Summary Compensation Table below.

#### **Incentive Compensation**

We maintain an Incentive Compensation Plan, or ICP, in order to recognize the performance of our management team, including our NEOs, in achieving our strategic objectives, including financial and commercial, operational, guest service and safety and team member engagement targets for the year. The compensation committee reviews and recommends the performance goals under the ICP and the target awards for the NEOs, which are reviewed and approved by the board of directors.

The compensation committee has generally used a guideline target opportunity for our NEOs, with Mr. Cush having a target of 100% of base salary, Mr. Forte having a target of 55% of base salary and

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Messrs. Hunt, Varley and Ms. Fiorillo each having a target of 45% of base salary, based on our company s achievement of the established target. The determination of the amount of annual incentives paid to our executive officers generally reflects a number of considerations, including achievement of performance goals discussed above, company earnings and a subjective evaluation of the individual contributions of the executive officer during the relevant period. In addition to reviewing the specific performance objectives for the individual categories listed in the table below, and then compiling a summary percentage determination of performance against objectives, the board of directors may make further adjustments to the incentive payment made based on the achievement of targeted versus actual pre-tax earnings. Under this adjustment, a pre-tax loss may result in no ICP award, and the achievement of 0-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, 76-100% and more than 100% of targeted pre-tax earnings may result in an adjustment of the ICP amount to 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% and up to 150%, of the resulting award in the discretion of the board of directors.

The compensation committee recommended, and the board of directors established, performance targets for Fiscal 2014 as follows:

Measure	Performance Measure Objectives	Weight
Financial & Commercial Performance	Operating Income	20%
	PRASM	20%
	CASM ex-fuel	20%
Operational Performance	On-Time Performance	7.5%
	Completion Factor	7.5%
Guest Service	Baggage Performance	7.5%
	Net Promoter Score	7.5%
Safety and Team Member Engagement	Teammate Engagement	5%
	Aircraft Ground Damage	5%

The specific targets set by our compensation committee and board of directors for our financial and commercial objectives for 2014 were: operating income of \$104.4 million, ticketed PRASM equivalent to 98.5% of industry PRASM in mature markets where we had been operating for at least 12 months and CASM ex-fuel of 7.10 cents. The goals for each of the operational, guest service and safety and teammate engagement measures were established by the compensation committee and the board of directors in at a level that each believed would require substantial effort to achieve and would not be achieved with average or below-average performance by our NEOs.

In 2015, our compensation committee determined that the specific financial and commercial objectives achieved were as follows: operating income of \$120.5 million and ticketed PRASM of 101% of industry average for mature routes where flights had been operated for at least 12 months, each of which exceeded the targeted measure, and CASM ex-fuel of 7.13 cents, which was slightly below target due in part to the expenses of higher profit sharing payments to teammates. With respect to the operational performance measures, a flight completion factor target of 99.40% met the targeted performance, and domestic and international on-time performance of 82.6% exceeded a stated goal of 82.5%. Both guest service objectives were exceeded with a guest net promoter score at 74%, higher than the goal of 67%, and a mishandled baggage score of less than .95 bags per 1,000 guests, surpassing the targeted objective. Finally, with respect to the safety and teammate engagement measures, aircraft ground damage was better than a stated objective of not more than 2.2 damage events per 10,000 flight departures, but a teammate engagement score was not achieved because an annual survey was not completed, and thus our company s performance could not be measured against a stated objective of 64%. Based on our company s performance exceeding targeted performance in seven categories and slightly below targeted performance on two other measurements, our compensation committee determined that, overall, the performance objectives under the ICP for 2014 had been attained at 100% of target with two of the three financial and commercial performance objectives exceeding the objective, both of the operational performance objectives met, both guest service objectives met and one of two safety and team member engagement objectives met. Given the 29% overachievement on the pre-tax earnings goal (an achievement of 85.6 million versus a target of 66.3 million), and the successful completion of our initial public offering, the compensation committee and boar

of directors made an adjustment of the ICP payout amount to 125% of target. In determining individual payments under the ICP, our compensation committee and board of directors determined to pay each NEO based on the corporate achievement

The actual amounts paid to our NEOs under the 2014 ICP are set forth under the 2014 Summary Compensation Table below.

#### **Equity-Based Incentives**

We use stock-based awards in our executive compensation program in order to align the interests of our NEOs with those of our stockholders. We believe our long-term performance is enhanced through an equity ownership culture since it encourages a focus on the long-term performance of our company.

We use equity grants in connection with initial employment offers to newly hired NEOs in order to attract prospective candidates to join our company and to promote the success of our business. We provided equity awards to the NEOs at the time of hire in the form of options to purchase shares of our common stock or restricted stock units, or RSUs. We believe that such equity awards provide an effective performance incentive because executive officers obtain increasing value from their options and RSUs if our stock price increases (which would benefit all stockholders) and they remain employed with us beyond the date that their options or RSUs vest. Further, awards granted prior to 2014 generally included price-contingent vesting conditions, which as of the end of our fiscal year, have not been fully satisfied.

In November 2014, our board of directors granted each of our NEOs a stock payment award and an award of RSUs under the 2014 Equity Incentive Award Plan:

In order to incentivize our NEOs to complete our company s initial public offering successfully and to offset some of the impact of the dilution caused by the conversion of certain convertible notes in connection with such offering, the board of directors, while our company was privately held, granted the following awards of fully vested shares of our common stock: Mr. Cush, 100,828 shares; Mr. Hunt, 13,149 shares; Ms. Fiorillo, 9,522 shares; and Mr. Varley, 12,491 shares. A portion of these shares was withheld to cover tax withholding obligations.

In addition, in order to assist in retaining our NEOs, and giving consideration to the concentration of outstanding equity awards in performance-based vehicles, the board of directors granted the following RSU awards to the NEOs with one-third of the RSUs vesting on the first, second and third anniversary of our initial public offering: Mr. Cush, 34,441 RSUs; Mr. Forte, 18,545 RSUs; Mr. Hunt, 16,558 RSUs; Ms. Fiorillo, 14,571 RSUs; and Mr. Varley, 14,571 RSUs. These service-vesting RSUs awards, made at the time of the initial public offering, were based on recommendations from the independent compensation consultant and were intended to provide each NEO with a median equity grant.

#### Benefits

The NEOs receive the same health, welfare and other benefits provided to a	Il of our teammater.	

medical, dental and vision insurance;

life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment and business travel and accident insurance;

health and dependent care flexible spending accounts;

short- and long-term disability; and

401(k) plan and matching contributions.

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#### **Perquisites**

As is common in the airline industry, each NEO, and his or her spouse or domestic partner, immediate family members and, in certain circumstances, other designees, are entitled to certain travel privileges on our flights, some of which may be on a positive-space basis. Similar travel benefits are afforded to all of our teammates on a more limited basis. The value of such positive-space leisure flight benefits for the executives is reported as taxable income. An officer who retires with a minimum of five years of service and an eligibility number equal to 65 or greater, obtained by the sum of the officer s age plus years of service, may continue to receive complimentary flight benefits for the officer, the officer s spouse, domestic partner or designated companion and dependent children. We reimburse the retired officer for associated income taxes on the complimentary travel with an imputed tax value up to \$10,000 per year.

We believe that providing these benefits is a relatively inexpensive way to enhance the competitiveness of each NEO s compensation package and is consistent with industry practice. Additionally, we fund matching 401(k) contributions and provide enhanced, company-paid life insurance for our NEOs at three times their annual salaries, capped at \$750,000. Finally, certain NEOs also receive housing, travel and tax-related stipends. Such tax stipends are for foreign nationals and are provided to offset the effect of paying double income taxes. We do not provide any other significant perquisites or personal benefits to our NEOs. The perquisites received by NEOs represent a small part of the overall compensation for these executives and are offered to provide competitive compensation arrangements. See the 2014 Summary Compensation Table and the related footnotes for information regarding benefits received by the NEOs in 2014.

Stock Ownership Guidelines. In 2015, our board of directors adopted stock ownership guidelines to strengthen the alignment between our executive officers and stockholders. Under these guidelines, the CEO is required to own shares of our company s common stock greater than or equal to five times his base salary, and the other NEOs are required to own shares of our company s common stock greater than or equal to three times their base salary within five years of their date of hire or, if later, the date of our company s initial public offering. In the event the stock ownership guidelines are not met within the five year period, then each NEO must hold at least 50% of all net shares received through RSU vesting or realized through stock option exercises until the stock ownership guidelines applicable to the NEO are achieved. For these purposes, net shares means all shares retained after applicable withholding of any shares for tax purposes and stock ownership includes shares (including restricted stock) owned directly or held in trust by the executive officer or an immediate family member who resides in the same household but does not include shares an executive officer has the right to acquire through the exercise of stock options.

#### Tax and Accounting Considerations

While our board of directors and our compensation committee generally consider the financial accounting and tax implications of their executive compensation decisions, neither element has been a material consideration in the compensation awarded to our NEOs historically. Section 162(m) disallows a tax deduction for any publicly held corporation for individual compensation exceeding \$1 million in any taxable year for our Chief Executive Officer and each of the other NEOs (other than our Chief Financial Officer), unless compensation is performance-based or qualifies for another exemption from Section 162(m). As historically our stock was not publicly traded, our compensation committee and our board of directors had not previously considered the deductibility limit imposed by Section 162(m) in setting compensation. Our compensation committee and our board of directors expect to consider the potential effects of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, on the compensation paid to our NEOs in 2015.

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#### **Summary Compensation Table**

The following table sets forth all of the compensation awarded to, earned by or paid to our NEOs during the past two fiscal years.

					Non-Equity Incentive		
			Stock Awards	Option Awards	Plan Compensation	All Other Compensation	
Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	(\$) (1)	<b>(\$) (2)</b>	(\$)	(\$) (3)	Total (\$)
C. David Cush	2014	\$ 665,000	\$ 3,111,187	\$	\$ 831,000	\$ 21,570	\$ 4,628,757
President & CEO	2013	657,500			581,875	14,820	1,254,195
Peter D. Hunt SVP & CFO	2014 2013	403,000 398,846	599,840	267,500	227,000 157,106	20,850 13,726	1,250,690 837,178
E. Frances Fiorillo	2014	335,000	554,139		188,000	122,350	1,199,489
SVP-People & In-flight Services	2013	331,539		202,335	130,594	80,167	744,635
Stephen A. Forte Chief Operating Officer	2014	410,000	426,535		282,000	118,411	1,236,946
John J. Varley	2014	335,000	622,426		188,000	23,370	1,168,796
SVP & General Counsel	2013	331,538		187,350	130,594	16,620	666,102

- (1) In accordance with SEC rules, this column reflects the grant date fair value of RSUs calculated in accordance with ASC Topic 718 for stock-based compensation transactions. No amounts were included for 2013 as the time-based, liquidity-event-based and market-based vesting components with stock price triggers were not yet met at the time. Assuming that all of the vesting conditions to the awards were met, based on a value of our common stock of \$8.45 per share as of the date of grant, the value of 2013 awards as of the grant date would be \$3,090,725 for Mr. Cush, \$263,836 for Mr. Hunt, \$250,630 for Mr. Varley, and \$191,063 for Ms. Fiorillo. Mr. Forte did not receive RSUs in 2013. For additional information on the valuation assumptions, see Note 11 to our consolidated financial statements included in the section entitled Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements elsewhere in this prospectus.
- (2) In accordance with SEC rules, this column represents the grant date fair value of stock options granted, calculated in accordance with ASC Topic 718 for stock-based compensation transactions. There were no stock options granted for the year ended December 31, 2014. For additional information on the valuation assumptions, see Note 11 to our consolidated financial statements included in the section entitled Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements elsewhere in this prospectus.
- (3) The amounts reported in the All Other Compensation column for 2014 are described in more detail in the following table. The amounts reported for perquisites and other benefits represent the actual costs incurred by us in providing these benefits to the indicated NEO.

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Name and Principal Position	Company contribution to 401(k) defined contribution plan	401(k)	Housing Allowance/ Reimbursement	Travel	Tax Equalization	Tax Prep Fees Reimbursed	Company Paid Life and Other	All Other Compensation Total (1)
C. David Cush	\$ 19,500	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 2,070	21,570
President & CEO								
Peter D. Hunt SVP & CFO	19,500						1,350	20,850
E. Frances Fiorillo  SVP People & In-flight  Services		19,500		31,886(2)	53,997	16,020(3)	947	122,350
Stephen A. Forte Chief Operating Officer	19,500		93,003(4)	614(5)			5,294	118,411
John J. Varley SVP & General Counsel	19,500						3,870	23,370

- (1) Messrs. Cush, Hunt and Varley did not receive travel benefits or other perquisites and benefits in excess of \$10,000.
- (2) Includes tax gross-up of \$9,964 and tax paid by our company of \$737.
- (3) Includes tax gross-up of \$6,020.
- (4) In connection with Mr. Forte s joining us as our Chief Operating Officer we paid a monthly housing allowance in 2014. The amount above includes a tax gross-up of \$33,004.
- (5) Includes tax paid by our company of \$14.

## **Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2014**

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to grants of non-plan and plan-based awards to our NEOs for 2014.

		BOD	Ince	nated Futu Under Non-Equ ntive Plan	r Estir uity Awards (2)	Eq P	Future Pa uityIncer lan Awai	tive ds	Price of Option	All Other	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option
Name	Grant Date	Approval T Date (1)	hreshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum T (\$)	nresno (#)	ı <b>cı</b> argetiv (#)	1axımu (#)	mAwards (\$/sh)	Stock Awards	Awards (\$) (3)
C. David Cush President & CEO	11/19/2014(4) 11/19/2014(5)	10/3/2014 9/23/2014		\$ 665,000	\$ 1,330,000	()	()	()	\$	34,441 100,828	\$ 792,143 2,319,044
Peter D. Hunt SVP & CFO	11/19/2014(4) 11/19/2014(5)	9/23/2014 9/23/2014		181,350	362,700					16,558 13,149	380,834 302,427
E. Frances Fiorillo SVP People & In-flight Service	11/19/2014(4) 11/19/2014(5)	9/23/2014 9/23/2014		150,750	301,500					14,571 9,522	335,133 219,006
Stephen A. Forte Chief Operating Officer	11/19/2014(4)	9/23/2014		225,500	451,000					18,545	426,535
John J. Varley SVP & General Counsel	11/19/2014(4) 11/19/2014(5)	9/23/2014 9/23/2014		150,750	301,500					14,571 12,491	335,133 287,293

- (1) Represents the approval date at which time the board of directors approved equity awards contingent on the completion of our initial public offering.
- (2) Constitutes target and maximum amounts payable under the ICP for 2014. The ICP does not include a threshold. The performance goals for determining the payout are described in Executive Compensation Incentive Compensation above. Actual payouts are reported in the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table.
- (3) This amount represents the grant date fair value of RSUs calculated in accordance with ASC Topic 718 for stock-based compensation. For additional information on the valuation assumptions, see Note 11 to our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus.
- (4) Constitute restricted stock units that vest in 3 equal installments on November 19, 2015, 2016, and 2017.
- (5) This award, which was fully vested on 11/19/14, was made to partly counter the dilutive impact of our recapitalization in 2014.

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#### Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards

#### Offer Letters

We have entered into standard offer letters with each of our NEOs, which provide for a base salary, target annual incentive compensation and standard benefits. Other than the severance benefits described below under Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control, there are no executory obligations of the company under these offer letters.

#### Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2014

The following table lists all outstanding equity awards held by our NEOs as of December 31, 2014.

			Option	Awards			Stock	Awards
Name C. David Cush	Grant Date 1/12/2010	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (#)	Jnexercised Options	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Unearned Options (#)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#) 209,578(1)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$) (11) \$ 9,064,249
C. David Cusii	7/8/2013 7/8/2013 11/19/2014				Φ		66,234(2) 298,054(3) 34,441(9)	2,864,621 12,890,836 1,489,573
Peter D. Hunt	7/20/2011 7/20/2011 5/13/2013 5/13/2013 11/19/2014	7,948	2,649(4)	26,493(5) 66,234(6)	16.61 16.61 16.53	7/20/2021 7/20/2021 5/13/2023	31,097(7) 16,558(9)	1,344,945 716,134
E. Frances Fiorillo	10/12/2006 1/12/2010 5/13/2013 5/13/2013 11/19/2014	8,375		20,289(8) 49,013(6)	12.98 12.98 12.98	10/12/2016 1/12/2020 5/13/2023	22,519(7) 14,571(9)	973,947 630,196
Stephen A. Forte	5/13/2013 11/19/2014			66,234(10)	8.45	5/13/2023	18,545(9)	802,071
John J. Varley	7/6/2010 7/6/2010 5/13/2013 5/13/2013 11/19/2014	10,597		26,493(9) 43,052(6)	12.98 12.98 12.98	7/6/2020 7/6/2020 5/13/2023	29,540(7) 14,751(9)	1,277,605 603,196

<sup>(1)</sup> Subject to continued service with us through each vesting date, the 209,578 shares subject to this RSU award will vest monthly over two years, provided that, following the completion of our initial public offering, the price of our publicly traded common stock exceeds and has exceeded \$18.87 per share with respect to 157,184 shares or \$26.42 per share with respect to 52,394 shares on a daily moving-average basis for the preceding six months.

(2) Subject to continued service with us through each vesting date, following the completion of our initial public offering, (a) 33,117 shares subject to this RSU award will vest upon the date on which the price of our publicly traded common stock exceeds \$30.20 per share on a daily moving-average basis for preceding six months, and (b) 33,117 shares subject to this RSU award will vest upon the date on which the price of our publicly traded common stock exceeds \$37.74 per share on a daily moving-average basis for preceding six months.

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(3) One-third of the total number of shares subject to this RSU award vests on each date that is 12 months, 24 months and 36 months after the completion of our initial public offering, subject to continued service with us through each vesting date, provided that our stock price exceeds and has exceeded a certain stock price trigger on a daily moving-average basis for the preceding six months defined as follows: 46,364 of the total number of shares subject to this RSU award have a \$18.87 stock price trigger;

66,234 of the total number of shares subject to this RSU award have a \$26.42 stock price trigger;

92,728 of the total number of shares subject to this RSU award have a \$30.20 stock price trigger; and

92,728 of the total number of shares subject to this RSU award have a \$37.74 stock price trigger.

- (4) 2,649 shares subject to this option will vest on July 11, 2015, subject to continued service with us through the vesting date.
- (5) One-third of the shares subject to this option vest on each anniversary of July 11, 2011, subject to continued service with us through each vesting date. The vested shares subject to the option become exercisable following the completion of our initial public offering on the date on which the closing trading price and the six-month moving-average price of our publicly traded common stock is equal to or greater than \$26.42 per share.
- (6) All of the shares subject to this option vested on the completion of the initial public offering of our common stock. The vested shares subject to the option become exercisable on the date on which the closing trading price and the six-month moving-average price of our publicly traded common stock is equal to or greater than \$26.42 per share.
- (7) Subject to continued service with us through each vesting date, the total number of shares subject to this RSU award will vest upon the earlier of (i) a change in control resulting in proceeds to common stockholders of at least \$30.20 per share or (ii) the date the 90-day moving-average price of our publicly traded common stock exceeds \$30.20 per share following the expiration of any underwriters lock-up period following the completion of our initial public offering.
- (8) 1,987 of the shares subject to this option vested immediately on August 13, 2012. The remaining shares vest in annual installments of 25% of the total number of shares subject to the option on each vesting date, subject to continued service with us through each vesting date.
- (9) Shares subject to these RSUs were granted upon the completion of our initial public offering. One-third of such shares vest annually on November 19, 2015, 2016, and 2017, subject to continued service with us through each vesting date.
- (10) One-third of the shares subject to this option vest on each anniversary of April 8, 2013, subject to continued service with us through each vesting date. The vested shares subject to the option become exercisable following the completion of our initial public offering on the date on which the closing trading price and the six-month moving-average price of our publicly traded common stock is equal to or greater than \$26.42 per share.
- (11) The amount listed in this column represents the product of the closing market price of our company s stock as of December 31, 2014 (\$43.25) multiplied by the number of shares of stock subject to the award.

#### Option Exercises and Stock Vested in 2014

	Option	Awards	Stock	Awards
	Number of Securities Acquired on	Value Realized on	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting	Value Realized
Name	Exercise	Exercise	(1)	on Vesting (2)
C. David Cush		\$	100,828	\$ 2,319,044
Peter D. Hunt			13,149	302,427
E. Frances Fiorillo			9,522	219,006
Stephen A. Forte				
John J. Varley			12,491	287,293

- (1) Represents fully vested shares of our common stock granted in November 2014.
- (2) Represents the vesting date closing market price of a share of our common stock multiplied by the number of fully vested shares that were granted.

#### **Pension Benefits**

None of our NEOs participates in or has account balances in defined benefit plans sponsored or maintained by us, as we have no such plans.

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#### **Nonqualified Deferred Compensation**

None of our NEOs participate in or have account balances in non-qualified defined contribution plans or other deferred compensation plans sponsored or maintained by us, as we have no such plans.

#### Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control

Under the offer letter entered into with Mr. Cush in connection with the commencement of his employment, if we terminate Mr. Cush for other than cause or if he resigns for good reason (as each such term is defined in Mr. Cush s offer letter), Mr. Cush is entitled to a cash payment equal to 24 months base salary.

Under the offer letter entered into with Mr. Forte in connection with the commencement of his employment, if we terminate Mr. Forte for other than cause or if he resigns for good reason (as each such term is defined in his employment letter), Mr. Forte is entitled to a cash payment equal to 12 months base salary.

Under the offer letter entered into with Mr. Varley in connection with the commencement of his employment, if we terminate Mr. Varley for other than cause or if he resigns for good reason (as each such term is defined in Mr. Varley s offer letter), Mr. Varley is entitled to a cash payment equal to 12 months base salary.

Under the offer letter entered into with Ms. Fiorillo, if we terminate Ms. Fiorillo s employment for other than cause (as defined in the offer letter), Ms. Fiorillo is entitled to receive a payment equal to six months base salary. In addition, based on her age and years of service to us, Ms. Fiorillo would also qualify for a retired officer travel benefit which provides leisure travel flight benefits on Virgin America during her retirement equivalent to those available to her as an officer.

In connection with our initial public offering, we adopted a Change in Control Severance Plan, or the Severance Plan, pursuant to which each of our NEOs is eligible for certain severance and change in control benefits. Under the Severance Plan, in the event that the NEO is terminated without Cause or resigns for Good Reason (each as defined below) during the 18-month period immediately following a change in control (as defined in the 2014 Plan) of our company, then such NEO is entitled to receive (i) a lump sum cash severance payment equal to two times the sum of the NEO s base salary and his or her target annual cash bonus opportunity for the year of termination; (ii) payment by us of COBRA premiums for up to 24 months following the date of termination; (iii) full accelerated vesting of each of the NEO s then outstanding equity awards; (iv) career counseling and career transition services paid by us in an amount up to \$10,000; and (v) lifetime confirmed space first class air travel for the NEO and his or her covered family members and dependents for leisure travel. Under the Severance Plan, the NEO must provide a general release of claims against the company in order to receive the foregoing severance benefits.

Under the 2005 Stock Plan, if a participant s employment is terminated without cause or constructively terminated within one year following a change in control event (as each such term is defined in the 2005 Stock Plan), then 50% of the shares subject to options held by the participant become vested and exercisable immediately. In addition, the vesting of certain performance-based options and RSUs accelerates in the event of certain changes in control as more specifically described in the footnotes to the Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2014 table above.

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The table below quantifies certain compensation and benefits that would have become payable to each of our NEOs if his or her employment had terminated on December 31, 2014, as a result of each of the termination scenarios described below, taking into account the NEO s compensation as of that date.

Name of				Value of Unvested Restricted	Value of Unvested	Life			
Executive		Severance		Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	Insurance Proceeds			
Officer	Termination Scenario	(\$)		(3)	(4)	(\$) (5)	Other (\$)		Total (\$)
C. David Cush	Termination Not Involving a Change in Control Termination for Cause	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$		ф
	Termination without Cause or Resignation for Good Reason Death Disability Termination Involving a Change in Control	1,330,000	(1)	, and the second	J	750,000	J		\$ 1,330,000 750,000
	Termination without Cause or Resignation for Good Reason Continuation of Employment	2,660,000	(2)	26,309,278			32,925	(6)	28,337,203
Peter D. Hunt	Termination Not Involving a Change in Control Termination for Cause Termination without Cause or Resignation for Good Reason Death Disability		(1)			750,000			750,000
	Termination Involving a Change in Control Termination without Cause or Resignation for Good Reason Continuation of Employment	1,168,700	(2)	2,061,079	114,569		28,328	(6)	3,372,676
E. Frances Fiorillo	Termination Not Involving a Change in Control Termination for Cause Termination without Cause or Resignation for Good Reason Death Disability Termination Involving a Change in Control Termination without Cause or	167,500	(1)			750,000	6,644	(7)	174,144 750,000
	Resignation for Good Reason Continuation of Employment	971,500	(2)	1,604,143			28,121	(6)	2,603,764
Stephen A. Forte	Termination Not Involving a Change in Control Termination for Cause Termination without Cause or Resignation for Good Reason Death Disability Termination Involving a Change in Control Termination without Cause or Resignation for Good Reason Continuation of Employment	410,000 1,271,000	(1)	802,071	1,909,747	750,000	74,287	(6)	410,000 750,000 4,057,105
John J. Varley	Termination Not Involving a Change in Control								
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Termination for Cause Termination without Cause or Resignation for Good Reason Death Disability Termination Involving a Change in Control	335,000	(1)		750,000			335,000 750,000
Termination without Cause or Resignation for Good Reason Continuation of Employment	971,500	(2)	1,907,801		39,515	(6)	2,918,816

- (1) Constitutes a percentage of base salary as negotiated in each NEO s offer letter.
- (2) Constitutes two times the sum of the NEO s base salary and his or her target annual cash bonus opportunity.
- (3) Value calculated by multiplying \$43.25, which constitutes the closing trading price of our common stock as of December 31, 2014, times the number of restricted stock units outstanding as of December 31, 2014. The number of unvested stock awards were as follows: Mr. Cush 608,307; Mr. Hunt 47,655; Mrs. Fiorillo 37,090; Mr. Forte 18,545; and Mr. Varley 44,111.
- (4) Value constitutes the value of the stock underlying the unvested stock options based on \$43.25 per share, which is the closing trading price of our common stock as of December 31, 2014, over the exercise price of the stock options. The number of unvested stock options were as follows: Mr. Cush 0; Mr. Hunt 2,649; Mrs. Fiorillo 0; Mr. Forte 44,156; and Mr. Varley 0.

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- (5) Our NEOs receive life insurance proceeds equal to three times their salary, capped at \$750,000. We pay the premiums for term life insurance for all eligible teammates ranging from one to three times the annual salary amount.
- (6) Constitutes (i) COBRA premiums for up to 24 months following the date of termination, (ii) career counseling and career transition services in an amount up to \$10,000 and (iii) lifetime confirmed space first class leisure air travel for the NEO and his or her covered family members and dependents. The travel benefit was estimated using our incremental cost of providing flight benefits (including incremental fuel costs and the incremental cost of customer services such as baggage handling, insurance, security and cleaning) using a discount based on mortality assumptions listed on the U.S. Life Expectancy Tables and an estimate of flight usage by each NEO and his or her family members.
- (7) Mrs. Fiorillo would qualify for the retired officer complementary travel benefit in connection with her termination of employment.

## **Compensation Risk Assessment**

Management has presented its assessment of the risks involved with our executive compensation program to our compensation committee to ensure that such programs do not encourage our teammates to take excessive or unnecessary risks or to engage in decision-making that promotes short-term results at the expense of our long-term interests. This risk assessment process included a review by management of all of our compensation policies and practices, with a focus on the programs with variability of payout, where actions by the participant could directly affect payout. Management also assessed our compensation programs against potential risks relating to pay mix, performance metrics and payment timing. As a result of this review, no area of risk was determined by management to be reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us.

In reaching its conclusion that our compensation policies and practices do not give rise to risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us, management considered the following policies and practices that are incorporated into our executive compensation program to ensure that it reflects an appropriate balance between the achievement of short-term and long-term results:

**Balanced Mix of Compensation Components** The target compensation mix for our executive officers is composed of base salary, annual cash incentive compensation and long-term incentive compensation in the form of equity awards, which provides a compensation mix that is not overly weighted toward short-term cash incentives.

Incentive Compensation Plan Uses a Diverse Mix of Performance Objectives Our ICP uses a mix of strategic objectives, including financial, operational, guest service and safety/teammate engagement measurements to reward our executive performance. Our financial performance component is also balanced and measures results achieved in operating income, passenger revenue per available seat mile, or PRASM, ancillary revenue from customers and CASM ex-fuel. In addition, the compensation committee exercises discretion in determining compensation amounts, including corporate and individual performance, and our ICP does not pay out unless pre-established target levels for one or more measures are met.

**Long-Term Incentive Compensation Vesting** Our long-term incentives are equity-based, with multi-year vesting required to complement our annual cash incentive compensation plan. As a result, the financial opportunity in our equity rewards program is best realized through long-term appreciation of our stock price, which mitigates excessive short-term risk-taking. Our equity-based awards generally vest over a three- or four-year period, subject to the executive s continuing service with the company. This promotes alignment of our management team s interests with our long-term objectives and with stockholders interests.

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#### CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

We describe below transactions and series of similar transactions, during our last three fiscal years, to which we were a party or will be a party, in which:

the amounts involved exceeded or will exceed \$120,000; and

any of our directors, executive officers, holders of more than 5% of our common stock or any member of their immediate family had or will have a direct or indirect material interest.

#### **Underwriting Agreement**

On November 13, 2014, we entered into an underwriting agreement pursuant to which we and certain of our stockholders, including Cyrus Holdings and the Virgin Group, sold an aggregate of 15,338,225 shares of our company s common stock to Barclays Capital Inc., Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. and the other underwriters listed in such underwriting agreement.

#### **Virgin License Agreements**

In April 2007, we entered into a trademark license agreement with certain entities affiliated with the Virgin Group under which we were granted the exclusive right to operate our airline under the brand name Virgin America within the United States (including Puerto Rico), Canada and Mexico, as well as the right to operate our airline under such name from any of the foregoing countries to points in the Caribbean, which we refer to as the Airline License. In March 2013, we amended the Airline License to expand our rights and the rights of Virgin Atlantic Airways (an affiliate of the Virgin Group) to codeshare with other airlines. The term of the Airline License, as amended, is 15 years from the original date of execution, and the Airline License is renewable for an additional 15-year term if we meet certain revenue targets. The Airline License may be terminated upon the occurrence of a number of specified events, including if we commit a material breach of our obligations under the agreement that is uncured for more than 10 business days or if we materially damage the brand.

Separately, in November 2008, we entered into a trademark license agreement with certain other entities affiliated with the Virgin Group that allows us to promote and offer a Virgin America branded credit card, which is structured to tie to our Elevate loyalty program, which we refer to as the Credit Card License. The Credit Card License is exclusive to the United States only and otherwise has identical terms as the Airline License.

Under the Airline License and the Credit Card License described below, we pay the Virgin Group royalties equal to 0.5% of our revenues from the operation of our airline and certain other activities traditionally associated with the airline industry. We paid license fees of \$5.2 million, \$6.7 million, \$7.1 million and \$7.5 million for 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

On November 19, 2014, we and certain entities affiliated with the Virgin Group entered into amended and restated license agreements related to our use of the Virgin name and brand under the Airline License and the Credit Card License. The amended and restated license agreements provide for, among other things:

an extension of our right to use the Virgin name and brand until 25 years after November 19, 2014;

commencing in the first quarter of 2016, an increase in the annual license fee that we pay to the Virgin Group from 0.5% to 0.7% of our total revenue until our total annual revenue exceeds \$4.5 billion, at which point our license fee would be 0.5%; and

the right to appoint a director to our board of directors, but only to the extent the Virgin Group does not otherwise have a representative sitting on our board of directors.

Limit on Virgin Group s Ownership of Voting Common Stock

On November 19, 2014, we entered into an agreement with certain entities affiliated with the Virgin Group that limits the Virgin Group and its affiliates (as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended)

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from acquiring additional shares of voting stock if, as a result of such acquisition, the Virgin Group would hold in excess of 20% of the total outstanding shares of voting stock, without our consent. This limit on the Virgin Group s ownership of voting stock is designed to assist our compliance with current federal law that restricts persons who are not U.S. citizens from owning more than 24.9% of our voting stock. Our agreement with the Virgin Group provides that, if this law is amended to permit persons who are not citizens of the United States to own more than 24.9% of the outstanding shares of our voting stock, then the limit will be adjusted to become 5% less than the maximum percentage of our voting stock which the revised federal law would allow non-U.S. citizens to own.

#### **Related-Party Warrants**

The following table summarizes warrants that we issued to our directors, executive officers and holders of five percent of our outstanding capital stock, including the Related-Party Warrants issued to the Virgin Group and Cyrus Capital. None of the warrants below remain outstanding after the 2014 Recapitalization. See 2014 Recapitalization below as well as 2014 Recapitalization elsewhere in this prospectus.

			Exercise Price		
Holder	Issuance Date	Shares	Pe	Per Share	
Cyrus Capital	January 2010	278,847	\$	37.74	
	January 2010	883,126		75.49	
	January 2010	2,649,380		113.23	
	January 2010	3,974,070		150.98	
	December 2011	2,550,023		26.42	
	May 2013	1,622,021		18.87	
The Virgin Group	January 2010	7,948,140		37.74	
	May 2013	20,593,027		18.87	
	May 2013	986,487		0.08	
VAI MBO Investors LLC (1)	January 2010	441,563		75.49	

(1) Limited liability company interests of VAI MBO Investors LLC were held by holders including C. David Cush, Samuel K. Skinner, Donald J. Carty, Cyrus F. Freidheim, Jr. and Robert A. Nickell, each of whom is a member of our board of directors, and their immediate family members, of which the managing member was C. David Cush, our President and Chief Executive Officer.

#### **Related-Party Notes**

The following tables summarizes the Related-Party Notes issued to the Virgin Group and Cyrus Capital since January 1, 2008 and prior to the 2014 Recapitalization:

			Original	Amended
			Interest	Interest
Issuance Date	Origina	l Principal Amount	Rate	Rate
May September 2008	\$	100.0 million	15.0%	5.0%
September November 2008		40.0 million	20.0%	5.0%
November 2008 October 2010		88.0 million	20.0%	5.0%
October 2010 November 2011		68.4 million	20.0%	5.0%,
December 2011		150.0 million	17.0%	17.0%
May 2013		75.0 million	17.0%	17.0%

All Related-Party Notes had a maturity of June 9, 2016, if not earlier repaid or redeemed and bore interest at the rate set forth above, compounded annually, except for the December 2011 Notes, which bore interest at a rate of 17.0% per annum, of which 8.5% was payable quarterly in arrears and 8.5% was compounded annually. When

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they were outstanding, the Related-Party Notes were redeemable at our option at any time and at the lenders option upon a change of control or certain qualified sales. We also would have been required to redeem the Related-Party Notes upon the incurrence of any senior debt.

In May 2013, in connection with the 2013 Recapitalization, we, the Virgin Group and Cyrus Capital agreed to modify and exchange a portion of our then outstanding Related-Party Notes. The Virgin Group and Cyrus Capital reduced \$318.4 million of our Related-Party Notes (including accrued payment-in-kind interest) and reduced the interest rates on all but the December 2011 Notes as reflected in the table above.

All of the Related-Party Notes described above were secured by substantially all of our assets not otherwise encumbered, and the parties were bound by the terms of an amended and restated intercreditor agreement, which sets forth the rights of the lenders.

None of the Related-Party Notes remain outstanding after the 2014 Recapitalization. See 2014 Recapitalization below as well as 2014 Recapitalization elsewhere in this prospectus.

#### 2014 Recapitalization

On November 13, 2014, we entered into the 2014 Recapitalization Agreement with Cyrus Capital and the Virgin Group, that provided for the disposition of all of the Related-Party Notes and all outstanding warrants to purchase shares of our common stock. Pursuant to the 2014 Recapitalization Agreement, we retained \$219.9 million of net proceeds in connection with our initial public offering and used the remaining net proceeds of \$56.5 million to repay a portion of the total of \$684.8 million of principal and accrued interest outstanding under the Related-Party Notes. Remaining principal and accrued interest under the Related-Party Notes was either (1) exchanged for the Post-IPO Note, which is described below under Post-IPO Note; (2) repaid in connection with the release to us of cash collateral held by our credit card processors in exchange for the Letter of Credit Facility, which is described below under Letter of Credit Facility; or (3) exchanged for shares of our common stock. In addition, the outstanding warrants to purchase shares of our common stock were either exchanged without receipt of cash consideration for shares of our common stock or canceled in their entirety. Prior to the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the 2014 Recapitalization Agreement, the Virgin Group held approximately \$420.2 million aggregate principal amount and accrued interest of the Related-Party Notes, and Cyrus Capital held approximately \$264.6 million aggregate principal amount and accrued interest of the Related-Party Notes. The Virgin Group and Cyrus Capital also held the majority of our outstanding warrants.

#### Post-IPO Note

On November 19, 2014, in connection with the transactions contemplated by the 2014 Recapitalization Agreement, we issued the Post-IPO Note, to the Virgin Group in exchange for the cancellation of \$50.0 million of outstanding principal of Related-Party Notes held by the Virgin Group. The Post-IPO Note is our senior unsecured obligation, bears interest at a rate of 5.0% per annum, compounded annually, and will become due on November 19, 2022, or November 19, 2020 if we are no longer required to provide collateral to our credit card transaction processors and can therefore terminate the Letter of Credit Facility described below. In addition, in connection with the issuance of the Post-IPO Note, we agreed to restrictions preventing us from incurring any future secured indebtedness related to our unencumbered assets unless the Post-IPO Note is secured on a *pari passu* basis with such debt.

#### **Registration Rights**

On November 13, 2014, we entered into a registration rights agreement pursuant to which Cyrus Capital and the Virgin Group, their respective transferees and certain other investors are entitled to certain demand and piggyback registration rights, subject to lock-up arrangements and certain restrictions.

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#### **Letter of Credit Facility**

On November 19, 2014, the Virgin Group arranged for the Letter of Credit Facility to be issued on our behalf to certain companies that process substantially all of our credit card transactions. The Letter of Credit Facility allows these companies to release approximately \$100.0 million of cash collateral to us. In connection with the release of this cash collateral, we used \$100.0 million to repay principal and accrued interest due under certain of the Related Party Notes held by the Virgin Group. The Letter of Credit Facility contains an annual commitment fee of 5.0% payable by us to the Virgin Group, and the Virgin Group shall provide this Letter of Credit Facility for a period of five years from November 19, 2014. In addition, we are responsible for annual fees associated with the issuance and maintenance of the Letter of Credit Facility. The Letter of Credit Facility will only become an obligation of ours if one or both of our credit card processors were to draw on the Letter of Credit Facility. In addition, we agreed to restrictions preventing us from incurring any future secured indebtedness related to our unencumbered assets unless our reimbursement obligations to the Virgin Group are secured on a *pari passu* basis with such secured debt. The Letter of Credit Facility will be reduced or terminated to the extent that collateral requirements are decreased or eliminated by our credit card transaction processors. On November 18, 2014, we entered into an amendment to its agreement with American Express Travel Related Services Company, Inc., or Amex in order to provide that the holdback provided for in such agreement will be reduced by the amount of any letter of credit provided to Amex by certain financial institutions, which will include the letter of credit provided by the Letter of Credit Facility.

## **PAR Capital Private Placement**

PAR Investment Partners, L.P., or PAR Capital, purchased approximately \$52.1 million of common stock, or 2,264,492 shares, from the Virgin Group and Cyrus Holdings in a private placement at a price per share equal to 96% of the initial public offering price. In connection with this private placement, we paid to the Virgin Group and Cyrus Holdings an aggregate amount of approximately \$2.1 million, the aggregate discount to the initial public offering price of the shares purchased by PAR Capital from the Virgin Group and Cyrus Holdings.

## **Indemnification Agreements**

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of its directors and executive officers. These agreements, among other things, require us to indemnify each director and executive officer to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law, including indemnification of expenses such as attorneys fees, judgments, fines and settlement amounts incurred by the director or executive officer in any action or proceeding, including any action or proceeding by or in right of us, arising out of the person s services as a director or executive officer.

## **Policies and Procedures for Related-Party Transactions**

Our board of directors has adopted a written related-party policy setting forth the policies and procedures for the review and approval or ratification of related-person transactions by the audit committee. This policy covers any transaction, arrangement or relationship, or any series of similar transactions, arrangements or relationships in which we are to be a participant, the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 and a related party had or will have a direct or indirect material interest, including purchases of goods or services by or from the related party or entities in which the related party has a material interest, indebtedness, guarantees of indebtedness and employment by us of a related party.

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#### PRINCIPAL AND SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

The following table sets forth, as of December 31, 2014, information regarding beneficial ownership of our common stock by:

each person, or group of affiliated persons, known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of our voting securities;
each selling stockholder;
each of our named executive officers;
each of our directors; and

all of our executive officers and directors as a group.

The number of shares beneficially owned by each person or entity is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC, and the information is not necessarily indicative of beneficial ownership for any other purpose. Under such rules, a person s or entity s beneficial ownership includes any shares over which he, she or it has sole or shared voting power or investment power as well as any shares that the person or entity has the right to acquire within 60 days of December 31, 2014 through the exercise of any stock option, warrants or other rights. Common stock that a person or entity has the right to acquire within 60 days of December 31, 2014 are deemed to be outstanding for computing such person s or entity s percentage ownership and the percentage ownership of any group of which the holder is a member but are not deemed outstanding for computing the percentage ownership of any other person or entity. Except as indicated by the footnotes below, we believe, based on the information furnished to us, that the individuals and entities named in the table below have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of common stock shown that they beneficially own, subject to community property laws where applicable.

We have based our calculation of the percentage of beneficial ownership prior to the offering on 43,119,886 shares of common stock outstanding (on an as converted to common stock basis) as of December 31, 2014, excluding, except where indicated, the 6,852,738 shares of non-voting common stock outstanding. We have based our calculation of the number of shares outstanding after the offering and the percentage of beneficial ownership after the offering on 43,119,886 shares of our common stock outstanding immediately after the completion of this offering, which number excludes, except where indicated, certain shares of non-voting common stock that will be outstanding immediately after the completion of this offering. Unless otherwise noted below, the address for each of the named executive officers in the table below is c/o Virgin America Inc., 555 Airport Boulevard, Burlingame, California 94010.

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Name of Beneficial Owner	Beneficia Shares Held			Beneficial Ownership After this Offering Percentage Shares of Beneficially Beneficial Owned Ownership		Beneficial Ownership After this Offering if the Option to Purchase Additional Shares is Exercised in Full Percentage Shares of Beneficially Beneficial Owned Ownership		
5% and Greater Stockholders:				-		-		_
Cyrus Aviation Holdings, LLC								
(1)	10,509,208		10,509,208	29.0%	8,597,443	21.5%	8,310,678	20.5%
VX Holdings, L.P. (2)	6,890,758	2,832,947	9,723,705	24.9%	10,698,876	24.9%	10,361,143	24.0%
PAR Investment Partners, L.P.								
(3)	2,264,492		2,264,492	6.2%	2,264,492	5.7%	2,264,492	5.6%
Named Executive Officers and								
Directors:								
C. David Cush (4)	202,626		202,626	*	202,626	*	202,626	*
Peter D. Hunt	8,207	7,947	16,154	*	16,154	*	16,154	*
E. Frances Fiorillo	5,943	8,375	14,318	*	14,318	*	14,318	*
Stephen A. Forte								
John J. Varley	7,796	10,597	18,393	*	18,393	*	18,393	*
Donald J. Carty	133,453		133,453	*	133,453	*	133,453	*
Cyrus F. Freidheim, Jr.	44,712		44,712	*	44,712	*	44,712	*
Stephen C. Freidheim (5)	10,509,208		10,509,208	29.0%	8,597,443	21.5%	8,310,678	20.5%
Evan M. Lovell								
Robert A. Nickell	132,977		132,977	*	132,977	*	132,977	*
John R. Rapaport								
Samuel K. Skinner	28,317		28,317	*	28,317	*	28,317	*
Stacy J. Smith								
All 14 current directors and								
executive officers as a group	11,079,514	32,880	11,112,394	30.6%	9,200,629	23.0%	8,913,864	