iHeartCommunications, Inc. Form 10-K February 23, 2017

Exchange Act. YES [] NO [X]

UNITED STATES	
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION	
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549	
FORM 10-K	
Annual report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Section 13 or 15(d) of the Section 15 or 15(d) of the Section 15(d) of	ecurities Exchange Act of 1934
For the transition period from to	oversion should go the of the t
Commission File Number 001-09645 IHEARTCOMMUNICATIONS, INC.	
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)	
Texas	74-1787539
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
200 East Basse Road, Suite 100 San Antonio, Texas	78209
(Address of principal executive offices) (210) 822-2828	(Zip code)
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code) Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act: N Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: N Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seas YES [] NO [X]	one
Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file	e reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. YES [X] NO [

(Explanatory Note: The registrant is a voluntary filer and is therefore not subject to the filing requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. However, during the preceding 12 months, and pursuant to the bond indentures of iHeartCommunications, Inc., the registrant has filed all reports that it would have been required to file by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 if the registrant was subject to the filing requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during such timeframe.)

The registrant meets the conditions set forth in General Instructions I(1)(a) and (b) of Form 10-K as, among other things, all of the registrant's equity securities are owned indirectly by iHeartMedia, Inc., which is a reporting company under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and which has filed with the SEC all materials required to be filed pursuant to Section 13, 14 or 15(d) thereof, and the registrant is therefore filing this Form 10-K with a reduced disclosure format.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during

the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). YES [X] NO []

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

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] Smaller reporting company []

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 12b-2). YES [] NO [X]

The registrant has no voting or nonvoting equity held by non-affiliates.

On February 20, 2017, there were 500,000,000 outstanding shares of common stock. DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE None.

IHEARTCOMMUNICATIONS, INC. INDEX TO FORM 10-K

		Page Number
PART	'I	
Item 1.	<u>Business</u>	1
Item 1A.	Risk Factors	<u>17</u>
Item 1B.	<u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	<u>27</u>
Item 2.	<u>Properties</u>	<u>27</u>
Item 3.	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	<u>27</u>
Item 4.	Mine Safety Disclosures	<u>29</u>
PART		
Item 5.	Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	<u>31</u>
Item 6.	Selected Financial Data	<u>32</u>
Item 7.	Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	<u>33</u>
Item 7A.	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	<u>75</u>
Item 8.	Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	<u>76</u>
Item 9.	Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	<u>116</u>
Item 9A.	Controls and Procedures	<u>116</u>
Item 9B.	Other Information	<u>118</u>
PART		
Item 10.	Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance (intentionally omitted pursuant to General Instruction I(2)(c) of Form 10-K)	<u>119</u>
Item 11.	Executive Compensation (intentionally omitted pursuant to General Instruction I(2)(c) of Form 10-K)	<u>119</u>
Item 12.	Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters (intentionally omitted pursuant to General Instruction I(2)(c) of Form 10-K)	<u>119</u>
Item 13.	Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence (intentionally omitted pursuant to General Instruction I(2)(c) of Form 10-K)	<u>119</u>
Item 14.	Principal Accounting Fees and Services	<u>119</u>
PART	IV	
Item 15.	Exhibits and Financial Statements Schedules	<u>120</u>

Item 16. Form 10-K Summary

<u>131</u>

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

The Company

iHeartCommunications, Inc., (the "Company") is a Texas corporation with all of its outstanding shares of common stock held by iHeartMedia Capital I, LLC, an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of iHeartMedia, Inc. ("Parent").

Parent was formed in May 2007 by private equity funds sponsored by Bain Capital Partners, LLC ("Bain Capital") and Thomas H. Lee Partners, L.P. ("THL") (together, the "Sponsors") to effect the acquisition of the Company by Parent. On July 30, 2008, Parent acquired the Company. The acquisition was effected by the merger of an entity formed by the Sponsors, then an indirect subsidiary of Parent, with and into the Company. As a result of the merger, the Company became an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Parent. Upon the consummation of the merger, Parent became a public company and the Company was no longer a public company.

Our corporate headquarters are in San Antonio, Texas and we have executive offices in New York, New York. Our headquarters are located at 200 East Basse Road, Suite 100, San Antonio, Texas 78209 (telephone: 210-822-2828). Our Business Segments

We are a diversified media and entertainment company with three reportable business segments: iHeartMedia ("iHM"); Americas outdoor advertising ("Americas outdoor"); and International outdoor advertising ("International outdoor"). Our iHM segment provides media and entertainment services via broadcast and digital delivery and also includes our national syndication business. Our Americas outdoor and International outdoor segments provide outdoor advertising services in their respective geographic regions using various digital and traditional display types. Our Americas outdoor segment consists of operations primarily in the United States, Canada and Latin America. Our International outdoor segment consists of operations primarily in Europe and Asia. Our "Other" category includes our full-service media representation business, Katz Media Group ("Katz Media"), as well as other general support services and initiatives that are ancillary to our other businesses. For the year ended December 31, 2016, the iHM segment represented 54% of total revenues. For the year ended December 31, 2016, Americas outdoor represented 20% and International outdoor represented 23% of total revenues.

We specialize in broadcast radio, digital, out-of-home, mobile, live events and on-demand information services for national audiences and local communities while providing premium opportunities for advertisers. Through our strong capabilities and unique collection of assets, we have the ability to deliver compelling content as well as innovative, effective marketing campaigns for advertisers and marketing, creative and strategic partners in the United States and internationally.

We focus on leveraging our national reach and on building the leadership position of our diverse global assets and maximizing our financial performance while serving our local communities. We continue to invest strategically in our digital platforms, including the development of continued enhancements to iHeartRadio, our integrated digital radio platform, and the ongoing deployment of digital outdoor displays. In addition, we have implemented automated/programmatic sales infrastructure and capability in each of our business segments. We intend to continue to execute our strategies while closely managing expenses and focusing on achieving operating efficiencies across our businesses.

For more information about our revenue, gross profit and assets by segment and our revenue and long-lived assets by geographic area, see Note 11 to our Consolidated Financial Statements located in Item 8 of Part II of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

iHM

Our iHM operations include broadcast radio, digital online and mobile platforms and products, program syndication, entertainment, traffic and weather data distribution and music research services. Our radio stations and content can be heard on AM/FM stations, HD digital radio stations, satellite radio, at iHeartRadio.com and our radio stations' websites, and through our iHeartRadio mobile application on smart phones and tablets, on gaming consoles, via in-home entertainment, in enhanced automotive platforms and navigation systems.

As of December 31, 2016, we owned 855 domestic radio stations servicing over 160 U.S. markets, including 45 of the top 50 markets and 84 of the top 100 markets. We are also the beneficiary of Aloha Station Trust, LLC, which owns

and operates 14 radio stations, all of which we were required to divest in order to comply with Federal Communication Commission ("FCC") media ownership rules, and which are being marketed for sale.

In addition to our local radio programming, we also operate Premiere Networks ("Premiere"), a national radio network that produces, distributes or represents more than 100 syndicated radio programs and serves more than 5,900 radio station affiliates. We also deliver real-time traffic and weather information via navigation systems, radio and television broadcast media and wireless and Internet-based services through our traffic business, Total Traffic & Weather Network.

We also curate, promote, produce and televise nationally-recognized iHeartRadio-branded live music events for our listeners and advertising partners, including the iHeartRadio Music Festival, the iHeartRadio Music Awards, the iHeartRadio Ultimate Pool Party, the iHeartRadio Jingle Ball Tour, the iHeartCountry Festival and the iHeartRadio Fiesta Latina.

Strategy

Our iHM strategy centers on delivering entertaining and informative content across multiple platforms, including radio broadcasting, online, mobile, digital and social media, podcasts, personalities and influencers, live events, syndication, music research services and independent media representation. We strive to serve our listeners by providing the content they desire on the platform they prefer, while supporting advertisers, strategic partners, music labels and artists with a diverse platform of creative marketing opportunities designed to effectively reach and engage target audiences. Our iHM strategy also focuses on improving the operations of our stations by providing valuable programming and promotions, as well as sharing best practices across our stations in marketing, distribution, sales and cost management.

Promote Broadcast Radio Media Spending. Given the extensive reach and metrics of both the broadcast radio industry in general and iHM in particular, as well as our depth and breadth of relationships with both media agencies and national and local advertisers, we believe we can drive broadcast radio's share of total media spending by using our dedicated national sales team to highlight the value of broadcast radio relative to other media. We have made and continue to make significant investments in research and to enable our clients to better understand how our assets can successfully reach their target audiences and promote their advertising campaigns; broadened our national sales teams and initiatives to better develop, create and promote their advertising campaigns; invested in technology to enhance our platform and capabilities; and continue to seek opportunities to deploy both our free iHeartRadio digital radio service and our newly-launched on demand subscription services - iHeartRadio Plus and iHeartRadio All Access - across both existing and emerging devices and platforms. We are also working closely with advertisers, marketers and agencies to meet their needs through new products, events and services developed through optimization of our current portfolio of assets, as well as to develop tools to determine how effective broadcast radio is in reaching their desired audiences. Through its programmatic initiative, iHeartMedia has centralized all the inventory across all of its stations nationwide and can access them immediately and tie it directly to key data of advertising partners.

Promote Local and National Advertising. We intend to grow our iHM businesses by continuing to develop effective highly-rated programming, creating new solutions for our advertisers and agencies, fostering key relationships with advertisers and improving our local and national sales teams. We intend to leverage our diverse collection of assets, our programming and creative strengths, and our consumer relationships to create live music events, such as one-of-a-kind local and national promotions that benefit our listeners and advertisers, and develop new, innovative programmatic and data-focused technologies and products to promote advertising. We seek to maximize revenue by closely managing our advertising opportunities and pricing to compete effectively in local markets. We operate price and yield information systems, which provide detailed inventory information. These systems enable our station managers and sales directors to adjust commercial inventory and pricing based on local market demand, as well as to manage and monitor different commercial durations (60 second, 30 second, 15 second and five second) in order to provide more effective advertising for our customers at what we believe are optimal prices given market conditions. Continue to Enhance the Listener Experience. We intend to continue enhancing the listener experience by offering a wide variety of compelling content and methods of delivery. We will continue to provide the content our listeners desire on their preferred platforms. Our investments have created a collection of leading on-air talent. For example, Premiere offers 109 syndicated radio programs and services for more than 5,900 radio station affiliates across the United States, including popular programs featuring top talent such as Ryan Seacrest, Big Boy, Rush Limbaugh, Sean

Hannity, Glenn Beck, Steve Harvey, Elvis Duran, Bobby Bones, Breakfast Club and Delilah. Our distribution capabilities allow us to attract top talent and more effectively utilize programming, sharing our best and most compelling content across both iHM's and other companies' radio stations.

Continue to Deliver Nationally-Recognized Live Events. We intend to continue to deliver nationally-recognized live events to our listeners, such as the iHeartRadio Music Festival, the iHeartRadio Music Awards, the iHeartRadio Ultimate Pool Party, the iHeartRadio Jingle Ball Tour, the iHeartCountry Festival and the iHeartRadio Fiesta Latina, featuring some of the biggest names in the music industry.

Deliver Content via Multiple Distribution Technologies. We continue to expand the choices for our listeners. We deliver music, news, talk, sports, traffic and other content using an array of distribution technologies, including broadcast radio, digital, HD radio channels, satellite radio, digitally via iHeartRadio.com and our stations' websites, through our two new iHeartRadio on

2

demand subscription services - iHeartRadio Plus and iHeartRadio All Access and through our free iHeartRadio mobile application on smartphones and tablets, on gaming consoles, via in-home entertainment, in enhanced automotive platforms, as well as in-vehicle entertainment and navigation systems. Some examples of our recent initiatives are as follows:

Streaming. We provide streaming content via the Internet, mobile and other digital platforms. We rank among the top streaming networks in the U.S. with regards to Average Active Sessions ("AAS"), Session Starts ("SS") and Average Time Spent Listening ("ATSL"). AAS and SS measure the level of activity while ATSL measures the ability to keep the audience engaged.

Websites and Mobile Applications. We have developed mobile and Internet applications such as the iHeartRadio smart phone and tablet applications and website as well as websites for our stations and personalities. These mobile and Internet applications allow listeners to use their smart phones, tablets or other digital devices to interact directly with stations, find titles/artists, request songs and create custom and personalized stations while providing an additional method for advertisers to reach consumers. As of December 31, 2016, our iHeartRadio mobile application has been downloaded more than 1.3 billion times (including updates). iHeartRadio provides a unique digital music experience by offering access to more than 2,200 broadcast and digital-only radio stations, plus user-created custom stations with broad social media integration and our on demand content from our premium talk partnerships and user generated talk shows.

On Demand. In January 2017 we announced the official release of our two new on demand subscription services, iHeartRadio Plus and iHeartRadio All Access - the first fully-differentiated streaming music services that use on demand functionality to make radio truly interactive. Both services provide the best of live radio combined with easy-to-use on demand functionality. iHeartRadio Plus transforms live and custom radio listening with the addition of replay and unlimited skip functionality, the ability to save songs directly to user playlists and search for songs from a library of millions of tracks; iHeartRadio All Access combines the interactive functionality of iHeartRadio Plus with a complete music collection and library linked seamlessly to the radio listening experience, with functionality including the ability to listen offline; build subscribers' personal music libraries; no playback cap; and the ability to delete and sequence their playlist experience as well as manage unlimited playlists.

Sources of Revenue

Our iHM segment generated 54%, 53%, and 50% of our revenue for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The primary source of revenue in our iHM segment is the sale of advertising on our radio stations for local and national advertising. Our iHeartRadio mobile application and website, our station websites, national live events and Total Traffic & Weather Network also provide additional means for our advertisers to reach consumers. We also generate revenues from network compensation, our online services, our traffic business, events and other miscellaneous transactions. These other sources of revenue supplement our traditional advertising revenue without increasing on-air advertising time.

Our advertisers cover a wide range of categories, including consumer services, retailers, entertainment, health and beauty products, telecommunications, automotive, media and political. Our contracts with our advertisers range from less than one-year to multi-year terms.

Each radio station's local sales staff solicits advertising directly from local advertisers or indirectly through advertising agencies. Our ability to produce content that respond to the specific needs of our advertisers helps to build local direct advertising relationships. We utilize national sales teams to generate national advertising sales. National sales representatives obtain advertising principally from advertising agencies located outside the station's market and receive commissions based on advertising sold.

Advertising rates are principally based on the length of the spot and how many people in a targeted audience listen to our stations, as measured by independent ratings services. A station's format can be important in determining the size and characteristics of its listening audience, and advertising rates are influenced by the station's ability to attract and target audiences that advertisers aim to reach. The size of the market influences rates as well, with larger markets typically receiving higher rates than smaller markets. Rates are generally highest during morning and evening commuting periods.

Radio Stations

As of December 31, 2016, we owned 855 radio stations, including 240 AM and 615 FM radio stations. All of our radio stations are located in the United States. No one station is material to our overall operations. We believe that our properties are in good condition and suitable for our operations.

Radio broadcasting is subject to the jurisdiction of the FCC under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Communications Act"). As described in "Regulation of Our iHeartMedia Business" below, the FCC grants us licenses in order to operate our radio stations. The following table provides the number of owned radio stations in the top 25 Nielsen-ranked markets within our iHM segment.

Nielsen		Number
Market		of
$Rank^{(1)} \\$	Market	Stations
1	New York, NY	6
2	Los Angeles, CA	8
3	Chicago, IL	6
4	San Francisco, CA	5
5	Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX	6
6	Houston-Galveston, TX	6
7	Washington, DC	5
8	Atlanta, GA	7
9	Philadelphia, PA	6
10	Boston, MA	4
11	Miami-Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood, FL	7
12	Detroit, MI	6
13	Seattle-Tacoma, WA	6
14	Phoenix, AZ	8
16	Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN	6
17	San Diego, CA	7
18	Denver-Boulder, CO	8
19	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	8
20	Nassau-Suffolk, NY	1
21	Baltimore, MD	4
22	St. Louis, MO	6
23	Portland, OR	7
24	Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC	4
25	Riverside-San Bernardino, CA	6
	Total Top 25 Markets	$142^{(2)}$

⁽¹⁾ Source: Fall 2016 Nielsen Audio Radio Market Rankings.

Premiere Networks

We operate Premiere, a national radio network that produces, distributes or represents 109 syndicated radio programs and services for more than 5,900 radio station affiliates. Our broad distribution capabilities enable us to attract and retain top programming talent. Some of our more popular syndicated programs feature top talent including Ryan Seacrest, Big Boy, Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck, Steve Harvey, Elvis Duran, Bobby Bones, Breakfast Club and Delilah. We believe recruiting and retaining top talent is an important component of the success of our radio networks.

Our station in the Nassau-Suffolk, NY market is also represented in the New York, NY Nielsen market. Thus, the actual number of stations in the top 25 markets is 142.

Total Traffic & Weather Network

Total Traffic & Weather Network delivers real-time local traffic flow and incident information along with weather updates to more than 1,900 radio stations and approximately 75 television affiliates, as well as through Internet and mobile partnerships, reaching over 210 million consumers each month. Total Traffic & Weather Network services more than 200 markets in the United States, Canada and Mexico. It operates the largest broadcast traffic navigation network in North America and has expanded its offerings to include news and sports content.

Competition

Our broadcast radio stations, as well as our mobile and digital applications and our traffic business, compete for listeners and advertising revenues directly with other radio stations within their respective markets, as well as with other advertising media, including broadcast and cable television, online, print media, outdoor advertising, satellite radio, direct mail and other forms of advertisement. In addition, the radio broadcasting industry is subject to competition from services that use media technologies such as Internet-based media, mobile applications and other digital radio services. Such services reach national and local audiences with multi-channel, multi-format, digital radio services.

Our broadcast radio stations compete for listeners primarily on the basis of program content that appeals to a particular demographic group. Our targeted listener base of specific demographic groups in each of our markets allows us to attract advertisers seeking to reach those listeners.

Americas Outdoor Advertising

We are one of the largest outdoor advertising companies in North America (based on revenues), which includes the United States, Canada and Latin America. Approximately 90% of our revenue in our Americas outdoor advertising segment was derived from the United States in each of the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014. As of December 31, 2016, we own or operate approximately 99,000 display structures in our Americas outdoor segment with operations in 43 of the 50 largest markets in the United States, including all of the 20 largest markets. In the first quarter of 2016, Americas outdoor sold nine non-strategic outdoor markets including Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio, Des Moines, Iowa, Ft. Smith, Arkansas, Memphis, Tennessee, Portland, Oregon, Reno, Nevada, Seattle, Washington and Wichita, Kansas for approximately \$592.3 million in cash and certain advertising assets in Florida. During the first quarter of 2016, Americas outdoor also entered into an agreement to sell its Indianapolis, Indiana market in exchange for certain assets in Atlanta, Georgia, plus approximately \$41.2 million in cash. The transaction closed in January 2017.

Our Americas outdoor assets consist of printed and digital billboards, street furniture and transit displays, airport displays and wallscapes and other spectaculars, which we own or operate under lease management agreements. Our Americas outdoor advertising business is focused on metropolitan areas with dense populations.

Strategy

We seek to capitalize on our Americas outdoor network and diversified product mix to maximize revenue. Our outdoor strategy focuses on pursuing the technology of digital displays, as well as leveraging our diversified product mix and long-standing presence in many of our existing markets, which provides us with the ability to launch new products and test new initiatives in a reliable and cost-effective manner.

Promote Outdoor Media Spending. Given the attractive industry fundamentals of outdoor media and our depth and breadth of relationships with both local and national advertisers, we believe we can drive outdoor advertising's share of total media spending by using our dedicated national sales team to highlight the value of outdoor advertising relative to other media. We have made and continue to make significant investments in research tools that enable our clients to better understand how our displays can successfully reach their target audiences and promote their advertising campaigns. Also, we are working closely with clients, advertising agencies and other diversified media companies to develop more sophisticated systems that will provide improved audience metrics for outdoor advertising, including our new programmatic effort to sell digital billboard advertisements using automated advertisement sales technology to introduce ease and efficiency to the out-of-home ad sales process and enable better targeting of digital billboard advertising.

Continue to Deploy Digital Displays. Our long-term strategy for our outdoor advertising businesses includes pursuing the technology of digital displays, including flat screens, LCDs and LEDs, as additions to traditional methods of displaying our clients' advertisements. Digital outdoor advertising provides significant advantages over traditional outdoor media. Our electronic displays are linked through centralized computer systems to instantaneously and simultaneously and rapidly change advertising copy on a large number of displays, allowing us to sell more advertising opportunities to advertisers. The ability to change copy by time of day and quickly change messaging based on advertisers' needs creates additional flexibility for our customers. Although

5

digital displays require more capital to construct compared to printed bulletins, the advantages of digital allow us to penetrate new accounts and categories of advertisers, as well as serve a broader set of needs for existing advertisers. Digital displays allow for high-frequency, 24-hour advertising changes in high-traffic locations and allow us to offer our clients optimal flexibility, distribution, circulation and visibility. We expect this trend to continue as we increase our quantity of digital inventory. As of December 31, 2016, we had deployed more than 1,100 digital billboards in 28 markets in the United States.

Sources of Revenue

Americas outdoor generated 20%, 22% and 21% of our revenue in 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Americas outdoor revenue is derived from the sale of advertising copy placed on our printed and digital displays. Our display inventory consists primarily of billboards, street furniture displays and transit displays. The margins on our billboard contracts, including those related to digital billboards, tend to be higher than those on contracts for other displays, due to their greater size, impact and location along major roadways that are highly trafficked. Billboards comprise approximately two-thirds of our display revenues. The following table shows the approximate percentage of revenue derived from each category for our Americas outdoor inventory:

Year Ended December 31, 2016 2015 2014

Billboards:

Bulletins59%58%58%Posters10%12%12%Street furniture displays7%6%7%Transit displays16%15%