TREE *Ticker* ▲

Q3 2013 Earnings Call Event Type ▲

Nov. 7, 2013 Date ▲

# PARTICIPANTS

# **Corporate Participants**

Alexander Mandel – Chief Financial Officer, Tree.com, Inc.

Douglas Robert Lebda – Chairman, Chief Executive Officer & Founder, Tree.com, Inc.

### **Other Participants**

Lauren Slabaugh – Analyst, Stephens, Inc.
Shawn Rassouli – Analyst, Needham & Co. LLC
Vahid Khorsand – Principal, Analyst, BWS Financial, Inc.
Jim J. Fowler – Managing Director, Harvest Capital Strategies LLC

### MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION SECTION

Operator: Good day, ladies and gentlemen, and thank you for standing by. And welcome to the Tree.com Third Quarter 2013 Earnings Conference Call. At this time, all participants are in a listen-only mode. Later, we'll conduct a question-and-answer session and instructions will be given at that time. [Operator Instructions] As a reminder, today's conference is being recorded for replay purposes.

I'd now like to introduce today's host for the call Chairman and CEO, Doug Lebda; and CFO, Alex Mandel. Mr. Mandel, you may begin your conference.

### **Alexander Mandel, Chief Financial Officer**

Thanks, operator, and thanks to everyone for joining us today for Tree.com's third quarter 2013 earnings conference call. First, a quick disclaimer. During this call, we may discuss Tree.com's plans, expectations, outlook or forecasts for future performance. These forward-looking statements are typically preceded by words such as we expect, we believe, we anticipate, we are looking to or other similar statements.

These forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, and Tree.com's actual results could differ materially from the views expressed today. Many, but not all, of the risks we face are described in our periodic reports filed with the SEC. On this call, we'll discuss a number of non-GAAP measures, and I refer you to today's press release available on our website at investor-relations.tree.com for the comparable GAAP measures, definitions and full reconciliations of non-GAAP measures to GAAP.

To put my remarks today in context, in the third quarter, total mortgage originations industry wide declined by 27% year-over-year based on an average of market data from prominent sources. This was the result of a 44% decline in refinance volume, partly offset by a 16% gain in purchase volume. The resulting share of refinancings declined to 54%, which is down notably from 71% in the third quarter last year.

In contract to this 27% decline in total industry originations, our mortgage products revenue in the quarter grew significantly by 73% to \$32.6 million. This also marks our fourth consecutive quarter of company outperformance relative to the market. We attribute our continued outperformance to a number of factors. First, our new national ad campaign, which launched in mid Q2 helped to support strong lead volume and on reduced expense in the quarter. Second, our marketing efforts

TREE *Ticker* ▲

Q3 2013 Earnings Call Event Type ▲ Nov. 7, 2013 Date ▲

across our core digital marketing channels continued to scale profitably in the quarter. Third, the monetization of our leads improved amid strong lender demand. And fourth, our continued focus on innovation and development of new and improved offerings to better and more fully serve consumers and customers has borne fruit.

In 2013 alone, our new mortgage rate table product and reverse mortgage offering and our improved personal loan offering have continued to grow and contribute to our results. These revenue streams are the result of internal product development efforts with limited capital investment and impressive returns to date.

Our non-mortgage products revenue also grew year-over-year by 13%. All in consolidated revenue of \$37.3 million in Q3 was up 60% over Q3 2012, and exceeded our prior guidance. From a profitability perspective, the company delivered \$15.1 million of variable marketing margin representing a fourth consecutive quarter of new record levels. As a percentage of revenue, VMM improved to 40% from 37% in the preceding quarter, which was anticipated given reduced expenses related to our national ad campaign relative to Q2 when it launched.

Adjusted EBITDA of \$5.4 million in the quarter was up 38% year-over-year, and like variable marketing margin our adjusted EBITDA result represented another record level and exceeded our quidance. Included in this result is the positive contribution from our non-mortgage segment.

Touching briefly on our discontinued operations, which primarily represent our former mortgage origination business, the financial impact of this segment was a loss of \$529,000 generally related to ongoing wind down efforts and represents an improvement over Q2. From a balance sheet perspective, our unrestricted cash grew by \$2.5 million over June 30, to \$87.8 million at September 30.

During the quarter, we were able to reduce collateral for various surety bonds maintained by the company, which was previously classified as restricted cash by over \$4 million. At the same time we deployed cash to repurchase approximately \$1.8 million of shares during the quarter. Our working capital position at quarter-end, which we calculate as current assets including unrestricted and restricted cash, minus currently liabilities, which includes loan loss reserves, was \$71.7 million at September 30.

In conclusion, we believe our third quarter demonstrated a strong performance as we exceeded prior guidance on all financial metrics, achieved record variable marketing margin and adjusted EBITDA results and gained market share. Our mortgage business continues to outpace the market. Our non-mortgage segment continued its resumption of profitability and we are actively focused on product innovation and diversification, both to provide new growth opportunities, as well as address the shifting market environment we're operating in.

I'll now turn to Doug for his perspectives.

### Douglas Robert Lebda, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer & Founder

Thanks, Alex, and thanks everyone for joining the call today. The third quarter was another great one for Tree and I couldn't be happier with the results. I'd like to hit the highlights in our mortgage and non-mortgage products, walk you through our updated guidance for Q4, and probably most importantly discuss our expectations for 2014.

Starting with mortgage, we had another quarter of very solid performance and continued our trend of separating our results from the overall markets. In a quarter where mortgage originations fell 24% quarter-over-quarter, our mortgage revenue was virtually flat from Q2, and up 73% from the same period last year. This growth is simply put fantastic, and a testament to our proposition with

TREE *Ticker* ▲

Q3 2013 Earnings Call Event Type ▲ Nov. 7, 2013 Date ▲

lenders in a very difficult market for them. More importantly, we've continued to execute in our purchase mortgage strategy. During the quarter, we increased the number of lenders taking purchase leads at an unprecedented clip.

In Q3, we grew our network of active purchase lenders by 38% and on a year-to-date basis that number is up 117%. Unit revenue continues to increase substantially and the combination of our increasing organic traffic plus our paid marketing is truly paying off. The results are clear, revenue from purchase mortgage is now almost 40% of total mortgage product revenue and our purchase mortgage business is up 250% from the same quarter a year ago.

To sum up our performance in mortgage, we're driving quality volume to lenders who need it badly, taking market share in both purchase and refinance, seeing improving unit economics as our network of lenders demand our services now more than ever and leveraging that improved revenue to market online and offline.

In our non-mortgage business we're also seeing significant improvement. Revenue from non-mortgage products was \$4.7 million, up 22% quarter-over-quarter and 13% increased from last year. Auto finance continues to grow and improve profitability, personal loans and reverse mortgages are growing at significant rates, education continues to show progress under new leadership and our home services business achieved profitability in September. We are now solidly profitable in our non-mortgage products and have great management.

Our single platform strategy from marketing technology enables us to capture best practices across verticals and keep costs down. With that foundation laid our focus now is simply scale.

Now let me turn to our updated guidance for the rest of the year. For those of you who have tracked us for several years Q4 is typically a seasonally slower quarter for us. Consumers tend to focus on holidays instead of finance, home improvement and education. And media rates increase as retailers push holiday shopping.

That said, for the full year, we're increasing our full-year revenue guidance yet again to \$135 million to \$138 million and expect adjusted EBITDA for the year to be between \$16 million and \$17 million. What that implies for Q4 is revenue of \$32.2 million to \$35.2 million. For VMM we expect Q4 to be \$11.8 million to \$13.8 million and adjusted EBITDA to be between \$3.2 million and \$4.2 million. If we close out the year at the midpoint of our guidance, we will have increased revenue 45% over 2012 and adjusted EBITDA by 16%. All while still investing in our brand, product and technology.

Today, we're also issuing our expectations for 2014. Our plan is to continue to deliver substantial growth on both the top and bottom lines while continuing to invest for the long term. We're expecting top line revenue to grow between 10% and 15% next year. In a mortgage market projected to contract another 27%, this would mean not only great growth, but also very solid share gains. Variable marketing margin, we believe, will be \$62 million to \$66 million, an increase of 13% to 20% over the midpoint of our guidance for this year. And we're expecting adjusted EBITDA for 2014 to be between \$20 million and \$21 million, which is a 21% to 27% increase from 2013.

Given our success this year diversifying our revenue streams away from refinance and into purchase and non-mortgage as well as gaining share in mortgage, we're confident we can continue to achieve significant growth next year like we did this year and that growth -- and growth that places us among the top tier of our peer group.

To sum up the quarter, I am extremely pleased with our results, not only for the quarter, but so far this year, but we're not sitting still. Expect us to continue to leverage our client's demand for new customers, continue to take share in all markets where we compete. And we think that we're still in the very early innings here and that we're uniquely positioned with a great brand, a very solid

Tree.com, Inc.
Company ▲

TREE *Ticker* ▲

Q3 2013 Earnings Call Event Type ▲

Nov. 7, 2013 *Date* ▲

financial position, and most importantly, the right group of passionate people working hard every single day to make something very, very special happen in the coming years.

With that, let's open the line for Q&A.

TREE *Ticker* ▲

Q3 2013 Earnings Call Event Type ▲ Nov. 7, 2013 Date ▲

# QUESTION AND ANSWER SECTION

Operator: Sure. Thanks, sir. [Operator Instructions] One moment for questioners to queue. And it looks like our first question in queue will come from the line of Lauren Slabaugh with Stephens. Please go ahead. Your line is now open. Your questions please.

- **<Q Lauren Slabaugh Stephens, Inc.>:** Hi, guys. This is an impressive quarter, so congrats to you all, first of all.
- <a Doug Lebda Tree.com, Inc.>: Thank you, Lauren.
- <Q Lauren Slabaugh Stephens, Inc.>: So, my first question is about the monetization of leads, so what I'd kind of like to understand is how pricing [ph] broke (11:17) down this quarter in terms of the purchasing and refi. If you're starting to take price or how that's looking?
- <A Doug Lebda Tree.com, Inc.>: Could you repeat the first part of that? You were a little garbled there. You asked about pricing in the guarter?
- <**Q Lauren Slabaugh Stephens, Inc.>:** Sure, trying to understand, how you all are better monetizing leads, as you mentioned. So and really, what I'd like to do is understand, how that breaks down between both between purchase and refi.
- <A Doug Lebda Tree.com, Inc.>: Got it. So as you might expect, we actually don't disclose individual pricing to the market, because our competitors would copy it. And so that's why we like to stick with overall variable marketing margin. And pricing depending on the lead type between purchase and refinance and even inside of segments inside of those products it's really the way to think of it, it's a bidded environment. The closest thing to it would be how Google prices cost per click advertising, if lenders want more they increased their caps and they increase their -- the price they're willing to pay at whatever their filter level is. And then an algorithm the picks lenders that are best matched with that consumer based on a combination of various factors, which we also like to keep in our secret sauce.

But what I can say is, that overall expected value per lead is up significantly throughout the year and I'm looking at a chart now that's basically up and to the right across all products, but I won't show you any numbers. And it's happening inside both purchase and in refinance, not only that, that would be the unit cost per lead, but we're also seeing increase in what we call transmit rates and transmits per, which is the percentage of what the consumers we can match and the number of times we can match each customer.

So I wish I could give you more of those numbers, but that would be a competitive issue and really the thing to look at I guess is, overall variable marketing margin.

- <Q Lauren Slabaugh Stephens, Inc.>: I completely understand and that's helpful. And I guess the next question is more on your share gains, clearly you all are doing a great job and outperforming here where some of your competitors are not. And so what's driving that, what is driving people to want to use you more? Is it better conversion rates, what are you all doing that's right?
- <A Doug Lebda Tree.com, Inc.>: From a lenders perspective, so first off, when a lender -- and I'm sure you've heard me say this at various conferences, but if a given lender's makeup of leads or they are generally capacity constrained, let's say, they're getting 50% of their volume through organic or free sources from prior customers.

TREE *Ticker* ▲

Q3 2013 Earnings Call Event Type ▲ Nov. 7, 2013 Date ▲

When that goes away as rates go up and that sort of free refi volume goes away, they have to increase spend on third-party advertising, whether it's us, or Bankrate or Zillow or anybody else. And they really focus on what's -- what we think of as a cost-per-funded loan.

So lenders don't think of -- we get our money on a lead, they're thinking of a cost-per-funded loan and they increase their spend, because they need the volume and its working. So the reason we would work better versus our competitors is because the legacy -- the 16-year legacy of our brand, means that consumers are more likely to get up -- we're not getting traffic from -- you as described to me the punch the monkey in the face banner ad and all of a sudden you're getting a call from a mortgage lender that you never meant to get a call from. Our traffic has much higher quality sources. Its people who know and trust our brand. They get up off the couch, they go to a computer or mobile phone and interact with us or call us and we warm transfer them. We can afford to pay through very high quality traffic sources particularly search and then obviously generate a lot of repeat customers as well.

So we drive in a higher intent to actually get a transaction. Therefore, we can get higher revenue for those leads and then therefore we can afford to plow that back into driving even higher quality traffic. So quality is what we always focus on. There's plenty of companies that have screwed that up along the way by sacrificing quality and conversion rate and just like Google dominated the search market by providing very high quality traffic to advertisers like us and millions of others, we hope in a small way to continue to do that. So, it really is a dynamic market on both the supply and demand side, but the short story is that as long as we're hitting the cost per funded loan goals, lenders will continue to scale up. Not to go on too long, we're seeing particular success now with new types of institutions, not only traditional correspondent lenders, but also major banks are signing up and joining the network or at least having discussions with us. We're starting to see signs of life or hear signs of life in the home equity business, which we think bodes very well for next year and importantly in purchase those more traditional banks are doing great business with us. So it's hitting across the board.

<Q - Lauren Slabaugh - Stephens, Inc.>: All right. Thank you for that detail. I appreciate it.

Operator: Thank you, ma'am. Our next question in queue will come from the line of Shawn Rassouli with Needham & Company. Please go ahead, your line is now open.

<Q – Shawn Rassouli – Needham & Co. LLC>: Hi guys, congrats on your solid execution and thanks for taking my question. I had a few please, but if I could just dovetail on the last topic we spoke about. Can you give us a sense for how much headroom these lenders have where cost per funded loan is too high, and they're not as profitable or approached breakeven levels, any sense for how much more room there is to increase sort of price per lead going forward?

<A – Doug Lebda – Tree.com, Inc.>: Yes and again it would be something if I gave specific numbers, people could reverse engineer our pricing. But suffice it to say there's a lot of room and there's also room on the volume side too, so lenders are not losing money. They're absolutely still profitable through the channel. What you will start to see and by the way, pricing at a lender doesn't just vary lender to lender it actually varies loan officer to the loan officer. So one of the things, you know, there's been lots of buzz recently about layoffs in the mortgage industry, mortgage lenders actually if you had a sales floor of a 100 people, the conversion rate of your best loan officer might be 20% and your worst guy might be 1%, so what you'd start doing is cutting back the people who can't convert the leads on a profitable basis. So you'd have some loan officers who are highly, highly profitable and others that are not.

That's said, what you're starting to see at lenders, which is very natural is margin compression and that's talked about in the industry. So their marketing cost per funded loan will go up. And their revenue per loan will go down because of increased competition in the market among lenders and so their margins will get squeezed. What the really smart guys do is, they will run their -- in the

TREE *Ticker* ▲

Q3 2013 Earnings Call Event Type ▲ Nov. 7, 2013 Date ▲

mortgage business make hay when the sun shines and the smart guys will maintain as much capacity as they can as rates rise so they can catch it on other end.

We are seeing no signs among our client base of pulling back yet. And when we do, honestly we'll tell you I keep -- I walk the sales floor here all the time -- tell me what's going on, and they're saying, they keep asking us some more, still asking us some more volume, they are trying to -- they are increasing their buy and so, that's all -- that's all good.

So what you'll see in the other effect that we're starting to see is guidelines are starting to loosen a little bit are that lenders will open filter segments in areas that aren't necessarily in perfectly in a sweet spot. To continue my Google analogy would be the difference between me buying the head term mortgage rates versus buying a refinance calculator, which would be a much lower cost per click and a lower conversion rate, so you start to see that effect and as that sort of long tail effect takes -- helps us, that helps us to improve our overall revenues. So I see no signs yet among our lender population of pulling back.

One additional comment I want to make there, we were going through our internal budget process yesterday and really delve deep in this is in the purchase market in particular, and hats off to, you know a lot of people here who got in front of this we have been saying for probably 15 years, the purchase markets come and you got to get ready next year. This time, we said it again and we meant it. We prepared best practices, we got presentations to in lender's hands and got them probably 6 or 9 months ahead of it. Actually testing, experimenting, putting on new purchase teams and so that's a lot of what you're seeing in the market as among lenders is they're clearly downsizing their refinanced teams.

But at the same time, they're increasing their purchase teams to combat that and then we're hopefully going to help guys take share. We think we're great for comparison shopping and I feel this, this feels to me similar to the travel industry after 2001 and for people who are around back then, it was tough to get hotels to come online to these hotel websites because before that they were selling all of the inventory they could. So, they want to put inventory out on the web, the people like hotels.com and others. And when there was excess capacity that flooded and that changed the whole game for the online travel industry and it feels like we're doing -- the same thing is happening as well. Now, what we need to focus on next is helping these guys to increase conversion rates through product improvement and that is the plan for next year. This year is about sales and marketing, in the last few years were, that will continue the product improvements slate for next year to help them improve conversion is really what we're focused on now.

<Q – Shawn Rassouli – Needham & Co. LLC>: Perfect. That's very helpful, Doug. And you touched on this briefly, but could you expand further and talk more about your sales efforts into retail banks? Maybe give us a sense for what that activity looks like? Is it mortgage only or is that does it involve other types of loans on the mortgage side, is it mostly purchase leads and if you have any metrics to share there, whether it's the number of banks that you've signed up, revenue, or anything would be great? And maybe just as an add-on, where do you see that sort of segment going next year? Down the road, do you see it becoming as big as sort of the correspondent lender sort of opportunity for TREE?

<A – Doug Lebda – Tree.com, Inc.>: So, a couple of anecdotes and I think I'll give you one number to whet your appetite. Unless Alex starts kicking me under the table here. But it is absolutely mostly purchase, and interestingly, what we're seeing among these lenders is a new model where instead of sending customers to a call center they're routing these to local loan officers in local branches and that's working very, very well. So the call center based guys, might have instantaneous technology gets you on the phone very quickly maybe very aggressive pricing, but what we're seeing with some of these other guys is the ability to send some leads to local people. And more on that to come, it's a test right now very small, but, we're starting to see that -- see a lot of interest there.

TREE *Ticker* ▲

Q3 2013 Earnings Call Event Type ▲ Nov. 7, 2013 Date ▲

Another anecdote, I can share with you is, I have a joke with our sales team. There's one very large bank that probably since 1997 has been ready to join the network. They've been thinking about it, for the first time I have a revised contract in legal and they had about a dozen people down here from a third party firm, crawling through everything to make sure that we pass all the -- all the vendor agreements etcetera, etcetera that that they need to do. So, so that's another anecdote and I can tell you another bank is working with us on a cost-per-funded loan basis has, won't give the exact number, but their cost- per-funded loan is running about 1/3 of what the network average is for sort of a normal correspondent lender. And those normal correspondent lenders are doing just fine at that price point or that cost-per-funded-loan. These guys are a third of it. And so they can really -- they're going to start to step on the gas.

At our Board meeting yesterday, one of our directors shared with me that the banks he is talking to are hearing that people are starting to open home equity again in 2014. That market went away from us in 2008, dropped off, effectively disappeared. We don't have any new banks signing up for home equity yet, but we're starting to get some, we're starting to get inquiries and we're actively pushing it. If we can bring back, if the home equity business comes back, there were times that that business was maybe not as big as our mortgage business, but pretty darn close.

- <Q Shawn Rassouli Needham & Co. LLC>: That sounds great. And if I could just ask one more or get back in to queue. So I was wondering if you could share some sort of color on, the media rates right which marketing channels are you seeing the most upward pressure on rates and how do you see that trending over the next several months, if you have any insight there would be great? Thank you.
- <A Doug Lebda Tree.com, Inc.>: Sure. So across all the channels, we're not seeing a lot of margin compression except as we increase spend. So, search for example, if I want to double my volume, I got to spend more and therefore I'm up effectively upping my own rates, but there's a lot of still search opportunities for us that where we can actually increase coverage and drive in more volume and as I said our organic work for over the past year has been -- has worked extremely well. The only place we're seeing, I would say, any inflation in media rates are probably offline and that only shows up for us because we mostly buy in sort of the DR and the spot markets and how much we can clear.

So, we know what we're willing to pay for media and there are times that we can't get everything we want because we're not an upfront buyer anymore where you really pay premium prices. So, it'll show up in there a little bit, but we can still find it and that's okay because offline while it's profitable, it doesn't need to be there all the time. It's there. It also helps the overall brand. So I think that's the biggest one for us and as I said, next year as we focus on lifetime value and conversion rate initiatives. That's where, then you can see more upward pricing. And to your previous question, when lenders get higher conversion rates, their cost per funded loan goes down in a direct relationship and as we help them through product and technology importantly to decrease cost per funded loan, loan costs we get that most of that right back in revenue and increased unit costs. So that's why we've always been so focused on making money when our lenders make money, but so far I'm only seeing media inflation in the offline world as the economy picks up a little.

- <Q Shawn Rassouli Needham & Co. LLC>: That's very helpful. Thanks for taking my questions.
- <A Doug Lebda Tree.com, Inc.>: Thank you.

Operator: Thank you so much sir. Our next questioner in queue will come from the Hamed Khorsand with BWS Financial. Please go ahead sir. Your line is open.

TREE *Ticker* ▲

Q3 2013 Earnings Call Event Type ▲ Nov. 7, 2013 Date ▲

- **<Q Vahid Khorsand BWS Financial, Inc.>:** Hi, just a quick question. Could you provide some insight on where you see growth coming from for next year?
- <A Doug Lebda Tree.com, Inc.>: Growth coming for next year?
- <Q Vahid Khorsand BWS Financial, Inc.>: Yes.
- <A Doug Lebda Tree.com, Inc.>: So I think, interesting -- it's kind of a boring answer, but I think it's going to be just a continuation of what we're seeing this year. It's not -- you could roughly take the Q3 run rate and now there's some seasonality ups and downs in it, but you see where we are in Q3 and back beyond -- multiply times four and there you've kind of got a year, but it's not. So, we don't need to do -- our philosophy has always been, we like to give investors a good solid growth and we think 21% to 27% earnings growth, nice multiple, but reasonable multiple at least compared to guys like Zillow and others who have growth rates roughly equal to ours and trade it, who knows how many thousands of times higher multiples.

We think that's really solid growth and then after that we reinvest back into products and technology, but we're absolutely going to see growth in mortgage, but it's not crazy growth. It's just continuing the trend. We're going to see growth in the non-mortgage businesses. I'm particularly excited about what's coming in home services. But, also I'm really excited about all the new things we're doing on LendingTree, in terms of reverse mortgage, and credit cards, and home equity.

So, what our practice typically, as we do an internal budget, we do an internal plan, all tied down to the nth degree and then we look for bolt-ons and new opportunities throughout the year that will hopefully get us even more. So, we plan according to kind of what we know, and then we try to go higher than that with some new stuff, not all the new stuff works out. But, it's going to come from just continuing the trends, as boring as that might sound, and then we want to get supercharged growth over the next few years, through some other things I've said publicly, we're looking at M&A, we've worked at a bunch of stuff, and haven't pulled any triggers yet.

There are definitely opportunities for new product. For launching new products, there's definitely opportunities for improvements in technology, which we'll talk more about over the coming quarters. But I can tell you I am absolutely thrilled with where we are in product and technology. And then continuing improvements in marketing and adding new lenders. It's not rocket science plan to kind of get that mid 20% growth.

- **Q Vahid Khorsand BWS Financial, Inc.>:** You mentioned Zillow. Where do you see yourself against Zillow next year? How are you going to stay ahead of them?
- <A Doug Lebda Tree.com, Inc.>: Look they are interestingly enough, if you look at their mortgage revenue versus ours. I think they were \$4 million, \$5 million a quarter mortgage business, and I mean it is -- a little over \$5.5 million, \$6 million or something like that. You can see what our numbers in mortgage are. Look, they're a good solid competitor, we think they're one of the ways they got so good is by infringing on our intellectual property, which we think a court will figure out who is right on that one over the next 12 months. And, but yes, they have great organic traffic, and so therefore they're able to leverage at a mortgage product.

Their mortgage product works really well for some lenders and other lenders don't like rate table products in general. We have a rate table product too, but the market is big enough to have a whole bunch of us, where this is a major market, LendingTree as much as we gained share, we might be over 1% of the U.S. mortgage market now and still have fairly low conversion rates. So, there's plenty -- my guess is they're coming off of pretty low base, so their mortgage volume will grow faster than ours on a rate basis, but we think there's plenty of room to go. One of the other growth opportunities for us is syndication having the highest monetization, best customer experience out there, we think we have opportunities to partner up with both personal finance websites and real

Tree.com, Inc.

Company ▲

TREE *Ticker* ▲

Q3 2013 Earnings Call Event Type ▲ Nov. 7, 2013 Date ▲

estate websites, clearly not Zillow, who are -- who want to have a mortgage product just like Google syndicates their search listings around the web and we think we can give people high -- very high revenue share, we can give publishers a great product in there and have a very nice pipeline of potential business development deals too that will come through in a rev-share basis and really help us grow share.

- <Q Vahid Khorsand BWS Financial, Inc.>: Okay, thank you.
- <A Doug Lebda Tree.com, Inc.>: Thank you.

Operator: Thank you, sir. Our next phone questioner in queue will come from the line of Jim Fowler with Harvest Capital. Please go ahead, your line is open.

- <Q Jim Fowler Harvest Capital Strategies LLC>: Hey, Doug, good morning.
- <A Doug Lebda Tree.com, Inc.>: Good morning.
- <Q Jim Fowler Harvest Capital Strategies LLC>: Yeah, good morning. Lot of mortgage companies reporting today, so I haven't been through your numbers, I knew the stock would be fine. I just want to ask you one detail question where just an education for myself, and you mentioned the reverse mortgage business. I'm just wondering. A lot of rule changes have taken place there in terms of products and the like. Have you seen any difference in that channel over the past period of time since the rules have changed?
- <A Doug Lebda Tree.com, Inc.>: So we only launched that at the beginning of the year, the rule changes, I am not exactly too familiar with those, but one change I can tell you is we have more demand for leads right there than we are currently generating and are rolling out marketing now against that product. So we've pushed, lenders have pushed up the revenue per customer enough that we can afford to go start doing search and do some display and potentially some offline. And so we're seeing if anything from our standpoint, it's heating up now that could be because the market is heating up or it could be because conversion rates are getting better or it could be because we started low pricing and now the lenders are bidding up the price or it could be the conversion rates are great on our traffic and therefore they want more of it. I'm not quite sure, but we're --I'm seeing a lot more demand for those customers than we have today and we plan to rectify that and really grow that business.
- <Q Jim Fowler Harvest Capital Strategies LLC>: Excellent, thanks and congrats on the quarter, Doug.
- <A Doug Lebda Tree.com, Inc.>: Thank you.

Operator: Thank you, sir. [Operator Instructions] All right. And it looks like there's no question.

### Douglas Robert Lebda, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer & Founder

Okay, well thank you all again for your attention today, particularly in light of a rather another somewhat famous Internet company that's probably trading while you are sitting here listening to us. We appreciate your time and attention, appreciate your support of our company. As always, feel free to reach out at any time, and we look forward to being transparent going forward and hopefully putting up more great numbers for shareholders to participate in. Thank you.

Operator: Thank you, sir. And thank you ladies and gentlemen. Again, this does conclude today's call. Thank you for your participation and have a wonderful day. Attendees, you may now all disconnect.

TREE *Ticker* ▲

Q3 2013 Earnings Call Event Type ▲

Nov. 7, 2013 *Date* ▲

#### Disclaimer

The information herein is based on sources we believe to be reliable but is not guaranteed by us and does not purport to be a complete or error-free statement or summary of the available data. As such, we do not warrant, endorse or guarantee the completeness, accuracy, integrity, or timeliness of the information. You must evaluate, and bear all risks associated with, the use of any information provided hereunder, including any reliance on the accuracy, completeness, safety or usefulness of such information. This information is not intended to be used as the primary basis of investment decisions. It should not be construed as advice designed to meet the particular investment needs of any investor. This report is published solely for information purposes, and is not to be construed as financial or other advice or as an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any security in any state where such an offer or solicitation would be illegal. Any information expressed herein on this date is subject to change without notice. Any opinions or assertions contained in this information do not represent the opinions or beliefs of FactSet CallStreet, LLC. FactSet CallStreet, LLC, or one or more of its employees, including the writer of this report, may have a position in any of the securities discussed herein.

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO YOU HEREUNDER IS PROVIDED "AS IS," AND TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, FactSet CallStreet, LLC AND ITS LICENSORS, BUSINESS ASSOCIATES AND SUPPLIERS DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE SAME, EXPRESS, IMPLIED AND STATUTORY, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, ACCURACY, COMPLETENESS, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, NEITHER FACTSET CALLSTREET, LLC NOR ITS OFFICERS, MEMBERS, DIRECTORS, PARTNERS, AFFILIATES, BUSINESS ASSOCIATES, LICENSORS OR SUPPLIERS WILL BE LIABLE FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION DAMAGES FOR LOST PROFITS OR REVENUES, GOODWILL, WORK STOPPAGE, SECURITY BREACHES, VIRUSES, COMPUTER FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION, USE, DATA OR OTHER INTANGIBLE LOSSES OR COMMERCIAL DAMAGES, EVEN IF ANY OF SUCH PARTIES IS ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH LOSSES, ARISING UNDER OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HEREIN OR ANY OTHER SUBJECT MATTER HEREOF.

The contents and appearance of this report are Copyrighted FactSet CallStreet, LLC 2013. CallStreet and FactSet CallStreet, LLC are trademarks and service marks of FactSet CallStreet, LLC. All other trademarks mentioned are trademarks of their respective companies. All rights reserved.