

## Results for the Fiscal Year and the Three Months Ended March 31, 2016 [IFRSs]

April 28, 2016

Company Name: Yahoo Japan Corporation Share Listings: 1<sup>st</sup> section of TSE  
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Scheduled Ordinary Shareholder's Meeting Date: June 21, 2016

Scheduled Dividend Payment Date: June 7, 2016

Scheduled Securities Report Submission Date: June 20, 2016

Fiscal Results Supplementary Briefing Materials to Be Created: Yes

Fiscal Results Investors Meeting to Be Held: Yes (for Financial Analysts)

(Amounts less than one million yen are omitted)

### 1. Consolidated Results for FY2015 (April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016)

(1) Consolidated Business Performance (April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016) (Figures in parenthesis are % change YoY)

	Revenue		Operating income		Income before income taxes		Net income		Net income attributable to owners of the parent		Total comprehensive income	
	Millions of yen (%)		Millions of yen (%)		Millions of yen (%)		Millions of yen (%)		Millions of yen (%)		Millions of yen (%)	
FY2015	652,327	52.2	224,997	14.1	226,585	8.8	172,492	28.8	171,617	29.0	173,504	27.7
FY2014	428,487	4.9	197,212	0.4	208,298	0.0	133,933	3.3	133,051	3.5	135,877	0.6

	Basic earnings per share	Diluted earnings per share	Profit ratio to equity attributable to owners of the parent	Profit before tax ratio to total assets	Operating margin
	Yen	Yen	%	%	%
FY2015	30.15	30.14	21.9	19.3	34.5
FY2014	23.37	23.37	19.8	22.4	46.0

(For reference) Equity in earnings (losses) of associates: FY2015 ¥1,317 million FY2014 ¥1,672 million

(2) Consolidated Financial Position

	Total assets	Total equity	Equity attributable to owners of the parent	Ratio of equity attributable to owners of the parent	Equity attributable to owners of the parent per share
	Millions of yen	Millions of yen	Millions of yen	%	Yen
FY2015	1,342,799	912,764	844,165	62.9	148.29
FY2014	1,007,602	740,554	726,002	72.1	127.54

(3) Consolidated Cash Flows Status

	Cash flows from operating activities	Cash flows from investing activities	Cash flows from financing activities	Cash & cash equivalents at the end of the period
	Millions of yen	Millions of yen	Millions of yen	Millions of yen
FY2015	105,409	-110,537	-49,357	449,164
FY2014	126,239	-67,864	-37,166	503,937

### 2. Cash Dividends

(Record date)	Dividends per share					Total amount (Full year)	Payout ratio (Consolidated)	Dividend ratio to equity attributable to owners of the parent (Consolidated)
	1Q	2Q	3Q	Year end	Full year	Millions of yen	%	%
FY2014	—	0.00	—	8.86	8.86	50,432	37.9	7.5
FY2015	—	0.00	—	8.86	8.86	50,435	29.4	6.4
FY2016 (Estimates)	—	0.00	—	8.86	8.86	—	—	—

### **3. Consolidated Performance Estimates for FY2016 (April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017)**

In the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017, the consolidated revenue is expected to grow year on year over the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016, due to expansion of the existing businesses and contributed by conversion of ASKUL Corporation and Ikyu Corporation to consolidated subsidiaries. In the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016, due to the recognition of gain from remeasurement relating to business combination with ASKUL Corporation but increased expenditures by carrying out more proactive sales promotion activities than in the past, the consolidated operating income after adjustments\* excluding those impacts has become 198 billion yen. The consolidated operating income for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017 is expected to grow year on year over the above consolidated operating income after adjustments in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016 on account of expansion of the existing businesses and more efficient promotion and advertising activities. For details on the existing businesses, please refer to 3) Outlook for Fiscal 2016 (April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017) in (1) Analysis of Business Results of 1. Analysis of Business Results and Financial Position on page 4 of the Results for the Fiscal Year and the Three Months (Attachments).

\* The consolidated operating income after adjustments excludes from the consolidated operating income for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016 of 224.9 billion yen the impacts of gain from remeasurement relating to business combination with ASKUL Corporation of 59.6 billion yen, upfront investment costs of 28.2 billion yen and temporary factors of 4.4 billion yen including office relocation costs.

#### 4. Others

(1) Changes in significant subsidiaries during the period (changes in significant subsidiaries causing changes in scope of consolidation): Yes

New consolidated subsidiaries: 3 (ASKUL Corporation, ecohai Co., Ltd. and Ikyu Corporation)

(2) Changes in the accounting principles, procedures and presentation methods

1) Changes due to IFRSs: None

2) Changes other than 1): None

3) Changes in accounting estimate: None

(3) Number of stocks issued (common stock)

1) Number of stocks issued at the year end (including treasury stocks)

2) Number of treasury stocks at the year end

3) Average number of stocks

FY2015	5,695,291,400	FY2014	5,694,945,000
FY2015	2,800,000	FY2014	2,800,000
FY2015	5,692,340,267	FY2014	5,692,890,529

#### \* Disclosure Regarding Implementation of Audit

These Results for the Fiscal Year and the Three Months are not subject to the audit procedures stipulated in the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act. Moreover, at the point of disclosure of these Results for the Fiscal Year and the Three Months, the financial statement audit procedures based on the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act had not been completed.

#### \* Explanation of the proper use of performance estimates, and other special notes

• The performance estimates, etc., and other forward-looking statements contained in this document are based on the information currently available to the Company and premised on assumptions that have been deemed reasonable by management. For a variety of reasons, actual performance estimates, etc., could differ significantly.

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## 1. Analysis of Business Results and Financial Position

### ■ Consolidated Performance Summary for the Fiscal Year (April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016)

In the consolidated fiscal year ended March 31, 2016, the Yahoo Japan Group recorded revenue growth of 52.2% compared with the last consolidated fiscal year mainly due to the increase in the revenue of Display Advertising, conversion of ASKUL Corporation from an affiliated company under the equity method to a consolidated subsidiary in late August 2015 and the consolidation of YJ Card Corporation during the last fiscal year.

Although we continue to make upfront investments in order to strengthen our operating base for the future, all of operating income, income before income taxes and net income attributable to the owners of the parent increased due to the recognition of gain from remeasurement relating to business combination with ASKUL Corporation.

As a result, the Yahoo Japan Group recorded growth in sales and profit for the 19th consecutive year since the start of its services.

#### (1) Analysis of Business Results

##### 1) Business Results Summary (April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016)

	FY2014	FY2015	Year-on-Year Change (Amount)	Year-on-Year Change (%)
Revenue	¥428.4 billion	¥652.3 billion	+¥223.8 billion	+52.2%
Operating Income	¥197.2 billion	¥224.9 billion	+¥27.7 billion	+14.1%
Income before income taxes	¥208.2 billion	¥226.5 billion	+¥18.2 billion	+8.8%
Net Income attributable to owners of the parent	¥133.0 billion	¥171.6 billion	+¥38.5 billion	+29.0%

##### 2) Segment Business Results Summary (April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016)

###### Revenue and Operating Income by Segment

	FY2014	FY2015	Year-on-Year Change (Amount)	Year-on-Year Change (%)
Marketing Solutions Business				
Revenue	¥260.3 billion	¥277.3 billion	+¥16.9 billion	+6.5%
Operating income	¥143.7 billion	¥144.5 billion	+¥0.8 billion	+0.6%
Consumer Business				
Revenue	¥128.6 billion	¥326.3 billion	+¥197.7 billion	+153.7%
Operating income	¥68.8 billion	¥119.5 billion	+¥50.7 billion	+73.7%
Others				
Revenue	¥48.2 billion	¥60.2 billion	+¥11.9 billion	+24.9%
Operating income	¥15.7 billion	¥6.5 billion	-¥9.2 billion	-58.4%
Adjustments				
Revenue	-¥8.7 billion	-¥11.5 billion	—	—
Operating income	-¥31.1 billion	-¥45.6 billion	—	—
Total				
Revenue	¥428.4 billion	¥652.3 billion	+¥223.8 billion	+52.2%
Operating income	¥197.2 billion	¥224.9 billion	+¥27.7 billion	+14.1%

Notes: 1. The main revenue included in the Others segment is that for settlement- and finance-related services among business activities not included in reporting segments.

2. Adjustments figures represent inter-segment transactions and general corporate expenses not belonging to any reporting segment.

## Reporting Segment

	Major Revenues
Marketing Solutions Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paid search, display and other advertising-related services</li> </ul>
Consumer Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YAHUOKU!, Yahoo! Shopping, ASKUL Corporation, and other commerce-related services</li> <li>• Yahoo! Premium, Yahoo! BB, and other membership services</li> <li>• Yahoo! Real Estate and other information listing services</li> <li>• Game-related services</li> </ul>

## Main advertising product categories

		Fee Calculation	Placement Pages
Paid Search Advertising	Sponsored Search®	Per-click rate (Performance-based) *1	Search results pages
Display Advertising	YDN and others	Yahoo! Display Ad Network (YDN) *3	Top page Interior pages of service sites
		Yahoo! Premium DSP	
	Premium Advertising	Brand Panel, Prime Display, etc.	Per-impression page view rate (Guarantee-based) *2
		Banner / text ads, etc.	Per-guaranteed period rate, etc. (Guarantee-based) *2
	PR Option	Conversion-based	

\*1 Advertising that is programmatically or manually managed on a real-time basis to optimize advertising effects

\*2 Advertising for which specific placement is reserved in advance

\*3 Includes In-feed Advertising on timeline-view pages

### ■ Marketing Solutions Business

The revenue of Display Advertising grew year on year primarily due to the continued expansion in the revenue of Yahoo! Display Ad Network (YDN) and increase in the revenues of Yahoo! Premium DSP and “Rich Advertising”, such as video advertising. In Paid Search Advertising, smartphone-related revenue grew year on year, however, revenue from all devices decreased compared with the last year.

As a result, revenue of the Marketing Solutions Business amounted to ¥277.3 billion, rising 6.5% from the prior year, and accounted for 42.5% of total revenue. Operating income increased 0.6% year on year, to ¥144.5 billion.

- The revenue of Yahoo! Display Ad Network (YDN) largely increased compared with the last year due to continuous functional improvements, increase in the number of displays and renewal of the smartphone version of the Yahoo! JAPAN startup page.
- The revenue of Yahoo! Premium DSP has increased year on year, in terms of both PCs and smartphones.
- In Paid Search Advertising, although the smartphone-related revenue increased compared with the last year, PC-related revenue decreased, which led to the year-on-year decrease in the overall revenue.
- Out of the advertising revenue, the proportion of smartphone advertising increased year on year.

## ■ Consumer Business

Earnings of the Consumer Business greatly rose from the last year, due to the increase in revenues of Yahoo! Shopping and YAHUOKU!, and conversion of ASKUL Corporation from an affiliated company under the equity method to a consolidated subsidiary (\*1). Total domestic e-commerce transaction value (\*2) amounted to ¥1,505.9 billion, increasing 26.5% year on year. Out of the transaction value, business-to-business (BtoB) revenue (transaction value; closed on every 20th) via Internet in ASKUL Corporation's non-consolidated revenue amounted to ¥116.8 billion.

As a result, revenue of the Consumer Business amounted to ¥326.3 billion, increasing by 2.5 times year on year and accounting for 50.0% of total revenue. Operating income expanded by 73.7% compared with the last year, to ¥119.5 billion.

- Along with the continuing steady increase of auction-related transaction value, revenue of YAHUOKU! increased year on year.
- In Yahoo! Shopping, as a result of the increase in the number of buyers and improvement of repeat purchase ratio, total transaction value of Yahoo! Shopping and LOHACO (revenue of ASKUL Corporation's LOHACO business; closed on every 20th) significantly expanded by 42.1% year on year. As of March 31, 2016, the number of stores (\*3) in Yahoo! Shopping amounted to 390 thousand IDs and the number of product items reached 200 million.
- Both in YAHUOKU! and Yahoo! Shopping, smartphone-related transaction value expanded year on year.
- Number of monthly paid-membership IDs (\*4) as of March 31, 2016, climbed to 16.73 million IDs.

\*1 Includes the gain from remeasurement relating to business combination.

\*2 Includes the shopping- and auction-related transaction values, as well as business-to-business (BtoB) revenue (transaction value; closed on every 20th) via Internet in seven months' equivalent of ASKUL Corporation's non-consolidated revenue and two months' equivalent of Ikyu Corporation's transaction value.

\*3 Number of stores is based on individual and corporate accounts issued. It includes accounts that are still preparing to launch store sites after passing the screening process.

\*4 Number of monthly paid-membership IDs is the total of membership IDs of Yahoo! Premium members, Yahoo! BB subscribers, monthly paid-subscribers of digital content and services provided by Yahoo! JAPAN and partner sites\*. Paid-membership IDs are counted separately for each service, even if there is an overlap in IDs.

(\* ) IDs with payment through Yahoo! Wallet only

### 3) Outlook for Fiscal 2016 (April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017)

Continued year-on-year, double-digit growth is expected in revenue of Display Advertising such as Yahoo! Display Ad Network (YDN). Shopping-related advertising revenue is expected to grow in tandem with expansion of transaction value. On the other hand, there is an ongoing shift of Internet-enabled devices in Japan from personal computers to smart devices. Due to this shift, the Yahoo Japan Group is experiencing a decline in the use of its personal computer-based services and a rapid increase in the use of its smart device-based services. Based on the impact of this shift to smart devices, the Group is anticipating that Paid Search Advertising revenue in fiscal 2016 will decline at a high single-digit to lower end of the 10% level compared with the previous fiscal year. In light of these circumstances, the Group aims at year-on-year, mid-to-high single-digit growth in total advertising-related revenue in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017.

The total domestic e-commerce transaction value, including YAHUOKU! and Yahoo! Shopping, is forecast to continue its year-on-year expansion. Yahoo! Shopping operations will place the main emphasis on expanding transaction value and shopping-related advertising revenue by continuing more efficient sales promotional activities while refining services and advertising products.

As for the credit card business, the next several years, including the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017, have been positioned as an "Upfront Investment for Future Growth Period". During this period, the operations continue to aggressively expand the card subscriber base.

## (2) Analysis of Financial Position

### Assets, Liabilities and Equity

#### 1) Assets

Total assets at the end of fiscal 2015 amounted to ¥1,342,799 million, increasing ¥335,196 million, or 33.3% from the end of fiscal 2014. The main components of change were the following:

- Cash and cash equivalents decreased from the end of fiscal 2014, mainly because there was a decrease in cash due to acquisition of stock of subsidiaries, payments of income taxes and dividends despite increase in cash from operating activities.
- Trade and other receivables have increased from the end of fiscal 2014, primarily due to the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation and increase in the transaction value in the credit card business.
- Inventories increased from the end of fiscal 2014, as a result of the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation.
- Other financial assets (current) increased from the end of fiscal 2014, mainly due to the increase by reclassifying payments for guarantee deposits from Other financial assets (non-current) along with headquarters relocation and the increase of derivative assets in foreign exchange margin trading.
- Property and equipment increased compared with the end of fiscal 2014, mainly due to the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation and purchase of servers, etc.
- Goodwill and intangible assets increased from the end of fiscal 2014, mainly due to the increase of consolidated subsidiaries.
- Investments accounted for using the equity method decreased compared with the end of fiscal 2014, mainly due to the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation.
- Other financial assets (non-current) increased compared with the end of fiscal 2014, primarily due to the purchases of investment securities and increase in fair value.

#### 2) Liabilities

Total liabilities at the end of fiscal 2015 were ¥430,035 million, increasing ¥162,986 million, or 61.0%, from the end of fiscal 2014. The major components of change were the following:

- Trade and other payables increased from the end of fiscal 2014, mainly because of the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation.
- Other financial liabilities (current) increased from the end of fiscal 2014, mainly due to the increase of loans payable because of the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation.
- Other financial liabilities (non-current) increased compared with the end of fiscal 2014, chiefly because of the increase in loans payable and lease obligations due to the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation.
- Deferred tax liabilities increased from the end of fiscal 2014, primarily because the tax effect was recognized on the temporary difference related to intangible assets due to the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation and Ikyu Corporation.

#### 3) Equity

Total equity at the end of fiscal 2015 amounted to ¥912,764 million, increasing ¥172,210 million, or 23.3%, from the end of fiscal 2014. The primary reasons for change in equity were as follows:

- Despite the decrease due to the cash dividends paid, retained earnings increased from the end of fiscal 2014 because of the recognition of net income attributable to owners of the Company.
- Non-controlling interest increased from the end of fiscal 2014, primarily due to the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation.



## Cash Flows

At the end of fiscal 2015, cash and cash equivalents amounted to ¥449,164 million, down ¥54,772 million from the end of fiscal 2014.

The following are the movements in the main components of cash flow and the factors contributing to the changes the period under review:

Cash flows from operating activities amounted to a cash inflow of ¥105,409 million because of an increase in net income despite major factors such as the payment of corporate income taxes and adjustments to gain from remeasurement relating to the business combination with ASKUL Corporation, which is a non-cash item.

Cash flows from investing activities amounted to a cash outflow of ¥110,537 million, due to expenditures on stock of subsidiaries and property and equipment, despite proceeds from the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation.

Cash flows from financing activities amounted to a cash outflow of ¥49,357 million, attributed mainly to dividends paid.

### Reference: Transition of Cash Flow-Related Indexes

	FY ended March 31, 2014	FY ended March 31, 2015	FY ended March 31, 2016
Ratio of equity attributable to owners of the parent	72.9%	72.1%	62.9%
Market price-based ratio of equity attributable to owners of the parent	339.0%	280.2%	203.1%
Interest-bearing debt to cash flow ratio	0.0%	1.1%	23.9%
Interest coverage ratio (times)	154,728.6	15,694.8	1,202.4

Ratio of equity attributable to owners of the parent: Equity attributable to owners of the parent/Total assets

Market price-based ratio of equity attributable to owners of the parent: Market capitalization/Total assets

Interest-bearing debt to cash flow ratio: Interest-bearing debt/cash flow

Interest coverage ratio: Cash flow/interest on debt

\* All figures calculated on a consolidated basis

\* Market capitalization calculated on the basis of the number of shares issued not including treasury stocks

\* The above cash flow is an operating cash flow

\* Interest-bearing debt includes all debts booked on consolidated statements of financial position for which interest is paid.

### (3) Basic Policy regarding Profit Distribution and Dividend Payments for Fiscal 2015 and 2016

Yahoo Japan Corporation aims to achieve sustained growth in corporate value over the medium to long term. For that purpose, the Group recognizes the importance of actively pursuing upfront investments to our services, capital expenditures, and capital and business alliances for future growth. At the same time, Yahoo Japan Corporation recognizes its responsibility as a listed company to recompense shareholders by returning profits to them.

Guided by the above policy, for the fiscal year ended March 2016, the Company intends to declare a year-end cash dividend of ¥8.86 per share, the same amount paid last year and equivalent to a total dividend payout of ¥50.4 billion. For the fiscal year ending March 2017, the Company plans to pay the same amount of cash dividend per share.

Going forward, while continuing to invest for business growth, the Company will aim to build corporate value by providing an appropriate return of profits to shareholders.

### (for reference) Transition of Dividends per share (after adjustments for stock split)

Fiscal year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Dividends per share (yen)	3.47	4.01	4.43	8.86	8.86 (Estimates)

Note: Effective October 1, 2013, the Company conducted a 100-for-1 stock split of its common shares.

#### (4) Risk Factors

Major risk factors with regard to the businesses of Yahoo Japan Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries and affiliates (the Yahoo Japan Group or the Company) as of the publication date of this document are discussed below. We proactively disclose risk factors deemed necessary for potential investors to consider in their investment decision-making, including external factors beyond our control and business risks with a low probability of materializing. Cognizant of potential risks, we make every effort to prevent them from materializing and will respond rapidly should problems arise. Management recommends that shareholders and potential investors consider the issues below before assessing the position of the Yahoo Japan Group and its future performance. Please note that the following is not an exhaustive discussion of all risk factors that should be considered before investing in the shares of Yahoo Japan Corporation.

### **1. Impact of Internet Markets and Competition**

#### **1) Macroeconomic Trends, Internet Markets, and Users**

##### **a. The Yahoo Japan Group's business development has an aspect of synchronizing with the growth of Internet-based markets.**

Internet usage in terms of both user numbers and usage times has grown steadily in Japan since the Internet's emergence as a recognizable force in 1995, with particularly notable growth due to the spread of broadband communications as well as to advances in and proliferation of smart devices. Because the Yahoo Japan Group is dependent on the Internet both indirectly and directly, the most basic requirements for its business development are the continued expansion of Internet-based communications and commercial activities in line with increased Internet usage, as well as a stable and secure infrastructure for Internet users.

A number of factors contribute to uncertainty in the outlook for continued expansion of Internet-based markets: (1) growth of user numbers and Internet usage times might eventually slow down; (2) new Internet regulations or fees might constrict Internet usage; and (3) improper development and application of new protocols and technological standards in response to growing user numbers and increasingly advanced applications could result in reduced Internet usage.

##### **b. Continuous growth in our advertising media value is uncertain.**

The Internet-based advertising industry in Japan is generally thought to have begun with the Company's start of operations in 1996. Since then, the Internet advertising market has grown significantly, accounting for 17.1% of the total domestic advertising market in calendar year 2014, according to a DENTSU INC. report.

The Yahoo Japan Group engages in a range of activities aimed at enhancing its advertising media value. In the area of the advertising business, for example, we endeavor to expand and stabilize our client base of corporate advertisers and advertising agencies through various means, including periodic seminars aimed at promoting a greater understanding and appreciation of Internet advertising within the advertising industry. In the area of Promotion Advertising, meanwhile, we are working to improve the match between advertisements and the interests of each user, thereby becoming a more valuable media both for users and for advertisers.

However, further progress in this regard could be hindered by such factors as extremely slow growth in the Internet advertising market or a premature tapering-off of growth in the market. As a result, we might not achieve anticipated levels of advertising revenues, which would negatively impact our business performance.

##### **c. Cyclical macroeconomic trends and user behavior could contribute to underlying volatility in our Internet advertising business.**

Especially when economic conditions deteriorate, advertising expenditures are among the first that companies reduce because: the advertising business is highly susceptible to trends in the overall economy and user behavior; the contract periods of advertising determined with the advertiser are relatively short; and there are short-term variable elements in Internet usage.

Recruiting, real estate, and other information listing services are also strongly influenced by macroeconomic trends.

On the other hand, our cost structure includes a high proportion of fixed costs, such as personnel and lease expense, etc.; therefore, expenditures cannot be adjusted easily according to revenues, contributing to underlying volatility in our income stream.

##### **d. Trends in advertising budget allocations could affect our advertising revenues.**

Generally in Japan, major corporations outsource the bulk of their advertising activities to advertising agencies. In addition to how the advertising budget is allocated among the various media, for example, Internet, television, and newspapers, our advertising revenues depend on the inclinations of major corporate advertisers and the amount of discretion granted to advertising agencies. While we have implemented various measures to enhance Yahoo! JAPAN's appeal as an advertising media, including efforts to boost the effectiveness of advertising products, trends in advertising budget allocations among the various media could affect our advertising revenues.

##### **e. We might fail to attain a share of the mobile advertising market comparable to our share of the PC market.**

In line with recent growth in advertising via Internet-enabled terminals such as smart devices, the Yahoo Japan Group is prioritizing the provision of smart device services ahead of PC services under the slogan of Smart Devices First. However, if usage of smart devices expands further, we may fail to acquire the share of user numbers and usage times that we command in the PC market, and our overall market share might decrease. As a result, advertising revenue growth could taper off, with negative consequences in earnings.

##### **f. A slowdown in the growth rate of users of member services and other fee-based services could affect our revenues.**

With the spread of broadband and mobile communications in recent years, the number of Internet users has increased dramatically, fueling growth in the number of potential users of Yahoo! JAPAN member services and other fee-based services. Eventually, however, it is expected that growth in the number of Internet users will peak out. To prepare for such situation, we are implementing various measures to improve the customer satisfaction of various services on a regular basis and to promote broader usage. Despite these efforts, it is possible that growth in the number of paid memberships, such as "Yahoo! Premium" which grants various benefits, could slow which could negatively impact our overall revenues.

**g. The popularity of various fee-based service contents offered through the Internet, or those provided by the Yahoo Japan Group may decrease.**

The Yahoo Japan Group delivers a variety of fee-based service content to meet changing user needs, including video and games. Demand for such service content is likely to expand as the number of Internet users increases. On the other hand, fee-based service content could fail to become a regular part of the lives of users.

**2) Competition**

**With competitors in each of our service areas, we might have difficulties maintaining our dominant position in the Japanese Internet market.**

Our flagship Yahoo! JAPAN portal site offers a diverse range of services over the Internet, including search services; various types of information services such as news; Internet tool services such as e-mail; shopping and other e-commerce services; and payment services. We have multiple competitors in each of these service areas.

In such a business climate, a degree of uncertainty exists as to whether or not we will be able to maintain our dominant position in the Japanese Internet market. Income deterioration could result from price competition or increased customer acquisition costs. Also, we might be obligated to pay higher advertising commissions and content provider fees to advertising agencies and content providers, which could adversely affect our performance.

Moreover, within our industry there have been cases of new services by fledgling companies gaining popularity with users and spreading rapidly throughout the market. We fully intend to continue gauging user opinions and usage patterns with an eye to offering services that users want. Nevertheless, it is possible that services offered by a start-up company could pose a competitive challenge to our existing services. It is possible also that we will be obligated to make significant investments in developing new services to maintain our competitive advantage. Either eventuality could have a negative impact on our business performance.

**3) Reliance on Other Companies' Products and Services**

**In providing services, the Yahoo Japan Group relies on other companies' products and services, including electricity, servers, Internet connection lines, information devices, and software.**

Many of the products and services necessary for the provision of our services, including electricity, servers, Internet connection lines, information devices, and software, are provided by other companies. The smooth, uninterrupted provision of such products and services is a prerequisite to the successful provision of our services.

In providing Yahoo! JAPAN services, we depend in particular on a stable supply of electricity to run our servers and other equipment and facilities. Given the possibility of disruptions to the electric power supply arising from power blackouts, usage restrictions, or other eventualities, we are setting up duplicate data centers and independent power generation facilities. In the case of an electric power supply disruption actually occurring, we are prepared to respond quickly and appropriately throughout the Yahoo Japan Group. Despite these proactive efforts, if we are unable either to continuously provide services or to quickly restore them following an electric power supply disruption, our revenues and brand image could be negatively affected. In addition, higher electricity charges could reduce our profitability.

Today, users can choose from several types of browser software and from a range of information devices including PCs, smart devices, TVs, video-game consoles, and car navigation systems for accessing the Internet. Some types of browser software and certain information devices, however, are incompatible with Yahoo! JAPAN services. In addition, due to usage conditions and settings of information devices and software, users may not be able to adequately receive information provided by Yahoo! JAPAN. Furthermore, specification changes, rate adjustments, or insufficient market supply of these devices, software and services have the potential to disrupt user access to information provided by us, decreasing users' use frequency, thereby negatively affecting the contents of our services and our revenues.

**4) Technological Change**

**The services provided by the Yahoo Japan Group rely on Internet-related technologies possessed and used by the Yahoo Japan Group, and may be greatly affected by new technologies and technological innovations.**

The Internet industry is a competitive market with many new entrants, and is noted for new technologies, rapid technological innovations and short lifecycles of services provided.

To maintain competitiveness in the Internet industry, we have continued to enhance our services and have responded to new technologies. Nevertheless, if our services become obsolete or we are slow to implement new technologies emerging in the market, we could suffer a decline in competitiveness against our competitors.

**2. Legal and Institutional Changes**

**1) Legal Restrictions**

**a. New laws or amendments could negatively affect our provision of services.**

Reports of incidents in Japan related to the viewing or posting of sensitive information or to dubious business transactions on the Internet have resulted in the move toward the application of certain legal restrictions to Internet-based information and goods distribution. To ensure a safe, secure, and convenient Internet environment in Japan, we comply with all laws and regulations and carry out policies and awareness campaigns in cooperation with relevant organizations.

The introduction of new laws or amendments to existing laws could result in increased compliance-related expenses or otherwise negatively impact our provision of services, as well as adversely affect the development of the Internet industry.

**b. Changes to the Provider Liability Limitation Act could restrict our business.**

The Act on the Limitation of Liability for Damages of Specified Telecommunications Service Providers and the Right to Demand Disclosure of Identification Information of the Senders (Provider Liability Limitation Act) merely clarifies the scope of liability for illegal behavior established by the Civil Code and therefore does not increase the liability of businesses that act as intermediaries in Internet-based information distribution. Should a social consensus in support of increased liability of information distribution intermediaries emerge, however, our business could be restricted as a result of the introduction of new laws, amendments to existing laws or implementation of rules for self-regulation by industry associations, etc.

**c. Amendments to the Telecommunications Business Act could restrict our business.**

Within our business of operating Internet-based information communication services, there are areas where we are required to comply with the Telecommunications Business Act and related ordinances enforced by relevant government divisions. Amendments to this law or to related ordinances could restrict our business.

**d. The Act on Development of an Environment that Provides Safe and Secure Internet Use for Young People could impinge upon the development of the Internet industry in Japan.**

Since its establishment, the Yahoo Japan Group has undertaken a variety of measures to contribute to the sound development of the Internet and has taken steps to protect minors from potentially harmful information, such as the operation of Yahoo! Kids and the introduction of Yahoo! Safety Net. In April 2009, the government enforced the Act on Development of an Environment that Provides Safe and Secure Internet Use for Young People. Based on the content of the act and the nature of the Yahoo Japan Group's business, the effect on our business is expected to be minor. Nevertheless, the law raises many issues, such as restrictions on freedom of expression or inhibition of filtering development, which could impinge upon the development of the Internet industry in Japan and, consequently, affect our performance.

**e. Legislation relating to e-commerce business could negatively affect our earnings.**

Listings of illegal items on YAHUOKU! have been reported and other cases of fraudulent activity have been identified. When sellers, who are subject to the Act on Specified Commercial Transactions, list branded products for auction, we instruct them to properly identify themselves and will revoke their IDs if they do not comply. In collaboration with other Internet auction operators, we have formulated and implemented Internet Auction Services Guidelines. In addition, as the chair of the Conference on Anti-distribution of Pirated Intellectual Property on the Internet, the Company is actively working to devise measures to prevent violations. For example, to help educate sellers and buyers of items on Internet auctions, we have published on our Web site "Intellectual Property Rights Protection Guide," which defines and explains copyrights, image rights, and trademarks.

Mirroring the evolution of YAHUOKU!, an increasing number of stores registered on Yahoo! Shopping could lead to a higher number of violations of our usage guidelines and restrictions, resulting in a growing number of buyer complaints. Proactively addressing this potential problem, we are applying the accumulated know-how and proven operational methods for reducing fraudulent activity on YAHUOKU! to our Yahoo! Shopping business.

If these measures fail to bring about the expected results and reports of illegal merchandise and other fraudulent activity persist, legislation could be enacted restricting commercial activity carried out via the Internet. Depending on the degree of restriction entailed by such legislation, it could negatively affect our earnings.

**f. Legislation relating to social media services could affect our provision of such services.**

Social media services provide a space for users to communicate with each other via postings of opinion and content. In the context of such services, the potential exists for defamation, invasion of privacy, and infringement of intellectual property rights and other rights. We prohibit postings that violate these rights. From the viewpoint of protecting copyright, etc., we make concerted efforts to prevent and eliminate such infringements, such as operating a patrol system for detecting illegal content, soliciting user reports of illegal content, and responding swiftly to requests by legitimate rights holders to remove illegal content.

If these measures fail to bring about the expected results and reports of illegal postings continue and become an object of public concern, new legislation might be enacted that could restrict comment posting services on the Internet. Depending on the degree of restriction entailed, such legislation could significantly affect our provision of services that incorporate social media functions.

**g. The formulation of new laws or amendments to existing laws concerning financial services could affect the Yahoo Japan Group.**

In the area of financial services, Yahoo Japan Corporation has offered the Yahoo! Card service, wherein we have independently issued the Yahoo! JAPAN Card Suica credit card. YJ Card Corporation, a consolidated subsidiary, also issues a credit card and a loan card. Owing to their lending and other loan-related functions, both of these services fall under the Money Lending Business Act and the Interest Limitation Law. Under the former, Yahoo Japan Corporation is registered as a money lender with the Kanto Local Finance Bureau, while YJ Card Corporation is registered with the Fukuoka Local Finance Branch Bureau. As a result of a recent revision to the Money Lending Business Act lowering the interest rate ceiling on loans to match the interest rate ceiling specified in the Interest Limitation Law, customers might claim that interest paid in excess of the rate permitted under the Interest Limitation Law represents unfair profits, and demand repayment. Although adequate reserve, estimated conservatively, is set aside, YJ Card Corporation's business is especially exposed to the risk of being impacted by unfair profit claims.

Strengthening or revising financial services compliance structures or trading systems in response to a tightening of relevant regulations might entail increased costs and could therefore negatively impact our earnings.

**h. Obligated to comply with Japan's Travel Agency Act, the Yahoo Japan Group's travel agency business could be restricted by future legal revisions.**

Yahoo! Travel, the travel agency business operated by the Yahoo Japan Group, is obligated to comply with the Travel Agency Act and related ordinances. Revisions to this act or to related ordinances could therefore restrict Yahoo! Travel's business operations.

**i. In addition to legal restrictions, official administrative guidance and governmental requirements could adversely affect our service provision and performance.**

In addition to the aforementioned legal restrictions, official administrative guidance and requirements by the national government, governmental ministries, or local governments regarding the self-regulatory systems of companies in the information communications industry could adversely affect our service provision and performance.

**j. Restrictions on the collection and analysis of users' behavioral history information could affect our advertising services such as Yahoo! Display Ad Network (YDN).**

Based on an analysis of users' Internet usage histories, our advertising services such as Yahoo! Display Ad Network (YDN) distribute advertisements for products or services only to user groups with a demonstrated preference for or interest in those specific products or services. These advertising products are designed to boost advertising efficiency for all concerned parties, namely, advertisers, users, and the Internet media itself.

The Yahoo Japan Group rigorously respects the privacy of individual users in its collection and analysis of information on behavioral history. Our advertising services such as Yahoo! Display Ad Network (YDN) analyze three aspects of users' information on behavioral history: (1) the Yahoo! JAPAN services viewed by users, or more specifically, accessed via users' browsers; (2) the keywords employed by users in searches; and (3) the type of Display Advertising viewed, or clicked-on, by users. This information is used only for the purpose of grouping users, or more specifically, users' browsers, on the basis of similar preferences and interests; it is not used to analyze the preferences and interests of specific users.

Although we believe that we are taking adequate precautions to respect users' privacy, some users might object to the collection and analysis of their information on behavioral history, or legal restrictions might be placed on these activities. In addition to damaging our brand image, such objections or restrictions could lead to a prohibition on future sales of our advertising services such as Yahoo! Display Ad Network (YDN), which could have a detrimental impact on our business performance.

## **2) Litigation**

### **a. We could be subject to damage claims by related parties who wish not to be listed in certain search results.**

In regard to information displayed in search results, we have set up a "Panel of Experts on Internet Search Results and Privacy" to examine the balance between both "freedom of expression", and "right to know" and privacy protection. Taking into consideration the result of the examination, we announced our policy toward requests to delist Internet search results in March 2015. By appropriately handling requests regarding information displayed in search results based on this policy, we work to improve our service and reduce risks.

However, if these measures fail to bring about expected results, related parties could demand compensation from the Yahoo Japan Group. In such case, we could incur substantial expenses or suffer a loss of brand image, which could negatively affect our business performance.

### **b. Victims of auction fraud might take legal action against the Yahoo Japan Group.**

We have implemented various measures to improve systems security for a safer and more stable auction environment. In May 2001, we introduced a fee-based personal identification system. In July 2004, we initiated a system that verifies by postal mail the physical addresses of users listing items on the auction site. To further reinforce security, we introduced an Internet auction fraud-detection model in November 2005. Through the establishment of a patrol team which searches out and eliminates auction listings of illegal items, and through the cooperation with law enforcement agencies and copyright-related groups, the Yahoo Japan Group constantly provides crime-related information, improves services and endeavors to reduce risks.

A lawsuit brought against the Company by certain users of YAHUOKU! seeking damage compensation relating to the non-receipt of paid auction items was ruled definitively in our favor in October 2009, when the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal by said users, effectively upholding an initial judgment that the Company was not liable for damages because it had forewarned YAHUOKU! users of the potential for auction fraud by citing actual examples of fraud.

Despite this ruling in our favor, the likelihood that auction fraud will to some extent continue implies that certain YAHUOKU! users might again take legal action against the Company, regardless of responsibility. Moreover, the implementation of additional measures to further strengthen systems security in order to prevent illegal activity, and improvement of management systems, could entail increased costs and, as a result, affect earnings.

We have instituted a system guaranteeing limited compensation for users victimized by auction fraud. This compensation system could lead to higher expenditures for the Yahoo Japan Group.

### **c. We could be subject to claims, reprimands, or damage suits brought by related parties or governmental agencies with regard to the content of advertisements or of Web sites accessed through links on Yahoo Japan Group sites.**

To avoid conflict with Japanese legal restrictions, we established an Advertisement Review Standard that internally regulates the content of advertisements and of Web sites accessible through advertisement links. As stipulated in a written contract with each advertiser, the advertiser accepts full responsibility for the content of advertisements. For such services as message boards, blogs, and auctions, where users can exchange information freely, we indicate clearly in our contracts with users that illegal or slanderous content is prohibited and that full responsibility lies with users. We maintain the right to remove content that is in violation of our contracts with users and will do so immediately upon discovering such content.

Through such internal regulation, we prohibit illegal and slanderous content on our sites and protect user privacy. In addition, we publish a disclaimer stating clearly that users bear full responsibility for Web browsing and information posting, and that we accept no responsibility for damages incurred by users as a result of Web browsing or use of Yahoo Japan Group sites. However, there is no guarantee that such measures will suffice to stave off litigation. We could be subject to claims, reprimands, or damage suits brought by users, related parties, or governmental agencies with regard to the content of advertisements, Web sites accessible through links on our sites, contributions to community message boards, and/or trading on our auction site. The resulting decline in user confidence could lead to a drop in hits or time spent on our sites, or to a suspension of certain of our services.

### **d. We could be subject to compensation demands from interested parties regarding content procured from companies outside the Yahoo Japan Group.**

With regard to information services such as news, weather reports, and stock prices, and for entertainment services such as videos and games, we procure content from outside companies and provide it to Yahoo! JAPAN users. The Yahoo Japan Group established Yahoo! JAPAN Media Statement in February 2016 and by sharing the basic policies provided in the Statement with content providers, we aim to maintain reliability and quality of the content. Content providers make contractual agreements to take responsibility for all content. In case interested parties make claims, both the Yahoo Japan Group and content providers are responsible for quickly investigating and dealing with them. Despite said contractual agreements and the implementation of those measures, interested parties could demand compensation from the Yahoo Japan Group even though responsibility is contractually assigned solely to content providers. As a result, we could incur substantial expenses or suffer a loss of brand image, which could negatively affect our business performance.

**e. We could be subject to compensation demands from interested parties regarding content the production of which the Yahoo Japan Group is involved in.**

With regard to part of information services such as news, we ourselves are involved in the production of content and provide it to Yahoo! JAPAN users. Regarding all content, we pay consideration to human rights and also, conform to a social norm; preserve decency; aim to provide high-quality, reliable information; and try not to distribute incorrect information, excessively demagogic expressions, or information leading to misunderstanding. In case interested parties make claims, the Yahoo Japan Group is responsible for quickly dealing with them. Despite the implementation of those measures, interested parties could demand compensation from the Yahoo Japan Group. As a result, we could incur substantial expenses or suffer a loss of brand image, which could negatively affect our business performance.

**f. We could be subject to damages that are in fact the responsibility of a third party.**

To prevent misunderstanding or confusion about the scope of services provided by third parties through agreements with the Yahoo Japan Group and those provided by the Group itself, measures are taken to ensure the understanding and agreement of users through user rules or clauses posted on relevant Yahoo! JAPAN sites. Even so, it is possible that these measures will fail and that users will demand compensation for damages from the Yahoo Japan Group that are in fact the responsibility of a third party. As a result, we could incur substantial expenses or suffer a loss of brand image, which could negatively affect our business performance.

We assign all responsibility to users and accept no responsibility regarding YAHUOKU!, making no guarantees as to the selection, display, or bidding process for goods or services offered or the formation or honoring of contracts agreed to while using this service. Similarly, a disclaimer published on the Yahoo! Shopping site states that we assume no responsibility for the activities, products, services, or Web site content of the many retailers employing these services. Nor do we guarantee that users of these services will be able to purchase goods or services listed by these retailers. In addition, we do not accept responsibility for damage, loss, or delay in the delivery of such goods or services. However, it remains possible that users of these services, or related parties, will take legal action against the Yahoo Japan Group for claims or compensation related to the content of its services. Such legal action could have a negative impact as a result of monetary obligations or damage to our brand image. Furthermore, it is possible that the treaty regarding the jurisdictions of international courts could result in future legal disputes with users of our services who reside outside of Japan.

**g. We could be subject to damage claims by third parties for infringement of intellectual property rights, such as patents or copyrights owned by third parties.**

Considering intellectual property to be an important management asset, the Yahoo Japan Group has established an in-house section devoted exclusively to activities related to patent rights, including investigation, filing, and internal awareness campaigns.

In many cases, the extent to which patent rights can be applied remains unclear. To avoid potential conflicts, we might be obligated to substantially increase expenditures related to patent management, which could impact our earnings. The geographic boundaries for the application of patent rights on Internet technologies also remain unclear. Consequently, we cannot rule out the possibility of patent issues arising overseas, in addition to in Japan.

Moreover, we have set up internal regulations and training programs with the goal of ensuring that our services or business-use software do not infringe on copyrights owned by third parties. Despite these efforts, infringements still might occur. If so, we could be sued for compensation, required to pay substantial royalty fees, or forced to cease providing certain services.

**h. Advertisers could claim reimbursement of excessive fees resulting from click fraud or other methods of artificially increasing advertising costs in Promotion Advertising.**

In Promotion Advertising, including paid search and Yahoo! Display Ad Network (YDN), a problem known as click fraud might arise. Fees for Promotion Advertising are determined by the number of times an advertising link is clicked by users. Click fraud is used to artificially inflate the number of clicks, thereby increasing Promotion Advertising fees charged to advertisers. In the United States, major advertisers victimized by this type of fraud have brought class-action lawsuits against companies offering Promotion Advertising products. The Yahoo Japan Group systematically and in some cases manually monitors and determines whether click fraud is occurring and, in cases where click fraud is detected, removes fraudulent clicks from the count for billing. Nonetheless, a similar lawsuit might be brought against the Yahoo Japan Group, thereby damaging our brand image and negatively affecting business performance.

### **3) Other Legal Regulations**

**a. Because we routinely consign business to outside contractors, the possibility exists for violations of the Worker Dispatch and Subcontract laws, resulting in diminished public confidence in the Yahoo Japan Group.**

We periodically offer training courses related to the Worker Dispatch and Subcontract laws to all employees newly joining the Yahoo Japan Group and at regular intervals thereafter to ensure compliance with these laws in business transactions. Despite such efforts, violations of the Worker Dispatch and Subcontract laws might occur, which could damage our credibility and performance.

**b. Changes to accounting standards or tax codes could have a material impact on our profits or losses.**

Against the backdrop of the recent trend in Japan to establish international accounting standards, we have made quick and appropriate changes to our accounting standards. Even so, significant future changes to accounting standards or tax codes could have a material impact on our profits or losses.

### **3. Disasters and Emergency Situations**

#### **1) Disasters**

**The Yahoo Japan Group's operations are potentially vulnerable to disasters.**

Our operations are potentially vulnerable to disasters such as earthquakes, fires, and other large-scale catastrophes and to the resultant destruction of buildings, power outages, and network failures. Our network infrastructure and human resources are concentrated mainly in Tokyo. To cope with disasters and resultant surges in Internet access, we are committed to improving our network infrastructure by preparing a redundancy system, and by duplicating and dispersing server capacity and data centers.

Although we have taken steps to ensure a quick and appropriate response throughout the Yahoo Japan Group in the event of a disaster, the scale and nature of certain disasters might make it impossible to carry on normal operations or to recover fully. At the same time, advertisers might cancel or reduce advertising, and Yahoo! JAPAN's fee-based services might suffer a drop in user numbers, which would negatively affect our operations, business performance, and brand image.

## **2) Emergency Situations**

### **Our operations could be affected by international conflicts, terrorist attacks, or other emergency situations.**

In the event of outbreaks of international conflicts or terrorist attacks that largely transform the normal environment of international politics or framework of economic environment, we expect that our operations could be substantially affected.

Specifically, under the impact of such an event our revenues could decline or we could incur extraordinary costs. This might occur because of a temporary limitation in the operation of Yahoo! JAPAN, causing disruption to planned advertising business. Or for their own reasons, advertisers might cancel or reduce advertising. Furthermore, the access infrastructure might be disrupted or some other circumstances arise whereby users would no longer be able to access our fee-based services. In addition, operations and earnings could be affected by damage to communications or transportation lines in the United States or other countries that would impede our links to business alliances in those countries. If our offices were physically disabled, or if other companies closely related to our businesses, such as companies with businesses related to Internet connection and data centers, were hit with the same conditions, it is possible that the Yahoo Japan Group could be rendered incapable of maintaining some of its services.

## **4. Business Management**

### **1) Management Policy and Business Strategies**

#### **Failure to quickly and flexibly modify strategies in response to changing market conditions could compromise the Yahoo Japan Group's competitive advantage.**

Focused on our overriding management goal of increasing user numbers and per-user usage times, we are pursuing key strategies with a primary emphasis on smart devices. These strategies are modified quickly and flexibly according to changes in user needs, partner requirements, or technological or competitive trends.

If management fails to modify these strategies as required, our competitive advantage could be compromised.

### **2) Technological Development and Improvement**

#### **a. Although our R&D efforts aim to meet user needs through the implementation of new strategies and the establishment of new businesses, such efforts might fail to adequately address user needs or result in R&D failures or delays.**

To respond to the growth and diversification of users and maintain a competitive advantage, we focus on strategically developing new businesses for providing content and services that meet user needs. To support this process, we established a new research institution, Yahoo! JAPAN Research, in April 2007. Although R&D expenses directly related to such efforts to date have been limited, future R&D expenditures could exceed projections, depending on the time period required for development, resulting in diminished competitiveness.

The Internet-related market is crowded with entrants and highly competitive, technological innovation is the norm, the pace of change is rapid, and service life cycles are short. For these reasons, we intend to improve operating efficiency not only by hiring specialists and technically skilled staff but also by engaging cooperatively with other companies boasting proven records of accomplishment in their respective business fields. To respond quickly to changing market needs, we are also focusing on strengthening our service planning and systems development. Despite such efforts, we might fall short of achieving targeted sales and profits owing to delays or failures of R&D programs, excessive expenses, or a failure to adequately address user needs. Moreover, focusing R&D investment on developing new strategies and businesses might hinder the development and operation of our existing services. In addition, technical and operational issues could ultimately result in user demands for compensation from the Yahoo Japan Group.

#### **b. Failure to effectively implement a program aimed at continuously improving our services could eventually render them obsolete.**

The pace of change in technology and services is very dynamic in the Internet market, resulting in a constant stream of new services. In such an environment, we believe that continuously improving the user experience is central to maintaining our competitive advantage. To this end, we focus broadly on (1) improving the visibility and design layout of the display screen with an eye to enhancing operational convenience; (2) tightening the correspondence between the results of searches and other information services and actual user requests; and (3) accelerating display speeds of the results of searches and other information services.

To maintain and increase our competitive advantage, we must continue to invest in such service improvements. Should these capital investments not be appropriately made, we could suffer a decline in competitiveness or damage to our brand image. Moreover, the level of investments required for achieving service improvements could rise. Either of these eventualities could adversely affect our business performance. Also, although we conduct adequate surveys and tests to determine the likely effects of planned improvements to or renewal of services, the actual effects could be a reduction in the number of users or of page views. As a result, advertising revenues could decline, negatively impacting our business performance.

#### **c. Inadequate planning and implementation of capital investment programs could result in lower service quality and higher expenditures.**

To support future business expansion and facilitate ongoing provision of quality services that meet user needs, we maintain a continuous capital-investment program of comparatively large scale relative to the size of current operations. Against a background of continuing growth in the Internet user base, increasing rates of diversification in devices and expanding Internet accessibility, we are obligated to add new and upgrade existing network-related facilities to adequately cope with higher peaks in access volume and larger volumes of data transmission and reception in short time periods. With the recent acquisition of a proprietary large-scale data center, the Yahoo Japan Group benefits not only from stable and efficient operations of its servers but also from cost reductions.

Consequently, we anticipate a growing need for ever larger capital investments made in a timely manner to build systems and networks for smoothly controlling large volumes of communications traffic, strengthen security systems to protect

settlement services and users' personal information, expand systems to appropriately respond to the growth and diversification of user inquiries, and utilize our big data. Furthermore, in line with our expanding business scope we will be required to continuously acquire more office space and invest in the expansion and upgrading of our facilities.

In making these capital investments, we intend to minimize cash outflows by closely considering costs and benefits with a mid- to long-term view and by keeping a tight rein on system development and equipment-related expenditures.

Although we believe that business expansion will result in earnings growth sufficient to provide operating cash flows to cover increased costs and cash outflows, insufficient returns on capital investments could substantially impact future earnings and cash flows. Moreover, since the Internet industry is characterized by continuous technological innovation and rapidly changing user needs, the useful lives of new or upgraded facilities might be shorter than planned. Accordingly, depreciation timeframes might be shortened, annual depreciation costs might become higher compared with the current level and, the accelerated disposal of existing facilities might result in higher-than-expected one-time losses.

**d. Failure to properly adopt the specific information transmission standards of the full range of Internet-enabled devices could adversely affect our business development.**

In recent years, the range of Internet-enabled terminals has grown to include smart devices, video-game consoles, TVs, and car navigation systems, resulting in a vastly expanded Internet-connection infrastructure for information terminals other than PCs. In response to this trend, we are promoting Internet usage via a wide range of information devices, with the goal of increasing accessibility to and boosting usage times of Yahoo! JAPAN services. Along with this strategy, the following risks are implied:

To offer Yahoo! JAPAN services to users via various information devices, we must adopt the information transmission standards of each information device with the support of the company that developed it. If we fail to properly adopt the standards for a given information device, then we will not be able to provide services via that information device.

Enabling users to easily connect to Yahoo! JAPAN via any Internet-enabled information device is a key element supporting our competitiveness. We intend to work closely with companies that have developed Internet-enabled information devices to ensure easy connectivity. Failure to achieve smooth Internet connectivity could undermine our competitiveness. Furthermore, should higher-than-expected costs be incurred in achieving connectivity, our performance could be negatively affected.

In addition, each information device has unique features, such as screen size and input system. We are optimizing Yahoo! JAPAN sites for each information device. Achieving this goal might take longer than expected, or our services might be inferior to other companies' optimized services, resulting in an erosion of competitiveness. Moreover, higher-than-expected optimization-related expenditures could adversely affect our business performance.

**e. Failure to properly incorporate innovative advertising methods could adversely affect our advertising revenues.**

Many new advertising products incorporating a wide range of advertising methods have emerged in the Internet advertising market. The Yahoo Japan Group develops and sells a variety of advertising products suited to the specific needs of individual advertisers, including products with guaranteed exposure periods and page views; video advertising that are expressed through video and audio; "Rich Advertising" that have a wide variety of advertising expressions such as expandable display area through user initiated actions such as "mouse-over"; Yahoo! Premium DSP that allows full use of Yahoo! JAPAN's multi big data and media; and Promotion Advertising that enables effective approaches by posting advertisements on major partner sites including Yahoo! JAPAN.

In addition, we have developed and sold various advertising products incorporating innovative advertising distribution methods, including targeting advertising, which distributes advertising based on users' Yahoo! JAPAN usage histories, keyword search histories, demographic factors, and physical location; Interest Match<sup>®</sup>, which distributes advertising based on the said usage histories and the content of Web pages viewed at the time of ad distribution; and AD Network, which distributes advertising over a network of partner sites and thus achieves greater reach than single-site-distribution products.

If we fail to properly incorporate innovative advertising methods, our advertising revenues could decrease even as the cost of developing new products and forming new partnerships with companies possessing expertise in innovative advertising methods grows. As a result, our performance could be negatively affected.

### **3) New Businesses**

**Our diversification into new businesses might yield lower-than-expected earnings contributions.**

We plan to further diversify into new businesses to strengthen our operating base and provide a growing range of quality services. To this end, we might be obligated to incur additional expenses to employ new staff, expand and upgrade facilities, and conduct research and development.

Moreover, new businesses are unlikely to begin contributing stable revenues immediately. Consequently, our profitability could decline temporarily.

In addition, new businesses might not develop in line with our expectations. Furthermore, we might be unable to recover investment expenses, which could significantly affect our performance.

### **4) Services Provided**

**a. Development, operation, and maintenance of the Yahoo Japan Group's search services are commissioned to Google and others.**

Currently, we are using the search engine and Paid Search Advertising distribution system of Google.

In the future, should the Company's business relationship with Google change or Google's smooth service operations be obstructed, the sustainability of certain of our services could be jeopardized and our performance negatively affected as a result.

**b. Any modifications to the business contract with Google Asia Pacific Pte Ltd. could affect our earnings.**

To enable the Yahoo Japan Group to provide search and Paid Search Advertising distribution technologies and other services, the Company has the following contract with Google Asia Pacific Pte Ltd. Since search and Paid Search Advertising distribution technologies are key income sources for the Yahoo Japan Group, any modifications to the contract could affect our earnings.



Contract name	GOOGLE SERVICES AGREEMENT
Contract date	October 21, 2014
Contract term end	March 31, 2019
Counterparty	Google Asia Pacific Pte Ltd.
Main details	<p>1) Non-exclusive provision of search and Paid Search Advertising distribution technologies by counterparty The counterparty shall provide its search and Paid Search Advertising distribution technologies to Yahoo Japan Corporation on a non-exclusive basis, which will be used by Yahoo Japan Corporation to offer its own brand of services.</p> <p>2) Differentiation of search services Both parties are entitled to freely develop and use additional functions for the search results in order to differentiate their search results. Yahoo Japan Corporation may decide on its own whether to display the search results provided by the counterparty.</p> <p>3) Payment for counterparty's services The consideration for the counterparty's services shall be the sum of (1) an amount calculated using a method determined on an annual basis based on the revenue of the Web site of Yahoo Japan Corporation and (2) an amount calculated using the standard for excess amounts on any revenue of the Web site of Yahoo Japan Corporation in excess of a specific amount during the specified period. The consideration for the services used by Yahoo Japan Corporation in a partner site shall be the amount calculated by multiplying the revenue derived from the partner site by a rate determined on an annual basis.</p>

**c. For advertising products with guaranteed page views, failure to attain the guaranteed number of views could obligate the Yahoo Japan Group to provide some form of compensation.**

Advertising contract periods and page views are guaranteed for some of our products, with advertising fees based on those two parameters. Failure to attain the guaranteed number of page views due to problems with the Internet connection environment or to similar problems could obligate the Yahoo Japan Group to extend advertising contract periods or to provide some other form of compensation, which could negatively impact advertising revenues.

Moreover, we might fail to provide services that meet the needs of certain advertisers, which could result in reduced demand from those advertisers and thereby negatively impact our advertising revenues.

**d. Expenditures for additional Internet connections and capital investment in infrastructure could rise in line with expanding bandwidth requirements.**

We provide streaming and other services, such as GYAO!, requiring relatively large bandwidth compared with services consisting only of text and images. Brand Panel and video advertising, incorporating interactive features, also require relatively large bandwidth. Because usage of these types of services and advertising products is likely to grow steadily in the future, expenditures for additional Internet connections and capital investment in infrastructure such as servers required to deliver these services and products could increase as well.

**5) Compliance**

**Despite our efforts to ensure compliance with laws and regulations, compliance-related risk exists.**

The Yahoo Japan Group recognizes that legal and regulatory compliance is a prerequisite for enhancing corporate value. Consequently, we have established various compliance-related regulations and standards for all directors and employees with regard to relevant laws and our articles of incorporation. In an effort to promote thorough observation of those regulations and standards, we have posted them on our intranet and conduct periodic in-house training.

Despite these efforts, it is impossible to entirely eliminate compliance-related risk. If a violation occurs, our brand image and business performance could be affected.

**6) Management and Operation Systems**

**a. Failure to adequately increase staff levels as required by business diversification could negatively affect our business development.**

In addition to personnel and organizational enhancements geared toward higher advertising sales and strengthened technological development, we must increase staff in line with ongoing business diversification to support operational expansion and quality improvement of various services arising from the recent surge in Internet users, as well as to handle billing and provide customer support for fee-based services.

Failure on the part of management or staff to respond adequately to these expanding administrative duties could inconvenience users and owners of stores registered on the Yahoo! Shopping and YAHUOKU! sites, affect operational efficiency, and undermine competitiveness.

Although we aim to minimize the effects of increased staff levels on our operating results, personnel expenses, lease expenses, and other fixed costs are likely to rise, resulting in lower profit margins.

**b. The resignation of key personnel could temporarily hinder our continuous business development.**

The development of the Yahoo Japan Group's businesses depends on senior management and notably on key technical personnel, including the corporate officers of the Company as well as representatives of each department who possess specialized knowledge and technical expertise concerning the Yahoo Japan Group and its businesses. In the case of the departure of key personnel, management intends to replace them as quickly as possible with appropriate successors, either from

within or from outside the Yahoo Japan Group. Even so, the replacement process could temporarily disrupt our continuous business development.

In addition, some directors and employees participate in the stock-option plan, one of our personnel incentive measures. Rather than motivate participants, however, the stock-option plan might actually be an inducement for certain directors and employees to leave the Yahoo Japan Group.

**c. Efforts promoting the protection of our intellectual property rights with the goal of maintaining competitive advantage might not be effective.**

The Yahoo Japan Group believes that its intellectual property rights, such as copyrights, patents, trademarks, designs, and domain names are valuable management resources that are central to its ability to maintain competitive advantages in the market and that it is therefore essential to protect them. However, the application, registration and maintenance of patents, etc., require a great deal of expense and time including those required for securing human resources. Moreover, there may be cases in which patent rights are not granted to the applications of patents, etc., or requests for invalidation of patents, etc., are made, and sufficient protection may not be provided as a result. Even if we possess intellectual property rights, such as patents, etc., these rights do not immediately guarantee competitive advantages. Technological innovations in the field in which the Yahoo Japan Group operates is extremely fast, thus it is possible that the protection of intellectual rights such as patents, etc., will be limited in effect. In the event that such problems arise, it may have a negative impact on our business performance.

**d. As the Yahoo Japan Group conducts a growing proportion of business transactions with a base of unspecified individual and corporate users, costs related to settlement/collection and customer service might increase.**

In line with the expansion of our business scope and strengthening of our Promotion Advertising, fee-based member services, and paid-content businesses, the proportion of our revenues derived from a diverse base of unspecified individual and corporate users has been growing.

The Yahoo Japan Group has formed a special section responsible for strengthening the management of this pool of users and for taking such steps as introducing a new system to improve business efficiency. Despite these measures, we might be exposed to expanded risks related to the settlement and collection of receivables owing to increasing amounts of small sales receivables and uncollected receivables, expanding credit card settlement problems, and growing costs of receivables collection.

Meanwhile, the array and quantity of user inquiries continue to broaden, including questions related to service usage, payment issues, and the return or exchange of goods and services as well as matters relating to distribution or settlement services provided by our consigned third-party vendors. To maintain an effective response capacity, we are in the process of increasing staff, strengthening and expanding our management organization, and improving efficiency by standardizing and computerizing businesses. Higher costs associated with these measures could negatively affect our profits. In addition, these measures do not guarantee that all users will be sufficiently satisfied, implying potential damage to our brand image and a negative impact on our business performance.

## **5. Relationship with Major Stakeholders**

### **1) Major Shareholders**

**a. Changes in parent company policies or in major shareholders could affect the Yahoo Japan Group's business.**

With SoftBank Group Corp. as the parent company, the Yahoo Japan Group provides Internet portal service in Japan under the Yahoo! brand name provided by Yahoo! Inc. The business relationships between the Yahoo Japan Group and the various associated business partners such as SoftBank Group Corp. and Yahoo! Inc. are favorable. Moving forward, we intend to maintain these favorable relationships. It is possible, however, that our services or business contracts could be affected, or relationships with associated business partners transformed, as a result either of changes in the business strategies of certain companies or of changes in important shareholders, most notably the parent company and other major investors in the Company. Such changes could adversely affect our businesses in various ways.

The shareholder agreement between SoftBank Group Corp. and Yahoo! Inc., the Company's major shareholders, places certain restrictions on the sale or purchase of Yahoo Japan Corporation's stock.

**b. Competition within the SoftBank Group could arise in the future.**

The Yahoo Japan Group works with SoftBank Group Corp. on mobile communications, Yahoo! BB, and other businesses. If SoftBank Group Corp. should invest in or tie up with a company offering services similar to those offered by the Yahoo Japan Group, competition within the SoftBank Group could arise in the future. Although we intend to proactively deal with such an eventuality by collaborating, any resultant competition within the SoftBank Group could affect our performance in some manner.

**c. Modifications to the license agreement with Yahoo! Inc. could affect our business.**

The Yahoo Japan Group's operations are based on a license agreement with Yahoo! Inc., one of the founding partners of the Company. Most of the Yahoo! trademark, software, and tools, etc. (hereinafter referred to as the trademark) used in the operation of our Internet search services are the property of Yahoo! Inc. We conduct business operations through a license obtained for the use of the trademark. As such, the agreement with Yahoo! Inc. is crucial to our core operations, and any modifications to the agreement could affect our business performance.

Contract name	YAHOO! JAPAN LICENSE AGREEMENT
Contract date	April 1, 1996
Contract term	From April 1, 1996; termination date unspecified Note: The license agreement may be terminated under the following conditions: mutual decision by the companies to terminate the agreement; cancellation of the agreement following bankruptcy or loan default by one of the companies; purchase of one-third or more of the outstanding shares of Yahoo Japan Corporation by a competitor of Yahoo! Inc.; merger or acquisition rendering Yahoo! Inc. and SoftBank Group Corp. incapable of maintaining over 50% of shareholder voting rights of Yahoo Japan Corporation (may be waived by agreement of Yahoo! Inc.).
Counterparty	Yahoo! Inc.
Main details	<p>1) Licensing rights granted by Yahoo! Inc. to Yahoo Japan Corporation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-exclusive rights granted to Yahoo Japan Corporation for reproduction and use of Yahoo! Inc.'s Internet search and other services customized and localized for the Japanese market (hereinafter referred to as the Japanese version of the Yahoo! search services)</li> <li>• Non-exclusive rights granted to Yahoo Japan Corporation for use in Japan of the Yahoo! trademark</li> <li>• Exclusive rights granted to Yahoo Japan Corporation for publishing of the Yahoo! trademark in Japan</li> <li>• Exclusive rights granted to Yahoo Japan Corporation worldwide for development, commercial use, and promotion of the Japanese version of the Yahoo! search services</li> </ul> <p>2) Non-exclusive rights granted (gratis) to Yahoo! Inc. worldwide for use of Japanese content added by Yahoo Japan Corporation</p> <p>3) Royalties to be paid by Yahoo Japan Corporation to Yahoo! Inc. (see Note, below) Note: Initially, royalties were calculated as 3% of gross profit less sales commissions. Effective January 2005, the calculation method for determining royalties was revised, as follows:</p> <p>Royalty calculation method  <math>\{(Consolidated\ net\ sales) - (Advertising\ sales\ commissions\ on\ a\ consolidated\ basis) - (Cost\ of\ sales\ of\ consolidated\ subsidiaries\ with\ a\ different\ gross\ margin\ structure\ and\ others)\} \times 3\%</math></p>

**d. Issues related to the management of the Yahoo! brand overseas could restrict the expansion of the Yahoo Japan Group's business.**

We consider the establishment and proliferation of the Yahoo! JAPAN brand to be important, both for attracting users and advertisers and for expanding our business. The importance of brand recognition is increasing rapidly with the growth in the number of Internet services and low barriers to enter the Internet business. Especially given the intensifying competition among Internet companies, expenditures for establishing the Yahoo! JAPAN brand and boosting brand recognition could increase substantially.

Although efforts are under way to promote the Yahoo! brand with cooperation from Yahoo! Group companies overseas, it is impossible for the Yahoo Japan Group to guarantee the outcome of these efforts. Failure on the part of Yahoo! Group companies overseas to effectively establish and proliferate the Yahoo! brand could impact the Yahoo Japan Group in the form of weaker brand presence. In addition, some agreements with overseas Yahoo! Group companies contain exclusionary provisions. We are not able to place certain advertisements while these agreements are in force. Although Yahoo! Inc. is making efforts around the world to protect trademarks that are core to its brand rights through applications, registrations, and presence, the possibility exists that Yahoo! Inc. has not registered trademarks necessary to our business in Japan.

It is also possible that third parties will acquire domain names that we might find necessary to our business or will use domain names that resemble Yahoo! JAPAN or the services we offer with the intention of carrying out unfair competition or harassment. Such actions could affect our brand strategy and damage our brand image.

**e. Any modifications to the business alliance contract with Yahoo! Netherlands B.V. and Yahoo! Inc. could affect our earnings.**

The Company has signed the following business alliance contract with Yahoo! Netherlands B.V. and Yahoo! Inc. to provide services such as Paid Search Advertising. Any modifications to the contract could affect our earnings.

Contract name	ADVERTISER AND PUBLISHER SERVICES AGREEMENT
Contract date	July 27, 2010 (Original contract dated August 31, 2007)
Contract term	August 31, 2007, to August 30, 2017 (10 years)
Counterparties	Yahoo! Netherlands B.V. and Yahoo! Inc.
Main details	<p>1) Exclusive rights regarding Yahoo! Netherlands B.V. services  Yahoo Japan Corporation and its subsidiaries for which Yahoo Japan Corporation holds more than 50% of the voting rights will have exclusive rights in Japan for those advertising-related services of Yahoo! Netherlands B.V. (with the exception of Paid Search Advertising distribution technologies) adopted as contracted services through the procedure given in the contract. However, Yahoo Japan Corporation makes no promise to exclusively use Yahoo! Netherlands B.V.'s Paid Search Advertising distribution technologies and may freely choose and adopt other third-parties' search and Paid Search Advertising distribution technologies.</p> <p>2) Payment for Yahoo! Netherlands B.V.'s services  Yahoo Japan Corporation shall pay to Yahoo! Netherlands B.V. a service fee multiplied by a rate prearranged for each year on the gross revenues earned by Yahoo Japan Corporation and its subsidiaries for which Yahoo Japan Corporation holds 20% or more of the voting rights, for the use of services contracted from Yahoo! Netherlands B.V. (including use of other third-parties' search and Paid Search Advertising distribution technologies).</p> <p>3) Yahoo Japan Corporation's option right  Should Yahoo Japan Corporation desire, the search and Paid Search Advertising distribution technologies that Yahoo! Inc. has the right to provide may be offered to Yahoo Japan Corporation on a non-exclusive basis. Provision of those services will be based on contracts separately formed with Yahoo! Inc. and Microsoft Corporation.</p> <p>4) Cooperation regarding transfer of customer data  When Yahoo Japan Corporation decides to use technologies other than those of Yahoo! Inc. or Microsoft Corporation, Yahoo! Netherlands B.V. will cooperate with Yahoo Japan Corporation regarding the transfer of customer data.</p>

## 2) Consolidated Group Management

### a. Inadequate consolidated management coordination could impact our performance.

The Company has subsidiaries and affiliates of all sizes with varying degrees of in-house management depending on their size, etc. It is the Company's policy to acquire necessary additional staff and to strengthen the Yahoo Japan Group's organization as businesses expand. If these measures are not implemented in a timely manner, the Yahoo Japan Group's performance could be negatively affected.

Tie-ups with the Company's services or network as well as personnel support are essential to the operations of all of the services of the Company's subsidiaries and affiliates. The relevant sections of the Company work closely with each subsidiary and affiliate to provide necessary support. However, it might become difficult to adequately provide such cooperative support owing to operational expansion of Yahoo Japan Corporation's businesses and those of its subsidiaries and affiliates, which could negatively impact the performance of each company.

### b. The Yahoo Japan Group faces risks related to its foreign exchange (FX) margin trading operations.

#### (i) Regulatory infringements could negatively affect our performance and financial condition.

On January 31, 2013, Yahoo Japan Corporation converted FX trading company YJFX, Inc., into a wholly owned subsidiary. As a Financial Instruments Business Operator registered under Japan's Financial Instruments and Exchange Act (FIEA), YJFX carries out its operations in compliance with the FIEA, related regulations, and Cabinet Office ordinances.

Nevertheless, should an infringement of any of these regulations or ordinances occur, YJFX could have its operations suspended, be deregistered, or receive some other administrative disciplinary action. Moreover, in the case of future tightening of regulations the Yahoo Japan Group could be obligated to incur additional expenses to strengthen its compliance structures or trading systems or to implement other organizational adjustments. Any of these actions could negatively affect our performance and financial condition.

#### (ii) Customer FX margin transactions could negatively affect our performance and financial condition.

Under the Yahoo Japan Group's FX margin trading system, customers conduct transactions after making margin cash deposits in amounts specified by the Yahoo Japan Group based on customers' chosen levels of leverage. Because this system allows customers to conduct transactions in excess of their actual cash deposits, they can earn high returns on their investments or suffer great losses. In accordance with the transaction agreement with customers, the Yahoo Japan Group is able to take action to protect customers from further losses when their trading accounts fall below a 20% margin level by forcing customers to close out their positions using a reversing transaction method specified by the Yahoo Japan Group. However, should customers suffer losses in excess of their deposits and be unable to cover those losses, it is possible that the Yahoo Japan Group would have to assume a write-off loss for all or a portion of the outstanding liability of its customers. If such a situation occurs, it could negatively affect our performance and financial condition.

#### (iii) Covering transactions with counterparties could negatively affect our performance and financial condition.

To minimize the risk associated with FX margin trading carried out on behalf of its customers, the Yahoo Japan Group places covering transactions with various reputable banks, securities companies, and other financial institutions. However, should any of these financial institutions become unable to honor their contractual obligations owing to deterioration in business performance or financial condition or to other circumstances, we might as a result be unable to cover our customers' trading positions. In addition,

the Yahoo Japan Group might be unable to recover its collateral deposits placed with such financial institutions in the case of their bankruptcy or failure. As a result, our performance and financial condition could be negatively affected.

**(iv) Violations of asset segregation requirements could adversely affect our performance, financial condition, and business development.**

In order to safeguard customer assets, Financial Instruments Business Operators are required to segregate customer assets from proprietary assets and manage them separately. Accordingly, the Yahoo Japan Group systematically deposits customer assets with major financial institutions, thereby segregating them from proprietary assets and managing them separately as trust assets. Nevertheless, if a computer system failure or other unforeseen circumstance were to impair our ability to properly calculate customer assets, or if unforeseen circumstances were to make it impossible to manage customer assets on a segregated basis, the Yahoo Japan Group's FX business operations could be suspended, deregistered, or subjected to other administrative disciplinary action. Any of these actions could negatively affect our performance, financial condition, and business development.

**(v) Computer system failure could negatively affect our performance, financial condition, and business development.**

The Yahoo Japan Group is dedicated to maintaining computer system stability as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen its FX trading system. However, in the event of a computer system failure or unauthorized system access customers could suffer losses for which the Yahoo Japan Group is not covered by the liability exclusion clauses in customer contracts. As a result, customers could endure opportunity losses and the Yahoo Japan Group could suffer a loss of credibility and increased damage liability, thereby negatively affecting its performance and financial condition.

Furthermore, the Yahoo Japan Group does not hold the copyright to some of the software used in its FX trading system. Although we have obtained the legally required licenses to use such software, if after the expiration of a software licensing contract we become unable to continue using the software in question owing to the bankruptcy or failure of the company holding the copyright, our performance, financial condition, and business development could be negatively affected.

**(vi) Foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations could adversely affect our performance and financial condition.**

Foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations directly affect the trading losses or gains of customers using our FX trading services. An increase in trading losses due to unfavorable movements in foreign currency exchange rates could dampen customer sentiment, leading to a decrease in this business' transaction value. Because earnings from this business are based on transaction value, a prolonged period of depressed transaction value could adversely affect our performance and financial condition. Moreover, if currency exchange rates fluctuate sharply, our covering transactions with major financial institutions might be inadequate for covering customer positions. As a result, our performance and financial condition could be negatively affected.

**(vii) The Yahoo Japan Group could be penalized for violating FIEA regulations related to customer suitability.**

Under FIEA regulations, Financial Instruments Business Operators are obligated to confirm the suitability of individual customers with regard to FX trading activities. Accordingly, we undertake appropriate background investigations before allowing customers to use our FX trading services. However, if as a result of inadequate investigations or other oversight on our part a customer is allowed to engage in inappropriate transactions, we could be subjected to administrative disciplinary action or to legal action initiated by the customer in question.

**(viii) The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds could negatively affect our performance and business development.**

Effective March 1, 2008, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires that financial institutions conduct customer identification procedures as well as maintain customer identification and customer transaction records, activities previously undertaken on a voluntary basis. Furthermore, the Act mandates the establishment of customer management and information storage systems, which facilitate the tracing of funds to, and help to prevent the flow of funds to, terrorists, as well as discourage money laundering.

In accordance with said Act, the Yahoo Japan Group collects required documentation from customers of its FX trading services, conducts customer identification procedures, and maintains customer identification and customer transaction records. Nevertheless, if the Yahoo Japan Group's operational management is found to not be in accordance with said Act, or if a new regulatory framework is imposed, our performance and business development could be negatively affected.

**3) Other Major Business Partners**

**a. Any modifications to the business alliance contract with SoftBank Corp. could affect our earnings.**

Yahoo Japan Corporation has signed a business alliance contract concerning various kinds of communication-related services including Yahoo! BB services with SoftBank Corp., a subsidiary of SoftBank Group Corp. Should any modifications be made to the business alliance contract with regard to the Yahoo! BB business, our earnings could be affected.

**b. Because various kinds of communication-related services including the Yahoo! BB business is partially handled by SoftBank Corp., the service quality of SoftBank Corp. could affect our performance.**

The portion of such communication-related services handled by SoftBank Corp. could indirectly influence our performance. If SoftBank Corp. fails to complete construction on time and services to subscribers are delayed, we might be unable to account for projected sales on time and could lose business opportunities due to cancellations. Failure to build infrastructure and problems with service quality could cause subscribers to cancel services early, thereby negatively impacting our earnings.

## **6. Finances, Loans, and Investments**

### **1) Funds Procurement and Interest Rate Changes**

**a. In our Yahoo! ezPay service, we might be required to borrow funds to bridge the collection of reimbursement funds from buyers.**

Yahoo! ezPay is a payment service provided by Yahoo Japan Corporation whereby upon request of the seller and buyer of an item listed on YAHUOKU!, Yahoo Japan Corporation acts as the intermediate in the settlement of the transaction.

Because Yahoo Japan Corporation reimburses the seller of an item one to three business days after the buyer has made settlement by credit card or Internet banking, it must carry the credit-card receivables for the period up to the fixed settlement date of the financial institutions used by the credit-card company. If the pace of growth of this service should substantially exceed expectations, then we might not be able to raise the required funds at a reasonable cost. Moreover, should the amount of the reimbursement funds increase to a substantial level, interest payments to financial institutions may increase due to rising interest rates and this could have a negative impact on our business performance.

**b. In our Yahoo! Card service, we might be required to borrow funds to bridge the collection of reimbursement funds from cardholders.**

The Yahoo! Card is a credit card issued by the Yahoo Japan Group and through which the Group provides credit to persons issued with the card. We reimburse payments made by cardholders to merchants honoring the card. Because payments are collected from cardholders once a month while reimbursements to merchants are made about three times a month, it will be necessary to finance those reimbursements. Although we are considering diversifying our funding sources as this business expands, obtaining the necessary funding for making reimbursements to merchants at a suitable cost could prove to be impossible.

### **2) Investments**

**The Yahoo Japan Group often makes investments in or loans to other companies. In some cases, appropriate returns might not be obtained on investments or loans, or investments or loans could become irrecoverable.**

We make investments as a result of business tie-ups or with an eye to forming business tie-ups in the future. The recoverability of these investments is not guaranteed.

Some of the public companies in which we have invested have already produced evaluation profits or losses. In the future, evaluation profits could decline or become evaluation losses; moreover, evaluation losses could worsen.

We take the utmost care to ensure that the performances of the companies in which we invest are reflected appropriately in our own performance results by observing in-house rules in accordance with general accounting standards and by applying asset-impairment accounting. Nevertheless, depending on the direction of the stock market and the performances of the companies in which we have invested, they could have an increasingly adverse effect on our profit or loss in the future.

To maximize business synergies or to expand our business, we expect to further invest or loan funds for capital participation in third-party companies, fund joint ventures, engage in new investments by establishing companies, or provide new loans to adequately provide for the capital needs of subsidiaries and affiliates. These investments or loans will be made based on a careful investigation of the risks of the investments or loans based on thorough analysis in compliance with in-house procedures. However, if these new investments or loans do not achieve the originally projected level of profit or, in the worst case, become irrecoverable, our future financial condition could be adversely affected.

## **7. Relationship with Other Companies and Partners**

### **1) Business Alliances and Contracts**

**a. Our emphasis on building partnerships entails certain risks.**

By actively forming partnerships with both corporate and personal Web sites, we are building an extended network that is expected to result in increased usage of our services by users of partner sites as well as by Yahoo! JAPAN users.

In the advertising business, the Yahoo Japan Group is expanding its advertising network, known as AD Network, by partnering with new sites and incorporating their advertising space in a network-wide advertising distribution system, thereby enabling partner sites with limited viewer reach to increase their advertising media value. Advertisers, meanwhile, can achieve wider exposure by targeting advertisements at the entire network's user base. By jointly providing advertisers with advertising services, the Yahoo Japan Group and its partners are achieving superior performance. In addition, we are offering other services, such as our online settlement service, Yahoo! Wallet, on partner sites. By establishing an extended network, we are helping to enhance the convenience, security, efficiency, user appeal, and profitability of all partner sites on the network. At the same time, by working together with partner sites we aim to provide the full range of Internet services that users demand.

In pursuing these actions, we face the following risks:

- Although partnerships (business tie-ups) are established with an eye to ensuring mutual benefits, some partners might fail to achieve sales or traffic goals. Furthermore, competition with other companies might result in delays in or increase the costs of setting up partnerships. In addition, partners might suddenly cancel agreements. Any of these eventualities could adversely affect our performance.
- We provide services to partners via proprietary systems and via systems owned by affiliated and business tie-up companies. If partners were to suffer service disruptions or other damages as a result of these systems, then our brand image could be tarnished or we could be sued for damage compensation, either of which could negatively affect our performance.
- Because the quality and reputation of our partners' services reflect on our own reputation and credibility, any problems with partners' services could tarnish our brand image.
- The quality or reputation of a partner's services impact on Yahoo Japan Group's reputation and trustworthiness. Any detrimental impact, therefore, could negatively affect our brand image.

**b. The termination of Paid Search Advertising business agreements could affect our profitability.**

The Yahoo Japan Group provides its Paid Search Advertising services not only to Yahoo Japan Group companies but also to other domestic portal sites and partners with which it has business agreements. We intend to continue to expand the number of our partners and to create new services. However, should business agreements with such partners be terminated, our profitability could be negatively impacted.

**c. Our procurement of information and broadband content from third parties could be affected.**

We offer and plan to continue offering Internet users high-quality, appealing information, such as news, weather, and stock quotes, as well as broadband content such as films and games. However, should we not be able to acquire information and content as expected or the costs of acquiring information and content be higher than anticipated, use of our services might decline, possibly resulting in a failure to achieve our projected earnings.

**d. As we pursue business alliances with other sites and corporations, unforeseen problems could make it impossible to achieve our objectives.**

We are pursuing business alliances with other sites and corporations in an effort to expand usage of our services. Even if we offer our services via such business alliances based on our own guidelines, in some cases we might be unable to achieve our objectives owing to troubles caused by business alliance partners, including leaks of personal information due to deficient information management systems, service disruptions caused by inadequate systems, and lengthy delays in service development.

Conversely, certain business alliance partners might fail to provide agreed-upon services owing to problems that we caused, in which case those business alliance partners might demand some form of compensation.

Either situation could have a negative impact on user numbers and, as a result, on our business performance.

**2) Collection of Sales Credit Claims**

**a. Economic and business deterioration might make the collection of receivables from certain clients more difficult or impossible.**

In sales of advertising and other products, we follow a set of internal rules in carefully examining the credit standing of clients. We also exercise sufficient precautions so that the collection of receivables will not be delayed, such as setting upper limits for transaction amounts, adopting advanced payments, making sales through advertising agencies, or using credit card settlements. Nevertheless, economic fluctuations and deterioration of client businesses could increase delays in collection and the occurrence of defaults.

**b. We might be unable to collect payments from certain Yahoo! Card holders.**

We plan to curtail unrecoverable debt by rigorously evaluating the creditworthiness of individual Yahoo! Card holders and monitoring their card use. Even so, we might be unable to collect payments from certain cardholders owing to declines in cardholder creditworthiness.

**3) Relationship with Third Parties**

**a. Each of the Yahoo Japan Group's businesses depends to some extent on specific customers or sales agents.**

Each of our businesses depends to some extent either on sales to specific customers or on sales by specific sales agents other than the related parties described above.

Part of our advertising business depends on specific advertising agencies and media representatives because of the marketing activities provided by advertising agencies. In our other businesses, as well, we have major business transactions with specific customers, which transactions account for a growing percentage of our total sales.

If there were a change in our business relationships with or by these specific customers or sales agents, or deterioration in their business conditions, or a problem with their systems or other facilities, the viability of our services and our performance could be negatively impacted.

**b. Relationships with third-party joint-venture partners could deteriorate.**

Several companies in the Yahoo Japan Group have been established and are operated as joint ventures with third parties. These joint ventures depend substantially on their non-Group partners. Currently, cooperative relationships between joint-venture partners are excellent and contribute to the performances of the Yahoo Japan Group companies involved. However, if for some reason cooperative relationships between joint-venture partners were to deteriorate, the performance of each company could be damaged and, in certain cases, its operations discontinued.

**c. In some cases, system development and operations essential to services are consigned to specific third parties.**

Among the services offered by the Yahoo Japan Group, there are cases where system development and operations essential to the service are consigned to specific third parties or where service operations are premised on linkage with a third party. These third parties are selected by the Yahoo Japan Group, using standards based on suitable technical and operating capabilities judged by past performance. In addition, the Yahoo Japan Group maintains close contact with relevant sections to ensure that problems affecting our services do not arise. Nevertheless, a system development delay could occur owing to a situation at a consigned third party that we cannot manage, or a situation could arise whereby obstruction of operations or some other event causes the stoppage of third-party systems to which our services are linked. Such events could lead to a loss of sales opportunities and reduce the competitiveness of our systems, negatively impacting our performance or, in the worst case, resulting in the termination of the services. In addition, there are cases in which third-parties are assuming the role of having direct contact with users such as delivery-related services, and mishandling of such services could damage our brand image.

**d. There are other services that are dependent on external third parties.**

Not limited to those mentioned above, the Yahoo Japan Group operates services by consigning operations to external third parties and by relying on the information and services provided by these third parties. Worsening business conditions and service qualities at such third parties could hinder our operations and negatively impact our performance.

## **8. Information Security**

### **1) Efforts to Promote Information Security**

#### **a. Breach of information security (JIS Q 27000:2014) could affect our business performance.**

The Yahoo Japan Group as a whole engages in information security with a mid- to long-term perspective in order to provide services that users can safely and securely use.

Nevertheless, these efforts could fall short and damages such as information leakage, destruction or falsification of data, or termination of service could occur as a result of illegal acts due to human operation errors or intentional acts, system failure due to natural disasters, cyber-attacks due to malware infections or targeted attacks, or vulnerability of systems and products. In such cases, it could not only negatively affect our performance but could also erode public confidence in the Yahoo Japan Group.

#### **b. Breach of information security in our subsidiaries and affiliates could affect our business performance.**

The Yahoo Japan Group provides support in information security to our subsidiaries and affiliates. Specifically, support is provided in sharing of systems for information security measures and their implementation, sharing of information on information security such as vulnerability information, and consultations on information security measures when requested by each company.

Moreover, we provide supports such as provision of regulations and support in acquiring third party certifications to our subsidiaries so that the security measures at the same level as ours will be implemented.

Nevertheless, if threats such as cyber-attacks were to occur in an unexpected extent, additional costs could arise and affect our profit.

#### **c. Unexpected increase or sophistication in threats such as cyber-attacks could affect our business performance.**

The Yahoo Japan Group works to secure sufficient funds to implement necessary and forward looking measures in order to be prepared for threats such as cyber-attacks which are becoming increasingly sophisticated by the day.

Nevertheless, if threats such as cyber-attacks were to occur in an unexpected extent, additional costs could arise and affect our profit.

### **2) Personal and Privacy Information**

#### **a. Breach of information security regarding personal and privacy information of users could affect our business performance.**

The Yahoo Japan Group discloses its privacy policy to its users and complies with the privacy policy in using privacy information of users obtained through its services.

Privacy information of users is protected by a combination of several measures such as limiting the number of persons in charge who have access authority to these information, and allowing the information to be handled only in secluded rooms, etc.

Nevertheless, these efforts could fall short and information security might be breached. In such case, termination or fallback of services might occur and could not only affect our business performance but also damage our credibility.

Inquiries, amendments and deletion of personal information of users are to be done on the system by the users themselves. Measures are taken so that directors and employees cannot browse personal information unless it is absolutely necessary in order to answer inquiries.

Moreover, when work related to personal information is consigned to outside contractors, only companies that can execute measures for information security to a certain level or more are selected based on the criteria set for selecting companies to entrust personal information duties. Supervision and inspections are periodically conducted on these companies during the consignment.

Nevertheless, these efforts could fall short and damages due to information leakage, destruction or falsification of data could deteriorate our credibility or lead to legal disputes such as damage claims.

#### **b. Out of the users' personal information, leakage of information on bank account numbers, credit card numbers, etc., could damage our brand image and result in legal disputes.**

The Yahoo Japan Group obtains and uses bank account numbers, credit card numbers, etc., of users for financial and payment-related services such as Yahoo! Wallet and for identity verification purposes.

Based on the understanding that direct financial damages could be inflicted upon users if these personal information are exploited by a third party, we place these information under strict control in systems which are further isolated.

In regards to credit card information, Yahoo! Wallet, a financial and payment service that handles such information, and almost all of the administrative work of affiliated stores using credit card settlements in the Yahoo Japan Group, are certified with Level 1 of PCI DSS, which requires the most strict standards within the PCI DSS certification, a global security standard for handling member and transaction information regarding credit card settlements and settlement procedures.

Nevertheless, these measures do not guarantee perfect maintenance of our information security systems. If, under some circumstance, a problem such as an information leakage were to occur, it could erode public confidence in the Yahoo Japan Group and negatively affect our performance.

#### **c. Leaks of personal information by stores registered in Yahoo! Shopping, YAHUOKU!, etc., or by consigned companies, could affect our business performance.**

In Yahoo! Shopping and YAHUOKU! BtoC transactions, personal information provided by buyers is sent directly to stores where buyers have made purchases. Accordingly, individual stores are the main repositories of personal information and take responsibility for controlling it. Moreover, to ensure that buyers' privacy information is not disclosed to other individuals or entities, stores are given clear instructions on proper methods of information control and are strictly prohibited from using personal and privacy information for purposes other than the delivery of items or sales promotions.

To clear credit card payments, stores may use the settlement system operated by Yahoo! JAPAN, or deal directly with credit card companies. Stores opting to use our settlement system do not save records of credit card numbers, etc., as these are provided directly to credit card companies by the Company. Stores opting to deal directly with credit card companies are



provided with strict instructions for controlling buyers' credit card numbers, etc., in the same manner used to control other personal information.

Nevertheless, these measures could fall short and damages such as information leakage might occur. In such cases, regardless of whether or not we are in fact responsible, number of users could decrease due to the damage to our credibility and negatively affect our business performance.

### **3) Secrecy of Communications**

#### **a. Violation of the secrecy of communications could affect our business performance.**

The Yahoo Japan Group handles information related to secrecy of communications in services such as Yahoo! Mail, etc. In the handling of this type of information, we take appropriate measures towards information security to meet the requirements of the Telecommunications Business Act.

Despite these measures, if these information are violated, either deliberately or through negligence, by persons related to the Yahoo Japan Group, by companies with which business alliances have been concluded, or by companies to which the Group consigns work, or as a result of defective software, malware, etc., or physical intrusion into the Group's communications facilities, we could be drawn into legal disputes and our brand image could be tarnished, with a resultant negative impact on business performance due to decrease in number of users, damage compensations associated with the termination or fallback of services, or decrease in revenue.

### **4) Fraudulent Use**

#### **Fraudulent use of Yahoo Japan Group's services by malicious third parties could affect our business performance.**

Malicious third parties might employ phishing or other methods to fraudulently obtain unsuspecting users' Yahoo! JAPAN IDs, passwords, and credit card information, etc., and impersonate the unsuspecting user to use the services of the Yahoo Japan Group or partner sites, or use fraudulently obtained Yahoo! Cards to make payments. As examples of fraud on YAHUOKU!, malicious users might use unsuspecting users' accounts to list fraudulent items or to make settlements via Yahoo! Wallet or Yahoo! ezPay. Similarly on Yahoo! Mail, malicious users might send spoof e-mails.

The Yahoo Japan Group is taking steps to provide functions to protect Yahoo! JAPAN IDs and passwords, enlighten Internet users in Japan including users of our services on safe ID management, and implement certain measures against anticipated fraud. Nevertheless, fraudulent use of such information by malicious users could prevent the collection of advances paid, lead to claims for damage compensation by victims of fraudulent use, and affect our earnings due to unexpectedly large sums of compensation claims or expenditures to prevent recurrence of such fraudulent use. Fraudulent use could also damage our brand image.

### **5) Internal Management Information**

#### **Breach of information security regarding unreleased material facts (insider information) that might impact the investment decisions of investors such as managerial and financial information of the company, etc., and undisclosed information on internal management, could affect our business performance.**

The Yahoo Japan Group separates internal management information such as patent information before application, undisclosed information regarding M&A and business alliances, personal information of business partners, shareholders and employees, audit materials and other sales materials, from privacy and personal information of users, and manages these information under appropriate access controls.

Despite these measures, these kinds of information could be leaked or falsified, or become unable to be used. In such case, it could directly affect interested parties such as shareholders, business partners and employees, weaken our market superiority, lead to termination of business operation if it results in legal violations, or damage our brand image.

### **6) Genetic Analysis Service**

In this service, genetic samples provided by subscribers to the service are analyzed and the personal genetic information resulting from the analysis is stored within the Yahoo Japan Group under extremely tight security conditions. However, if for some reason an information leak or some other problem were to occur, credibility of the Yahoo Japan Group could deteriorate and legal disputes for damage compensation could arise.

## **9. Corporate Governance**

### **1) Corporate Governance System**

#### **a. Inadequate internal controls could affect business operations or result in higher operating expenses.**

The Yahoo Japan Group has implemented stricter controls and operational standards to prevent or reduce the recurrence of problems related to improper employee conduct or human operational error. In April 2006, the Company established the Internal Audit Office as an independent organization under the direct supervision of the President. The Internal Audit Office works to ensure effective and efficient business activities, accurate financial reporting, and full legal compliance, as well as further strengthen appropriate corporate governance. Despite these efforts, problems related to business management and control issues could arise in the future. Moreover, increased costs stemming from efforts to improve internal control could negatively affect the Yahoo Japan Group's earnings.

## 2. Management Policy

### (1) Fundamental Business Management Policies

Since its founding, the Yahoo Japan Group's main emphasis in managing its businesses has been to provide enjoyable and convenient Internet services to its users. Currently, in addition to personal computers, an increasingly diversified range of Internet-enabled smart devices are becoming popular with users, making it possible to access the Internet anytime and anywhere. As a result, the number of users, frequency of use, and duration of usage are expanding substantially. Under these circumstances, the importance of the Yahoo Japan Group's social role as an Internet services provider company has risen sharply.

Guided by its basic corporate philosophy of continuing to be a problem-solving engine that solves individual or social problems through the power of information technology, the Group is committed to continue to provide services that users want taking into consideration the convenience, public nature, social contribution, and future potential of the Internet.

The Yahoo Japan Group aims to achieve sustained growth in corporate value over the medium to long term. For that purpose, the Group recognizes the importance of actively pursuing upfront investments to our services, capital expenditures, and capital and business alliances for future growth. At the same time, Yahoo Japan Corporation recognizes its responsibility as a listed company to recompense shareholders by returning profits to them.

Going forward, while continuing to invest for business growth, the Yahoo Japan Group will aim to build corporate value by providing an appropriate return of profits to shareholders.

### (2) Management Performance Indicators Used for Goals

As its core management performance indicators, the Yahoo Japan Group gives priority to the revenue, operating income and their growth rate for the overall Group and for individual businesses, and net income per share and its growth rate. In addition, indicators of the usage of the Group's services are important components for the development of businesses. Specifically, the Group gives special priority to the number of daily unique browsers (DUBs), which indicates the number of users viewing its website and individual services. Among other indicators, the Group pays attention to movement in the number of page views (PVs), the number of monthly active user IDs, which indicates the number of Yahoo! JAPAN IDs logged in each month, and duration of usage. The number of monthly paid-membership IDs and the total domestic e-commerce transaction value of YAHUOKU! and Yahoo! Shopping are also important indicators of business conditions.

### (3) Medium- to Long-Term Business Strategies

Looking at the environment for Internet usage in recent years, there has been a sharp increase in the use of smart devices, including smartphones and tablets. On the other hand, there has been a steady decline in occasions to use personal computers for that purpose. Based on those conditions, the Yahoo Japan Group is proceeding with expanding Internet usage time and usage opportunities for smart devices.

Since then, the Yahoo Japan Group has taken measures to steadily expand the usage of its group services through smart devices. The Group has adapted Yahoo! JAPAN's top page, as well as news, weather, and other services, which could be considered a daily life activity infrastructure, to provide them in optimal form for smart devices. Among other measures to expand usage by smart devices, the Group has added many services that take advantage of the unique capabilities of smart devices, such as maps, car navigation services through browsers as well as in the form of applications. As a result, more than 50% of the Yahoo Japan Group's total DUBs and total PVs came from smart devices. These figures indicate that the shift to smartphones in the use of the Group's services is progressing steadily. From now on, the group will strengthen its provision of services through smartphone applications, while also aiming to further expand revenue earning opportunities.

In providing services, the Yahoo Japan Group has especially considered that when providing services for devices like smartphones that have limited display space, optimizing the content of the services for the various needs of users is the way to achieve services that are the easiest to use. With that in mind, the Group endeavors to improve services by collecting, storing and analyzing data on usage of the Group's services in strict accordance with its privacy policy regarding users. The results are utilized to provide and distribute information, advertising, and other services that fit users' needs.

#### (4) Major Business Issues

The Yahoo Japan Group seeks to operate in harmony with society while achieving sustainable growth. To that end, the Group believes that it is necessary to maintain a competitive advantage in the market by providing content and services that meet the needs of its users and to develop new markets and customers and expand earnings. Currently, the Internet industry is undergoing the expanded use of smartphones, tablets, and other devices. As a result, new user needs, competition factors, and competitors are emerging in succession. Under these circumstances, supported by the business base and competitive advantages that the Group has built up to this point, it is essential to continuously formulate and implement new measures.

Since the Internet is an indispensable infrastructure for people's daily lives and for businesses, the Group's public responsibility is also increasing. Consequently, the Group is making an effort toward thorough risk management measures in pursuing its activities in terms of both facilities and operations to address unexpected incidents, natural disasters, and other events. In addition, the Group gives top priority to reinforcing security with protecting the personal information of users at the top of the list. Going forward, the Group will continue to take measures to ensure that users can feel safe and confident in using its services.

Since resolving those issues requires strengthening organizational capabilities and developing human resources, the Yahoo Japan Group aims to be the best human resource development company in Japan and is continuing its various efforts to unleash the talents and enthusiasm of its employees. Furthermore, the Group will further step up its efforts to fulfill its corporate social responsibility and establish an internal control system to address corporate management risks.

Going forward, the entire Yahoo Japan Group—officers and employees—will become one team in aiming for further growth. Moreover, as a problem-solving engine that solves individual or social problems through the power of information technology, the Group will seek to contribute to the further progress of society.

#### 3. Basic Stance on Selecting Accounting Standards

The Yahoo Japan Group adopted IFRSs beginning with the fiscal year ended March 31, 2015.

4. Consolidated Financial Statements

(1) Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

(Millions of yen)

	As of Mar. 31, 2015	As of Mar. 31, 2016	Increase/decrease	
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Change (%)
<b>Assets</b>				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	503,937	449,164	-54,772	-10.9
Trade and other receivables	217,736	305,758	88,022	40.4
Inventories	419	14,902	14,482	—
Other financial assets	15,901	30,118	14,216	89.4
Other current assets	3,832	6,436	2,603	67.9
Total current assets	741,827	806,380	64,552	8.7
Non-current assets				
Property and equipment	67,465	121,133	53,668	79.5
Goodwill	27,673	156,362	128,688	465.0
Intangible assets	32,382	128,711	96,329	297.5
Investments accounted for using the equity method	61,671	34,257	-27,413	-44.5
Other financial assets	58,104	70,321	12,217	21.0
Deferred tax assets	15,105	23,331	8,226	54.5
Other non-current assets	3,372	2,300	-1,071	-31.8
Total non-current assets	265,774	536,419	270,644	101.8
<b>Total assets</b>	1,007,602	1,342,799	335,196	33.3

(Millions of yen)

	As of Mar. 31, 2015	As of Mar. 31, 2016	Increase/decrease	
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Change (%)
<b>Liabilities and equity</b>				
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	158,979	270,766	111,787	70.3
Other financial liabilities	9,671	18,287	8,616	89.1
Income taxes payable	33,071	30,782	-2,289	-6.9
Provisions	6,398	12,547	6,148	96.1
Other current liabilities	31,651	33,638	1,987	6.3
Total current liabilities	239,772	366,022	126,250	52.7
Non-current liabilities				
Other financial liabilities	920	10,562	9,642	—
Provisions	22,841	20,089	-2,752	-12.0
Deferred tax liabilities	28	27,515	27,486	—
Other non-current liabilities	3,485	5,844	2,359	67.7
Total non-current liabilities	27,276	64,012	36,736	134.7
<b>Total liabilities</b>	267,048	430,035	162,986	61.0
<b>Equity</b>				
Equity attributable to owners of the parent				
Common stock	8,281	8,358	77	0.9
Capital surplus	1,235	-3,081	-4,316	—
Retained earnings	705,839	827,024	121,184	17.2
Treasury stock	-1,316	-1,316	—	—
Accumulated other comprehensive income	11,962	13,180	1,217	10.2
Total equity attributable to owners of the parent	726,002	844,165	118,163	16.3
Non-controlling interests	14,551	68,598	54,046	371.4
<b>Total equity</b>	740,554	912,764	172,210	23.3
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>	1,007,602	1,342,799	335,196	33.3

## (2) Consolidated Statements of Income

(Millions of yen)

	Fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 2015	Fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 2016	Increase/decrease	
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Change (%)
Revenue	428,487	652,327	223,839	52.2
Cost of sales	85,501	247,372	161,870	189.3
Gross profit	342,986	404,955	61,968	18.1
Selling, general and administrative expenses	145,774	239,653	93,879	64.4
Gain from remeasurement relating to business combination	—	59,696	59,696	—
Operating income	197,212	224,997	27,785	14.1
Other non-operating income	10,637	3,016	-7,621	-71.6
Other non-operating expenses	1,224	2,746	1,521	124.3
Equity in earnings (losses) of associates	1,672	1,317	-355	-21.2
Income before income taxes	208,298	226,585	18,286	8.8
Income taxes	74,365	54,092	-20,272	-27.3
Net income	133,933	172,492	38,559	28.8
Net income attributable to:				
Owners of the parent	133,051	171,617	38,565	29.0
Non-controlling interests	881	875	-6	-0.7
Net income	133,933	172,492	38,559	28.8
Net income per share attributable to owners of the parent				
Basic earnings per share (yen)	23.37	30.15	6.78	29.0
Diluted earnings per share (yen)	23.37	30.14	6.78	29.0

## (3) Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

(Millions of yen)

	Fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 2015	Fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 2016
Net income	133,933	172,492
Other comprehensive income (loss)		
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss		
Available-for-sale financial assets	41	2,058
Exchange differences on translating foreign operations	927	-810
Share of other comprehensive income of associates	975	-236
Total other comprehensive income, net of tax	1,944	1,011
Total comprehensive income	135,877	173,504
Total comprehensive income attributable to:		
Owners of the parent	134,981	172,834
Non-controlling interests	896	669
Total comprehensive income	135,877	173,504

## (4) Consolidated Statements of Changes in Equity

Fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 2015

(Millions of yen)

	Equity attributable to owners of the parent						Non-controlling interests	Total equity
	Common stock	Capital surplus	Retained earnings	Treasury stock	Accumulated other comprehensive income	Total		
As of April 1, 2014	8,271	3,892	598,012	-526	10,032	619,682	8,036	627,718
Net income			133,051			133,051	881	133,933
Other comprehensive income					1,929	1,929	15	1,944
Total comprehensive income	—	—	133,051	—	1,929	134,981	896	135,877
Transactions with owners and other transactions								
New issue of shares	9	9				19		19
Cash dividends			-25,223			-25,223	-223	-25,447
Net changes in treasury stock		2		-789		-787		-787
Change in interests in a subsidiary						—	8,314	8,314
Change in the interests in its controlled subsidiary		-2,715				-2,715	-2,473	-5,188
Others		45				45		45
Total transactions with owners and other transactions	9	-2,657	-25,223	-789	—	-28,661	5,618	-23,042
As of March 31, 2015	8,281	1,235	705,839	-1,316	11,962	726,002	14,551	740,554

Fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 2016

(Millions of yen)

	Equity attributable to owners of the parent						Non-controlling interests	Total equity
	Common stock	Capital surplus	Retained earnings	Treasury stock	Accumulated other comprehensive income	Total		
As of April 1, 2015	8,281	1,235	705,839	-1,316	11,962	726,002	14,551	740,554
Net income			171,617			171,617	875	172,492
Other comprehensive income					1,217	1,217	-205	1,011
Total comprehensive income	—	—	171,617	—	1,217	172,834	669	173,504
Transactions with owners and other transactions								
New issue of shares	77	77				155		155
Cash dividends			-50,432			-50,432	-757	-51,189
Change in interests in a subsidiary						—	55,562	55,562
Change in the interests in its controlled subsidiary		-4,304				-4,304	-1,428	-5,733
Others		-89				-89	0	-88
Total transactions with owners and other transactions	77	-4,316	-50,432	—	—	-54,671	53,377	-1,294
As of March 31, 2016	8,358	-3,081	827,024	-1,316	13,180	844,165	68,598	912,764



## (5) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(Millions of Yen)

	Fiscal year ended March 31, 2015	Fiscal year ended March 31, 2016
	Amount	Amount
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Income before income taxes	208,298	226,585
Depreciation and amortization	16,935	30,697
Incremental realization of gain from remeasurement from associates	-6,249	—
Gain from remeasurement relating to business combination	—	-59,696
Decrease (increase) in trade and other receivables	-22,535	-39,865
Increase (decrease) in trade and other payables	15,800	40,522
Increase (decrease) in accrued consumption taxes	8,425	-9,383
Decrease (increase) in other financial assets	-3,573	-4,877
Increase (decrease) in other financial liabilities	3,961	-5,323
Other cash flows	-11,633	-6,888
Subtotal	209,430	171,771
Income taxes paid	-83,190	-66,361
Cash flows from operating activities	126,239	105,409
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Expenditures on property and equipment	-17,096	-29,254
Expenditures on intangible assets	-7,284	-9,088
Expenditures on investment securities	-20,977	-17,343
Expenditures on acquisition of control over subsidiaries	-21,761	-92,831
Proceeds from acquisition of control over subsidiaries	59	31,323
Other cash flows	-804	6,657
Cash flows from investing activities	-67,864	-110,537
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>		
Expenditure on repayment of long-term debt	-5,450	-1,441
Payments for purchase of subsidiaries' equity from non-controlling interests	-5,187	-196
Expenditure on acquisition of own shares	-794	—
Cash dividends paid	-25,204	-50,398
Other cash flows	-530	2,678
Cash flows from financing activities	-37,166	-49,357
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	391	-286
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	21,600	-54,772
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the periods	482,336	503,937
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the periods	503,937	449,164

(6) Going Concern Assumption

Not applicable.

(7) Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

1. Significant accounting policies

The significant accounting policies applied by the Yahoo Japan Group in preparing the statements are the same as those applied to Consolidated Financial Statements for the previous fiscal year.

As a result of the addition of new subsidiaries in the consolidated second quarter, the following have been newly recognized as significant accounting policies.

Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realizable value. The cost of inventories is calculated mainly using the moving average method, and net realizable value is calculated by deducting estimated costs necessary to make the sale from estimated selling price for the inventories in the ordinary course of business.

The major component of inventories is merchandise.

Intangible assets

Certain trademark rights basically continue to exist as long as the business continues to be in operation, thus their useful lives cannot be determined and are not amortized.

Revenue

Revenue from sales of goods are recognized when: the material risks and economic values related to the ownership of merchandise are transferred to the buyer; continuing involvement and substantial control over the management of the sold merchandise ceases to be held; flow of transaction-related economic benefits to the Group is probable; and the cost and earnings related to the transaction can be measured with reliability.

2. Business combination

a. ASKUL Corporation

(1) Outline of Business Combination

ASKUL Corporation, the Company's affiliated company which primarily conducts mail order services for office supplies, became the Company's subsidiary on August 27, 2015 (date of acquisition) as a result of ASKUL Corporation's acquisition of its own treasury stock as resolved by its Board of Directors on May 19, 2015. As a result of ASKUL Corporation's acquisition of its own treasury stock, the ownership ratio of ASKUL Corporation's voting rights held by the Company rose from 41.7% (as of May 20, 2015) to 44.4% (as of August 27, 2015). The Company did not yet hold the majority of the voting rights of ASKUL Corporation, however, considering the dispersion of voting rights in ASKUL Corporation and the voting patterns exercised in ASKUL Corporation's past shareholders meetings, etc., the Company judged that it has substantial control of ASKUL Corporation and has converted it to a consolidated subsidiary. This business combination is a result of ASKUL Corporation's acquisition of its own treasury stock, thus constitutes a non-cash transaction.

Equity interest of ASKUL Corporation already held by the Company was remeasured at fair value as of the date of acquisition, and gain on step acquisitions of ¥59,696 million was recognized. This gain is accounted as "gain from remeasurement relating to business combination" in the consolidated statement of income.

(2) Outline of Acquired Company

Name: ASKUL Corporation

Business description: Mail-order business for stationery, other products and services

(3) Date of acquisition

August 27, 2015

(4) Fair value of equity interest already held, assets acquired and liabilities assumed; non-controlling interests and goodwill; as of the date of acquisition

(Millions of Yen)

Fair value of equity interest already held	93,611
Fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed	
Current assets	90,115
Cash and cash equivalents	31,291
Trade and other receivables	45,365
Others	13,458
Non-current assets	109,832
Property and equipment	32,314
Intangible assets	69,124
Others	8,393
Current liabilities	-71,494
Trade and other payables	-56,772
Others	-14,722
Non-current liabilities	-34,585
Net assets	93,868
Non-controlling interests *2	-54,036
Goodwill *3	53,779
Total	93,611

Notes: 1. Revision of provisional values

Acquisition cost is based on the fair value as of the acquisition date and is allocated to assets acquired and liabilities assumed. In the third quarter, the allocation of the acquisition cost has been completed thus the initial provisional values have been revised. The revisions are made primarily in the following factors: as a result of additional analysis on the fair value of ASKUL Corporation, goodwill has increased ¥877 million, while intangible assets decreased ¥2,820 million and non-controlling interests decreased ¥1,096 million.

2. Non-controlling interests

Non-controlling interests are measured based on appropriate share of acquiree's identifiable net assets value.

3. Goodwill

Goodwill reflects the future excess earning power expected to derive from future business development and synergies between the Group and the acquired company.

(5) Profit and loss information after the acquisition date of the business combination

The revenue of the acquired company after the acquisition date, recognized in this Consolidated Statements of Income, is ¥189,013 million, and the quarterly net income is ¥2,970 million.

Amortization of intangible assets recognized on the date of acquisition, etc., is included in the net income mentioned above.

b. Ikyu Corporation

(1) Outline of Business Combination

Yahoo Japan Corporation, for the purpose of ensuring the effectiveness of the growth through the e-Commerce Revolution which is strategically important for the Company, has been performing a tender offer for Ikyu Corporation's shares, etc., which was resolved in its board of directors' meeting held on December 15, 2015. The tender offer ended on February 3, 2016 and we have acquired 27,480,682 shares of Ikyu Corporation's common shares at 94,341 million yen in cash. Consequently, Yahoo Japan Corporation's voting rights ratio for Ikyu Corporation has become 94.3% and we have converted Ikyu Corporation to a consolidated subsidiary.

(2) Outline of Acquired Company

Name: Ikyu Corporation  
Business description: Operation of various Internet sites that provide reservation services for hotels and restaurants, etc.

(3) Date of acquisition

February 3, 2016

(4) Fair value of consideration paid, assets acquired and liabilities assumed; non-controlling interests and goodwill; as of the date of acquisition

(Millions of Yen)

Fair value of consideration paid	
Cash	94,341
Fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed	
Current assets	8,934
Non-current assets *1	27,313
Current liabilities	-4,270
Non-current liabilities	-8,177
Net assets	23,799
Non-controlling interests *2	-1,503
Goodwill *3	72,044
Total	94,341

Notes:

1. Details of Assets acquired

Non-current assets in Assets acquired include 26,183 million yen of intangible assets.

2. Non-controlling interests

Non-controlling interests are measured based on appropriate share of acquiree's identifiable net assets value.

3. Goodwill

Goodwill reflects the future excess earning power expected to derive from future business development and synergies between the Group and the acquired company.

(5) Profit and loss information after the acquisition date of the business combination

We do not disclose the profit and loss information after the acquisition date of the business combination because the business combination has no material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

### 3. Segment information

The Yahoo Japan Group's reporting segments are business segments for which it is possible to obtain financial information separate from the overall compositional structure of the Group. The Board of Directors of Yahoo Japan Corporation regularly examines this information in order to decide on allocation of business resources and evaluation of business performance.

The Group's reporting segments comprise two business segments, the Marketing Solutions Business and the Consumer Business.

The Marketing Solutions Business mainly provides two types of services. It supplies planning, operation, and information listing services for each of the Group's services for the purpose of planning, sales, and placement of advertising products. It also provides other corporate services. The Consumer Business consists of multiple business segments: shopping business, YAHUOKU! business and personal service business. Because these business segments sell products, plan and provide services via Internet to small and medium-sized business enterprises and to individuals and share similar economical characteristics, we integrate and report them. For clarification purposes, the Consumer Business results include ASKUL Corporation's ones after the date of acquisition and 59,696 million yen of gain from remeasurement relating to business combination of ASKUL Corporation (see 2. Business combination). The Others segment contains business segments not covered in the reporting segments, including settlement- and finance-related services, cloud-related services and other business activities.

The accounting policies adopted for each reporting segment are the same as the Yahoo Japan Group's accounting policies stated in 1. Significant accounting policies. Segment profit is determined by adjusting the segment's consolidated operating income. The adjustments figure for segment profit includes inter-segment eliminations and general corporate expenses not belonging to each reporting segment. General corporate expenses principally comprise general and administrative expenses not belonging to each reporting segment. Inter-segment revenue is based on actual market prices.

In addition, the Yahoo Japan Group has transferred part of our services and consolidated subsidiaries between segments since April 1, 2015, to give importance to efficient provision of services and to respond to changes promptly. Major transfers are the following: in the consolidated first quarter, the game- and real estate-related services were transferred from Marketing Solutions Business to Consumer Business and the cloud-related services including consolidated subsidiaries, IDC Frontier Inc. and Firstserver, Inc. were transferred from Marketing Solutions Business to Others segment; commencing with the consolidated third quarter, a consolidated subsidiary, ValueCommerce Co., Ltd. was transferred from Marketing Solutions Business to Consumer Business.

Along with this, we have restated segment information of the last fiscal year.

The Yahoo Japan Group's segment information is as follows:

Prior Consolidated Fiscal Year (April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015)

(Millions of yen)

	Reporting segment			Others	Adjustment figures	Consolidated figures
	Marketing solution business	Consumer business	Total			
Revenue						
Revenue from external customers	260,273	123,254	383,527	44,959	—	428,487
Inter-segment revenue	125	5,383	5,509	3,269	-8,779	—
Total	260,398	128,638	389,037	48,229	-8,779	428,487
Segment profit	143,714	68,837	212,552	15,760	-31,100	197,212
Other non-operating income						10,637
Other non-operating expenses						1,224
Equity in earnings (losses) of associates						1,672
Income before income taxes						208,298
Others						
Depreciation and amortization	2,818	2,134	4,952	5,105	6,876	16,935

Current Consolidated Fiscal Year (April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016)

(Millions of yen)

	Reporting segment			Others	Adjustment figures	Consolidated figures
	Marketing solution business	Consumer business	Total			
Revenue						
Revenue from external customers	274,953	320,892	595,845	56,481	—	652,327
Inter-segment revenue	2,375	5,464	7,839	3,744	-11,584	—
Total	277,329	326,356	603,685	60,226	-11,584	652,327
Segment profit	144,533	119,590	264,123	6,558	-45,684	224,997
Other non-operating income						3,016
Other non-operating expenses						2,746
Equity in earnings (losses) of associates						1,317
Income before income taxes						226,585
Others						
Depreciation and amortization	3,613	8,252	11,866	6,937	11,894	30,697

#### 4. Per Share Information

Basic earnings per share attributable to owners of the parent and diluted earnings per share are calculated on the following basis:

	Fiscal year ended March 31, 2015	Fiscal year ended March 31, 2016
	Amount	Amount
Basic earnings per share	23.37	30.15
Net income attributable to owners of the parent (million yen)	133,051	171,617
Income not attributable to the common shares of the parent company (million yen)	—	—
Income used in the calculation of basic earnings per share (million yen)	133,051	171,617
Average number of outstanding common shares during the period (1,000 shares)	5,692,890	5,692,340
Diluted earnings per share	23.37	30.14
Adjustments of net income (million yen)	—	—
Common shares increased (1,000 shares)	811	1,030
Issuable shares not included in the calculation of diluted earnings per share because they have no dilutive effect	Subscription rights granted: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th of 2005; 1st, 2nd, 3rd of 2006; 1st, 3rd, 4th of 2007; 1st of 2008; 2nd of 2012; 1st, 2nd of 2013; 1st of 2014	Subscription rights granted: 3rd of 2007; 1st of 2008; 2nd of 2012; 1st, 2nd of 2013; 1st of 2014

#### 5. Significant Subsequent Events

Not applicable.

(Reference: Quarterly information)

Interim Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income

(Millions of yen)

	Three months ended Mar. 31, 2015	Three months ended Mar. 31, 2016	Increase/decrease	
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Change (%)
Revenue	117,651	207,028	89,377	76.0
Cost of sales	23,407	92,972	69,565	297.2
Gross profit	94,243	114,056	19,812	21.0
Selling, general and administrative expenses	41,827	84,142	42,315	101.2
Operating income	52,416	29,914	-22,502	-42.9
Other non-operating income	354	777	422	119.1
Other non-operating expenses	999	2,707	1,707	170.8
Equity in earnings (losses) of associates	784	121	-663	-84.6
Income before income taxes	52,556	28,105	-24,451	-46.5
Income taxes	19,530	9,412	-10,117	-51.8
Net income	33,026	18,692	-14,333	-43.4
Net income attributable to:				
Owners of the parent	32,955	18,085	-14,869	-45.1
Non-controlling interests	70	606	536	760.0
Net income	33,026	18,692	-14,333	-43.4
Net income per share attributable to owners of the parent				
Basic earnings per share (yen)	5.79	3.18	-2.61	-45.1
Diluted earnings per share (yen)	5.79	3.18	-2.61	-45.1



Breakdown of Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

(Millions of yen)

	Three months ended Mar. 31, 2015	Three months ended Mar. 31, 2016	Increase/decrease	
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Change (%)
Selling, general and administrative expenses				
Personnel expenses	14,132	20,543	6,410	45.4
Sales promotion costs	4,483	16,614	12,131	270.6
Business commissions	4,541	9,334	4,792	105.5
Depreciation and amortization	3,985	8,876	4,891	122.7
Lease and utility expenses	2,285	3,955	1,669	73.0
Packing and freight	26	3,554	3,527	—
Royalties	3,189	3,335	146	4.6
Advertising and promotional expenses	509	2,661	2,151	422.0
Content provider fees	2,995	2,154	-840	-28.1
Communication charges	1,356	1,886	530	39.1
Others	4,320	11,225	6,904	159.8
Total selling, general and administrative expenses	41,827	84,142	42,315	101.2

1) Revenue

Revenue in the quarter under review amounted to ¥207,028 million, increasing ¥89,377 million, or 76.0%, from a year earlier. The increase can mainly be attributed to the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation and growth in advertising revenue.

2) Cost of Sales and Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Cost of sales in the quarter under review climbed ¥69,565 million, or 297.2%, year on year to ¥92,972 million, primarily because of the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation and the changes in the terms of agreements related to search system usage.

Selling, general and administrative expenses for the quarter were ¥84,142 million, rising ¥42,315 million, or 101.2%, from the same quarter last year.

The major components of change in selling, general and administrative expenses were as follows:

- Personnel expenses amounted to ¥20,543 million, edging up ¥6,410 million, or 45.4%, year on year. The higher personnel expenses resulted from the total number of employees of the Yahoo Japan Group rising to 9,177, an increase of 2,143 employees, or 30.5%, from the same quarter in the previous fiscal year, which was primarily due to the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation.
- Sales promotion costs amounted to ¥16,614 million, increasing ¥12,131 million or 270.6%, from the same quarter last year. The increase can mainly be attributed to the increase in the T Point expenses and in the cost for promoting application usage.
- Business commissions rose ¥4,792 million or 105.5% year on year, to ¥9,334 million. This is mainly due to the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation.
- Depreciation and amortization increased ¥4,891 million or 122.7% year on year to ¥8,876 million. The increase can primarily be attributed to the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation; and increase in property and equipment due to acquisition of servers and network-related equipment.
- Packing and freight rose ¥3,527 million year on year, to ¥3,554 million. This is mainly due to the consolidation of ASKUL Corporation.
- Content provider fee decreased ¥840 million, or 28.1%, year on year to ¥2,154 million. The decrease is primarily due to the changes in the terms of agreements related to search system usage.

3) Other non-operating income and Other non-operating expenses

Other non-operating income in the quarter under review amounted to ¥777 million, increasing ¥422 million, or 119.1%, from a year earlier. The major component of Other non-operating income is Gain on sales of investment securities.

Other non-operating expenses in the quarter under review amounted to ¥2,707 million, edging up ¥1,707 million, or 170.8%, from a year earlier. The major component of Other non-operating expenses is Loss on sales of investment securities.

4) Income Taxes

Income taxes for the quarter under review amounted to ¥9,412 million. The effective income tax burden ratio for income before income taxes was 33.5% for the quarter.

5) Net Income

Net income amounted to ¥18,692 million, decreasing ¥14,333 million, or 43.4%, from a year earlier. Basic earnings per share attributable to owners of the parent was ¥3.18 for the quarter.

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Unless otherwise specified, English-language documents are prepared solely for the convenience of readers outside Japan. If there is any inconsistency between the English-language documents and the Japanese-language documents, the Japanese-language documents will prevail.