

INFONAUTICS FINANCIAL NEWS RELEASE, Q4 2000

Infonautics, Inc. Reports Fourth Quarter And Year 2000 Results

KING of PRUSSIA, Pa. (March 6, 2001) - Infonautics, Inc. (Nasdaq: INFO), a pioneering provider of personalized information agents and Internet sites, today reported results for the three and twelve months ended December 31, 2000.

Infonautics reported a loss from operations of \$3.5 million, or \$.28 per share, for the fourth quarter of 2000 compared to \$2.1 million, or \$.17 per share, for the fourth quarter of 1999. The fourth quarter loss was impacted by one-time charges of approximately \$1.1 million, or approximately \$.09 per share. These one-time charges were for costs incurred in the Digital Fusion merger, which as a result of the termination were expensed in the fourth quarter, and for severance payments made related to substantial workforce reductions.

Van Morris, President and CEO of Infonautics commented, "The number one priority right now is to bring the cost line down quickly to protect the balance sheet while considering several strategic options available to the Company. We moved aggressively to achieve this in the fourth quarter, however, as discussed previously, the impact of those actions on the expense line was not expected until this quarter. We are pleased with the expense levels we are achieving so far in the first quarter."

Total revenue for the fourth quarter was \$2.3 million. End-user subscription revenue from Electric Library (<http://www.elibrary.com>) was \$1.8 million during the fourth quarter of 2000, down from \$2.3 million during the same quarter of the prior year. Advertising and e-commerce revenue increased to \$532,000 for the fourth quarter of 2000 up from \$369,000 during the same quarter of the prior year.

Morris further noted, "The expense actions we have taken also involved reduced spending on customer acquisition, and hence we experienced declining subscription revenues. The Company anticipates continuing to preserve cash until we have concluded the process of exploring strategic options for the company."

The Company announced that it had \$12.3 million in cash and marketable securities at year-end, including approximately 157,000 shares held in eBay Inc. On February 23, 2001, the Company sold 130,500 of its shares in eBay, at the expiration of the related equity collar, for a net amount of approximately \$6,500,000.

Infonautics reported a loss from operations of \$10.5 million, or \$.85 per share, for the year ended December 31, 2000 compared to \$8.3 million, or \$.71 per share, for the same period in 1999. Heavy marketing spending in the first half of the year on the Sleuth sites impacted the year 2000 results, and the previously discussed expenses in the fourth quarter related to the Digital Fusion transaction and severance payments.

Infonautics reported a net loss of \$14.3 million, or \$1.16 loss per share for the full year, including a \$ 4.9 million, or \$.39 loss per share for the fourth quarter. Net loss for the quarter and full year included non-cash charges for the equity interest in bigchalk.com. The full year 2000 was also impacted by a gain recognized from the shares received in eBay Inc.

Other Updates:

- As of December 31, 2000, the Electric Library site had nearly 80,000 individual paying subscribers.

- As of December 31, 2000, there were approximately 1.5 million registered users of the company's Sleuth sites.
- Infonautics delivered an estimated 450 million personalized e-mails to its registered users in 2000.
- bigchalk.com inc. raised a total of \$43.3 million in Series B financing from investors including SOFTBANK Ventures, Inc.; Bell & Howell Information and Learning; and from many of the original Series A investors. In the fourth quarter, bigchalk.com concluded the initial \$40 million round of this financing reducing the Company's interest in bigchalk.com to approximately 14% on a diluted basis at December 31, 2000.
- In order to retain and motivate employees while the Company evaluates strategic opportunities, the Company has put together a program where employees may exchange stock options for a reduced number of shares of restricted stock based on certain formulas.
- The Company also announced that through February 23, 2001 it had repurchased 86,300 shares of its Class A common stock since the implementation of the stock repurchase program announced in November 2000.

FIRST QUARTER CONFERENCE CALL: The Company will conduct a conference call and web cast on Tuesday, March 6, 2001 at 4 p.m. EST. Van Morris, Infonautics' President and Chief Executive Officer will host the call. Interested individuals are invited to listen to the call on the Internet at <http://www.videonewswire.com/INFONAUTICS/030601> or by telephone at 800-540-0559 and reference ID # INFON. It is recommended that participants call ten (10) minutes ahead of the scheduled start time to ensure proper connection.

If you are unable to participate during the live conference call and webcast, both will be available for replay following the event. The call will be available one hour after it concludes on Tuesday, March 6, 2001 through 11:59 p.m., Monday, March 12, 2001. To access the replay, dial 888-566-0191. To access the replay of the web cast, go to <http://www.pnnewswire.com> under Multimedia, archive, after the broadcast. Choose Infonautics Incorporated and the event headline, dated 3/6/01.

(Minimum Requirements to listen to broadcast: The RealPlayer software, downloadable free from <http://www.real.com/products/player/index.html> and at least a 14.4Kbps connection to the Internet. If you experience problems listening to the broadcast, send an email to webmaster@vdat.com.)

For further information, contact Infonautics' Investor Relations at 610-680-1259 or email ir@infonautics.com.

About Infonautics

Infonautics, Inc. (Nasdaq: [INFO - news](#)) is a pioneering provider of personalized information agents and Internet sites. The Infonautics Network of Web properties includes the award-winning Company Sleuth, Sports Sleuth, Job Sleuth and Entertainment Sleuth sites. The Infonautics Network also includes Search and Reference Media sites consisting of Electric Library, Encyclopedia.com and NewsDirectory.com. The Electric Library site was the first reference site of its type on the Internet, and is one of the largest paid subscription sites on the Web, with approximately 80,000 paying subscribers. Infonautics was founded in 1992 and is headquartered in King of Prussia, PA.

NFONAUTICS and COMPANY SLEUTH are registered trademarks of Infonautics, Inc. or its subsidiaries. SPORTS SLEUTH, JOB SLEUTH, ENTERTAINMENT SLEUTH, ENCYCLOPEDIA.COM, and NEWSDIRECTORY.COM are trademarks of Infonautics, Inc. or its subsidiaries. All other trademarks and service marks are the properties of their respective owners.

This news release contains, in addition to historical information, forward-looking statements that involve

risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements may include statements regarding, for example, the Company's cost reductions, profitability, achieving profitability within a specific time frame, strategic options, the consummation or effects of any strategic options, revenues, customer acquisition, the strategy for the operating units, continued growth, its equity interests and their value and dilution, arrangements pertaining to its equity interests, its transactions, its business and Internet strategies, its expenses, the profitability of its business and sites, its capital, cash, and cash equivalents, its registered users, user base, subscribers, and personalized e-mails, the success and results of any of its launches, equity interests, or agreements, and the effects of its restricted stock and stock repurchase programs. Such statements are based on management's current expectations and are subject to a number of uncertainties and risks that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. More information about potential factors, which could affect the Company's financial results, is included in the Risk Factors sections of the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. All forward-looking statements included in this document are based on information available to the Company as of the date of this document, and the Company assumes no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements.

INFONAUTICS, INC. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA