# **UNITED STATES** SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

# FORM S-8 **REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

# Uniti Group Inc. (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	88-2262564	
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)	
2101 D' - 6 - 4 D ' - 6 '44 A		
2101 Riverfront Drive, Suite A Little Rock, Arkansas	72202	
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)	(Zip Code)	
(	(— <sub>F</sub> 3323)	
Uniti Group Inc. 2025 Equity Uniti Group Inc. 2025 Employee S Uniti Group Inc. 2015 Equity (Full title of the pla	stock Purchase Plan Incentive Plan	
Daniel L. Heard	d	
Uniti Group Inc		
Senior Executive Vice President, Gener		
2101 Riverfront Drive, Suite A		
Little Rock, Arkansas (Name and address of agent		
(		
(501) 850-0820		
(Telephone number, including area cod	de, of agent for service)	
Copies of all correspond	dence to:	
Jennifer Conway, I Davis Polk & Wardwo 450 Lexington Ave New York, New York (212) 450-4000	ell LLP enue 10017	
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerate emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerate company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.		
Large accelerated filer ⊠	Accelerated filer □	
Non-accelerated filer □	Smaller reporting company $\square$	
	Emerging growth company $\square$	
If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected n or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the		

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Registration Statement on Form S-8 (this "Registration Statement") is filed for the purpose of registering (i) 6,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.0001 par value per share ("Common Stock"), of Uniti Group Inc. (f/k/a Windstream Parent, Inc.), a Delaware corporation (the "Company" or the "Registrant"), to be available for issuance pursuant to the Uniti Group Inc. 2025 Equity Incentive Plan, (ii) 1,000,000 shares of Common Stock to be available for issuance under the Uniti Group Inc. 2025 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and (iii) 8,238,383 shares of Common Stock in respect of Old Uniti Replacement Awards pursuant to the Old Uniti Plan (each as defined below).

Old Uniti Replacement Awards

In accordance with the terms of the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of May 3, 2024, by and between Uniti Group LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (f/k/a Uniti Group Inc.) ("Old Uniti") and New Windstream, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (as successor to Windstream Holdings II, LLC), as amended by Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 17, 2024 (the "Merger Agreement"), at the effective time (the "Effective Time") of the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement (the "Merger"):

- each Old Uniti performance stock unit award (each, an "Old Uniti PSU Award") granted under Old Uniti's 2015 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Old Uniti Plan") that was outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time was converted into an award with respect to a number of shares of Common Stock (rounded up or down to the nearest whole share) equal to the product of (i) the target number of shares of Old Uniti common stock, \$0.0001 par value per share ("Old Uniti Common Stock"), subject to such Old Uniti PSU Award and (ii) the Exchange Ratio (as defined in the Merger Agreement) (each, an "Old Uniti Replacement PSU Award"); and
- each award of restricted shares of Old Uniti Common Stock (each, an "Old Uniti Restricted Stock Award") granted under the Old Uniti Plan that was outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time was converted into an award with respect to a number of shares of Common Stock (rounded up or down to the nearest whole share) equal to the product of (i) the number of shares of Old Uniti Common Stock subject to such Old Uniti Restricted Stock Award and (ii) the Exchange Ratio (together with Old Uniti Replacement PSU Awards, "Old Uniti Replacement Awards").

Following the consummation of the Merger, Old Uniti converted to a Delaware limited liability company named Uniti Group LLC.

Pursuant to an exception under Rule 5635(c) of the NASDAQ Market Rules and Regulations, awards that are granted under a pre-existing shareholder approved plan of an issuer that is acquired in an acquisition or merger may be converted, replaced or adjusted in connection with such transaction without approval of shareholders of the listed acquiring company.

# PART I INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

The documents containing the information specified in Item 1 and Item 2 of Part I of Form S-8 will be sent or given to participants as specified by Rule 428(b)(1) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). In accordance with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") and the instructions to Form S-8, such documents are not being filed with the Commission.

# PART II INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

# Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents previously filed by either Old Uniti (of which the Company is the successor) or the Company with the Commission are incorporated herein by reference:

- (a) Old Uniti's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, filed with the Commission on February 21, 2025, as amended by a Form 10-K/A filed with the Commission on March 7, 2025 (collectively, the "Annual Report");
- (b) All other reports filed by the Company or Old Uniti pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), since the end of the fiscal year covered by the Annual Report; and
- (c) The description of the Registrant's Common Stock contained in the Registrant's Form S-4/A, filed with the Commission on February 7, 2025, including any amendments or reports filed with the Commission for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents subsequently filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act at any time prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment that indicates that all securities offered have been sold or that deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing such documents.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

# Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Not applicable.

#### Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides that a corporation may indemnify directors and officers as well as other employees and individuals against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with any threatened, pending or completed actions, suits or proceedings in which such person is made a party by reason of such person being or having been a director, officer, employee or agent to the registrant. The Delaware General Corporation Law provides that Section 145 is not exclusive of other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise. Article 8 of the Registrant's certificate of incorporation and Article 6 of the Registrant's bylaws provide for indemnification by the Registrant of its directors, officers and employees to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law. The Registrant also intends to enter into indemnification agreements with each of its current directors and executive officers to provide these directors and executive officers additional contractual assurances regarding the scope of the indemnification set forth in the Registrant's amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws and to provide additional procedural protections. There is no pending litigation or proceeding involving a director or executive officer of the Registrant for which indemnification is sought.

Section 102(b)(7) of the Delaware General Corporation Law permits a corporation to provide in its certificate of incorporation that a director or officer of the corporation shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director or officer, except for liability (i) for any breach of the director's or officer's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) for a director for unlawful payments of dividends or unlawful stock repurchases, redemptions or other distributions, (iv) for any transaction from which the director or officer derived an improper personal benefit or (v) for an officer in any action by or in the right of the corporation. The Registrant's certificate of incorporation provides for such limitation of liability.

The Registrant intends to maintain standard policies of insurance under which coverage will be provided (a) to its directors and officers against loss rising from claims made by reason of breach of duty or other wrongful act, and (b) to the Registrant with respect to payments which may be made by the Registrant to such officers and directors pursuant to the above indemnification provision or otherwise as a matter of law.

# Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

### Item 8. Exhibits.

The exhibits furnished as a part of this registration statement are listed below:

Number	Exhibit		
<u>4.1</u>	Second Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on August 1, 2025)		
4.2	Second Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on August 1, 2025)		
<u>5*</u>	Opinion of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP		
23.1*	Consent of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP (contained in its opinion filed as Exhibit 5)		
23.2*	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent registered public accounting firm		
<u>23.3*</u>	Consent of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm		
<u>24*</u>	Power of Attorney		
99.1*	Uniti Group Inc. 2025 Equity Incentive Plan		
99.2*	Uniti Group Inc. 2025 Employee Stock Purchase Plan		
99.3*	Uniti Group Inc. 2015 Equity Incentive Plan		
<u>107*</u>	Filing Fee Table		

<sup>\*</sup> Filed herewith.

# Item 9. Undertakings.

- (a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:
  - (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:
    - (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;
  - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this Registration Statement; and
  - (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this Registration Statement or any material change to such information in this Registration Statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.

- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
- (b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

# **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Little Rock, State of Arkansas, on August 1, 2025.

# UNITI GROUP INC.

By: /s/ Daniel L. Heard

Name: Daniel L. Heard

Title: Senior Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ Kenneth A. Gunderman Kenneth A. Gunderman	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	August 1, 2025
/s/ Paul E. Bullington Paul E. Bullington	Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer (Principal Financial Officer)	August 1, 2025
/s/ Travis T. Black Travis T. Black	Senior Vice President & Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)	August 1, 2025
/s/ Francis X. Frantz Francis X. Frantz	Director	August 1, 2025
/s/ Harold Zeitz Harold Zeitz	Director	August 1, 2025
/s/ Scott G. Bruce Scott G. Bruce	Director	August 1, 2025
/s/ Carmen Perez-Carlton Carmen Perez-Carlton	Director	August 1, 2025
/s/ Paul Sunu Paul Sunu	Director	August 1, 2025
/s/ Joe Natale Joe Natale	Director	August 1, 2025
/s/ Mary McLaughlin Mary McLaughlin	Director	August 1, 2025
/s/ Randy Dunbar Randy Dunbar	Director	August 1, 2025

# POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Daniel L. Heard and Paul E. Bullington and each of them, his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments to this Registration Statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or their or his or her substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof. This Power of Attorney may be signed in several counterparts.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ Kenneth A. Gunderman  Kenneth A. Gunderman	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	August 1, 2025
/s/ Paul E. Bullington Paul E. Bullington	Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer ( <i>Principal Financial Officer</i> )	August 1, 2025
/s/ Travis T. Black Travis T. Black	Senior Vice President & Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)	August 1, 2025
/s/ Francis X. Frantz Francis X. Frantz	Director	August 1, 2025
/s/ Harold Zeitz Harold Zeitz	Director	August 1, 2025
/s/ Scott G. Bruce Scott G. Bruce	Director	August 1, 2025
/s/ Carmen Perez-Carlton Carmen Perez-Carlton	Director	August 1, 2025
/s/ Paul Sunu Paul Sunu	Director	August 1, 2025
/s/ Joe Natale Joe Natale	Director	August 1, 2025
/s/ Mary McLaughlin Mary McLaughlin	Director	August 1, 2025
/s/ Randy Dunbar Randy Dunbar	Director	August 1, 2025

# Davis Polk

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP 450 Lexington Avenue New York, NY 10017 davispolk.com

### **OPINION OF DAVIS POLK & WARDWELL LLP**

August 1, 2025

Uniti Group Inc. 2101 Riverfront Drive, Suite A Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as special counsel to Uniti Group Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), and are delivering this opinion in connection with the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, for the registration of (i) 6,000,000 shares of the Company's Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share (the "Shares"), available for issuance pursuant to the Company's 2025 Equity Incentive Plan, (ii) 1,000,000 Shares available for issuance pursuant to the Company's 2025 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and (iii) 8,238,383 Shares in respect of awards granted under the Uniti Group Inc. 2015 Equity Incentive Plan and assumed by the Company in connection with the terms of the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of May 3, 2024, by and between Uniti Group LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (f/k/a Uniti Group Inc.) ("Old Uniti") and New Windstream, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (as successor to Windstream Holdings II, LLC), as amended by Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 17, 2024 ((i) through (iii), collectively, the "Plans").

We, as your counsel, have examined originals or copies of such documents, corporate records, certificates of public officials and other instruments as we have deemed necessary or advisable for the purpose of rendering this opinion.

In rendering the opinion expressed herein, we have, without independent inquiry or investigation, assumed that (i) all documents submitted to us as originals are authentic and complete, (ii) all documents submitted to us as copies conform to authentic, complete originals, (iii) all signatures on all documents that we reviewed are genuine, (iv) all natural persons executing documents had and have the legal capacity to do so, (v) all statements in certificates of public officials and officers of the Company that we reviewed were and are accurate and (vi) all representations made by the Company as to matters of fact in the documents that we reviewed were and are accurate.

On the basis of the foregoing, we are of the opinion that the Shares have been duly authorized and, when and to the extent issued pursuant to the Plans upon receipt by the Company of the consideration for the Shares specified therein, will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

We are members of the Bar of the State of New York and the foregoing opinion is limited to the laws of the State of New York and the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as Exhibit 5 to the Registration Statement. In giving this consent, we do not admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

# CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of Uniti Group Inc. of our report dated March 3, 2025 relating to the financial statements of Windstream Holdings II, LLC, which appears in Uniti Group Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2024.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Little Rock, Arkansas August 1, 2025

# **Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

We consent to the use of our reports dated February 21, 2025, with respect to the consolidated financial statements of Uniti Group Inc., and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, incorporated herein by reference.

[(signed) KPMG LLP]

Dallas, Texas August 1, 2025

# UNITI GROUP INC. 2025 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

- 1. Purpose of the Plan. The purpose of this 2025 Equity Incentive Plan (this "Plan") is to attract, retain and motivate the officers, key employees, consultants and directors of Windstream Parent, Inc. and its Affiliates (which will be renamed Uniti Group Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company") following the Merger (as defined below)), and to provide to such persons incentives and rewards for superior performance and contribution. If approved by stockholders of the Company, the Plan will replace the Uniti Group Inc. Amended and Restated 2015 Equity Incentive Plan ("2015 Plan") for Awards granted after the Effective Date. Beginning on the Effective Date, no further awards will be made under the 2015 Plan, but this Plan will not affect the terms or conditions of any awards made under the 2015 Plan before the Effective Date. On May 3, 2024, Uniti Group Inc., a Maryland Corporation ("Prior Uniti"), entered into that certain Agreement and Plan of Merger with Windstream Holdings II, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Windstream") (the transaction contemplated by such agreement, the "Merger"), pursuant to which Windstream and Prior Uniti will each become a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. This Plan is being adopted in anticipation of the Merger and will not become effective unless (i) the Plan is approved by the Company's stockholders and (ii) the Merger is consummated.
  - **2. Definitions**. Capitalized terms used herein have the meanings assigned to such terms in this Section 2.
- "Affiliate" means any corporation that is a Subsidiary of the Company and, for purposes other than the grant of Incentive Stock Options, any limited liability company, partnership, corporation, joint venture, or any other entity in which the Company or any such Subsidiary owns an equity interest.
- "Applicable Laws" means the requirements relating to the administration of equity-based compensation plans under U.S. state corporate laws, U.S. federal and state securities laws, the Code, any stock exchange or quotation system on which the Common Shares are listed or quoted and the applicable laws of any other country or jurisdiction where Awards are granted under this Plan, in each case as applicable to an Award made hereunder.
- "Appreciation Right" means a right granted pursuant to Section 5 of this Plan, and shall include both Tandem Appreciation Rights and Free-Standing Appreciation Rights.
- "Award" means an award of Option Rights, Appreciation Rights, Performance Units, Performance Shares, Restricted Shares, Restricted Stock Units, or other awards granted under Section 10 of this Plan.
- "Base Price" means the price to be used as the basis for determining the Spread upon the exercise of a Free-Standing Appreciation Right or a Tandem Appreciation Right.
  - "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Company.
- "Cause" means, except as otherwise provided in an Evidence of Award: (a) the Participant's willful failure to substantially perform his or her duties (other than any such failure due to the Participant's Disability) or Participant's insubordination with respect to a specific lawful directive of his/her direct report (if the Participant reports directly to an officer) or the Board (if Participant reports directly to the Board) to which the Participant reports directly or indirectly that continues after written notice from the Company; (b) Participant's gross negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of his or her duties hereunder, or engaging in willful misconduct, which in the case of any such gross negligence, has caused or is reasonably expected to result in direct or indirect material injury to the Company or any Affiliate; (c) breach by Participant of any material provision of any written agreement, including, without limitation, this Plan, with the Company or any Affiliate that is not cured (if capable of cure) within fifteen (15) days of written notice from the Company (provided that any breach of a breach of any non-competition or non-solicitation obligation shall not be capable of cure), or violation of any Company policy applicable to Participant that caused or is reasonably expected to result in direct or indirect material injury to the Company; or (d) Participant's commission of a crime that constitutes a felony. No act or omission on the Participant's part shall be considered "willful" unless it is done or omitted in bad faith or without the Participant's reasonable belief that the action or omission was in the best interests of the Company. If, within sixty (60) days following the Participant's terminated for Cause hereunder, Participant's employment shall, at the election of the Company, be deemed to have been terminated for Cause retroactively to the date the events giving rise to Cause occurred.

"Change in Control" means, except as otherwise provided in an Evidence of Award, the occurrence after the Effective Date of any of the following:

- a. any sale, lease, exchange or other transfer (in one transaction or a series of related transactions) of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company to any Person or group of related Persons for purposes of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act (a "Group"), together with any affiliates thereof;
- b. the commencement of the liquidation or dissolution of the Company that occurs following the approval by the holders of capital stock of the Company of any plan or proposal for such liquidation or dissolution of the Company;
- c. any Person or Group becomes the beneficial owner (within the meaning of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of shares representing more than 50% of the aggregate voting power of the issued and outstanding stock entitled to vote in the election of directors, managers or trustees of the Company and such Person or Group actually has the power to vote such shares in any such election;
- d. the replacement of a majority of the Board over a two-year period from the directors who constituted the Board at the beginning of such period, and such replacement shall not have been approved by a vote of at least a majority of the Board then still in office who either were members of such Board at the beginning of such period or were nominated for election by a majority of the directors who were members of such Board at the beginning of such period; or
- e. a merger or consolidation of the Company with another entity in which holders of the Common Shares immediately prior to the consummation of the transaction hold, directly or indirectly, immediately following the consummation of the transaction, 50% or less of the common equity interest in the surviving corporation in such transaction.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, an event described above shall be considered a Change in Control hereunder only if it also constitutes a "change in control event" under Section 409A of the Code, to the extent necessary to avoid the adverse tax consequences thereunder with respect to any Award subject to Section 409A of the Code.

"Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, as such law, rules and regulations may be amended, supplemented or replaced from time to time.

"Committee" means the committee of directors appointed by the Board to administer this Plan. In the absence of a specific appointment, "Committee" means the Compensation Committee of the Board.

"Common Shares" means shares of common stock, par value \$0.0001, of the Company or any security into which such Common Shares may be changed by reason of any transaction or event of the type referred to in Section 13 of this Plan.

"<u>Date of Grant</u>" means the date specified by the Committee on which a grant of an Award shall become effective (which date will not be earlier than the date on which the Committee takes action with respect thereto).

"Director" means a member of the Board.

"<u>Disability</u>" means, except as otherwise provided in an Evidence of Award, that the Participant is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, provided, however, for purposes of determining the term of an Incentive Stock Option, the term Disability shall have the meaning ascribed to it under Section 22(e)(3) of the Code. The determination of whether an individual has a Disability shall be determined under procedures established by the Committee. Except in situations where the Committee is determining Disability for purposes of the term of an Incentive Stock Option within the meaning of Section 22(e)(3) of the Code, the Committee may rely on any determination that a Participant is disabled for purposes of benefits under any long-term disability plan maintained by the Company or any Affiliate in which a Participant participates, provided that the definition of disability applied under such disability plan meets the requirements of a Disability in the first sentence hereof.

"Effective Date" means the closing of the Merger.

"Evidence of Award" means an agreement, certificate, resolution or other type or form of writing or other evidence approved by the Committee which sets forth the terms and conditions of an Award. An Evidence of Award may be in an electronic medium, may be limited to a notation on the books and records of the Company and, with the approval of the Committee, need not be signed by a representative of the Company or a Participant.

"Exchange Act" means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, as such law, rules and regulations may be amended, supplemented or replaced from time to time.

"Free-Standing Appreciation Right" means an Appreciation Right granted pursuant to Section 5 of this Plan that is not granted in tandem with an Option Right.

"Good Reason" means any one of the following: (a) a diminution in Participant's base compensation; (b) a reduction in the Participant's aggregate base compensation and target short-term incentive opportunity, unless such compensation is changed by the Company as part of a change in the Company's executive compensation program in a manner applied equally to similarly situated Participants; (c) a material diminution in authority, duties, or responsibilities of Participant; (d) a material diminution in the budget over which Participant retains authority; (e) a material change in the geographic location (i.e., to a location more than 35 miles from the Participant's primary work location prior to such change) at which Participant is required to perform services; (f) any failure by the Company to require a successor to this Plan; and (g) any other action or inaction that constitutes a material breach of the Participant's employment agreement, if any, with the Company or any Affiliate; provided, however, that for the Participant to be able to resign for "Good Reason," the Participant must give the Company and the applicable Affiliate, if any, notice of the above conditions within 90 days after the condition first exists, the Company and/or Affiliate must not have remedied the condition within 30 days after receiving written notice, and the Participant must resign within 60 days after the Participant's and/or Affiliate's failure to remedy.

"Incentive Stock Options" means Option Rights that are intended to qualify as "incentive stock options" under Section 422 of the Code or any successor provision.

"Management Objectives" means the measurable performance objective or objectives established pursuant to this Plan for Participants who have received grants of Performance Units or Performance Shares or, when so determined by the Committee, Option Rights, Appreciation Rights, Restricted Shares and Restricted Stock Units pursuant to this Plan. Management Objectives may be described in terms of Company-wide objectives or objectives that are related to the performance of the individual Participant or of the Affiliate, Subsidiary, division, department, region or function within the Company, Affiliate or Subsidiary in which the Participant is employed and may be made relative to the performance of other companies. If the Committee determines that a change in the business, operations, corporate structure or capital structure of the Company, or the manner in which it conducts its business, or other events or circumstances (including those events and circumstances described in Section 13 of this Plan) render the Management Objectives unsuitable, the Committee may, at its discretion, modify such Management Objectives or the related minimum acceptable level of achievement, in whole or in part, as the Committee deems appropriate and equitable.

"Market Value per Share" means, as of any particular date, (i) the closing sale price per Common Share as reported on the principal exchange on which Common Shares are then trading, or if there are no sales on such day, on the next preceding trading day during which a sale occurred, or (ii) if the Common Shares are not then-currently traded on an exchange, the fair market value of a Common Share as determined by the Committee in discretion.

"Non-Employee Director" means a member of the Board who is a "non-employee director" within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act.

"Optionee" means the optionee named in an agreement evidencing an outstanding Option Right.

"Option Price" means the purchase price payable on exercise of an Option Right.

"Option Right" means the right to purchase Common Shares upon exercise of an option granted pursuant to Section 4 of this Plan.

"Participant" means a person who is selected by the Committee to receive benefits under this Plan and who is at the time an officer, consultant or other key employee of the Company or any Affiliate and also includes each Non-Employee Director who receives an Award under this Plan.

"Performance Period" means, in respect of a Performance Unit or Performance Share, a period of time established pursuant to Section 6 of this Plan within which the Management Objectives relating to such Performance Share or Performance Unit are to be achieved.

"Performance Share" means a bookkeeping entry that records the equivalent of one Common Share awarded pursuant to Section 6 of this Plan.

- "Performance Unit" means a bookkeeping entry that records a unit equivalent to \$1.00 awarded pursuant to Section 6 of this Plan.
- "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, unincorporated organization, trust or joint venture, or a governmental agency or political subdivision thereof.
- "Restricted Shares" means Common Shares granted or sold pursuant to Section 7 of this Plan as to which neither the substantial risk of forfeiture nor the prohibition on transfers referred to in such Section 7 has expired.
  - "Restricted Stock Units" means an Award made pursuant to Section 8 of this Plan.
- "Restriction Period" means the period of time during which Restricted Stock Units are subject to transfer limitations under Section 8 of this Plan.
- "Spread" means the excess of the Market Value of a Share on the date when an Appreciation Right is exercised, or on the date when Option Rights are surrendered in payment of the Option Price of other Option Rights, over the per share Option Price or per share Base Price provided for in the related Option Right or Free-Standing Appreciation Right, respectively.
  - "Subsidiary" means a "subsidiary corporation," as that term is defined in Section 424(f) of the Code, or any successor provision.
- "<u>Tandem Appreciation Right</u>" means an Appreciation Right granted pursuant to Section 5 of this Plan that is granted in tandem with an Option Right.

### 3. Shares Available Under the Plan.

- a. Subject to adjustment as provided in Section 13 of this Plan, the number of Common Shares (the "Aggregate Plan Limit") that may be issued or transferred (i) upon the exercise of Option Rights or Appreciation Rights, (ii) as Restricted Shares, (iii) in payment of Restricted Stock Units, (iv) in payment of Performance Units or Performance Shares that have been earned, (v) as Awards to Non-Employee Directors, (vi) in payment of Awards granted under Section 10 of this Plan, or (vii) in payment of dividend equivalents paid with respect to Awards made under the Plan, shall not exceed in the aggregate (x) 6,000,000 Common Shares, plus (y) any Common Shares subject to awards granted under the 2015 Plan or this Plan that are canceled, terminated, lapsed, expired, forfeited, become unexercisable for any reason, or are settled in cash (in whole or in part) after the Effective Date. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein: (A) Common Shares tendered in payment of the Option Price of an Option Right shall not be added to the Aggregate Plan Limit; (B) Common Shares withheld by the Company to satisfy the tax withholding obligation shall not be added to Aggregate Plan Limit; (C) Common Shares that are repurchased by the Company with Option Right proceeds shall not be added to the Aggregate Plan Limit; and (D) all Common Shares covered by an Appreciation Right, to the extent that it is exercised and settled in Common Shares, and whether or not Common Shares are actually issued to the Participant upon exercise of the right, shall be considered issued or transferred pursuant to the Plan. Such Common Shares may be shares of original issuance or treasury shares or a combination of the foregoing.
- b. If, under this Plan, a Participant has elected to give up the right to receive compensation in exchange for Common Shares based on fair market value, such Common Shares will not count against the number of shares available in Section 3(a) above.
- c. Notwithstanding anything in this Section 3, or elsewhere in this Plan, to the contrary and subject to adjustment as provided in Section 13 of this Plan, the aggregate number of Common Shares actually issued or transferred by the Company upon the exercise of Incentive Stock Options shall not exceed 6,000,000 Common Shares.
- **4. Option Rights**. The Committee may, from time to time and upon such terms and conditions as it may determine, authorize the granting to Participants of Option Rights. Each such grant may utilize any or all of the authorizations, and shall be subject to all of the limitations, contained in the following provisions:

- a. Each grant shall specify the number of Common Shares to which it pertains.
- b. Each grant shall specify an Option Price per share, which may not be less than the Market Value per Share on the Date of Grant.
- c. Each grant shall specify whether the Option Price shall be payable (i) in cash or by check acceptable to the Company, (ii) by the actual or constructive transfer to the Company of nonforfeitable, unrestricted Common Shares owned by the Optionee having a value at the time of exercise equal to the total Option Price, on such basis as the Committee may determine, (iii) in any other legal consideration that the Committee may deem appropriate, on such basis as the Committee may determine, or (iv) by a combination of such methods of payment.
- d. To the extent permitted by law, any grant may provide for (i) deferred payment of the Option Price from the proceeds of sale through a bank or broker on a date satisfactory to the Company of some or all of the shares to which such exercise relates; (ii) payment of the Option Price, at the election of the Optionee, in installments or using a promissory note, upon terms determined by the Committee in its discretion; or (iii) any combination of such methods.
- e. Successive grants may be made to the same Participant whether or not any Option Rights previously granted to such Participant remain unexercised.
- f. Each grant shall specify the period or periods of continuous service by the Optionee with the Company or any Affiliate that is necessary before the Option Rights or installments thereof will become exercisable and may provide for accelerated vesting of such Option Rights in the event of a Change in Control, retirement, death or Disability of the Optionee or other similar transaction or event as approved by the Committee.
  - g. Any grant of Option Rights may specify Management Objectives that must be achieved as a condition to the exercise of such rights.
- h. Option Rights granted under this Plan may be (i) Incentive Stock Options, that are intended to qualify under Section 422 of the Code (or any successor to such section), (ii) "nonqualified stock options" that are not intended to so qualify, or (iii) a combination of the foregoing. Incentive Stock Options may only be granted to Participants who meet the definition of "employees" under Section 3401(c) of the Code on the Date of Grant.
- i. The exercise of an Option Right shall result in the cancellation on a share-for-share basis of any Tandem Appreciation Right authorized under Section 5 of this Plan.
  - j. No Option Right shall be exercisable more than 10 years from the Date of Grant.
- k. To the extent an Option Right is not previously exercised as to all of the Common Shares subject thereto, and, if the Market Value per Share is greater than the exercise price then in effect, then the Option Right shall be deemed automatically exercised immediately before its expiration.
- l. Each grant of Option Rights shall be evidenced by an Evidence of Award which shall contain such terms and provisions, consistent with this Plan and applicable sections of the Code, as the Committee may approve.

# 5. Appreciation Rights.

a. The Committee may authorize the granting (i) to any Optionee, of Tandem Appreciation Rights in respect of Option Rights granted hereunder, and (ii) to any Participant, of Free-Standing Appreciation Rights. A Tandem Appreciation Right shall be a right of the Optionee, exercisable by surrender of the related Option Right, to receive from the Company an amount determined by the Committee, which shall be expressed as a percentage of the Spread (not exceeding 100 percent) at the time of exercise. Tandem Appreciation Rights may be granted at any time prior to the exercise or termination of the related Option Rights; provided, however, that a Tandem Appreciation Right awarded in relation to an Incentive Stock Option must be granted concurrently with such Incentive Stock Option. A Free-Standing Appreciation Right shall be a right of the Participant to receive from the Company an amount determined by the Committee, which shall be expressed as a percentage of the Spread (not exceeding 100 percent) at the time of exercise.

- b. Each grant of Appreciation Rights may utilize any or all of the authorizations, and shall be subject to all of the requirements, contained in the following provisions:
- (i) Any grant may specify that the amount payable on exercise of an Appreciation Right may be paid by the Company in cash, in Common Shares or in any combination thereof and may either grant to the Participant or retain in the Committee the right to elect among those alternatives.
- (ii) Any grant may specify that the amount payable on exercise of an Appreciation Right may not exceed a maximum specified by the Committee at the Date of Grant.
- (iii) Each grant shall specify the period or periods of continuous service by the Participant with the Company or any Affiliate that is necessary before the Appreciation Right or installments thereof will become exercisable and may provide for accelerated vesting of such Appreciation Rights in the event of a Change in Control, retirement, death or Disability of the Participant or other similar transaction or event as approved by the Committee.
- (iv) Each grant of an Appreciation Right shall be evidenced by an Evidence of Award, which shall describe such Appreciation Right, identify any related Option Right, state that such Appreciation Right is subject to all the terms and conditions of this Plan, and contain such other terms and provisions, consistent with this Plan and applicable sections of the Code, as the Committee may approve.
- c. Any grant of Tandem Appreciation Rights shall provide that such Rights may be exercised only at a time when the related Option Right is also exercisable and at a time when the Spread is positive, and by surrender of the related Option Right for cancellation.
  - d. Regarding Free-Standing Appreciation Rights only:
- (i) Each grant shall specify in respect of each Free-Standing Appreciation Right a Base Price, which shall not be less than the Market Value per Share on the Date of Grant;
- (ii) Successive grants may be made to the same Participant regardless of whether any Free-Standing Appreciation Rights previously granted to the Participant remain unexercised; and
  - (iii) No Free-Standing Appreciation Right granted under this Plan may be exercised more than 10 years from the Date of Grant.
- e. To the extent an Appreciation Right is not previously exercised as to all of the Common Shares subject thereto, and, if the Market Value per Share is greater than the exercise price then in effect, then the Appreciation Right shall be deemed automatically exercised immediately before its expiration.
  - f. Any grant of Appreciation Rights may specify Management Objectives that must be achieved as a condition to exercise such rights.
- **6. Performance Units and Performance Shares**. The Committee may also authorize the granting to Participants of Performance Units and Performance Shares that will become payable to a Participant upon achievement of specified Management Objectives. Each such grant may utilize any or all of the authorizations, and shall be subject to all of the limitations, contained in the following provisions:
- a. Each grant shall specify the number of Performance Units or Performance Shares to which it pertains, which number may be subject to adjustment to reflect changes in compensation or other factors.
- b. The Performance Period with respect to each Performance Unit or Performance Share shall be such period of time commencing with the Date of Grant as shall be determined by the Committee at the time of grant. Each grant may provide for the earlier lapse or other modification of such Performance Period in the event of a Change in Control, retirement, or death or Disability of the Participant or other similar transaction or event as approved by the Committee.
- c. Each grant shall specify the time and manner of payment of Performance Units or Performance Shares that have been earned. Any grant may specify that the amount payable with respect thereto may be paid by the Company to the Participant in

cash, in Common Shares or in any combination thereof, and may either grant to the Participant or retain in the Committee the right to elect among those alternatives.

- d. Any grant of Performance Units may specify that the amount payable or the number of Common Shares issued with respect thereto may not exceed maximums specified by the Committee at the Date of Grant. Any grant of Performance Shares may specify that the amount payable with respect thereto may not exceed a maximum specified by the Committee at the Date of Grant.
- e. Each grant of Performance Units or Performance Shares shall be evidenced by an Evidence of Award, which shall contain such terms and provisions, consistent with this Plan and applicable sections of the Code, as the Committee may approve.
- f. The Committee may, at the Date of Grant of Performance Shares, provide for the payment of dividend equivalents to the holder thereof on either a current or deferred or contingent basis, either in cash or in additional Common Shares. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event shall dividend equivalents be paid prior to the vesting or settlement of the underlying Award.
- **7. Restricted Shares**. The Committee may also authorize the grant or sale of Restricted Shares to Participants. Each such grant or sale may utilize any or all of the authorizations, and shall be subject to all of the limitations, contained in the following provisions:
- a. Each such grant or sale shall constitute an immediate transfer of the ownership of Common Shares to the Participant in consideration of the performance of services, entitling such Participant to voting, dividend and other ownership rights (unless otherwise determined by the Committee), but subject to the substantial risk of forfeiture and restrictions on transfer hereinafter referred to.
- b. Each such grant or sale may be made without additional consideration or in consideration of a payment by such Participant that is less than Market Value per Share at the Date of Grant.
- c. Each such grant or sale shall provide that the Restricted Shares covered by such grant or sale shall be subject to a "substantial risk of forfeiture" within the meaning of Section 83 of the Code for a period to be determined by the Committee at the Date of Grant and may provide for the earlier lapse of such substantial risk of forfeiture in the event of a Change in Control, retirement, or death or Disability of the Participant or other similar transaction or event as approved by the Committee.
- d. Each such grant or sale shall provide that during the period for which such substantial risk of forfeiture is to continue, the transferability of the Restricted Shares shall be prohibited or restricted in the manner and to the extent prescribed by the Committee at the Date of Grant (which restrictions may include, without limitation, rights of repurchase or first refusal in the Company or provisions subjecting the Restricted Shares to a continuing substantial risk of forfeiture in the hands of any transferee).
- e. Any grant of Restricted Shares may specify Management Objectives that, if achieved, will result in termination or early termination of the restrictions applicable to such shares.
- f. Any such grant or sale of Restricted Shares may require that any or all dividends or other distributions paid thereon during the period of such restrictions be automatically deferred and reinvested in additional Restricted Shares, which may be subject to the same restrictions as the underlying Award.
- g. Each grant or sale of Restricted Shares shall be evidenced by an Evidence of Award, which shall contain such terms and provisions, consistent with this Plan and applicable sections of the Code, as the Committee may approve. Unless otherwise directed by the Committee, all certificates representing Restricted Shares shall be held in custody by the Company until all restrictions thereon shall have lapsed, together with a stock power or powers executed by the Participant in whose name such certificates are registered, endorsed in blank and covering such Shares.
- **8. Restricted Stock Units**. The Committee may also authorize the grant or sale of Restricted Stock Units to Participants. Each such grant or sale may utilize any or all of the authorizations, and shall be subject to all of the requirements contained in the following provisions:
- a. Each such grant or sale shall constitute the agreement by the Company to deliver Common Shares, pay an amount in cash, or pay a combination of Common Shares and cash to the Participant in the future in consideration of the performance of services, but subject to the fulfillment of such conditions during the Restriction Period as the Committee may specify.

- b. Each such grant or sale may be made without additional consideration or in consideration of a payment by such Participant that is less than the Market Value per Share at the Date of Grant.
- c. Each such grant or sale shall be subject to a Restriction Period as determined by the Committee at the Date of Grant, and may provide for the earlier lapse or other modification of such Restriction Period in the event of a Change in Control, retirement, or death or Disability of the Participant or other similar transaction or event as approved by the Committee.
- d. Any grant of Restricted Stock Units may specify Management Objectives that, if achieved, will result in termination or early termination of the Restriction Period applicable to such shares.
- e. During the Restriction Period, the Participant shall have no right to transfer any rights under his or her Award and shall have no right of ownership in the Restricted Stock Units and shall have no right to vote them, but the Committee may, at the Date of Grant, authorize the payment of dividend equivalents on such Restricted Stock Units on either a current or deferred or contingent basis, either in cash or in additional Common Shares. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event shall dividend equivalents be paid prior to the vesting of the underlying Award.
- f. Each grant or sale of Restricted Stock Units shall be evidenced by an Evidence of Award, which shall contain such terms and provisions, consistent with this Plan and applicable sections of the Code, as the Committee may approve.
- **9. Awards to Non-Employee Directors**. The Board may, from time to time and upon such terms and conditions as it may determine, authorize the grant or sale of Restricted Shares under Section 7 of this Plan, Restricted Stock Units under Section 8 of this Plan or other Awards under Section 10 of this Plan, or any combination of the foregoing. For clarity, the authority to grant Awards to Non-Employee Directors pursuant to this Plan rests exclusively with the Board (and, for the avoidance of doubt, not with the Committee), except to the extent expressly delegated by the Board to a committee or person(s) pursuant to Section 10. The maximum number of Common Shares subject to Awards granted during a single calendar year to any Non-Employee Director shall not exceed a total value of \$750,000 (based on the Market Value per Share on the Date of Grant).

#### 10. Other Awards.

- a. The Committee is authorized, subject to limitations under applicable law, to grant to any Participant such other awards that may be denominated or payable in, valued in whole or in part by reference to, or otherwise based on, or related to, Common Shares or factors that may influence the value of Common Shares, including, without limitation, convertible or exchangeable debt securities, other rights convertible or exchangeable into Common Shares, purchase rights for Common Shares, awards with value and payment contingent upon performance of the Company or business units thereof or any other factors designated by the Committee, and awards valued by reference to the book value of Common Shares or the value of securities of, or the performance of specified Subsidiaries or Affiliates or other business units of, the Company. The Committee shall determine the terms and conditions of such awards. Common Shares delivered pursuant to an award in the nature of a purchase right granted under this Section 10 shall be purchased for such consideration, paid for at such times, by such methods, and in such forms, including, without limitation, cash, Common Shares, other awards, notes or other property, as the Committee shall determine.
- b. Cash awards, as an element of or supplement to any other Award granted under this Plan, may also be granted pursuant to this Section 10 of this Plan.
- c. The Committee is authorized to grant Common Shares as a bonus, or to grant Common Shares or other awards in lieu of obligations of the Company or an Affiliate to pay cash or deliver other property under the Plan or under other plans or compensatory arrangements, subject to such terms as shall be determined by the Committee.
- 11. Minimum Vesting. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, no portion of any Award shall vest in less than one year following the date of grant. For the avoidance of doubt, such minimum vesting requirements shall not apply in the event of (i) the Participant's death or Disability, (ii) a termination of the Participant's employment or service by the Company without Cause or by the Participant for Good Reason, (iii) a Change in Control (subject to the requirements under the Plan and Section 3(d)) and (iv) the Committee granting Awards that are not subject to such minimum vesting requirements with respect to five (5) percent or less of the Common Shares available for issuance under the Plan (as set forth in Section 3(a)), as may be adjusted pursuant to Section 13.

# 12. Transferability.

- a. Except as otherwise determined by the Committee, no Option Right, Appreciation Right or other derivative security granted under the Plan shall be transferable by a Participant other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution. Except as otherwise determined by the Committee, Option Rights and Appreciation Rights shall be exercisable during the Optionee's lifetime only by him or her or by his or her guardian or legal representative.
- b. The Committee may specify at the Date of Grant that part or all of the Common Shares that are (i) to be issued or transferred by the Company upon the exercise of Option Rights or Appreciation Rights, upon the termination of the Restriction Period applicable to Restricted Stock Units or upon payment under any grant of Performance Units or Performance Shares or (ii) no longer subject to the substantial risk of forfeiture and restrictions on transfer referred to in Section 7 of this Plan, shall be subject to further restrictions on transfer.
- 13. Adjustments. The Committee shall make or provide for such adjustments in the numbers of Common Shares covered by outstanding Option Rights, Appreciation Rights, Performance Shares, Restricted Stock Units and share-based awards described in Section 10 of this Plan granted hereunder, in the Option Price and Base Price provided in outstanding Option Rights and Appreciation Rights, and in the kind of shares covered thereby, as the Committee, in its discretion, exercised in good faith, may determine is equitably required to prevent dilution or enlargement of the rights of Participants or Optionees that otherwise would result from (a) any stock dividend, stock split, combination of shares, recapitalization or other change in the capital structure of the Company, or (b) any merger, consolidation, spin-off, split-off, spin-out, split-up, reorganization, partial or complete liquidation or other distribution of assets (including, without limitation, a special or large non-recurring dividend), issuance of rights or warrants to purchase securities, or (c) any other corporate transaction or event having an effect similar to any of the foregoing. Moreover, in the event of any such transaction or event, the Committee, in its discretion, may provide in substitution for any or all outstanding Awards under this Plan such alternative consideration (including cash) as it, in good faith, may determine to be equitable in the circumstances and may require in connection therewith the surrender of all Awards so replaced. The Committee may also make or provide for such adjustments in the numbers of shares specified in Section 3 of this Plan as the Committee, in its discretion, exercised in good faith, may determine is appropriate to reflect any transaction or event described in this Section 13; provided, however, that any such adjustment to the number specified in Section 3(c) shall be made only if and to the extent that such adjustment would not cause any Option intended to qualify as an Incentive Stock Option to fail so to qualify. In no event shall any adjustment be required under this Section 13 if the Committee determines that such action could cause an Award to fail to satisfy the conditions of an applicable exception from the requirements of Section 409A of the Code or otherwise could subject a Participant to the additional tax imposed under Section 409A in respect of an outstanding Award.
- **14. Fractional Shares**. The Company shall not be required to issue any fractional Common Shares pursuant to this Plan. The Committee may provide for the elimination of fractions or for the settlement of fractions in cash.
- 15. Withholding Taxes. The Company shall have the right to deduct from any payment or benefit realized under this Plan an amount equal to the federal, state, local, foreign and other taxes which in the opinion of the Company are required to be withheld by it with respect to such payment or benefit. To the extent that the amounts available to the Company for such withholding are insufficient, it shall be a condition to the receipt of such payment or the realization of such benefit that the Participant or other recipient make arrangements satisfactory to the Company for payment of the balance of such taxes required to be withheld. At the discretion of the Committee, such arrangements may include relinquishment of a portion of such benefit pursuant to procedures adopted by the Committee from time to time. The Company and a Participant or such other recipient may also make similar arrangements with respect to the payment of any taxes with respect to which withholding is not required.
- 16. Foreign Employees. In order to facilitate the making of any grant or combination of grants under this Plan, the Committee may provide for such special terms for Awards to Participants who are foreign nationals or who are employed by the Company or any Affiliate outside of the United States of America as the Committee may consider necessary or appropriate to accommodate differences in local law, tax policy or custom. Moreover, the Committee may approve such supplements to or amendments, restatements or alternative versions of this Plan as it may consider necessary or appropriate for such purposes, without thereby affecting the terms of this Plan as in effect for any other purpose, and the Corporate Secretary or other appropriate officer of the Company may certify any such document as having been approved and adopted in the same manner as this Plan. No such special terms, supplements, amendments or restatements, however, shall include any provisions that are inconsistent with the terms of this Plan as then in effect unless this Plan could have been amended to eliminate such inconsistency without further approval by the stockholders of the Company.

# 17. Administration of the Plan.

a. The Committee shall administer this Plan or delegate its authority to do so as provided in Section 17(c) hereof or, in the Board's sole discretion or in the absence of the Committee, the Board shall administer this Plan; provided that the authority to

grant Awards to Non-Employee Directors pursuant to this Plan rests exclusively with the Board (and, for the avoidance of doubt, not with the Committee), and each reference in this Plan to the Committee shall be deemed, when used in the context of any Award(s) made or to be made to a Non-Employee Director, a reference to the Board. The Committee, or if no Committee has been appointed, the Board, may delegate administration of the Plan to a committee or committees of one or more members of the Board, and the term "Committee" shall apply to any such committee, person(s) to whom such authority has been delegated. The Committee shall have the power to delegate to a subcommittee any of the administrative powers the Committee is authorized to exercise (and references in this Plan to the Committee shall thereafter be to the committee or subcommittee), subject, however, to such resolutions, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Plan, as may be adopted from time to time by the Board. The Board may abolish, suspend or supersede the Committee at any time and revest in the Board the administration of the Plan.

- b. Subject to the express provisions of the Plan, the Committee shall have plenary authority, in its discretion, to determine the individuals to whom, and the time or times at which, Awards shall be granted and the number of shares, if applicable, to be subject to each Award. In making such determinations, the Committee may take into account the nature of services rendered by the respective individuals, their present and potential contributions to the Company's success and such other factors as the Committee deems relevant. Subject to the express provisions of the Plan, the Committee shall also have plenary discretionary authority to interpret the Plan, to prescribe, amend and rescind rules and regulations relating to it, to determine the terms and provisions of the respective Evidence of Award (which need not be identical) and to make all other determinations necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan. The interpretation and construction by the Committee of any provision of this Plan or of any Evidence of Award and any determination by the Board pursuant to any provision of this Plan or of any such Evidence of Award shall be final, conclusive and binding on the Company and the Participants, unless such decisions are determined by a court having jurisdiction to be arbitrary and capricious. No member of the Board or the Committee shall be liable for any such action or determination made in good faith.
- c. To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Committee may delegate to one or more of its members or to one or more officers of the Company, or to one or more agents or advisors, such administrative duties or powers as it may deem advisable, and the Committee, or any person(s) or committee to whom duties or powers have been delegated as aforesaid, may employ one or more persons to render advice with respect to any responsibility the Committee or such person or committee may have under the Plan. To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Committee may, by resolution, authorize one or more officers of the Company to do one or both of the following on the same basis as the Committee: (i) designate employees to be recipients of Awards under this Plan; (ii) determine the size of any such Awards; provided, however, that (A) the Committee shall not delegate such responsibilities to any such officer for Awards granted to an employee who is an officer, Director, or more than 10% beneficial owner of any class of the Company's equity securities that is registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act, as determined by the Committee in accordance with Section 16 of the Exchange Act; (B) the resolution providing for such authorization sets forth the total number of Common Shares such officer(s) may grant; and (iii) the officer(s) shall report periodically to the Committee, as the case may be, regarding the nature and scope of the Awards granted pursuant to the authority delegated.
- d. Any authority granted to the Committee may also be exercised by the Board or another committee of the Board duly appointed for such purpose. To the extent that any permitted action taken by the Board conflicts with action taken by the Committee, the Board action shall control. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to the extent the Board has delegated any authority under this Plan to another committee of the Board, such authority shall not be exercised by the Committee unless expressly permitted by the Board in connection with such delegation.
- e. The Board shall have discretion to determine whether or not it intends to comply with the exemption requirements of Rule 16b-3 of the Exchange Act. Nothing herein shall create an inference that an Award is not validly granted under the Plan in the event Awards are granted under the Plan by a compensation committee of the Board that does not at all times consist solely of two or more Non-Employee Directors.

# 18. Amendments and Other Matters.

a. The Board may at any time and from time to time amend the Plan in whole or in part; provided, however, that any amendment which must be approved by the stockholders of the Company in order to comply with applicable law or the rules of the NASDAQ Global Stock Market shall not be effective unless and until such approval has been obtained. Presentation of this Plan or any amendment thereof for stockholder approval shall not be construed to limit the Company's authority to offer similar or dissimilar benefits under other plans or otherwise with or without stockholder approval. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Board may amend this Plan to eliminate provisions which are no longer necessary as a result in changes in tax or securities laws or regulations, or in the interpretation thereof.

- b. Neither the Board nor the Committee shall, without the further approval of the stockholders of the Company, authorize the amendment of any outstanding Option Right or Appreciation Right to reduce the Option Price or Base Price. Furthermore, without further approval of the stockholders of the Company, (i) no Option Right or Appreciation Right shall be cancelled and replaced with an Award having a lower Option Price or Base Price, (ii) no Option Right or Appreciation Right shall be cancelled in exchange for cash if the per share Option Price or per share Base Price exceeds the Market Value per Share on the date of such cancellation, and (iii) there shall be no cancellation of "underwater" Option Rights in exchange for other Awards under this Plan. This Section 18(b) is intended to prohibit the repricing of "underwater" Option Rights and Appreciation Rights and shall not be construed to prohibit the adjustments provided for in Section 13 of this Plan.
- c. To the extent consistent with Section 409A of the Code, the Committee also may permit Participants to elect to defer the issuance of Common Shares or the settlement of Awards in cash under the Plan pursuant to such rules, procedures or programs as it may establish for purposes of this Plan. The Committee also may provide that deferred issuances and settlements include the payment or crediting of dividend equivalents or interest on the deferral amounts
- d. If permitted by Section 409A of the Code, in case of termination of employment by reason of death, Disability or normal or early retirement, or in the case of hardship or other special circumstances, of a Participant who holds an Option Right or Appreciation Right not immediately exercisable in full, or any Restricted Shares as to which the substantial risk of forfeiture or the prohibition or restriction on transfer has not lapsed, or any Restricted Stock Units as to which the Restriction Period has not been completed, or any Performance Shares or Performance Units which have not been fully earned, or any other Awards made pursuant to Section 10 subject to any vesting schedule or transfer restriction, or who holds Common Shares subject to any transfer restriction imposed pursuant to Section 12(b) of this Plan, the Committee may, at its discretion, accelerate the time at which such Option Right, Appreciation Right or other Award may be exercised or the time at which such substantial risk of forfeiture or prohibition or restriction on transfer will lapse or the time when such Restriction Period will end or the time at which such Performance Shares or Performance Units will be deemed to have been fully earned or the time when such transfer restriction will terminate or may waive any other limitation or requirement under any such Award.
- e. This Plan shall not confer upon any Participant any right with respect to continuance of employment or other service with the Company or any Affiliate, nor shall it interfere in any way with any right the Company or any Affiliate would otherwise have to terminate such Participant's employment or other service at any time.
- f. To the extent that any provision of this Plan would prevent any Option Right that was intended to qualify as an Incentive Stock Option from qualifying as such, that provision shall be null and void with respect to such Option Right. Such provision, however, shall remain in effect for other Option Rights and there shall be no further effect on any provision of this Plan.
- g. Subject to Section 21, this Plan shall continue in effect until the date on which all Common Shares available for issuance or transfer under this Plan have been issued or transferred and the Company has no further obligation hereunder.
- h. Neither a Participant nor any other person shall, by reason of participation in the Plan, acquire any right or title to any assets, funds or property of the Company or any Affiliate, including without limitation, any specific funds, assets or other property which the Company or any Affiliate may set aside in anticipation of any liability under the Plan. A Participant shall have only a contractual right to an Award or the amounts, if any, payable under the Plan, unsecured by any assets of the Company or any Affiliate, and nothing contained in the Plan shall constitute a guarantee that the assets of the Company or any Affiliate shall be sufficient to pay any benefits to any person.
- i. This Plan and each Evidence of Award shall be governed by the laws of the State of Delaware, excluding any conflicts or choice of law rule or principle that might otherwise refer construction or interpretation of the Plan to the substantive law of another jurisdiction.
- j. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Plan, the Company may cancel any Award, require reimbursement of any Award by a Participant, and effect any other right of recoupment of equity or other compensation provided under the Plan in accordance with any Company policies that may be adopted and/or modified from time to time ("Clawback Policy"). In addition, a Participant may be required to repay to the Company previously paid compensation, whether provided pursuant to the Plan or an Evidence of Award, in accordance with the Clawback Policy. By accepting an Award, the Participant is agreeing to be bound by the Clawback Policy, as in effect or as may be adopted and/or modified from time to time by the Company in its discretion (including, without limitation, to comply with applicable law or stock exchange listing requirements).

k. In the event any provision of this Plan shall be held illegal or invalid for any reason, the illegality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining parts of this Plan, and this Plan shall be construed and enforced as if the illegal or invalid provision had not been included.

- 19. Compliance with Section 409A of the Code. Awards granted under this Plan shall be designed and administered in such a manner that they are either exempt from the application of, or comply with, the requirements of Section 409A of the Code. To the extent that the Committee determines that any Award granted under the Plan is subject to Section 409A of the Code, the Evidence of Award shall incorporate the terms and conditions necessary to avoid the imposition of an additional tax under Section 409A of the Code upon a Participant. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan or any Evidence of Award (unless the Evidence of Award provides otherwise with specific reference to this Section), an Award shall not be granted, deferred, accelerated, extended, paid out, settled, substituted or modified under this Plan in a manner that would result in the imposition of an additional tax under Section 409A of the Code upon a Participant. Although the Company intends to administer the Plan so that awards will be exempt from, or will comply with, the requirements of Section 409A of the Code, the Company does not warrant that any Award under the Plan will qualify for favorable tax treatment under Section 409A of the Code or any other provision of federal, state, local, or non-United States law. Neither the Company, its Affiliates, nor their respective directors, officers, employees or advisers shall be liable to any Participant (or any other individual claiming a benefit through the Participant) for any tax, interest, or penalties the Participant might owe as a result of the grant, holding, vesting, exercise, or payment of any Award under the Plan. Any reference in this Plan to Section 409A of the Code will also include the applicable proposed, temporary or final regulations, or any other guidance, issued with respect to such Section by the U.S. Department of the Treasury or the Internal Revenue Service.
- **20.** Applicable Laws. To the extent that federal laws do not otherwise control, this Plan and all determinations made and actions taken pursuant to this Plan shall be governed by the laws of Delaware, without giving effect to principles of conflicts of laws, and construed accordingly.
- 21. Term and Termination. This Plan shall terminate 10 years after the Effective Date, and no award(s) shall be made hereunder after the expiration of such 10 year period. Awards outstanding at the termination of the Plan will continue in accordance with their terms and will not be affected by such termination.

#### UNITI GROUP INC.

### 2025 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN

Section 1. Purpose of the ESPP. The purpose of this 2025 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "ESPP") is to provide a method whereby employees of Windstream Parent, Inc. (which shall be renamed Uniti Group Inc., a Delaware Corporation (the "Company")) following the Merger (as defined below)) or of any Qualified Subsidiary (as defined below) will have an opportunity to acquire a proprietary interest in the Company through the purchase of Shares (as defined below) pursuant to a plan which is intended to qualify as an "employee stock purchase plan" within the meaning of Section 423(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The provisions of the ESPP shall be construed so as to extend and limit participation in a manner consistent with the requirements of Section 423 of the Code. If approved by stockholders of the Company, the ESPP will replace the Uniti Group Inc. Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "Prior ESPP") for Shares acquired pursuant to an Offering Period (as defined below) commencing on or after the Effective Date. On or after the Effective Date, no further Offering Periods (as defined in the Prior ESPP) will commence under the Prior ESPP, and this ESPP will not affect the terms or conditions of any Shares acquired under the Prior ESPP pursuant to Offering Periods (as defined in the Prior ESPP) commencing prior to the Effective Date. On May 3, 2024, Uniti Group Inc., a Maryland Corporation ("Prior Uniti"), entered into that certain Agreement and Plan of Merger with Windstream Holdings II, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Windstream") (the transaction contemplated by such agreement, the "Merger"), pursuant to which Windstream and Prior Uniti will each become a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. This ESPP is being adopted in anticipation of the Merger and will not become effective unless (i) the ESPP is approved by the Company's stockholders and (ii) the Merger is consummated.

### Section 2. Definitions.

"Administrator" shall mean the Compensation Committee of the Board which has been appointed to administer this ESPP pursuant to Section 15 hereof.

"Board" shall mean the Board of Directors of the Company.

"Code" shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as currently in effect or as may be amended in the future.

"Compensation" shall mean the annual salary for exempt employees and hourly compensation for non-exempt employees.

"Effective Date" shall mean the closing date of the Merger, or such later date as the ESPP may be approved by the stockholders of the Company.

"Eligible Employee" means any person who is employed as a common law employee and classified as working in the regular service of the Company or a Qualified Subsidiary. For purposes of this definition, the existence of the employment relationship between an individual and the Company or Qualified Subsidiary will be determined under Treasury Regulation Section 1.421-1(h).

"Enrollment Date" shall mean the first day of each Offering Period.

"Fair Market Value" shall mean, as of any date, the value of the Shares determined as follows:

- (a) Where the Shares are not purchased in the open market, the closing sales price per share of the Shares (or the closing bid price, if no such sales were reported) on the Nasdaq's National Market System, or such stock exchange or other national market system on which the Shares are listed or traded, on the Purchase Date.
- (b) Where the Shares are purchased in the open market, the average of the actual prices, if such actual prices vary, at which the Shares were purchased on the Purchase Date.
- (c) In the event that the foregoing valuation methods are not practicable, such other reasonable valuation method as the Administrator shall, in its discretion, select and apply in good faith as of such date.

"Offering Period" shall mean, subject to Section 4, the period commencing on each first day of April (the first Offering Period) and each first day of October (the second Offering Period) and terminating on the Purchase Date. The duration and timing of Offering Periods may be changed pursuant to Section 4 of the ESPP.

"Participating Employee" shall mean an Eligible Employee who participates in the ESPP.

"Purchase Date" shall mean, with respect to the first Offering Period, the last day of September, and with respect to the second Offering Period, the last day of March. If the last day of any Offering Period falls on a day on which Nasdaq or the national stock exchanges are not open for trading, the Purchase Date shall be the trading day before the last day. The timing of the Purchase Date may be changed pursuant to Section 4 of the ESPP.

"Purchase Price" shall mean an amount not less than 85% or greater than 100% of the Fair Market Value of a Share on the Enrollment Date or the Purchase Date, whichever is less, as determined from time to time by the Board or by the Administrator pursuant to Section 15 hereof. In the absence of such a determination by the Board or Administrator, the Purchase Price

shall be 85% of the Fair Market Value of a Share on the Enrollment Date or the Purchase Date, whichever is less.

"Qualified Subsidiary" shall mean all Subsidiaries which are designated by the Board or the Administrator as eligible to participate in the ESPP. The Board or the Administrator may initiate or terminate the designation of a Subsidiary as a Qualified Subsidiary without the approval of the stockholders of the Company.

"Shares" shall mean the common stock of the Company, \$0.0001 par value.

"Subsidiary" shall mean a "subsidiary corporation" with respect to the Company, as defined in Section 424(f) of the Code.

# Section 3. Eligibility.

- (a) Any Eligible Employee who is employed by the Company or a Qualified Subsidiary on the first day of any Offering Period shall be eligible to participate in the ESPP during such Offering Period, subject to the requirements of Section 5 and the limitations imposed by Section 423(b) of the Code.
- (b) Each employee who first becomes an Eligible Employee subsequent to the first day of a given Offering Period will be eligible to become a Participating Employee in the ESPP on the first day of the first Offering Period following the day on which such person becomes an Eligible Employee, subject to the requirements of Section 5 and the limitations imposed by Section 423(b) of the Code.
- (c) No Eligible Employee shall be granted an option under the ESPP if such Eligible Employee, immediately after the option was granted, would be treated as owning stock possessing 5% or more of the total combined voting power or value of all classes of stock of the Company or Qualified Subsidiary. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the attribution rules of Section 424(d) of the Code shall apply in determining the stock ownership of the Eligible Employee. In addition, no Eligible Employee shall be granted an option under the ESPP to the extent that his or her right to purchase Shares under all Section 423 employee stock purchase plans of the Company and its Subsidiaries accrues at a rate which exceeds \$25,000 worth of stock (determined at the fair market value of the shares at the time such option is granted) for each calendar year in which such option is outstanding at any time. This limitation shall be applied in accordance with Section 423(b)(8) of the Code and the Treasury Regulations thereunder.

Section 4. Offering Periods. Unless otherwise specified by the Administrator, the ESPP shall be implemented by consecutive Offering Periods which shall continue until the ESPP expires or is terminated in accordance with

Section 20 hereof. Subject to Section 20, Offering Periods shall be six months in duration, unless a shorter or longer period (not to exceed 27 months) is otherwise specified by the Administrator. The Administrator shall have the power to change the duration of Offering Periods (including the commencement dates thereof) and Purchase Dates with respect to future offerings without stockholder approval.

# Section 5. Participation.

- (a) An Eligible Employee may become a Participating Employee in the ESPP as soon as administratively practicable after making an electronic election via the Company's online system.
- (b) Payroll deductions for a Participating Employee shall commence on the first payroll following the first day of the Offering Period and shall end on the last payroll in the Offering Period to which such authorization is applicable, unless terminated sooner by the Participating Employee as provided in Section 11 hereof.
- (c) During a leave of absence approved by the Company or a Subsidiary and as long as the requirements of Treasury Regulations Section 1.421-1(h)(2) are met, a Participating Employee may continue to participate in the ESPP by making cash payments to the Company on each payday equal to the amount of the Participating Employee's payroll deductions or contributions under the ESPP for the payday immediately preceding the first day of such Participating Employee's leave of absence. If a leave of absence is unapproved or fails to meet the requirements of Treasury Regulations Section 1.421-1(h)(2), the Participating Employee will automatically cease to participate in the ESPP. In such event, the Company will automatically cease to make deductions from the Participating Employee's payroll with respect to the ESPP. The Company will pay to the Participating Employee his or her total payroll deductions for the Offering Period, in cash and in one lump sum, without interest, as soon as practicable after the Participating Employee ceases to participate in the ESPP.
- (d) A Participating Employee's completion of an enrollment form will enroll such Participating Employee in the ESPP for each successive and subsequent Offering Period on the terms contained therein until the Participating Employee either submits a new enrollment form, Withdraws from participation under the ESPP (as provided in Section 11), or otherwise becomes ineligible to participate in the ESPP.

# Section 6. Payroll Deductions and Contributions.

(a) At the time a Participating Employee files his or her enrollment form, he or she shall elect to have payroll deductions made on each payday during an Offering Period in an amount not less than 1% and not more than 15% (or such other maximum percentage as the Board may establish from

time to time before an Enrollment Date) of such participant's Compensation on each payday during the Offering Period.

- (b) All payroll deductions and contributions made for a Participating Employee shall be credited to his or her Payroll Deduction Account (as defined in Section 7) under the ESPP. A Participating Employee may not make any additional payments into such account.
- (c) A Participating Employee may not increase or decrease the rate of his or her payroll deductions or contributions during the Offering Period except by Withdrawing from the ESPP (as provided in Section 11) or as otherwise specified in this Section 6.
- (d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent necessary to comply with Section 423(b)(8) of the Code and Section 3(c) hereof, a Participating Employee's payroll deductions may be decreased to 0% at any time during an Offering Period.
- (e) At the time the option is exercised, in whole or in part, or at the time some or all of the Shares issued under the ESPP are disposed of, the Participating Employee must make adequate provision for the Company's or its Subsidiary's federal, national, state, local municipal, or other tax or Social Security withholding obligations, if any, which arise upon the exercise of the option or the disposition of the Shares. At any time, the Company or any of its Subsidiaries may, but shall not be obligated to, withhold from the Participating Employee's Compensation the amount necessary for the Company or the applicable Subsidiary to meet applicable withholding obligations, including any withholding required to make available to the Company any tax deductions or benefits attributable to sale or early disposition of the Shares by a Participating Employee.
- **Section 7.** Payroll Deduction Account. The Company shall establish a payroll deduction account (the "Payroll Deduction Account") for each Participating Employee and shall credit all payroll deductions and contributions made on behalf of each Participating Employee pursuant to Section 6 to his or her Payroll Deduction Account.
- Section 8. Grant of Option. On the Enrollment Date of each Offering Period, each Eligible Employee participating in such Offering Period shall be granted an option to purchase on each Purchase Date during such Offering Period (at the applicable Purchase Price) up to a number of Shares determined by dividing such Participating Employee's payroll deductions accumulated on such Purchase Date and retained in the Participating Employee's Payroll Deduction Account as of the Purchase Date by the applicable Purchase Price. Exercise of the option shall occur as provided in Section 9 hereof, unless the Participating Employee has Withdrawn

(pursuant to Section 11 hereof) or otherwise becomes ineligible to participate in the ESPP. The option shall expire on the last day of the Offering Period.

# Section 9. Exercise of Option.

- (a) By the Purchase Date, the Company shall cause a statement of the balance in each Participating Employee's Payroll Deduction Account to be forwarded to the securities brokerage firm as set forth in Section 10 for purchase on his or her account of the number of Shares determined under subparagraphs (b) and (c) of this Section 9.
- (b) Unless a Participating Employee Withdraws from the ESPP as provided in Section 11 hereof or otherwise becomes ineligible to participate in the ESPP, his or her option for the purchase of Shares shall be exercised automatically on the Purchase Date, and the maximum number of full Shares, rounded down to the nearest full Share, subject to the option shall be purchased for such Participating Employee at the applicable Purchase Price with the accumulated payroll deductions in his or her account. The balance of the amount credited to the Participating Employee's Payroll Deduction Account which has not been applied to the purchase of full Shares shall be paid to such Participating Employee in cash and in one lump sum, without interest, as soon as reasonably practicable after the Purchase Date. During a Participating Employee's lifetime, a Participating Employee's option to purchase Shares hereunder is exercisable only by him or her.
- (c) If the Administrator determines that, on a given Purchase Date, the number of Shares with respect to which options are to be exercised may exceed (i) the number of Shares that were available for sale under the ESPP on the first day of the applicable Offering Period, or (ii) the number of shares available for sale under the ESPP on such Purchase Date, the Administrator shall allocate the available Shares among such Participating Employees in as uniform a manner as shall be practicable. The balance of the amount credited to the account of each Participating Employee which has not been applied to the purchase of Shares shall be paid to such Participating Employee in a lump sum in cash as soon as reasonably practicable after the Exercise Date, without any interest thereon.
- (d) Unless otherwise determined by the Administrator, Participating Employees are required to hold Shares acquired under the ESPP for a holding period that ends on the second anniversary of the Enrollment Date for the Offering Period under which such Shares were purchased.
- **Section 10. Brokerage Accounts**. By enrolling in the ESPP, each Eligible Employee shall be deemed to have authorized the establishment of a brokerage account (the "*Brokerage Account*") on his or her behalf at a securities brokerage firm to be selected from time to time by the Administrator. The Brokerage Account shall be governed by, and shall be subject to, the terms and conditions of the ESPP and of

a written agreement between the Company and the securities brokerage firm and, if applicable, the Participating Employee and the securities brokerage firm. As promptly as practicable after each Purchase Date on which a purchase of Shares occurs, the Company may arrange for the deposit into each Participating Employee's Brokerage Account of the number of Shares purchased upon exercise of his or her option. Shares purchased on behalf of any Participating Employee pursuant to the ESPP shall be held in the Participating Employee's Brokerage Account in his or her name.

### Section 11. Withdrawal.

- (a) A Participating Employee may Withdraw all, but not less than all, of the payroll deductions or contributions credited to his or her Payroll Deduction Account and not yet used to exercise his or her option under the ESPP at least two weeks prior to a Purchase Date by giving notice to the Company in such form and manner as the Company prescribes ("Withdrawa" or "Withdrawal"). All of the Participating Employee's payroll deductions or contributions credited to his or her Payroll Deduction Account during the Offering Period shall, at the Participating Employee's request, either be (i) refunded and paid to such Participating Employee as soon as practicable after receipt of the notice of Withdrawal or (ii) used for the purchase of Shares pursuant to the terms of this ESPP. Thereafter, such Participating Employee's option for the Offering Period shall be automatically terminated, and no further payroll deductions for the purchase of Shares shall be made for such Offering Period. If a Participating Employee Withdraws from an Offering Period, payroll deductions or contributions shall not resume at the beginning of any succeeding Offering Periods unless the Participating Employee completes a new enrollment via the Company's online system; provided, however, that any Eligible Employee who is deemed to be an "executive officer" of the Company as defined by Section 16b-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 shall not renew his or her participation in the ESPP until at least six months have elapsed since the date of Withdrawal.
- (b) A Participating Employee's Withdrawal from an Offering Period shall not have any effect upon his or her eligibility to participate in any similar plan which may hereafter be adopted by the Company or in succeeding Offering Periods.

Section 12. Termination of Employment. Upon (a) a Participating Employee's ceasing to be an Eligible Employee for any reason, including termination of employment, disability or death or (b) a Participating Employee's being granted a leave of absence and failing to return to active employment upon the expiration of his or her leave of absence in accordance with the Company's policy with respect to permitted absences, he or she shall be deemed to have elected to Withdraw from the ESPP, the payroll deductions on behalf of the Participating Employee shall be discontinued, and any amounts credited to such Participating Employee's Payroll Deduction Account during the Offering Period shall be paid to such Participating

Employee or, in the case of his or her death, to the person or persons entitled thereto under Section 16 hereof, as soon as reasonably practicable, and such Participating Employee's option for the Offering Period shall be automatically terminated. A transfer of a Participating Employee's employment between or among the Company and any Qualified Subsidiary shall not be treated as a termination of employment for purposes of the ESPP.

Section 13. Interest. No interest shall accrue on the payroll deductions or contributions of a Participating Employee in the ESPP.

# Section 14. Shares Subject to ESPP.

- (a) Subject to adjustment upon changes in capitalization of the Company as provided in Section 19 hereof, the maximum number of Shares which shall initially be made available for sale under the ESPP shall be 1,000,000. If any right granted under the ESPP shall for any reason terminate without having been exercised, the Shares not purchased under such right may, in the sole discretion of the Administrator, become available for issuance under the ESPP. The Shares subject to the ESPP may be authorized but unissued Shares or reacquired Shares, bought on the market or otherwise.
- (b) With respect to Shares subject to an option granted under the ESPP, a Participating Employee shall not be deemed to be a stockholder of the Company, and the Participating Employee shall not have any of the rights or privileges of a stockholder, until such Shares have been issued to the Participating Employee or his or her nominee following exercise of the Participating Employee's option. A Participating Employee shall have rights as a stockholder with respect to all Shares which are purchased under the ESPP for such Participating Employee's account.

### Section 15. Administration.

- (a) The Administrator shall have, in connection with the administration of the ESPP, the powers theretofore possessed by the Board, including the power to delegate to a subcommittee any of the administrative powers the Administrator is authorized to exercise, subject, however, to such resolutions, not inconsistent with the provisions of the ESPP, as may be adopted from time to time by the Board.
- (b) It shall be the duty of the Administrator to conduct the general administration of the ESPP in accordance with the provisions of the ESPP. The Administrator shall have the power to interpret the ESPP and the terms of the options and to adopt such rules for the administration, interpretation and application of the ESPP as are consistent therewith and to interpret, amend or revoke any such rules. All determinations by the Administrator in carrying out

and administering the ESPP and in construing and interpreting the ESPP shall be final, binding and conclusive for all purposes and upon all persons interested. The Administrator at its option may utilize the services of such other persons as are necessary to assist in the proper administration of the ESPP. The Administrator may select a securities brokerage firm to assist with the purchase of the Shares and the maintenance of Brokerage Accounts for Participating Employees in the ESPP. In its absolute discretion, the Board may at any time and from time to time exercise any and all rights and duties of the Administrator under the ESPP.

(c) All expenses and liabilities incurred by the Administrator in connection with the administration of the ESPP shall be borne by the Company and its Qualified Subsidiaries; provided, however, that all sales commissions incurred upon sale by a Participating Employee of Shares out of his or her Brokerage Account shall be borne by the Participating Employee. The Administrator may, with the approval of the Board, employ attorneys, consultants, accountants, appraisers, or such other persons as the Administrator deems necessary or appropriate to carry out its duties under the ESPP. The Administrator, the Company and its officers and directors shall be entitled to rely upon the advice, opinions or valuations of any such persons so employed by the Administrator.

# Section 16. Transferability.

- (a) Neither payroll deductions credited to a Participating Employee's Payroll Deduction Account nor any rights with regard to the exercise of an option or rights to receive Shares under the ESPP may be assigned, transferred, pledged or otherwise disposed of in any way (other than by will, through the laws of descent and distribution, or as provided by the ESPP) by a Participating Employee. Shares acquired by a Participating Employee pursuant to the exercise of an option hereunder, however, are freely transferable.
- **Section 17. Use of Funds**. All funds received or held by the Company under the ESPP may be used by the Company for any corporate purpose. The Company shall not be obligated to segregate such funds unless required to in a country outside of the United States.
- **Section 18. Reports**. Statements of account shall be provided to Participating Employees at least annually, which statements shall set forth the amounts of payroll deductions, the Purchase Price(s), and the number of Shares purchased.
- Section 19. Adjustments Upon Changes in Outstanding Shares on Capitalization, Merger, Consolidation or Corporate Reorganization. Subject to any required action by the stockholders of the Company, (i) the number of Shares which have been authorized for issuance under the ESPP but not yet placed under option, (ii) the maximum number of Shares each Participating Employee may

purchase each Offering Period (pursuant to Section 9), and (iii) the price per Share and the number of Shares covered by each option under the ESPP which has not yet been exercised shall be automatically adjusted to give proper effect to any increase or decrease in the number of issued Shares resulting from a stock split, reverse stock split, stock dividend, combination or reclassification of the Shares, or any other increase or decrease in the number of Shares effected without receipt of consideration by the Company, or by reason of any merger, consolidation or other corporate reorganization in which the Company is the surviving corporation. Such adjustment shall be made by the Administrator, whose determination in that respect shall be final, binding and conclusive.

#### Section 20. Amendment or Termination.

- (a) The Board, the Administrator or an authorized subcommittee may, in its discretion and, to the extent necessary or desirable, at any time, and from time to time, modify or amend the ESPP in any respect, including, but not limited to, (i) altering the Purchase Price for any Offering Period, including an Offering Period underway at the time of the change in Purchase Price, by setting the Purchase Price as an amount that is within the range of either 85% 100% of the Fair Market Value of a Share on the Purchase Date, or 85% 100% of the Fair Market Value of a Share on the Enrollment Date, whichever is less; (ii) shortening or lengthening any Offering Period so that the Offering Period ends on a new Purchase Date, including an Offering Period underway at the time of the Board action; provided, however, that no Offering Period shall be shorter than one month or longer than 27 months; and allocating Shares as provided in Section 9(c). Such modifications or amendments shall not require stockholder approval or the consent of any Participating Employees, except that no amendment shall be made without the affirmative vote of stockholders holding at least a majority of the voting stock of the Company represented in person or by proxy at a duly held stockholders' meeting, if such amendment would:
  - (A) materially increase the benefits accruing to Participating Employees under the ESPP;
  - (B) increase the number of Shares which may be issued under the ESPP (other than as permitted under Section 19 hereof); or
  - (C) materially modify the requirements as to eligibility for participation under the ESPP, except as allowed under Section 423(b)(4) of the Code.
- (b) The ESPP and all rights of Participating Employees hereunder may be terminated at any time by the Administrator or by the Board or an

authorized subcommittee. Upon termination of the ESPP, all payroll deductions and contributions shall cease and all amounts then credited to the Participating Employees' Payroll Deduction Accounts shall be equitably applied to the purchase of whole Shares then available for sale, and any remaining amounts shall be promptly refunded to the Participating Employees.

- **Section 21. Notices**. All notices or other communications by a Participating Employee to the Company under or in connection with the ESPP shall be deemed to have been duly given when received in the form specified by the Company at the location, or by the person, designated by the Company for the receipt thereof.
- **Section 22. Conditions to Issuance of Shares/Dividends**. Whole Shares purchased hereunder shall be issued as soon as practicable following a Participating Employee's written request, for which a reasonable charge may be made.
- Section 23. Term of ESPP. The ESPP shall become effective on the Effective Date and shall remain in effect for a term of 10 years, unless sooner terminated pursuant to Section 20 hereof.
- **Section 24. Equal Rights and Privileges**. All Eligible Employees of the Company (or of any Qualified Subsidiary) will have equal rights and privileges under the ESPP so that the ESPP qualifies as an "employee stock purchase ESPP" within the meaning of Section 423 of the Code or applicable Treasury Regulations thereunder. Any provision of the ESPP that is inconsistent with Section 423 or applicable Treasury Regulations will, without further act or amendment by the Company, the Board or the Administrator, be reformed to comply with the equal rights and privileges requirement of Section 423 or applicable Treasury Regulations.
- **Section 25. No Employment Rights.** Nothing in the ESPP shall be construed to give any person (including any Eligible Employee or Participating Employee) the right to remain in the employ of the Company or a Subsidiary or to affect the right of the Company or any Subsidiary to terminate the employment of any person (including any Eligible Employee or Participating Employee) at any time, with or without cause.
- Section 26. Governing Law. The internal laws of the State of Delaware shall govern all matters relating to the ESPP except to the extent superseded by the laws of the United States.

# UNITI GROUP INC. 2015 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

(as amended and restated effective April 11, 2023)

1. Purpose of the Plan. The purpose of this 2015 Equity Incentive Plan (this "Plan") is to attract, retain and motivate the officers, key employees, consultants and directors of Uniti Group Inc. (the "Company") and its Affiliates and to provide to such persons incentives and rewards for superior performance and contribution.

The Plan is hereby amended and restated as of April 11, 2023.

- **2. Definitions**. Capitalized terms used herein have the meanings assigned to such terms in this Section 2.
- "Affiliate" means any corporation that is a Subsidiary of the Company and, for purposes other than the grant of Incentive Stock Options, any limited liability company, partnership, corporation, joint venture, or any other entity in which the Company or any such Subsidiary owns an equity interest.
- "Applicable Laws" means the requirements relating to the administration of equity-based compensation plans under U.S. state corporate laws, U.S. federal and state securities laws, the Code, any stock exchange or quotation system on which the Common Shares are listed or quoted and the applicable laws of any other country or jurisdiction where Awards are granted under this Plan, in each case as applicable to an Award made hereunder.
- "Appreciation Right" means a right granted pursuant to Section 5 of Section 9 of this Plan, and shall include both Tandem Appreciation Rights and Free-Standing Appreciation Rights.
- "Award" means an award of Option Rights, Appreciation Rights, Performance Units, Performance Shares, Restricted Shares, Restricted Stock Units, or other awards granted under Section 10 of this Plan.
- "Base Price" means the price to be used as the basis for determining the Spread upon the exercise of a Free-Standing Appreciation Right or a Tandem Appreciation Right.
  - "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Company.
- "Cause" means, except as otherwise provided in an Evidence of Award: (a) the failure of the Participant to make a good faith effort to substantially perform his or her duties (other than any such failure due to the Participant's Disability) or Participant's insubordination with respect to a specific directive of the Participant's supervisor or officer (or, if such Participant reports directly to the Board, the Board) to which the Participant reports directly or indirectly; (b) Participant's dishonesty, gross negligence in the performance of the duties of his or her employment or engaging in willful misconduct, which in the case of any such gross negligence, has caused or is reasonably expected to result in direct or indirect material injury to the Company or any of its Affiliates; (c) breach by Participant of any material provision of any written agreement with the Company or any of its Affiliates or material violation of any Company policy applicable to Participant; or (d) Participant's commission of a crime that constitutes a felony or other crime of moral turpitude or fraud. If, subsequent to Participant's termination of employment hereunder for other than Cause, it is determined in good faith by the Company that Participant's employment could have been terminated for Cause hereunder, Participant's employment shall, at the election of the Company, be deemed to have been terminated for Cause retroactively to the date the events giving rise to Cause occurred.
  - "Change in Control" means, except as otherwise provided in an Evidence of Award, the occurrence of any of the following:
- a. any sale, lease, exchange or other transfer (in one transaction or a series of related transactions) of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company to any Person or group of related Persons for purposes of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act (a "<u>Group</u>"), together with any affiliates thereof;
- b. the commencement of the liquidation or dissolution of the Company that occurs following the approval by the holders of capital stock of the Company of any plan or proposal for such liquidation or dissolution of the Company;
- c. any Person or Group becomes the beneficial owner (within the meaning of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of shares representing more than 50% of the aggregate voting power of the issued and outstanding stock entitled to

vote in the election of directors, managers or trustees of the Company and such Person or Group actually has the power to vote such shares in any such election:

- d. the replacement of a majority of the Board over a two-year period from the directors who constituted the Board at the beginning of such period, and such replacement shall not have been approved by a vote of at least a majority of the Board then still in office who either were members of such Board at the beginning of such period; or
- e. a merger or consolidation of the Company with another entity in which holders of the Common Shares immediately prior to the consummation of the transaction hold, directly or indirectly, immediately following the consummation of the transaction, 50% or less of the common equity interest in the surviving corporation in such transaction.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, an event described above shall be considered a Change in Control hereunder only if it also constitutes a "change in control event" under Section 409A of the Code, to the extent necessary to avoid the adverse tax consequences thereunder with respect to any Award subject to Section 409A of the Code.

- "Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, as such law, rules and regulations may be amended, supplemented or replaced from time to time.
- "Committee" means the committee of directors appointed by the Board to administer this Plan. In the absence of a specific appointment, "Committee" means the Compensation Committee of the Board.
- "Common Shares" means shares of common stock, par value \$0.0001, of the Company or any security into which such Common Shares may be changed by reason of any transaction or event of the type referred to in Section 12 of this Plan.
- "<u>Date of Grant</u>" means the date specified by the Committee on which a grant of an Award shall become effective (which date will not be earlier than the date on which the Committee takes action with respect thereto).

"Director" means a member of the Board.

"Disability" means, except as otherwise provided in an Evidence of Award, that the Participant is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, provided, however, for purposes of determining the term of an Incentive Stock Option, the term Disability shall have the meaning ascribed to it under Section 22(e)(3) of the Code. The determination of whether an individual has a Disability shall be determined under procedures established by the Committee. Except in situations where the Committee is determining Disability for purposes of the term of an Incentive Stock Option within the meaning of Section 22(e)(3) of the Code, the Committee may rely on any determination that a Participant is disabled for purposes of benefits under any long-term disability plan maintained by the Company or any Affiliate in which a Participant participates, provided that the definition of disability applied under such disability plan meets the requirements of a Disability in the first sentence hereof.

"Evidence of Award" means an agreement, certificate, resolution or other type or form of writing or other evidence approved by the Committee which sets forth the terms and conditions of an Award. An Evidence of Award may be in an electronic medium, may be limited to a notation on the books and records of the Company and, with the approval of the Committee, need not be signed by a representative of the Company or a Participant.

"Exchange Act" means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, as such law, rules and regulations may be amended, supplemented or replaced from time to time.

"Free-Standing Appreciation Right" means an Appreciation Right granted pursuant to Section 5 or Section 9 of this Plan that is not granted in tandem with an Option Right.

"Good Reason" means any one of the following: (a) a material diminution in Participant's base compensation; (b) a material diminution in authority, duties, or responsibilities of Participant; (c) a material diminution in the budget over which Participant retains authority; (d) a material change in the geographic location (i.e., to a location more than 50 miles from the Participant's primary work location prior to such change) at which Participant is required to perform services; and (e) any other action or inaction that constitutes a material breach of the Participant's employment agreement, if any, with the Company or any Affiliate; provided, however, that for the Participant to be able to resign for "Good Reason," the Participant must give the Company and the applicable Affiliate, if any, notice of the above conditions within 90 days after the condition first exists, the Company and/or Affiliate

must not have not remedied the condition within 30 days after receiving written notice, and the Participant must resign within 60 days after the Company's and/or Affiliate's failure to remedy.

"Incentive Stock Options" means Option Rights that are intended to qualify as "incentive stock options" under Section 422 of the Code or any successor provision.

"Management Objectives" means the measurable performance objective or objectives established pursuant to this Plan for Participants who have received grants of Performance Units or Performance Shares or, when so determined by the Committee, Option Rights, Appreciation Rights, Restricted Shares and Restricted Stock Units pursuant to this Plan. Management Objectives may be described in terms of Company-wide objectives or objectives that are related to the performance of the individual Participant or of the Affiliate, Subsidiary, division, department, region or function within the Company, Affiliate or Subsidiary in which the Participant is employed and may be made relative to the performance of other companies. If the Committee determines that a change in the business, operations, corporate structure or capital structure of the Company, or the manner in which it conducts its business, or other events or circumstances (including those events and circumstances described in Section 12 of this Plan) render the Management Objectives unsuitable, the Committee may, at its discretion, modify such Management Objectives or the related minimum acceptable level of achievement, in whole or in part, as the Committee deems appropriate and equitable.

"Market Value per Share" means, as of any particular date, (i) the closing sale price per Common Share as reported on the principal exchange on which Common Shares are then trading, or if there are no sales on such day, on the next preceding trading day during which a sale occurred, or (ii) if the Common Shares are not then-currently traded on an exchange, the fair market value of a Common Share as determined by the Committee in discretion.

"Non-Employee Director" means a member of the Board who is a "non-employee director" within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act.

"Optionee" means the optionee named in an agreement evidencing an outstanding Option Right. "Option Price" means the purchase price payable on exercise of an Option Right.

"Option Right" means the right to purchase Common Shares upon exercise of an option granted pursuant to Section 4 or Section 9 of this Plan.

"Participant" means a person who is selected by the Committee to receive benefits under this Plan and who is at the time an officer, consultant or other key employee of the Company or any Affiliate and also includes each Non-Employee Director who receives an Award under this Plan.

"<u>Performance Period</u>" means, in respect of a Performance Unit or Performance Share, a period of time established pursuant to Section 6 of this Plan within which the Management Objectives relating to such Performance Share or Performance Unit are to be achieved.

"Performance Share" means a bookkeeping entry that records the equivalent of one Common Share awarded pursuant to Section 6 of this Plan.

"Performance Unit" means a bookkeeping entry that records a unit equivalent to \$1.00 awarded pursuant to Section 6 of this Plan.

"Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, unincorporated organization, trust or joint venture, or a governmental agency or political subdivision thereof.

"Restricted Shares" means Common Shares granted or sold pursuant to Section 7 or Section 9 of this Plan as to which neither the substantial risk of forfeiture nor the prohibition on transfers referred to in such Section 7 has expired.

"Restricted Stock Units" means an Award made pursuant to Section 8 or Section 9 of this Plan.

"Restriction Period" means the period of time during which Restricted Stock Units are subject to transfer limitations under Section 8 of this Plan.

"Spread" means the excess of the Market Value of a Share on the date when an Appreciation Right is exercised, or on the date when Option Rights are surrendered in payment of the Option Price of other Option Rights, over the per share Option Price or per share Base Price provided for in the related Option Right or Free-Standing Appreciation Right, respectively.

"Subsidiary" means a "subsidiary corporation," as that term is defined in Section 424(f) of the Code, or any successor provision.

"Tandem Appreciation Right" means an Appreciation Right granted pursuant to Section 5 or Section 9 of this Plan that is granted in tandem with an Option Right.

### 3. Shares Available Under the Plan.

- a. Subject to adjustment as provided in Section 12 of this Plan, the number of Common Shares (the "Aggregate Plan Limit") that may be issued or transferred (i) upon the exercise of Option Rights or Appreciation Rights, (ii) as Restricted Shares, (iii) in payment of Restricted Stock Units, (iv) in payment of Performance Units or Performance Shares that have been earned, (v) as Awards to Non-Employee Directors, (vi) in payment of Awards granted under Section 10 of this Plan or (vii) in payment of dividend equivalents paid with respect to Awards made under the Plan shall not exceed in the aggregate 6,000,000 Common Shares, plus any shares relating to Awards that expire, are forfeited or cancelled; provided, however, that the Aggregate Plan Limit shall be increased to 14,000,000, subject to approval of the Company's stockholders within one year of April 11, 2023. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein: (A) Common Shares tendered in payment of the Option Price of an Option Right shall not be added to the Aggregate Plan Limit; (B) Common Shares withheld by the Company to satisfy the tax withholding obligation shall not be added to Aggregate Plan Limit; (C) Common Shares that are repurchased by the Company with Option Right proceeds shall not be added to the Aggregate Plan Limit; and (D) all Common Shares covered by an Appreciation Right, to the extent that it is exercised and settled in Common Shares, and whether or not Common Shares are actually issued to the Participant upon exercise of the right, shall be considered issued or transferred pursuant to the Plan. Such Common Shares may be shares of original issuance or treasury shares or a combination of the foregoing.
- b. If, under this Plan, a Participant has elected to give up the right to receive compensation in exchange for Common Shares based on fair market value, such Common Shares will not count against the number of shares available in Section 3(a) above.
- c. Notwithstanding anything in this Section 3, or elsewhere in this Plan, to the contrary and subject to adjustment as provided in Section 12 of this Plan, (i) the aggregate number of Common Shares actually issued or transferred by the Company upon the exercise of Incentive Stock Options shall not exceed 2,000,000 Common Shares; and (ii) no Participant shall be granted Option Rights and Appreciation Rights, in the aggregate, for more than 2,000,000 Common Shares during any calendar year.
- d. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Plan to the contrary, in no event shall any Participant in any calendar year receive an award of (i) Performance Shares, Restricted Shares or Restricted Stock Units that specify Management Objectives, in the aggregate, for more than 1,000,000 Common Shares or (ii) Performance Units having an aggregate maximum value as of their respective Dates of Grant in excess of \$5,000,000.
- e. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Plan to the contrary, but subject to any provision accelerating vesting due to death, Disability, or qualifying termination in connection with a Change in Control, Awards granted under this Plan shall vest no earlier than the first anniversary of the Date of Grant.
- **4. Option Rights**. The Committee may, from time to time and upon such terms and conditions as it may determine, authorize the granting to Participants of Option Rights. Each such grant may utilize any or all of the authorizations, and shall be subject to all of the limitations, contained in the following provisions:
  - a. Each grant shall specify the number of Common Shares to which it pertains.
  - b. Each grant shall specify an Option Price per share, which may not be less than the Market Value per Share on the Date of Grant.
- c. Each grant shall specify whether the Option Price shall be payable (i) in cash or by check acceptable to the Company, (ii) by the actual or constructive transfer to the Company of nonforfeitable, unrestricted Common Shares owned by the Optionee having a value at the time of exercise equal to the total Option Price, on such basis as the Committee may determine, (iii) in any other legal consideration that the Committee may deem appropriate, on such basis as the Committee may determine, or (iv) by a combination of such methods of payment.

- d. To the extent permitted by law, any grant may provide for (i) deferred payment of the Option Price from the proceeds of sale through a bank or broker on a date satisfactory to the Company of some or all of the shares to which such exercise relates; (ii) payment of the Option Price, at the election of the Optionee, in installments or using a promissory note, upon terms determined by the Committee in its discretion; or (iii) any combination of such methods.
- e. Successive grants may be made to the same Participant whether or not any Option Rights previously granted to such Participant remain unexercised.
- f. Each grant shall specify the period or periods of continuous service by the Optionee with the Company or any Affiliate that is necessary before the Option Rights or installments thereof will become exercisable and may provide for accelerated vesting of such Option Rights in the event of a Change in Control, retirement, death or Disability of the Optionee or other similar transaction or event as approved by the Committee; provided that in no event will any Option Right vest or become exercisable early solely as the result of a Change in Control.
  - g. Any grant of Option Rights may specify Management Objectives that must be achieved as a condition to the exercise of such rights.
- h. Option Rights granted under this Plan may be (i) Incentive Stock Options, that are intended to qualify under Section 422 of the Code (or any successor to such section), (ii) "nonqualified stock options" that are not intended to so qualify, or (iii) a combination of the foregoing. Incentive Stock Options may only be granted to Participants who meet the definition of "employees" under Section 3401(c) of the Code on the Date of Grant.
- i. The exercise of an Option Right shall result in the cancellation on a share-for-share basis of any Tandem Appreciation Right authorized under Section 5 of this Plan.
  - j. No Option Right shall be exercisable more than 10 years from the Date of Grant.
- k. Each grant of Option Rights shall be evidenced by an Evidence of Award which shall contain such terms and provisions, consistent with this Plan and applicable sections of the Code, as the Committee may approve.

## 5. Appreciation Rights.

- a. The Committee may authorize the granting (i) to any Optionee, of Tandem Appreciation Rights in respect of Option Rights granted hereunder, and (ii) to any Participant, of Free-Standing Appreciation Rights. A Tandem Appreciation Right shall be a right of the Optionee, exercisable by surrender of the related Option Right, to receive from the Company an amount determined by the Committee, which shall be expressed as a percentage of the Spread (not exceeding 100 percent) at the time of exercise. Tandem Appreciation Rights may be granted at any time prior to the exercise or termination of the related Option Rights; provided, however, that a Tandem Appreciation Right awarded in relation to an Incentive Stock Option must be granted concurrently with such Incentive Stock Option. A Free-Standing Appreciation Right shall be a right of the Participant to receive from the Company an amount determined by the Committee, which shall be expressed as a percentage of the Spread (not exceeding 100 percent) at the time of exercise.
- b. Each grant of Appreciation Rights may utilize any or all of the authorizations, and shall be subject to all of the requirements, contained in the following provisions:
- (i) Any grant may specify that the amount payable on exercise of an Appreciation Right may be paid by the Company in cash, in Common Shares or in any combination thereof and may either grant to the Participant or retain in the Committee the right to elect among those alternatives.
- (ii) Any grant may specify that the amount payable on exercise of an Appreciation Right may not exceed a maximum specified by the Committee at the Date of Grant.
- (iii) Each grant shall specify the period or periods of continuous service by the Participant with the Company or any Affiliate that is necessary before the Appreciation Right or installments thereof will become exercisable and may provide for accelerated vesting of such Appreciation Rights in the event of a Change in Control, retirement, death or Disability of the Participant or other similar transaction or event as approved by the Committee; provided that in no event will any Appreciation Right vest or become exercisable early solely as the result of a Change in Control.

- (iv) Each grant of an Appreciation Right shall be evidenced by an Evidence of Award, which shall describe such Appreciation Right, identify any related Option Right, state that such Appreciation Right is subject to all the terms and conditions of this Plan, and contain such other terms and provisions, consistent with this Plan and applicable sections of the Code, as the Committee may approve.
- c. Any grant of Tandem Appreciation Rights shall provide that such Rights may be exercised only at a time when the related Option Right is also exercisable and at a time when the Spread is positive, and by surrender of the related Option Right for cancellation.
  - d. Regarding Free-Standing Appreciation Rights only:
- (i) Each grant shall specify in respect of each Free-Standing Appreciation Right a Base Price, which shall not be less than the Market Value per Share on the Date of Grant;
- (ii) Successive grants may be made to the same Participant regardless of whether any Free-Standing Appreciation Rights previously granted to the Participant remain unexercised; and
  - (iii) No Free-Standing Appreciation Right granted under this Plan may be exercised more than 10 years from the Date of Grant.
  - e. Any grant of Appreciation Rights may specify Management Objectives that must be achieved as a condition to exercise such rights.
- **6. Performance Units and Performance Shares.** The Committee may also authorize the granting to Participants of Performance Units and Performance Shares that will become payable to a Participant upon achievement of specified Management Objectives. Each such grant may utilize any or all of the authorizations, and shall be subject to all of the limitations, contained in the following provisions:
- a. Each grant shall specify the number of Performance Units or Performance Shares to which it pertains, which number may be subject to adjustment to reflect changes in compensation or other factors.
- b. The Performance Period with respect to each Performance Unit or Performance Share shall be such period of time commencing with the Date of Grant as shall be determined by the Committee at the time of grant. Each grant may provide for the earlier lapse or other modification of such Performance Period in the event of a Change in Control, retirement, or death or Disability of the Participant or other similar transaction or event as approved by the Committee.
- c. Any grant of Performance Units or Performance Shares shall specify Management Objectives which, if achieved, will result in payment of the Award, and each grant may specify in respect of such specified Management Objectives a minimum acceptable level of achievement and shall set forth a formula for determining the number of Performance Units or Performance Shares that will be earned if performance is at or above the minimum level, but falls short of full achievement of the specified Management Objectives. Each grant of Performance Units or Performance Shares shall specify that, before any Performance Shares or Performance Units are earned and paid, the Committee must determine that at least the minimum level of Management Objectives has been satisfied.
- d. Each grant shall specify the time and manner of payment of Performance Units or Performance Shares that have been earned. Any grant may specify that the amount payable with respect thereto may be paid by the Company to the Participant in cash, in Common Shares or in any combination thereof, and may either grant to the Participant or retain in the Committee the right to elect among those alternatives.
- e. Any grant of Performance Units may specify that the amount payable or the number of Common Shares issued with respect thereto may not exceed maximums specified by the Committee at the Date of Grant. Any grant of Performance Shares may specify that the amount payable with respect thereto may not exceed a maximum specified by the Committee at the Date of Grant.
- f. Each grant of Performance Units or Performance Shares shall be evidenced by an Evidence of Award, which shall contain such terms and provisions, consistent with this Plan and applicable sections of the Code, as the Committee may approve.

- g. The Committee may, at the Date of Grant of Performance Shares, provide for the payment of dividend equivalents to the holder thereof on either a current or deferred or contingent basis, either in cash or in additional Common Shares. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event shall dividend equivalents be paid prior to the vesting of the underlying Award.
- **7. Restricted Shares**. The Committee may also authorize the grant or sale of Restricted Shares to Participants. Each such grant or sale may utilize any or all of the authorizations, and shall be subject to all of the limitations, contained in the following provisions:
- a. Each such grant or sale shall constitute an immediate transfer of the ownership of Common Shares to the Participant in consideration of the performance of services, entitling such Participant to voting, dividend and other ownership rights (unless otherwise determined by the Committee), but subject to the substantial risk of forfeiture and restrictions on transfer hereinafter referred to.
- b. Each such grant or sale may be made without additional consideration or in consideration of a payment by such Participant that is less than Market Value per Share at the Date of Grant.
- c. Each such grant or sale shall provide that the Restricted Shares covered by such grant or sale shall be subject to a "substantial risk of forfeiture" within the meaning of Section 83 of the Code for a period to be determined by the Committee at the Date of Grant and may provide for the earlier lapse of such substantial risk of forfeiture in the event of a Change in Control, retirement, or death or Disability of the Participant or other similar transaction or event as approved by the Committee; provided that in no event will such substantial risk of forfeiture lapse early solely as the result of a Change in Control.
- d. Each such grant or sale shall provide that during the period for which such substantial risk of forfeiture is to continue, the transferability of the Restricted Shares shall be prohibited or restricted in the manner and to the extent prescribed by the Committee at the Date of Grant (which restrictions may include, without limitation, rights of repurchase or first refusal in the Company or provisions subjecting the Restricted Shares to a continuing substantial risk of forfeiture in the hands of any transferee).
- e. Any grant of Restricted Shares may specify Management Objectives that, if achieved, will result in termination or early termination of the restrictions applicable to such shares. Each grant may specify in respect of such Management Objectives a minimum acceptable level of achievement and may set forth a formula for determining the number of Restricted Shares on which restrictions will terminate if performance is at or above the minimum level, but falls short of full achievement of the specified Management Objectives.
- f. Any such grant or sale of Restricted Shares may require that any or all dividends or other distributions paid thereon during the period of such restrictions be automatically deferred and reinvested in additional Restricted Shares, which may be subject to the same restrictions as the underlying Award.
- g. Each grant or sale of Restricted Shares shall be evidenced by an Evidence of Award, which shall contain such terms and provisions, consistent with this Plan and applicable sections of the Code, as the Committee may approve. Unless otherwise directed by the Committee, all certificates representing Restricted Shares shall be held in custody by the Company until all restrictions thereon shall have lapsed, together with a stock power or powers executed by the Participant in whose name such certificates are registered, endorsed in blank and covering such Shares.
- **8. Restricted Stock Units**. The Committee may also authorize the grant or sale of Restricted Stock Units to Participants. Each such grant or sale may utilize any or all of the authorizations, and shall be subject to all of the requirements contained in the following provisions:
- a. Each such grant or sale shall constitute the agreement by the Company to deliver Common Shares, pay an amount in cash, or pay a combination of Common Shares and cash to the Participant in the future in consideration of the performance of services, but subject to the fulfillment of such conditions during the Restriction Period as the Committee may specify.
- b. Each such grant or sale may be made without additional consideration or in consideration of a payment by such Participant that is less than the Market Value per Share at the Date of Grant.
- c. Each such grant or sale shall be subject to a Restriction Period as determined by the Committee at the Date of Grant, and may provide for the earlier lapse or other modification of such Restriction Period in the event of a Change in Control, retirement, or death or Disability of the Participant or other similar transaction or event as approved by the Committee; provided that in no event will a Restriction Period lapse early solely as the result of a Change in Control.

- d. Any grant of Restricted Stock Units may specify Management Objectives that, if achieved, will result in termination or early termination of the Restriction Period applicable to such shares. Each grant may specify in respect of such Management Objectives a minimum acceptable level of achievement and may set forth a formula for determining the number of Restricted Stock Units on which restrictions will terminate if performance is at or above the minimum level, but falls short of full achievement of the specified Management Objectives.
- e. During the Restriction Period, the Participant shall have no right to transfer any rights under his or her Award and shall have no rights of ownership in the Restricted Stock Units and shall have no right to vote them, but the Committee may, at the Date of Grant, authorize the payment of dividend equivalents on such Restricted Stock Units on either a current or deferred or contingent basis, either in cash or in additional Common Shares. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event shall dividend equivalents be paid prior to the vesting of the underlying Award.
- f. Each grant or sale of Restricted Stock Units shall be evidenced by an Evidence of Award, which shall contain such terms and provisions, consistent with this Plan and applicable sections of the Code, as the Committee may approve.
- **9. Awards to Non-Employee Directors**. The Board may, from time to time and upon such terms and conditions as it may determine, authorize the grant or sale of Restricted Shares under Section 7 of this Plan, Restricted Stock Units under Section 8 of this Plan or other Awards under Section 10 of this Plan, or any combination of the foregoing. For clarity, the authority to grant Awards to Non-Employee Directors pursuant to this Plan rests exclusively with the Board (and, for the avoidance of doubt, not with the Committee), except to the extent expressly delegated by the Board to a committee or person(s) pursuant to Section 10. The maximum number of Common Shares subject to Awards granted during a single calendar year to any Non-Employee Director shall not exceed a total value of \$500,000 (based on the Market Value per Share on the Date of Grant).

#### 10. Other Awards.

- a. The Committee is authorized, subject to limitations under applicable law, to grant to any Participant such other awards that may be denominated or payable in, valued in whole or in part by reference to, or otherwise based on, or related to, Common Shares or factors that may influence the value of Common Shares, including, without limitation, convertible or exchangeable debt securities, other rights convertible or exchangeable into Common Shares, purchase rights for Common Shares, awards with value and payment contingent upon performance of the Company or business units thereof or any other factors designated by the Committee, and awards valued by reference to the book value of Common Shares or the value of securities of, or the performance of specified Subsidiaries or Affiliates or other business units of, the Company. The Committee shall determine the terms and conditions of such awards. Common Shares delivered pursuant to an award in the nature of a purchase right granted under this Section 10 shall be purchased for such consideration, paid for at such times, by such methods, and in such forms, including, without limitation, cash, Common Shares, other awards, notes or other property, as the Committee shall determine.
- b. Cash awards, as an element of or supplement to any other Award granted under this Plan, may also be granted pursuant to this Section 10 of this Plan.
- c. The Committee is authorized to grant Common Shares as a bonus, or to grant Common Shares or other awards in lieu of obligations of the Company or an Affiliate to pay cash or deliver other property under the Plan or under other plans or compensatory arrangements, subject to such terms as shall be determined by the Committee.

### 11. Transferability.

- a. Except as otherwise determined by the Committee, no Option Right, Appreciation Right or other derivative security granted under the Plan shall be transferable by a Participant other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution. Except as otherwise determined by the Committee, Option Rights and Appreciation Rights shall be exercisable during the Optionee's lifetime only by him or her or by his or her guardian or legal representative.
- b. The Committee may specify at the Date of Grant that part or all of the Common Shares that are (i) to be issued or transferred by the Company upon the exercise of Option Rights or Appreciation Rights, upon the termination of the Restriction Period applicable to Restricted Stock Units or upon payment under any grant of Performance Units or Performance Shares or (ii) no longer subject to the substantial risk of forfeiture and restrictions on transfer referred to in Section 7 of this Plan, shall be subject to further restrictions on transfer.
- 12. Adjustments. The Committee shall make or provide for such adjustments in the numbers of Common Shares covered by outstanding Option Rights, Appreciation Rights, Performance Shares, Restricted Stock Units and share-based awards described in

Section 10 of this Plan granted hereunder, in the Option Price and Base Price provided in outstanding Option Rights and Appreciation Rights, and in the kind of shares covered thereby, as the Committee, in its discretion, exercised in good faith, may determine is equitably required to prevent dilution or enlargement of the rights of Participants or Optionees that otherwise would result from (a) any stock dividend, stock split, combination of shares, recapitalization or other change in the capital structure of the Company, or (b) any merger, consolidation, spin-off, split-off, spin-out, split-up, reorganization, partial or complete liquidation or other distribution of assets (including, without limitation, a special or large non-recurring dividend), issuance of rights or warrants to purchase securities, or (c) any other corporate transaction or event having an effect similar to any of the foregoing. Moreover, in the event of any such transaction or event, the Committee, in its discretion, may provide in substitution for any or all outstanding Awards under this Plan such alternative consideration (including cash) as it, in good faith, may determine to be equitable in the circumstances and may require in connection therewith the surrender of all Awards so replaced. The Committee may also make or provide for such adjustments in the numbers of shares specified in Section 3 of this Plan as the Committee, in its discretion, exercised in good faith, may determine is appropriate to reflect any transaction or event described in this Section 12; provided, however, that any such adjustment to the number specified in Section 3(c)(i) shall be made only if and to the extent that such adjustment would not cause any Option intended to qualify as an Incentive Stock Option to fail so to qualify. In no event shall any adjustment be required under this Section 12 if the Committee determines that such action could cause an Award to fail to satisfy the conditions of an applicable exception from the requirements of Section 409A of the

- 13. Fractional Shares. The Company shall not be required to issue any fractional Common Shares pursuant to this Plan. The Committee may provide for the elimination of fractions or for the settlement of fractions in cash.
- 14. Withholding Taxes. The Company shall have the right to deduct from any payment or benefit realized under this Plan an amount equal to the federal, state, local, foreign and other taxes which in the opinion of the Company are required to be withheld by it with respect to such payment or benefit. To the extent that the amounts available to the Company for such withholding are insufficient, it shall be a condition to the receipt of such payment or the realization of such benefit that the Participant or other recipient make arrangements satisfactory to the Company for payment of the balance of such taxes required to be withheld. At the discretion of the Committee, such arrangements may include relinquishment of a portion of such benefit pursuant to procedures adopted by the Committee from time to time. The Company and a Participant or such other recipient may also make similar arrangements with respect to the payment of any taxes with respect to which withholding is not required.
- 15. Foreign Employees. In order to facilitate the making of any grant or combination of grants under this Plan, the Committee may provide for such special terms for Awards to Participants who are foreign nationals or who are employed by the Company or any Affiliate outside of the United States of America as the Committee may consider necessary or appropriate to accommodate differences in local law, tax policy or custom. Moreover, the Committee may approve such supplements to or amendments, restatements or alternative versions of this Plan as it may consider necessary or appropriate for such purposes, without thereby affecting the terms of this Plan as in effect for any other purpose, and the Corporate Secretary or other appropriate officer of the Company may certify any such document as having been approved and adopted in the same manner as this Plan. No such special terms, supplements, amendments or restatements, however, shall include any provisions that are inconsistent with the terms of this Plan as then in effect unless this Plan could have been amended to eliminate such inconsistency without further approval by the stockholders of the Company.

## 16. Administration of the Plan.

a. The Committee shall administer this Plan or delegate its authority to do so as provided in Section 16(c) hereof or, in the Board's sole discretion or in the absence of the Committee, the Board shall administer this Plan; provided that the authority to grant Awards to Non-Employee Directors pursuant to this Plan rests exclusively with the Board (and, for the avoidance of doubt, not with the Committee), and each reference in this Plan to the Committee shall be deemed, when used in the context of any Award(s) made or to be made to a Non-Employee Director, a reference to the Board. The Committee, or if no Committee has been appointed, the Board, may delegate administration of the Plan to a committee or committees of one or more members of the Board, and the term "Committee" shall apply to any such committee, person(s) to whom such authority has been delegated. The Committee shall have the power to delegate to a subcommittee any of the administrative powers the Committee is authorized to exercise (and references in this Plan to the Committee shall thereafter be to the committee or subcommittee), subject, however, to such resolutions, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Plan, as may be adopted from time to time by the Board. The Board may abolish, suspend or supersede the Committee at any time and revest in the Board the administration of the Plan.

b. Subject to the express provisions of the Plan, the Committee shall have plenary authority, in its discretion, to determine the individuals to whom, and the time or times at which, Awards shall be granted and the number of shares, if applicable, to be subject to each Award. In making such determinations, the Committee may take into account the nature of services rendered by the respective individuals, their present and potential contributions to the Company's success and such other factors as the Committee

deems relevant. Subject to the express provisions of the Plan, the Committee shall also have plenary discretionary authority to interpret the Plan, to prescribe, amend and rescind rules and regulations relating to it, to determine the terms and provisions of the respective Evidence of Award (which need not be identical) and to make all other determinations necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan. The interpretation and construction by the Committee of any provision of this Plan or of any Evidence of Award and any determination by the Board pursuant to any provision of this Plan or of any such Evidence of Award shall be final, conclusive and binding on the Company and the Participants, unless such decisions are determined by a court having jurisdiction to be arbitrary and capricious. No member of the Board or the Committee shall be liable for any such action or determination made in good faith.

- c. To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Committee may delegate to one or more of its members or to one or more officers of the Company, or to one or more agents or advisors, such administrative duties or powers as it may deem advisable, and the Committee, or any person(s) or committee to whom duties or powers have been delegated as aforesaid, may employ one or more persons to render advice with respect to any responsibility the Committee or such person or committee may have under the Plan. To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Committee may, by resolution, authorize one or more officers of the Company to do one or both of the following on the same basis as the Committee: (i) designate employees to be recipients of Awards under this Plan; (ii) determine the size of any such Awards; provided, however, that (A) the Committee shall not delegate such responsibilities to any such officer for Awards granted to an employee who is an officer, Director, or more than 10% beneficial owner of any class of the Company's equity securities that is registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act, as determined by the Committee in accordance with Section 16 of the Exchange Act; (B) the resolution providing for such authorization sets forth the total number of Common Shares such officer(s) may grant; and (iii) the officer(s) shall report periodically to the Committee, as the case may be, regarding the nature and scope of the Awards granted pursuant to the authority delegated.
- d. Any authority granted to the Committee may also be exercised by the Board or another committee of the Board duly appointed for such purpose. To the extent that any permitted action taken by the Board conflicts with action taken by the Committee, the Board action shall control. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to the extent the Board has delegated any authority under this Plan to another committee of the Board, such authority shall not be exercised by the Committee unless expressly permitted by the Board in connection with such delegation.
- e. The Board shall have discretion to determine whether or not it intends to comply with the exemption requirements of Rule 16b-3 of the Exchange Act. Nothing herein shall create an inference that an Award is not validly granted under the Plan in the event Awards are granted under the Plan by a compensation committee of the Board that does not at all times consist solely of two or more Non-Employee Directors.

#### 17. Amendments and Other Matters.

- a. The Board may at any time and from time to time amend the Plan in whole or in part; provided, however, that any amendment which must be approved by the stockholders of the Company in order to comply with applicable law or the rules of the NASDAQ Global Stock Market shall not be effective unless and until such approval has been obtained. Presentation of this Plan or any amendment thereof for stockholder approval shall not be construed to limit the Company's authority to offer similar or dissimilar benefits under other plans or otherwise with or without stockholder approval. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Board may amend this Plan to eliminate provisions which are no longer necessary as a result in changes in tax or securities laws or regulations, or in the interpretation thereof.
- b. Neither the Board nor the Committee shall, without the further approval of the stockholders of the Company, authorize the amendment of any outstanding Option Right or Appreciation Right to reduce the Option Price or Base Price. Furthermore, without further approval of the stockholders of the Company, (i) no Option Right or Appreciation Right shall be cancelled and replaced with an Award having a lower Option Price or Base Price, (ii) no Option Right or Appreciation Right shall be cancelled in exchange for cash if the per share Option Price or per share Base Price exceeds the Market Value per Share on the date of such cancellation, and (iii) there shall be no cancellation of "underwater" Option Rights in exchange for other Awards under this Plan. This Section 17(b) is intended to prohibit the repricing of "underwater" Option Rights and Appreciation Rights and shall not be construed to prohibit the adjustments provided for in Section 12 of this Plan.
- c. To the extent consistent with Section 409A of the Code, the Committee also may permit Participants to elect to defer the issuance of Common Shares or the settlement of Awards in cash under the Plan pursuant to such rules, procedures or programs as it may establish for purposes of this Plan. The Committee also may provide that deferred issuances and settlements include the payment or crediting of dividend equivalents or interest on the deferral amounts.

- d. If permitted by Section 409A of the Code, in case of termination of employment by reason of death, Disability or normal or early retirement, or in the case of hardship or other special circumstances, of a Participant who holds an Option Right or Appreciation Right not immediately exercisable in full, or any Restricted Shares as to which the substantial risk of forfeiture or the prohibition or restriction on transfer has not lapsed, or any Restricted Stock Units as to which the Restriction Period has not been completed, or any Performance Shares or Performance Units which have not been fully earned, or any other Awards made pursuant to Section 10 subject to any vesting schedule or transfer restriction, or who holds Common Shares subject to any transfer restriction imposed pursuant to Section 11(b) of this Plan, the Committee may, at its discretion, accelerate the time at which such Option Right, Appreciation Right or other Award may be exercised or the time at which such substantial risk of forfeiture or prohibition or restriction on transfer will lapse or the time when such Restriction Period will end or the time at which such Performance Shares or Performance Units will be deemed to have been fully earned or the time when such transfer restriction will terminate or may waive any other limitation or requirement under any such Award.
- e. This Plan shall not confer upon any Participant any right with respect to continuance of employment or other service with the Company or any Affiliate, nor shall it interfere in any way with any right the Company or any Affiliate would otherwise have to terminate such Participant's employment or other service at any time.
- f. To the extent that any provision of this Plan would prevent any Option Right that was intended to qualify as an Incentive Stock Option from qualifying as such, that provision shall be null and void with respect to such Option Right. Such provision, however, shall remain in effect for other Option Rights and there shall be no further effect on any provision of this Plan.
- g. Subject to Section 20, this Plan shall continue in effect until the date on which all Common Shares available for issuance or transfer under this Plan have been issued or transferred and the Company has no further obligation hereunder.
- h. Neither a Participant nor any other person shall, by reason of participation in the Plan, acquire any right or title to any assets, funds or property of the Company or any Affiliate, including without limitation, any specific funds, assets or other property which the Company or any Affiliate may set aside in anticipation of any liability under the Plan. A Participant shall have only a contractual right to an Award or the amounts, if any, payable under the Plan, unsecured by any assets of the Company or any Affiliate, and nothing contained in the Plan shall constitute a guarantee that the assets of the Company or any Affiliate shall be sufficient to pay any benefits to any person.
- i. This Plan and each Evidence of Award shall be governed by the laws of the State of Maryland, excluding any conflicts or choice of law rule or principle that might otherwise refer construction or interpretation of the Plan to the substantive law of another jurisdiction.
- j. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Plan, the Company may cancel any Award, require reimbursement of any Award by a Participant, and effect any other right of recoupment of equity or other compensation provided under the Plan in accordance with any Company policies that may be adopted and/or modified from time to time ("Clawback Policy") In addition, a Participant may be required to repay to the Company previously paid compensation, whether provided pursuant to the Plan or an Evidence of Award, in accordance with the Clawback Policy. By accepting an Award, the Participant is agreeing to be bound by the Clawback Policy, as in effect or as may be adopted and/or modified from time to time by the Company in its discretion (including, without limitation, to comply with applicable law or stock exchange listing requirements).
- k. In the event any provision of this Plan shall be held illegal or invalid for any reason, the illegality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining parts of this Plan, and this Plan shall be construed and enforced as if the illegal or invalid provision had not been included.
- 18. Compliance with Section 409A of the Code. Awards granted under this Plan shall be designed and administered in such a manner that they are either exempt from the application of, or comply with, the requirements of Section 409A of the Code. To the extent that the Committee determines that any Award granted under the Plan is subject to Section 409A of the Code, the Evidence of Award shall incorporate the terms and conditions necessary to avoid the imposition of an additional tax under Section 409A of the Code upon a Participant. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan or any Evidence of Award (unless the Evidence of Award provides otherwise with specific reference to this Section), an Award shall not be granted, deferred, accelerated, extended, paid out, settled, substituted or modified under this Plan in a manner that would result in the imposition of an additional tax under Section 409A of the Code upon a Participant. Although the Company intends to administer the Plan so that awards will be exempt from, or will comply with, the requirements of Section 409A of the Code, the Company does not warrant that any Award under the Plan will qualify for favorable tax treatment under Section 409A of the Code or any other provision of federal, state, local, or non-United States law. Neither the Company, its Affiliates, nor their respective directors, officers, employees or advisers shall be liable to any Participant (or any other individual claiming a benefit through the Participant) for any tax, interest, or penalties the Participant

might owe as a result of the grant, holding, vesting, exercise, or payment of any Award under the Plan. Any reference in this Plan to Section 409A of the Code will also include the applicable proposed, temporary or final regulations, or any other guidance, issued with respect to such Section by the U.S. Department of the Treasury or the Internal Revenue Service.

- 19. Applicable Laws. To the extent that federal laws do not otherwise control, this Plan and all determinations made and actions taken pursuant to this Plan shall be governed by the laws of Maryland, without giving effect to principles of conflicts of laws, and construed accordingly.
- 20. Term and Termination. This Plan shall terminate 10 years after the date on which was approved and adopted by the Board in 2015 and no award(s) shall be made hereunder after the expiration of such 10 year period; provided, however, that, subject to approval of the Company's stockholders within one year of April 11, 2023, the term shall be extended for an additional 10 years from the date of such stockholder approval and no award(s) shall be made hereunder after the expiration of such additional 10 year period. Awards outstanding at the termination of the Plan will continue in accordance with their terms and will not be affected by such termination.

## CALCULATION OF FILING FEE TABLES

### **S-8**

# Uniti Group Inc.

#### **Table 1: Newly Registered and Carry Forward Securities**

Line Item Type	Security Type	Security Class Title	Notes	Fee Calculation Rule	Amount Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Fee Rate	Amount of Registration Fee
Newly Registered Securities									
Fees to be Paid	Equity	Common Stock, \$0.0001 Par Value	(1)	Other	15,238,383	\$ 9.43	\$ 143,697,952	0.0001531	\$22,000.15
					Total Offering	Amounts:	\$ 143,697,952		22,000.15
				7	Total Fees Previo	usly Paid:			0.00
					Total Fe			0.00	
					Net	t Fee Due:			\$22,000.15

# Offering Note(s)

(1) This Registration Statement on Form S-8 (this "Registration Statement") covers (i) 6,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.0001 par value per share ("Common Stock"), of Uniti Group Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Registrant"), to be available for issuance pursuant to the Uniti Group Inc. 2025 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Equity Plan"), (ii) 1,000,000 shares of Common Stock to be available for issuance under the Uniti Group Inc. 2025 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "ESPP"), (iii) 8,238,383 shares of Common Stock in respect of Old Uniti Replacement Awards pursuant to the Old Uniti Plan (each as defined in the Registration Statement) and (iv) pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), any additional shares of Common Stock that may become issuable under the Equity Plan or the ESPP or with respect to the Old Uniti Replacement Awards by reason of any share dividend, share split or other similar transaction.

The Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit is estimated in accordance with Rule 457(c) and (h) solely for purposes of calculating the registration fee on the basis of (i) \$5.68, the average of the high and low prices of Old Uniti Common Stock (as defined in the Registration Statement) as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on July 29, 2025, which date is within five business days prior to filing this Registration Statement, divided by (ii) the Exchange Ratio (as defined in the Registration Statement). The Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit, Maximum Aggregate Offering Price and Amount of Registration Fee is rounded up to the nearest penny.