

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported):
January 25, 2018

ALLIANCE DATA SYSTEMS CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

DELAWARE
(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation)

001-15749
(Commission
File Number)

31-1429215
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

7500 DALLAS PARKWAY, SUITE 700
PLANO, TEXAS 75024
(Address and Zip Code of Principal Executive Offices)

(214) 494-3000
(Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code)

NOT APPLICABLE
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the Registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

ITEM 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On January 25, 2018, Alliance Data Systems Corporation (the "Company") issued a press release regarding its results of operations for the fourth quarter and fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. A copy of this press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1.

ITEM 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure

On January 25, 2018, the Company issued a press release regarding its results of operations for the fourth quarter and fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. A copy of this press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1.

Attached as Exhibit 99.2 is a presentation to be given to investors and others by senior officers of the Company.

ITEM 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Document Description</u>
99.1	Press Release dated January 25, 2018 announcing the results of operations for the fourth quarter and fiscal year ended December 31, 2017.
99.2	Investor Presentation Materials.

Note: The information contained in this report (including Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2) shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Alliance Data Systems Corporation

Date: January 25, 2018

By: /s/ Charles L. Horn
Charles L. Horn
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

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Alliance Data Reports Full-Year 2017 Results

- Revenue Increases 8 Percent to \$7.72 Billion
- EPS Increases 92 Percent to \$14.10
- Core EPS Increases 14 Percent to \$19.35
- Quarterly Dividend Increased 10 Percent to \$0.57

PLANO, TX, January 25, 2018 – Alliance Data Systems Corporation (NYSE: ADS), a leading global provider of data-driven marketing and loyalty solutions, today announced results for the year ended December 31, 2017.

SUMMARY (in millions, except per share amounts)	Quarter Ended December 31,			Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	% Change	2017	2016	% Change
Revenue	\$ 2,106	\$ 1,828	+15%	\$ 7,719	\$ 7,138	+8%
Net income	\$ 271	\$ 11	nm*	\$ 789	\$ 518	+52%
Net income attributable to Alliance Data stockholders per diluted share ("EPS") (a)	\$ 4.88	\$ 0.18	nm*	\$ 14.10	\$ 7.34	+92%
Diluted shares outstanding	55.6	57.9		55.9	58.9	

Supplemental Non-GAAP Metrics (b):						
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 598	\$ 566	+6%	\$ 2,218	\$ 2,096	+6%
Adjusted EBITDA, net of funding costs and non-controlling interest ("adjusted EBITDA, net") (a)	\$ 514	\$ 507	+1%	\$ 1,937	\$ 1,880	+3%
Core earnings attributable to Alliance Data stockholders per diluted share ("core EPS") (a)	\$ 6.26	\$ 4.67	+34%	\$ 19.35	\$ 16.92	+14%

(a) Profitability measures shown above are net of amounts attributable to the minority interest in Netherlands-based BrandLoyalty, referred to as 'non-controlling interest.'

(b) See "Financial Measures" below for a discussion of non-GAAP financial measures.

* nm – not meaningful.

Highlights for 2017 are:

- Revenue of \$7.72 billion - \$7.8 billion adjusted for (~\$80) million of hurricane impact
- Core EPS of \$18.33 - excluding the net tax benefit - exceeding guidance of \$18.10
- AIR MILES® achieved profitability targets
- Epsilon's Technology Platform offering returned to growth
- Card Services' delinquency wedge effectively closed when adjusted for hurricane impacts
- Cash dividend increased 10 percent to \$0.57 starting in first quarter of 2018
- Positive impact of tax reform, net of initiatives - \$1.02 in 2017 and \$1.00 to \$1.50 in 2018

Ed Heffernan, president and chief executive officer of Alliance Data, commented, "It was another solid year for Alliance Data as revenue increased 8 percent to \$7.72 billion and core EPS increased 14 percent to \$19.35."

Heffernan continued, "As you can see from the last bullet above, we are a significant beneficiary of the recently enacted tax reform. In keeping with the goals and spirit of this legislation, we will use a portion of the tax savings to: 1) bolster our human capital base; and 2) accelerate key initiatives, such as developing a consumer deposits funding source for Card Services, and scaling up promising areas such as Epsilon's digital CRM business. Toward those goals, we increased our bonus pool to non-executive associates by \$12 million in 2017, and plan to reinvest up to \$0.50 of the projected 2018 tax benefit back into the Company as noted above."

FULL-YEAR CONSOLIDATED RESULTS

Revenue increased 8 percent to \$7.72 billion. EPS increased 92 percent to \$14.10 and core EPS increased 14 percent to \$19.35 for 2017. Adjusted EBITDA, net increased 3 percent to \$1.94 billion.

FOURTH-QUARTER CONSOLIDATED RESULTS

Revenue increased 15 percent to \$2.11 billion for the fourth quarter of 2017. EPS increased to \$4.88 and core EPS increased 34 percent to \$6.26 for the fourth quarter of 2017. Adjusted EBITDA, net increased 1 percent to \$514 million for the fourth quarter of 2017.

The recent tax reform legislation benefited the fourth quarter of 2017. Specifically, the new federal corporate tax rate of 21 percent necessitated the re-valuation of certain deferred tax assets and liabilities previously established at higher tax rates. Since the Company was in a net deferred tax liability position, the adjustment reduced the provision for income taxes by \$65 million. Net of the special bonuses discussed above, the benefit to 2017 was approximately \$1.02 to both per share measures.

FOURTH-QUARTER SEGMENT REVIEW

LoyaltyOne®: Revenue increased 56 percent to \$385 million while adjusted EBITDA increased 9 percent to \$80 million for the fourth quarter of 2017. Foreign exchange translation rates had a nominally positive impact to financial results.

AIR MILES and BrandLoyalty revenues were \$193 million and \$192 million, respectively, for the fourth quarter of 2017. AIR MILES reward miles issued decreased 5 percent for the fourth quarter of 2017, due to reduced promotional activity.

Epsilon®: Revenue increased 7 percent to \$640 million, while adjusted EBITDA decreased 2 percent to \$159 million for the fourth quarter of 2017. The decline in adjusted EBITDA is due to \$13 million of additional incentive compensation compared to the fourth quarter of 2016.

The Auto and CRM offerings were the primary revenue drivers for the fourth quarter of 2017, both with double-digit growth. Importantly, Technology Platform revenue increased 7 percent for the fourth quarter of 2017, driven by new client wins.

Card Services: Revenue increased 10 percent to \$1.09 billion and adjusted EBITDA, net increased 4 percent to \$311 million for the fourth quarter of 2017.

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, which prompted us to provide a two-month leniency period for cardholders in FEMA-designated "individual assistance" disaster areas, reduced revenue by approximately \$40 million for the fourth quarter of 2017. In addition, the transition of cardholders out of the hurricane-related leniency period in December increased the year-end delinquency rate by about 20 basis points.

2018 Updated Guidance

- Revenue of \$8.35 billion, representing an 8 percent increase. Original guidance of \$8.7 billion reduced for approximately \$350 million accounting reclassification for AIR MILES under the new revenue recognition standard, which went into effect January 1, 2018 (change to a net versus gross presentation)
- Core EPS of \$22.50 to \$23.00, representing a 16 to 19 percent increase over 2017.

Forward-Looking Statements

This release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements give our expectations or forecasts of future events and can generally be identified by the use of words such as "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "intend," "project," "plan," "likely," "may," "should" or other words or phrases of similar import. Similarly, statements that describe our business strategy, outlook, objectives, plans, intentions or goals also are forward-looking statements. Examples of forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements we make regarding our expected operating results, future economic conditions including currency exchange rates, future dividend declarations and the guidance we give with respect to our anticipated financial performance.

We believe that our expectations are based on reasonable assumptions. Forward-looking statements, however, are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the projections, anticipated results or other expectations expressed in this release, and no assurances can be given that our expectations will prove to have been correct. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, factors set forth in the Risk Factors section in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the most recently ended fiscal year, which may be updated in Item 1A of, or elsewhere in, our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q filed for periods subsequent to such Form 10-K.

Our forward-looking statements speak only as of the date made, and we undertake no obligation, other than as required by applicable law, to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, subsequent events, anticipated or unanticipated circumstances or otherwise.

Financial Measures

In addition to the results presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP, the Company may present financial measures that are non-GAAP measures, such as constant currency financial measures, adjusted EBITDA, adjusted EBITDA margin, adjusted EBITDA, net of funding costs and non-controlling interest, core earnings and core earnings per diluted share (core EPS). Constant currency excludes the impact of fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. The Company calculates constant currency by converting our current period local currency financial results using the prior period exchange rates. The Company uses adjusted EBITDA and adjusted EBITDA, net as an integral part of internal reporting to measure the performance and operational strength of reportable segments and to evaluate the performance of senior management. Adjusted EBITDA eliminates the uneven effect across all reportable segments of non-cash depreciation of tangible assets and amortization of intangible assets, including certain intangible assets that were recognized in business combinations, and the non-cash effect of stock compensation expense. Similarly, core earnings and core EPS eliminate non-cash or non-operating items, including, but not limited to, stock compensation expense, amortization of purchased intangibles, amortization of debt issuance and hedging costs, mark-to-market gains or losses on interest rate derivatives, changes to the expiry policy and regulatory settlements. The Company believes that these non-GAAP financial measures, viewed in addition to and not in lieu of the Company's reported GAAP results, provide useful information to investors regarding the Company's performance and overall results of operations.

Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

Reconciliations to comparable GAAP financial measures are available in the accompanying schedules, which are posted as part of this earnings release in both the News and Investors sections on the Company's website (www.alliancedata.com). No reconciliation is provided with respect to forward-looking annual guidance for 2018 core EPS as the Company cannot reliably predict all necessary components or their impact to reconcile core EPS to GAAP EPS without unreasonable effort. The events necessitating a non-GAAP adjustment are inherently unpredictable and may have a material impact on the Company's future results.

The financial measures presented are consistent with the Company's historical financial reporting practices. Core earnings and core EPS represent performance measures and are not intended to represent liquidity measures. The non-GAAP financial measures presented herein may not be comparable to similarly titled measures presented by other companies, and are not identical to corresponding measures used in other various agreements or public filings.

Conference Call

Alliance Data will host a conference call on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. (Eastern Time) to discuss the Company's fourth-quarter and full-year 2017 results. The conference call will be available via the Internet at www.alliancedata.com. There will be several slides accompanying the webcast. Please go to the website at least 15 minutes prior to the call to register, download and install any necessary software. The recorded webcast will also be available on the Company's website.

If you are unable to participate in the conference call, a replay will be available. To access the replay, please dial (855) 859-2056 or (404) 537-3406 and enter "7596568". The replay will be available at approximately 11:45 a.m. (Eastern Time) on Thursday, January 25, 2018.

About Alliance Data

Alliance Data® (NYSE: ADS) is a leading global provider of data-driven marketing and loyalty solutions serving large, consumer-based industries. The Company creates and deploys customized solutions, enhancing the critical customer marketing experience; the result is measurably changing consumer behavior while driving business growth and profitability for some of today's most recognizable brands. Alliance Data helps its clients create and increase customer loyalty through solutions that engage millions of customers each day across multiple touch points using traditional, digital, mobile and emerging technologies. An S&P 500 and Fortune 500 company headquartered in Plano, Texas, Alliance Data consists of three businesses that together employ approximately 20,000 associates at more than 100 locations worldwide.

Alliance Data's card services business is a leading provider of marketing-driven branded credit card programs. Epsilon® is a leading provider of multichannel, data-driven technologies and marketing services, and also includes Conversant®, a leader in personalized digital marketing. LoyaltyOne® owns and operates the AIR MILES® Reward Program, Canada's most recognized loyalty program, and Netherlands-based BrandLoyalty, a global provider of tailor-made loyalty programs for grocers.

Follow Alliance Data on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube.

ALLIANCE DATA SYSTEMS CORPORATION
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(In millions, except per share amounts)
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Year Ended December 31,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Revenue	\$ 2,106.2	\$ 1,827.6	\$ 7,719.4	\$ 7,138.1
Operating expenses:				
Cost of operations	1,188.1	1,231.1	4,436.2	4,420.0
Provision for loan loss	332.2	289.5	1,140.1	940.5
Depreciation and amortization	123.2	127.4	497.6	512.1
Total operating expenses	1,643.5	1,648.0	6,073.9	5,872.6
Operating income	462.7	179.6	1,645.5	1,265.5
Interest expense, net:				
Securitization funding costs	46.7	34.1	156.6	125.6
Interest expense on deposits	37.2	24.7	125.1	84.7
Interest expense on long-term and other debt, net	72.5	58.9	282.7	218.2
Total interest expense, net	156.4	117.7	564.4	428.5
Income before income tax	\$ 306.3	\$ 61.9	\$ 1,081.1	\$ 837.0
Income tax expense	35.0	51.4	292.4	319.4
Net income	\$ 271.3	\$ 10.5	\$ 788.7	\$ 517.6
Less: Net income attributable to non-controlling interest	—	—	—	1.8
Net income attributable to common stockholders	\$ 271.3	\$ 10.5	\$ 788.7	\$ 515.8
Per share data:				
Numerator				
Net income attributable to common stockholders	\$ 271.3	\$ 10.5	\$ 788.7	\$ 515.8
Less: Accretion of redeemable non-controlling interest	—	—	—	83.5
Net income attributable to common stockholders after accretion of redeemable non-controlling interest	\$ 271.3	\$ 10.5	\$ 788.7	\$ 432.3
Denominator				
Weighted average shares outstanding – basic	55.3	57.6	55.7	58.6
Weighted average shares outstanding – diluted	55.6	57.9	55.9	58.9
Basic – Net income attributable to common stockholders	\$ 4.91	\$ 0.18	\$ 14.17	\$ 7.37
Diluted – Net income attributable to common stockholders	\$ 4.88	\$ 0.18	\$ 14.10	\$ 7.34

ALLIANCE DATA SYSTEMS CORPORATION
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(In millions)
(Unaudited)

	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,190.0	\$ 1,859.2
Credit card and loan receivables:		
Credit card and loan receivables	18,613.8	16,543.9
Allowance for loan loss	(1,119.3)	(948.0)
Credit card and loan receivables, net	17,494.5	15,595.9
Credit card and loan receivables held for sale	1,026.3	417.3
Redemption settlement assets, restricted	589.5	324.4
Intangible assets, net	800.6	1,003.3
Goodwill	3,880.1	3,800.7
Other assets	2,703.8	2,513.3
Total assets	<u>\$ 30,684.8</u>	<u>\$ 25,514.1</u>
Liabilities and Equity		
Deferred revenue	\$ 966.9	\$ 931.5
Deposits	10,930.9	8,391.9
Non-recourse borrowings of consolidated securitization entities	8,807.3	6,955.4
Long-term and other debt	6,079.6	5,601.4
Other liabilities	2,044.8	1,975.7
Total liabilities	28,829.5	23,855.9
Stockholders' equity	1,855.3	1,658.2
Total liabilities and equity	<u>\$ 30,684.8</u>	<u>\$ 25,514.1</u>

ALLIANCE DATA SYSTEMS CORPORATION
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Unaudited)
(In millions)

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2017	2016 ⁽¹⁾
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:		
Net income	\$ 788.7	\$ 517.6
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	497.6	512.1
Deferred income taxes	(113.8)	(30.8)
Provision for loan loss	1,140.1	940.5
Non-cash stock compensation	75.1	76.5
Amortization of deferred financing costs	44.0	34.7
Change in breakage rate estimate	—	284.5
Change in operating assets and liabilities	94.8	(360.4)
Originations of loan receivables held for sale	(8,709.4)	(7,366.3)
Sales of loan receivables held for sale	8,651.9	7,362.8
Other	140.6	143.2
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>2,609.6</u>	<u>2,114.4</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:		
Change in redemption settlement assets	(243.1)	148.7
Change in credit card and loan receivables	(3,600.2)	(3,505.4)
Purchase of credit card portfolios	—	(1,008.1)
Sale of credit card and loan portfolios	797.7	486.0
Payment for acquired business, net of cash acquired	(945.6)	—
Capital expenditures	(225.4)	(207.0)
Other	(71.9)	22.8
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(4,288.5)</u>	<u>(4,063.0)</u>
Cash Flows from Financing Activities:		
Borrowings under debt agreements	7,696.7	3,823.7
Repayments of borrowings	(7,341.4)	(3,222.8)
Non-recourse borrowings of consolidated securitization entities	5,172.5	4,404.4
Repayments/maturities of non-recourse borrowings of consolidated securitization entities	(3,320.3)	(3,930.0)
Net increase in deposits	2,543.2	2,789.9
Acquisition of non-controlling interest	—	(360.7)
Payment of deferred financing costs	(65.7)	(33.9)
Purchase of treasury shares	(553.7)	(798.8)
Dividends paid	(115.5)	(30.0)
Other	(10.9)	(4.4)
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>4,004.9</u>	<u>2,637.4</u>
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	4.8	2.4
Change in cash and cash equivalents	2,330.8	691.2
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	1,859.2	1,168.0
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>\$ 4,190.0</u>	<u>\$ 1,859.2</u>

(1) Adjusted to reflect the adoption of Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2016-09, "Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting." The effect of the adoption of the standard was to increase cash flows from operating activities by \$26.0 million and to decrease cash flows from financing activities by \$26.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2016.

ALLIANCE DATA SYSTEMS CORPORATION
SUMMARY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

(In millions)
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended December 31,			Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	Change	2017	2016	Change
Segment Revenue:						
LoyaltyOne	\$ 385.3	\$ 247.2	56%	\$ 1,303.5	\$ 1,337.9	(3)%
Epsilon	640.3	599.9	7	2,272.1	2,155.2	5
Card Services	1,087.0	987.9	10	4,170.6	3,675.0	13
Corporate/Other	0.6	0.1	nm*	0.6	0.3	nm*
Intersegment Eliminations	(7.0)	(7.5)	nm*	(27.4)	(30.3)	nm*
Total	<u>\$ 2,106.2</u>	<u>\$ 1,827.6</u>	15%	<u>\$ 7,719.4</u>	<u>\$ 7,138.1</u>	8%
Segment Adjusted EBITDA, net:						
LoyaltyOne	\$ 80.3	\$ 73.6	9%	\$ 256.7	\$ 308.9	(17)%
Epsilon	158.9	162.0	(2)	475.7	480.2	(1)
Card Services	311.4	298.5	4	1,344.9	1,213.3	11
Corporate/Other	(37.0)	(27.1)	37	(140.8)	(122.4)	15
Total	<u>\$ 513.6</u>	<u>\$ 507.0</u>	1%	<u>\$ 1,936.5</u>	<u>\$ 1,880.0</u>	3%
Key Performance Indicators:						
Credit card statements generated	78.9	75.2	5%	296.7	279.4	6%
Credit sales	\$ 9,554.6	\$ 9,008.7	6%	\$ 31,001.6	\$ 29,271.3	6%
Average receivables	\$ 17,366.9	\$ 15,306.0	13%	\$ 16,185.5	\$ 14,085.8	15%
AIR MILES reward miles issued	1,540.0	1,622.1	(5)%	5,524.2	5,772.3	(4)%
AIR MILES reward miles redeemed	1,186.6	2,704.3	(56)%	4,552.1	7,071.6	(36)%

* nm-not meaningful

ALLIANCE DATA SYSTEMS CORPORATION
RECONCILIATION OF NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES
(In millions, except per share amounts)
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Year Ended December 31,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA, net:				
Net income	\$ 271.3	\$ 10.5	\$ 788.7	\$ 517.6
Income tax expense	35.0	51.4	292.4	319.4
Total interest expense, net	156.4	117.7	564.4	428.5
Depreciation and other amortization	46.5	43.5	183.1	167.1
Amortization of purchased intangibles	76.7	83.9	314.5	345.0
Stock compensation expense	11.6	17.1	75.1	76.5
Impact of expiry (1)	—	241.7	—	241.7
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 597.5	\$ 565.8	\$ 2,218.2	\$ 2,095.8
Less: Funding costs (2)	83.9	58.8	281.7	210.3
Less: Adjusted EBITDA attributable to non-controlling interest	—	—	—	5.5
Adjusted EBITDA, net of funding costs and non-controlling interest	\$ 513.6	\$ 507.0	\$ 1,936.5	\$ 1,880.0
Core Earnings:				
Net income	\$ 271.3	\$ 10.5	\$ 788.7	\$ 517.6
Add back: non-cash/ non-operating items:				
Stock compensation expense	11.6	17.1	75.1	76.5
Amortization of purchased intangibles	76.7	83.9	314.5	345.0
Non-cash interest (3)	11.7	6.8	47.1	25.6
Impact of expiry (1)	—	241.7	—	241.7
Income tax effect (4)	(23.1)	(89.5)	(143.5)	(206.4)
Core earnings	348.2	270.5	1,081.9	1,000.0
Less: Core earnings attributable to non-controlling interest	—	—	—	4.0
Core earnings attributable to common stockholders	\$ 348.2	\$ 270.5	\$ 1,081.9	\$ 996.0
Weighted average shares outstanding – diluted	55.6	57.9	55.9	58.9
Core earnings attributable to common stockholders per share – diluted	\$ 6.26	\$ 4.67	\$ 19.35	\$ 16.92

(1) Represents the impact of the cancellation of the AIR MILES® Reward Program's five-year expiry policy on December 1, 2016.

(2) Represents interest expense on deposits and securitization funding costs.

(3) Represents amortization of debt issuance and hedging costs.

(4) Represents the tax effect for the related non-GAAP measure adjustments using the effective tax rate for each respective period exclusive of the tax reform impact. For the three months and year ended December 31, 2016, the effective tax rate was adjusted for the impact of expiry.

Three Months Ended December 31, 2017

	LoyaltyOne	Epsilon	Card Services	Corporate/ Other	Total
Operating income (loss)	\$ 57.7	\$ 77.4	\$ 370.2	\$ (42.6)	\$ 462.7
Depreciation and amortization	21.6	76.0	23.6	2.0	123.2
Stock compensation expense	1.0	5.5	1.5	3.6	11.6
Adjusted EBITDA	80.3	158.9	395.3	(37.0)	597.5
Less: Funding costs	—	—	83.9	—	83.9
Less: Adjusted EBITDA attributable to non-controlling interest	—	—	—	—	—
Adjusted EBITDA, net	\$ 80.3	\$ 158.9	\$ 311.4	\$ (37.0)	\$ 513.6

Three Months Ended December 31, 2016

	LoyaltyOne	Epsilon	Card Services	Corporate/ Other	Total
Operating income (loss)	\$ (191.6)	\$ 76.7	\$ 328.2	\$ (33.7)	\$ 179.6
Depreciation and amortization	21.1	78.6	25.7	2.0	127.4
Stock compensation expense	2.4	6.7	3.4	4.6	17.1
Impact of expiry	241.7	—	—	—	241.7
Adjusted EBITDA	73.6	162.0	357.3	(27.1)	565.8
Less: Funding costs	—	—	58.8	—	58.8
Less: Adjusted EBITDA attributable to non-controlling interest	—	—	—	—	—
Adjusted EBITDA, net	\$ 73.6	\$ 162.0	\$ 298.5	\$ (27.1)	\$ 507.0

Year Ended December 31, 2017

	LoyaltyOne	Epsilon	Card Services	Corporate/ Other	Total
Operating income (loss)	\$ 167.0	\$ 134.5	\$ 1,517.4	\$ (173.4)	\$ 1,645.5
Depreciation and amortization	81.7	309.7	98.4	7.8	497.6
Stock compensation expense	8.0	31.5	10.8	24.8	75.1
Adjusted EBITDA	256.7	475.7	1,626.6	(140.8)	2,218.2
Less: Funding costs	—	—	281.7	—	281.7
Less: Adjusted EBITDA attributable to non-controlling interest	—	—	—	—	—
Adjusted EBITDA, net	\$ 256.7	\$ 475.7	\$ 1,344.9	\$ (140.8)	\$ 1,936.5

Year Ended December 31, 2016

	LoyaltyOne	Epsilon	Card Services	Corporate/ Other	Total
Operating income (loss)	\$ (24.0)	\$ 123.2	\$ 1,318.3	\$ (152.0)	\$ 1,265.5
Depreciation and amortization	86.6	325.2	91.2	9.1	512.1
Stock compensation expense	10.1	31.8	14.1	20.5	76.5
Impact of expiry	241.7	—	—	—	241.7
Adjusted EBITDA	314.4	480.2	1,423.6	(122.4)	2,095.8
Less: Funding costs	—	—	210.3	—	210.3
Less: Adjusted EBITDA attributable to non-controlling interest	5.5	—	—	—	5.5
Adjusted EBITDA, net	\$ 308.9	\$ 480.2	\$ 1,213.3	\$ (122.4)	\$ 1,880.0

Alliance Data NYSE: ADS

Fourth Quarter and Full Year 2017 Results
January 25, 2018



Forward-Looking Statements

This presentation contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements give our expectations or forecasts of future events and can generally be identified by the use of words such as “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “estimate,” “intend,” “project,” “plan,” “likely,” “may,” “should” or other words or phrases of similar import. Similarly, statements that describe our business strategy, outlook, objectives, plans, intentions or goals also are forward-looking statements. Examples of forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements we make regarding our expected operating results, future economic conditions including currency exchange rates, future dividend declarations and the guidance we give with respect to our anticipated financial performance.

We believe that our expectations are based on reasonable assumptions. Forward-looking statements, however, are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the projections, anticipated results or other expectations expressed in this presentation, and no assurances can be given that our expectations will prove to have been correct. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, factors set forth in the Risk Factors section in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the most recently ended fiscal year, which may be updated in Item 1A of, or elsewhere in, our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q filed for periods subsequent to such Form 10-K.

Our forward-looking statements speak only as of the date made, and we undertake no obligation, other than as required by applicable law, to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, subsequent events, anticipated or unanticipated circumstances or otherwise.

Agenda

- Speakers: Ed Heffernan President and CEO
 Charles Horn EVP and CFO
- Fourth Quarter and Full Year Consolidated Results
- Segment Results
- 2017 Full Year
- 2018 Updated Guidance

Fourth Quarter and 2017 Consolidated Results

(MM, except per share)

	Quarter Ended December 31 ,			Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	% Change	2017	2016	% Change
Revenue	\$ 2,106	\$ 1,828	+15%	\$ 7,719	\$ 7,138	+8%
Net income	\$ 271	\$ 11	nm	\$ 789	\$ 518	+52%
EPS	\$ 4.88	\$ 0.18	nm	\$ 14.10	\$ 7.34	+92%
Core EPS	\$ 6.26	\$ 4.67	+34%	\$ 19.35	\$ 16.92	+14%
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 598	\$ 566	+6%	\$ 2,218	\$ 2,096	+6%
Adjusted EBITDA, net	\$ 514	\$ 507	+1%	\$ 1,937	\$ 1,880	+3%
Diluted shares outstanding	55.6	57.9		55.9	58.9	

- Net tax benefit from tax reform added approximately \$1.02 to EPS and Core EPS for fourth-quarter and full-year 2017.
- Dividend raised 10 percent to \$0.57 in first quarter of 2018.

LoyaltyOne[®] (MM)

	Quarter Ended December 31,			Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	% Change	2017	2016	% Change
Revenue	\$ 385	\$ 247	+56%	\$ 1,304	\$ 1,338	-3%
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 80	\$ 74	+9%	\$ 257	\$ 314	-18%
Non-controlling interest	-	-	nm	-	-5	nm
Adjusted EBITDA, net	\$ 80	\$ 74	+9%	\$ 257	\$ 309	-17%
Adjusted EBITDA %	21%	30%	-9%	20%	23%	-3%

- AIR MILES economics restored.
- BMO contract renewed.
- BrandLoyalty's rollout of a retail loyalty program for Disney EMEA starts in January 2018.

Epsilon[®] (MM)

	Quarter Ended December 31,			Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	% Change	2017	2016	% Change
Revenue	\$ 640	\$ 600	+7%	\$ 2,272	\$ 2,155	+5%
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 159	\$ 162	-2%	\$ 476	\$ 480	-1%
Adjusted EBITDA %	25%	27%	-2%	21%	22%	-1%

- Faster than expected stabilization and growth in Technology Platform offering.
- Conversant CRM bounced back to strong double-digit growth in fourth quarter.
 - Strong growth in Europe.

Card Services (MM)

	Quarter Ended December 31,			Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	% Change	2017	2016	% Change
Revenue	\$ 1,087	\$ 988	+10%	\$ 4,171	\$ 3,675	+13%
Operating expenses	360	341	+6%	1,404	1,311	+7%
Provision for loan losses	332	290	+15%	1,140	941	+21%
Funding costs	<u>84</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>+43%</u>	<u>282</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>+34%</u>
Adjusted EBITDA, net	\$ 311	\$ 299	+4%	\$ 1,345	\$ 1,213	+11%
Adjusted EBITDA, net %	29%	30%	-1%	32%	33%	-1%

- Hurricanes reduced revenue and gross yields by approximately \$40 million and 90 basis points, respectively, for the fourth quarter.
- Operating expenses improved 70 basis points from 2016 expressed as percentage of average receivables.
- Allowance for loan loss reserve is equivalent to 12 months forward coverage of reservable card receivables.

Card Services (MM)

Key Metrics:	Quarter Ended December 31,			Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	Change	2017	2016	Change
Credit sales	\$ 9,555	\$ 9,009	+6%	\$ 31,002	\$ 29,271	+6%
Average card receivables	\$ 17,367	\$ 15,306	+13%	\$ 16,186	\$ 14,086	+15%
Total gross yield	23.6%	25.1%	-1.5%	24.9%	25.5%	-0.6%
Operating expenses as % of average card receivables	7.8%	8.7%	-0.8%	8.4%	9.1%	-0.7%
Principal loss rates	6.0%	5.5%	+0.5%	6.0%	5.1%	+0.9%
Delinquency rate	5.1%	4.8%	+0.3%	5.1%	4.8%	+0.3%

- Tender share gains added over 100 basis points to credit sales growth for year.
- Divested two non-core portfolios in December reducing average receivables growth by 2 percent for fourth quarter.
- Hurricanes' impact increased ending delinquency rates by approximately 20 basis points.

2017 Full Year

	Revenue (\$BN)		Adj. EBITDA, net (\$MM)		Core EPS	
LoyaltyOne	\$ 1.30	-3%	\$ 257	(18%)		
Epsilon	\$ 2.27	+5%	\$ 505	+5%	Incentive	
			<u>-29</u>		←	Comp. restored
			\$ 476	(1%)		v. \$0 2016
Card Services	\$ 4.17	+13%	\$ 1,345	+11%		
ADS	\$ 7.72	+8%	\$ 1,937	+3%	\$19.35 ¹	+14%

¹ Includes \$1.02 of net tax benefit.

2017 Full Year

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LoyaltyOne:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AIR MILES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Model stabilized (25 percent adj. EBITDA margins)• Renewed BMO relationship (#1 client)• No client losses• Active collectors back to pre-crisis levels | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stabilized, but did not add to ADS growth• Promotional spend (1/3 of issuance) remains weak |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BrandLoyalty | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong double-digit growth from 2014 through 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poor 2017 results• Considered “air pocket” vs. fundamental issue |

2017 Full Year

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Epsilon:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong bounce to +5 percent revenue and +5 percent adj. EBITDA growth excluding restoration of incentive compensation• Technology Platform offering (~25 percent of segment) turned from -13 percent revenue growth in Q4, 2016 to +7 percent revenue growth in Q4, 2017• Digital CRM offering up strong double-digits; dip in Q3 was air pocket• Auto offering up double-digits | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Macro: impact of tight labor market for 'hot skills'• Better visibility on financial results |
|---|---|

2017 Full Year

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Card Services:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delinquency wedge effectively closed (best predictor of future losses)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 55 basis points to 10 basis points excluding impact of hurricanes
• 15 percent growth in average receivables
• Record new signings: close to \$3BN vintage (Signet, Build.com, Viking Cruises, Guess, Diamonds Int'l, Adorama, IKEA)
• Double-digit adj. EBITDA net growth despite 90 basis points increase in net principal loss rate | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3rd Party recovery market plummeted – lower recovery rate increased net principal loss rate by 60 basis points

• Traditional retailers facing pressure; lower core sales pressures receivables growth |
|---|---|

2017 Full Year

Consolidated

- Revenue up 8 percent and core EPS up 14 percent (up 8 percent excluding net tax benefit)
- Leverage modest @ 2.7x while funding approximately \$1 billion for buybacks and capital for portfolio growth
- Credit loss rate stabilizing after two years of increases
- ADS poised to return to mid-to-high teens core EPS growth in 2018
- Raising cash dividend 10 percent to \$0.57 per share starting Q1, 2018

2018 Updated Guidance

<u>Consolidated</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	
Revenue – prior	\$ 7.72BN	\$ 8.70BN	+12%
ASC 606 accounting reclassification ¹	_____ -	<u>-0.35BN</u>	
Revenue – updated	\$7.72 BN	\$ 8.35BN	+8%
Core EPS	\$ 19.35	\$22.50 - \$23.00	+16 to 19%

¹ ASC 606 revenue recognition, which is effective January 1, 2018, requires a net revenue recognition (gross revenue less of cost of goods) for travel related redemptions at AIR MILES. This new presentation lowers reported revenue but does not impact core EPS.

2018 Guidance

LoyaltyOne:

- High single-digit revenue, low double-digit adjusted EBITDA growth

Epsilon:

- Mid-single-digit revenue and adjusted EBITDA growth

Card Services:

- Mid-teens revenue and adjusted EBITDA growth
- Mid-teens portfolio growth (\$2.5BN)
 - '15 to '17 signings ramping (\$2.5 BN) plus core (\$1.0 BN) less non-core \$1.0 BN) = 15 percent growth
- Stable gross yields (~25 percent)
- Stable delinquency rates – best predictor of future losses
 - Spread vs prior year: Q1 – (55) basis points; Q4 – (10) basis points excluding hurricane impact
- Stable net principal loss rates:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018F</u>
Gross		6.9%	7.2%	
Recoveries		<u>(1.8%)</u>	<u>(1.2%)</u>	
Net	4.5%	5.1%	6.0%	6.0%

- Hurricanes will negatively impact Q1; nominal if any impact to Q2 – Q4

Financial Measures

In addition to the results presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP, the Company may present financial measures that are non-GAAP measures, such as constant currency financial measures, adjusted EBITDA, adjusted EBITDA margin, adjusted EBITDA, net of funding costs and non-controlling interest, core earnings and core earnings per diluted share (core EPS). Constant currency excludes the impact of fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. The Company calculates constant currency by converting our current period local currency financial results using the prior period exchange rates. The Company uses adjusted EBITDA and adjusted EBITDA, net as an integral part of internal reporting to measure the performance and operational strength of reportable segments and to evaluate the performance of senior management. Adjusted EBITDA eliminates the uneven effect across all reportable segments of non-cash depreciation of tangible assets and amortization of intangible assets, including certain intangible assets that were recognized in business combinations, and the non-cash effect of stock compensation expense. Similarly, core earnings and core EPS eliminate non-cash or non-operating items, including, but not limited to, stock compensation expense, amortization of purchased intangibles, amortization of debt issuance and hedging costs, mark-to-market gains or losses on interest rate derivatives, changes to the expiry policy and regulatory settlements. The Company believes that these non-GAAP financial measures, viewed in addition to and not in lieu of the Company's reported GAAP results, provide useful information to investors regarding the Company's performance and overall results of operations. Reconciliations to comparable GAAP financial measures are available in the Company's earnings release, which is posted in both the News and Investors sections on the Company's website (www.alliancedata.com). No reconciliation is provided with respect to forward-looking annual guidance for 2018 core EPS as the Company cannot reliably predict all necessary components or their impact to reconcile core EPS to GAAP EPS without unreasonable effort. The events necessitating a non-GAAP adjustment are inherently unpredictable and may have a material impact on the Company's future results. The financial measures presented are consistent with the Company's historical financial reporting practices. Core earnings and core EPS represent performance measures and are not intended to represent liquidity measures. The non-GAAP financial measures presented herein may not be comparable to similarly titled measures presented by other companies, and are not identical to corresponding measures used in other various agreements or public filings.

Q & A

