

**ACON EQUITY MANAGEMENT, L.L.C.**

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**This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of ACON Equity Management, L.L.C. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 202-454-1100. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) or by any state securities authority.**

**Additional information about ACON Equity Management, L.L.C. also is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).**

**Item 2- Material Changes**

N/A

**Item 3- Table of Contents**

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#### **Item 4- Advisory Business**

- A. ACON Equity Management, L.L.C. (“ACON EQUITY” or the “Adviser”) was formed in 2011 as a Delaware limited liability company to provide investment supervisory services to pooled investment vehicles that are exempt from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Investment Company Act”) and whose securities are not registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Funds”).

ACON EQUITY from time to time may serve as the sponsor of entities that act as feeder vehicles into the Funds (the “Feeders”). Additionally, in order to meet tax, regulatory or other requirements, certain investors may invest in substantially the same portfolio as the applicable Funds through specially formed investment vehicles which are also advised by ACON Equity (collectively, the “SPVs”).

ACON EQUITY from time to time also may establish, on a transaction-by-transaction basis, investment vehicles through which certain persons may invest alongside one or more Funds (each such pooled investment vehicle, a “Co-Investment Vehicle”).

The only advisory clients of ACON EQUITY are the Funds and certain Feeders, SPVs, and Co-Investment Vehicles (collectively, the “ACON Equity Management Funds”).

The owners of ACON EQUITY are Bernard Aronson, Kenneth Brotman, Jonathan Ginns, Daniel Jinich and Andre Bhatia.

- B. As an investment adviser, ACON EQUITY provides investment-related services to the ACON Equity Management Funds, including: identifying and recommending investment opportunities; analyzing and investigating potential investment opportunities; structuring investments; identifying sources of financing for proposed investments; monitoring, managing and evaluating investments; analyzing and investigating positional dispositions of investments; supervising the negotiation, preparation and review of agreements and other documents in connection with investments, dispositions and financings; and providing all administrative, clerical and financial support services related to the management of the ACON Equity Management Funds.
- C. The ACON Equity Management Funds have a set of specific guidelines which are set forth in the governing documents of each ACON Equity Management Fund and its offering documents. These guidelines may provide for limits on the size, concentration, geography, type of security and/or terms of the applicable ACON Equity Management Fund’s investments. Each ACON Equity Management Fund is advised by the Adviser and managed in accordance with its investment guidelines and an investment in any ACON Equity Management Fund does not, in and of itself, create an advisory relationship between any investor in any ACON Equity Management Fund and the Adviser.
- D. The Adviser does not participate in wrap fee programs.

- E. As of January 11, 2012, ACON EQUITY manages approximately \$318.6 million of client assets, all of which is managed on a discretionary basis.

## **Item 5- Fees and Compensation**

- A. As compensation for its services, ACON EQUITY generally receives from each ACON Equity Management Fund an annual management fee (the “Management Fee”) payable semi-annually in advance (subject to potential reductions due to waivers and offsets under certain circumstances). Each ACON Equity Management Fund’s organizational documents permit the Management Fee to be waived and for the Adviser to receive a credit against capital contributions otherwise owed. Principals or other employees of the general partners of the ACON Equity Management Funds, or other of the Adviser’s supervised persons, may receive a portion of the performance fees or carried interest received by the general partners of the ACON Equity Management Funds or their affiliates.

In addition to the Management Fee, in connection with the affairs of the ACON Equity Management Funds, ACON EQUITY may receive (i) monitoring fees, organizational fees, set-up fees, financial advisory fees, transaction fees or other similar fees; (ii) cash and non-cash directors’ fees; (iii) certain management and other fees with respect to co-investment capital; and (iv) termination, break-up or other similar fees. Each ACON Equity Management Fund’s Management Fee may be reduced by a portion of such other fees. The Management Fee may be further reduced, waived or rebated at the sole discretion of ACON EQUITY.

Fees are non-negotiable, however, the general partner of any ACON Equity Management Fund may exempt certain persons from payment of the Management Fee or otherwise reduce the Management Fee payable by certain investors, including owners of the general partners or their affiliates, persons with family or other relationships with the general partner or its affiliates, service providers for the general partners or its affiliates, or other unaffiliated parties. In addition, members of the general partners effectively do not pay the Management Fee on their indirect interests in ACON Equity Management Funds.

- B. The general partner of each ACON Equity Management Fund causes the Management Fee to be paid to ACON EQUITY by or on behalf of each ACON Equity Management Fund by (i) requiring investors to make capital contributions, (ii) withholding from investment proceeds that would otherwise be distributable to investors or (iii) causing the ACON Equity Management Fund to borrow money. The Management Fee is due semi-annually in advance.
- C. Each ACON Equity Management Fund bears and is charged with costs and expenses of its organization, activities, operations and meetings, including without limitation: (i) costs and expenses directly related to the discovery, investigation, development, making, management, monitoring and disposition of investments; (ii) fees and expenses of administrators, custodians, economists, consultants, outside counsel and accountants; (iii) the costs of insurance; (iv) any taxes, fees or other governmental charges levied against

the ACON Equity Management Fund; (v) costs and expenses of the ACON Equity Management Fund's advisory committee and any firm retained to determine the fair market value of unrealized portfolio investments; (vi) interest on and fees and expenses arising out of all borrowings, including the arrangement thereof; (vii) fees and expenses incurred in connection with any audit investigation, governmental inquiry or public relations undertaking; and (viii) costs and expenses of any litigation relating to the activities or operations of the ACON Equity Management Fund, the amount of any judgments or settlements paid in connection therewith and any other indemnification or other expenses or liabilities related to the affairs of the ACON Equity Management Fund.

Each ACON Equity Management Fund pays the costs incurred in connection with the organization of the ACON Equity Management Fund (including fees and expenses of counsel, the ACON Equity Management Fund and its general partners, travel, accommodations and related expenses of personnel of the general partner and other direct costs) up to a certain amount, as specified in each ACON Equity Management Fund's partnership agreement.

- D. The Management Fee is generally due semi-annually in advance. In the event ACON EQUITY does not provide services for the full semi-annual period, the Management Fee is typically required to be returned to the investors in the ACON Equity Management Fund. In general, the amount of fees returned is calculated based on the number of days remaining in the applicable period.
- E. Neither ACON EQUITY nor any of its supervised persons accepts compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products, including asset-based sales charges or service fees from the sale of mutual funds.

#### **Item 6- Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management**

The general partner of each ACON Equity Management Fund charges a performance-based fee (referred to as "carried interest"). Each ACON Equity Management Fund's general partner may, in its sole discretion, waive or reduce an investor's obligation to pay carried interest and/or may amend the preferred rate of return earned by an investor. Such variation in charges could create an incentive to favor investors that pay the highest carried interest fee (and/or the lowest preferred rate of return) over those whose fees have been waived or amended. Each ACON Equity Management Fund's governing documents set forth specific procedures designed to ensure that investors are treated fairly and to prevent this conflict from unduly influencing the allocation of investment opportunities among them.

In addition, the carried interest may create an incentive for each general partner to make riskier or more speculative investments on behalf of its ACON Equity Management Fund than it would otherwise make in the absence of such performance-based arrangements. However, the principals of ACON EQUITY have invested substantial personal capital, directly and indirectly, in the ACON Equity Management Funds, which may serve to reduce this incentive.

Finally, if distributions are made in kind, the amount of any such distributions will be accounted for at the fair market value of the distributed property and determined in accordance with the procedures specified in the ACON Equity Management Fund's governing documents. The amounts that an investor in the ACON Equity Management Fund ultimately realizes from amounts distributed in kind may be less than the fair value determined at the time of the distribution from the ACON Equity Management Fund. Because the general partner receives carried interest distributions based upon the fair value of amounts distributed to investors, there could be an incentive for the general partner to make distributions in kind rather than liquidating an investment and distributing the net proceeds to the ACON Equity Management Fund investors. Each ACON Equity Management Fund's governing documents have specific procedures surrounding the distributions in kind, including their valuation, that serve to reduce this potential incentive.

#### **Item 7- Types of Clients**

ACON EQUITY provides investment advice to the ACON Equity Management Funds. Investment advice is provided directly to the ACON Equity Management Funds, subject to the direction and control of the general partner of each such ACON Equity Management Fund, and not individually to the limited partners of such ACON Equity Management Funds.

The ACON Equity Management Funds are pooled investment vehicles formed under domestic laws and operated as exempt investment pools under the Investment Company Act. The investors participating in private investment funds may include high net worth individuals, banks or thrift institutions, other investment entities, pension and profit-sharing plans, trusts, estates or charitable organizations or other corporations or business entities and may include, directly or indirectly, principals or other employees of ACON EQUITY and its affiliates.

Minimum investment commitments may be established for limited partners in ACON Equity Management Funds. The general partner of each ACON Equity Management Fund, in its sole discretion, may permit investments that are less than the required minimum investment commitment set forth in the applicable fund documents of such ACON Equity Management Fund.

#### **Item 8 - Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss**

- A. The investment strategy of ACON EQUITY and each ACON Equity Management Fund's general partner is to seek to increase the value of, and to find desirable exit opportunities for, the investments made on behalf of each ACON Equity Management Fund. This strategy may involve the use of information generated by individuals or entities not affiliated with ACON EQUITY or its affiliates. Sources of such information include, but are not limited to, research provided by institutions and the brokerage community, internally and externally generated analysis of potential opportunities,

specialized consultants, industry experts, and industry and trade publications, as well as direct contact with management of potential portfolio companies and related due diligence.

The Adviser's investment strategy begins by identifying middle-market companies in which it can generally invest \$20 to \$150 million of equity capital. ACON EQUITY seeks to structure capital to each individual investment in order to meet the specific needs of a given opportunity and the company's specific business plan. As owners and board members, ACON EQUITY becomes an active participant in guiding the growth of the ACON Equity Management Fund's portfolio companies. The Adviser's industry experience and broad affiliate network allows its managers to draw on a diverse set of strategic, financial and industry-specific resources.

ACON EQUITY focuses on investment opportunities at times of change—responding at points of inflection where value creation is possible. The Adviser's understanding of industry trends, regulatory mandates and changes, international trade opportunities, and demographic indicators help it to identify prospects that allow maximum value for its investors.

The Adviser believes its close work with proven partners and management teams drives performance improvement and unlocks shareholder value. The Adviser is committed to actively overseeing each portfolio company by helping its management develop and execute strategic initiatives; launch and integrate subsequent acquisitions; arrange for debt and/or equity financings; recruit additional management resources; and generate liquidity opportunities in public and/or private markets.

ACON EQUITY generally follows an investment process which seeks to: (i) generate a continuous flow of quality, proprietary deal leads; (ii) subject potential transactions to a multi-stage screening process with certain hurdles at each stage; (iii) institute the appropriate controls and monitoring mechanisms to facilitate the ability of the ACON EQUITY's professionals to add value to portfolio companies; and (iv) maximize the value of investments upon exit.

An investment in any ACON Equity Management Fund involves a high degree of risk and, therefore, should be undertaken only by investors who have the financial sophistication and expertise to evaluate the merits and risks of an investment in the ACON Equity Management Fund and for which the ACON Equity Management Fund does not represent a complete investment program. There can be no assurances any ACON Equity Management Fund will meet its investment objectives or otherwise be able to carry out its investment program successfully or that an investor will receive a return of its capital contributed to the ACON Equity Management Fund. In addition, there can be no assurance that any ACON Equity Management Fund will be able to generate returns for investors or that returns will be commensurate with the risks of the ACON Equity Management Fund's investments. An investment in any ACON Equity



Management Fund should only be made by persons that can afford a loss of their entire investment.

- B. ACON Equity Management Funds seek private investments in companies that operate mainly within the United States. Certain of the risks related to this investment strategy are summarized below. However, prospective investors should carefully consider all of the risks related to investing in the ACON Equity Management Fund that are set forth in the private placement or other offering document for that particular ACON Equity Management Fund, including those discussed in Item 8.C. below.

In addition, an ACON Equity Management Fund may use special purpose entities formed for the sole purpose of investment in a single asset. As such, a single asset investment may involve risks greater than those generally associated with more diversified funds, including significant fluctuations in returns. In addition, a single asset investment may be concentrated in a country that contains greater economic, political, and regulatory risk than a more diversified set of assets.

- C. There are significant risks and potential conflicts of interest in investing in private securities issued by middle market companies. Certain of these risks and potential conflicts of interest are summarized below. However, prospective investors should carefully consider all of the risks related to investing in an ACON Equity Management Fund that are set forth in the private placement memorandum or other offering document for that particular ACON Equity Management Fund.

#### Investment Strategy Risks

**Issuer selection and issuer-specific risks.** In implementing its investment strategy, the Adviser will focus on identifying investments in the securities of companies that have significant issuer-specific risks as a result of business, financial, market or legal uncertainties, including companies that require operational improvements or restructuring. Changes to the financial condition or outlook of these issuers may cause the value of these investments to be volatile.

**Availability of investment opportunities and diversification.** The business of identifying and structuring private equity investments is highly competitive and involves a high degree of uncertainty. It is possible that any ACON Equity Management Fund will never be fully invested if enough sufficiently attractive investments are not identified or consummated during that ACON Equity Management Fund's commitment period. In addition, an ACON Equity Management Fund may participate in a limited number of investments and, as a consequence, the aggregate return of that ACON Equity Management Fund may be substantially adversely affected by the unfavorable performance of even a single investment.

**Long-term nature of interests and the Fund's investments.** While an ACON Equity Management Fund's investments may generate some current income, the return of capital

and the realization of gains, if any, from an investment will occur only upon the partial or complete disposition of such investment. Investments in portfolio companies typically will not be liquidated for a number of years after the initial investment, and it is unlikely that any ACON Equity Management Fund will realize substantial capital gains during its early years. An ACON Equity Management Fund may invest in investments that unexpectedly cannot be realized in an orderly fashion until after the date on which the ACON Equity Management Fund is scheduled to terminate. Although it is the expectation of the general partner that all investments will be disposed of prior to the end of an ACON Equity Management Fund's term, the ACON Equity Management Fund may have to sell or otherwise dispose of investments on disadvantageous terms as a result of the ACON Equity Management Fund's termination, or distribute such investments in kind.

**Leverage.** To the extent that an ACON Equity Management Fund invests in a company with a leveraged capital structure, its investment will be subject to increased exposure to adverse factors such as a significant rise in interest rates, a severe downturn in the economy or deterioration in the condition of the company or its industry. To the extent that a company is unable to generate sufficient cash flow to meet obligations under its indebtedness, the value of the ACON Equity Management Fund's investment could be significantly reduced or even eliminated.

**Controlling interests.** Although it is the intention of the general partner to structure investments to avoid liability for any ACON Equity Management Fund, because of its equity ownership, representation on the board of directors and/or contractual rights, an ACON Equity Management Fund may often be considered to control, participate in the management of or influence the conduct of portfolio companies. This could expose the assets of the ACON Equity Management Fund to claims by a portfolio company, its other security holders, its creditors or governmental agencies, which may exceed the value of the ACON Equity Management Fund's initial investment in that portfolio company.

**Investment in joint-ventures and other entities.** An ACON Equity Management Fund may co-invest with third parties through partnerships and/or make investments through joint ventures or other entities. Such investments may involve risks not present in direct investments, including, for example, the outcomes of collaborative decision-making varying (adversely) from those which the general partner would have reached itself, and the possibility that a co-venturer or partner might become bankrupt, or might have interests, objectives, rights or remedies that are different from or may conflict with those of the ACON Equity Management Fund. Furthermore, if such co-venturer or partner defaults on its funding obligations, it may be difficult for the ACON Equity Management Fund to make up the shortfall. The ACON Equity Management Fund may be required to make additional contributions to replace such shortfall, reducing the diversification of the Fund's investments. The ACON Equity Management Fund may also be liable for the conduct of its co-venturers or partners. In addition, in negotiating an investment through joint ventures or other similar arrangements, the ACON Equity Management Fund may

have to agree to less favorable terms (e.g., bearing a disproportionate share of expenses) than might be present in direct investments.

**Transactions with Portfolio Companies and Conflicts of Interest.** As described in Item 5, ACON EQUITY and its related persons may receive, from prospective portfolio companies, actual portfolio companies or their respective affiliates, monitoring fees, organization fees, set-up fees, financial advisory fees, transaction fees and other similar fees. Certain of these fees may not be established on an arm's-length basis and may adversely impact the performance of the relevant portfolio companies. Moreover, because the limited partners will receive a benefit from such fees only to the extent set forth in the partnership agreement, such fees may create an incentive for the ACON Equity Management Fund's general partner and its affiliates to approve and cause the ACON Equity Management Fund to make more speculative investments than it would otherwise make in the absence of such compensation.

Conflicts of interest will also arise in situations where an ACON Equity Management Fund (i) makes an equity or other subordinated investment in a portfolio company that has issued or is issuing a senior mezzanine or debt security to an portfolio company of an affiliated fund (a "Legacy Investment") or (ii) purchases securities, the proceeds of which are used to repay a loan to the portfolio company from a Legacy Investment. Conflicts will also arise in connection with any purchase or sale of a portfolio company, or assets or businesses held by a portfolio company, from or to a Legacy Investment, including with respect to the amount of consideration paid by or to, and the obligations and rights of, such Legacy Investment. If a portfolio company in which the ACON Equity Management Fund and a Legacy Investment hold different classes of securities encounters financial problems, decisions over the terms of any workout will raise conflicts of interest (including conflicts over proposed waivers and amendments to debt covenants).

**Conflicts with portfolio companies.** Officers and employees of the general partner and its affiliates will serve as directors of certain portfolio companies and, in that capacity will be required to make decisions that consider the best interests of the portfolio company. In certain circumstances, for example in situations involving bankruptcy or near-insolvency of a portfolio company, actions that may be in the best interest of that portfolio company may not be in the best interests of the ACON Equity Management Fund, and vice versa. Accordingly, in these situations, there will be conflicts of interests between such individual's duties as an officer or employee of the general partner or its affiliates and such individual's duties as a director of a portfolio company.

**Material non-public information.** By reason of their responsibilities in connection with their other activities, certain of the ACON Equity Management Fund's partners may acquire confidential or material non-public information or be otherwise restricted from initiating transactions in certain securities. The ACON Equity Management Fund will not be free to act upon any such information. Due to these restrictions, the ACON Equity

Management Fund may not be able to initiate a transaction that it otherwise might have initiated and may not be able to sell an investment that it otherwise might have sold.

#### **Item 9 - Disciplinary Information**

ACON EQUITY is required to disclose any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's or prospective client's evaluation of ACON EQUITY or the integrity of its management. ACON EQUITY does not have any disclosure applicable to this item to report.

#### **Item 10- Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

- A. Neither ACON EQUITY nor any of its management persons are registered, or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.
- B. Neither ACON EQUITY nor any of its management persons are registered, or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or an associated person of the foregoing entities.
- C. Some of the Principals, officers, chief compliance officer, employees and/or consultants of ACON EQUITY serve in similar capacities for the general partner (or similar managing body) of the ACON Equity Management Funds, ACON Funds Management, L.L.C. or other affiliates.

ACON EQUITY, ACON Funds Management, L.L.C. ("AFM"), ACON LatAm Management, L.L.C. ("ACON LatAm") and ACON Investments Management, L.L.C. ("AIM") are affiliates and each is an investment adviser. ACON EQUITY, AFM, ACON LatAm and AIM and other affiliates, including the general partner (or similar managing body) of each entity, share certain employees and officers, and ACON Investments, L.L.C., a service affiliate, provides certain administrative services under a services agreement to ACON EQUITY, AFM and AIM, including the payment of payroll, benefits and overhead costs related to the shared employees and facilities.

- D. ACON EQUITY does not recommend or select other investment advisors for the ACON Equity Management Funds. However, it may, as described in Item 10.C., sub-contract certain services to its affiliates.

#### **Item 11 - Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading**

- A. ACON EQUITY and its affiliates have adopted a Code of Ethics (the "Code") to ensure that ACON EQUITY fulfills its fiduciary requirements to the ACON Equity Management Funds and to address and avoid potential conflicts of interest which exist when providing advisory services to the ACON Equity Management Funds. The Code requires that personnel of ACON EQUITY comply with all applicable provisions of federal securities

laws. The Code includes policies and procedures related to the disclosure and pre-clearance of certain trading activity. The policy also addresses confidentiality and insider trading and expressly prohibits personnel from disseminating material nonpublic information or using such information inappropriately for the benefit of any party. Personnel are required to provide written certification as to their compliance with the Code on an annual basis.

ACON EQUITY will provide a copy of its Code of Ethics to any client or prospective client upon request by contacting the Chief Compliance Officer, Barry E. Johnson; 202-454-1100 x135.

- B. From time to time, consistent with each ACON Equity Management Fund's investment objectives and subject to satisfaction of the policies and procedures set forth in the Code, the ACON Equity Management Fund's governing documents and applicable law, ACON EQUITY may recommend that the ACON Equity Management Fund acquire or sell securities in which an ACON EQUITY related or affiliated person has a pre-existing direct or indirect interest, and an affiliate of ACON EQUITY may cause the ACON Equity Management Fund to effect the recommended transaction. A potential conflict of interest could arise in that the interested ACON EQUITY related person could benefit from such a purchase or sale of the applicable security by the ACON Equity Management Fund. However, the Code is designed to identify and manage conflicts of interest to the extent they arise in connection with such transactions, and to ensure that ACON EQUITY fulfills its role as a fiduciary to the ACON Equity Management Funds. In particular, the Code requires that ACON EQUITY act in the best interests of the ACON Equity Management Funds, in good faith and in an ethical manner. Certain terms of each ACON Equity Management Fund's governing documents and the equity participation of ACON EQUITY related persons in the ACON Equity Management Fund further mitigate such conflicts, including the need for approval by the ACON Equity Management Fund's Limited Partner Committee in certain circumstances.
- C. From time to time, subject to satisfaction of the policies and procedures set forth in the Code, the ACON Equity Management Fund's governing documents and applicable laws, an ACON EQUITY related person may acquire or sell securities that are recommended to the ACON Equity Management Fund or in which the ACON Equity Management Fund has a pre-existing direct or indirect interest. A potential conflict of interest could arise in that the interested ACON EQUITY related person or affiliate could benefit from the ACON Equity Management Fund's ownership of, or subsequent sale of, the applicable security. However, the Code is designed to identify and manage conflicts of interest to the extent they arise in connection with the personal securities transactions and other investment activities of ACON EQUITY related persons, and to ensure that the Firm fulfills its role as a fiduciary to the ACON Equity Management Fund. In particular, the Code requires that ACON EQUITY related persons abide by policies in procedures in connection with their personal securities trading activities, and such activities are monitored under the Code to ensure compliance with such policies and procedures.

- D. From time to time, in appropriate circumstances and subject to satisfaction of the policies and procedures set forth in the Code and each Partnership's governing documents, ACON EQUITY personnel and other related persons or affiliates may co-invest in the ACON Equity Management Fund investments at the same time as and on a side-by-side basis with the ACON Equity Management Fund's limited partners and other investors. ACON EQUITY does not believe that this common industry practice gives rise to a material conflict of interest, and that any potential conflicts of interest are addressed by the Code and the ACON Equity Management Fund's governing documents.

## **Item 12 - Brokerage Practices**

- A. ACON EQUITY primarily invests in private securities and does not regularly engage in high volume trading of public securities. Accordingly, ACON EQUITY is generally not in a position to select a broker-dealer for any ACON Equity Management Fund's transactions.

ACON EQUITY may distribute securities to investors in an ACON Equity Management Fund or sell such securities, including through using a broker-dealer if a public trading market exists. ACON EQUITY may also sell securities in an ACON Equity Management Fund through privately negotiated transactions with or without the use of brokers or dealers. If ACON EQUITY or the general partner of an ACON Equity Management Fund sell publicly traded securities for the ACON Equity Management Fund, they are responsible for directing orders to broker-dealers to effect securities transactions for managed accounts. ACON EQUITY will select brokers on the basis of best price and execution capability. ACON EQUITY has no duty or obligation to seek in advance competitive bidding for the most favorable commission rate applicable to any particular client transaction or to select any broker on the basis of its purported or "posted" commission rate, but will endeavor to be aware of the current level of the charges of eligible brokers and to minimize the expenses incurred for effecting client transaction to the extent consistent with the interests and policies of the accounts. Although ACON EQUITY generally seeks competitive commission rates, they will not necessarily pay the lowest commission or commission equivalent. Transactions may involve specialized services on the part of the broker involved and thereby entail higher commissions or their equivalents than would be the case with other transactions requiring more routine services.

1. ACON EQUITY does not have any soft dollar arrangements.
2. ACON EQUITY engages placement agents from time to time. However, such placement agents are not used as broker-dealers to effect transactions in publicly traded securities on behalf of any ACON Equity Management Fund.
3. In the private equity context, aggregation of the purchase or sale of securities for multiple client accounts is generally not relevant.

### **Item 13 - Review of Accounts**

- A. The investments made by the ACON Equity Management Fund are generally private, illiquid and long-term in nature. Accordingly, the review process is not directed toward a short term decision to dispose of securities. However, ACON EQUITY's personnel monitor and review companies in which an ACON Equity Management Fund invests including, for example, by participating in board meetings and management calls, reviewing annual and interim financial statements and making on-site visits to such companies. Each ACON Equity Management Fund's financial statements are maintained and monitored by the finance staff of an affiliate of ACON EQUITY under the supervision of the Controller and Chief Financial Officer. In addition, each ACON Equity Management Fund's financial statements are audited on an annual basis by an independent third-party accounting firm.
- B. ACON EQUITY's investment committee regularly supervises and monitors the investment activities of the ACON Equity Management Funds.
- C. Audited financial statements are provided to investors in the ACON Equity Management Funds, generally within 120 days of the end of the ACON Equity Management Fund's fiscal year. Unaudited financial statements and investor-specific account statements are generally provided to investors in an ACON Equity Management Fund within 45-60 days of the end of the ACON Equity Management Fund's fiscal quarter, along with information about the financial performance of the companies in which the ACON Equity Management Fund has invested.

Certain investors in an ACON Equity Management Fund may request information relating to the ACON Equity Management Fund and, to the extent such information is readily available or may be obtained without unreasonable effort or expense, ACON EQUITY generally will provide such investors with the information requested. Investors that request and receive such information will consequently possess information regarding the business and affairs of the ACON Equity Management Fund that may not be known to other investors. As a result, certain investors may be able to take actions on the basis of such information which, in the absence of such information, other investors do not take.

### **Item 14 - Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

- A. As described in Item 5, ACON EQUITY and its related persons may receive, from prospective portfolio companies, actual portfolio companies or their respective affiliates, monitoring fees, organization fees, set-up fees, financial advisory fees, transaction fees and other similar fees, either in cash or securities, termination, break-up and topping fees, and cash and non-cash directors' fees, including any such fees payable in the form of

warrants, options, derivatives and other rights in respect of securities owned by the Fund and otherwise.

- B. Neither ACON EQUITY nor any of its related persons compensates any person who is not a supervised person for client referrals. However, from time to time, in the context of organizing an ACON Equity Management Fund, ACON EQUITY may compensate one or more placement agents for referrals of ACON Equity Management Fund investors. A prospective investor solicited by a placement agent or other third party will be advised of any such arrangement, including the receipt of fees. As described in Item 5, placement fees are generally borne by each ACON Equity Management Fund's general partner.

## **Item 15 - Custody**

In connection with the management of investments for certain investors, ACON EQUITY may have, or may be deemed to have, custody of certain funds or securities of the ACON Equity Management Funds. Rule 206(4)-2 (the "Custody Rule") of the Advisers Act defines custody as holding client securities or assets or having any authority to obtain possession of them, including the authority to withdraw funds or securities from a client's accounts or ownership of or access to client funds or securities (such as through fee deductions). With the exception of certain assets, which are defined as "privately offered securities" under the Custody Rule, all ACON Equity Management Funds' assets are held in custody by unaffiliated broker/dealers or banks acting in the capacity as "qualified custodians".

In accordance with the Custody Rule, ACON EQUITY's Chief Financial Officer is responsible for ensuring that the ACON Equity Management Funds' securities, other than "privately offered securities," are held only with unaffiliated broker-dealers or banks acting as qualified custodians. ACON EQUITY's Chief Financial Officer is also responsible for arranging for annual independent audits of the ACON Equity Management Funds by a major accounting firm within 120 days of each ACON Equity Management Fund's fiscal year end and for obtaining audited financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States. ACON EQUITY generally arranges for the delivery of such audited financial statements to investors within 120 days of each ACON Equity Management Fund's fiscal year end.

## **Item 16 - Investment Discretion**

Typically, ACON EQUITY provides investment advice to the ACON Equity Management Funds on a discretionary basis and the general partner accepts discretionary investment authority for the ACON Equity Management Funds pursuant to each ACON Equity Management Fund's limited partnership agreement and other governing documents, as applicable, and subject to the investment guidelines set forth therein.



## **Item 17- Voting Client Securities**

- A. ACON EQUITY accepts authority to vote the securities held by the ACON Equity Management Funds. In accordance with SEC rules, ACON EQUITY and its affiliates have adopted Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures (the "Proxy Policy") to address how they votes proxies for the ACON Equity Management Funds' portfolio investments. The Proxy Policy seeks to ensure that ACON EQUITY votes proxies (or similar instruments) in the best interest of the ACON Equity Management Funds, including when there may be material conflicts of interest in voting proxies. The general partners and their affiliates generally believe their interests are aligned with the ACON Equity Management Funds through the general partners' ownership interest in the ACON Equity Management Funds. In the event, however, there is or may be a conflict of interest between an adviser and an ACON Equity Management Fund in voting proxies, the adviser may address the conflict using several alternatives, including by seeking the approval or concurrence of the ACON Equity Management Fund's Limited Partner Committee on the proposed proxy vote or through other alternatives set forth in the Policy. ACON EQUITY does not consider its personnel's service on portfolio company boards or their receipt of management or other fees from portfolio companies to create a material conflict of interest in voting proxies with respect to such companies. In addition, the Policy sets forth certain specific proxy voting guidelines ACON EQUITY and its affiliates follow when voting proxies on behalf of the ACON Equity Management Funds. Upon request, an investor may obtain a copy of ACON EQUITY's Proxy Voting Policy as well as information about how ACON EQUITY voted any proxies on the ACON Equity Management Funds' behalves by contacting the Chief Compliance Officer, Barry E. Johnson; 202-454-1100 x135.
- B. See Item 17.A. above.

## **Item 18 - Financial Information**

- A. Fees are not collected six months or more in advance. Accordingly, ACON EQUITY has no disclosures related to this item.
- B. ACON EQUITY is not aware of any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet contractual commitments to the ACON Equity Management Funds.
- C. ACON EQUITY has never been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.