



liquidity | transparency | independence

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**Presentation for SEC Government-Business Forum  
on Small Business Capital Formation**

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## - INTRODUCTION -

# LARGEST MARKETPLACE FOR ILLIQUID ASSETS

- ▶ **FOUNDED IN 2004 AND GROWING RAPIDLY**
- ▶ **FACILITATED THOUSANDS OF TRANSACTIONS REPRESENTING BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN ILLIQUID ASSETS**
- ▶ **5,000 PARTICIPANTS MANAGING \$1 TRILLION**
- ▶ **APPROXIMATELY \$25 BILLION IN ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR SALE**
- ▶ **REGISTERED BROKER-DEALER**

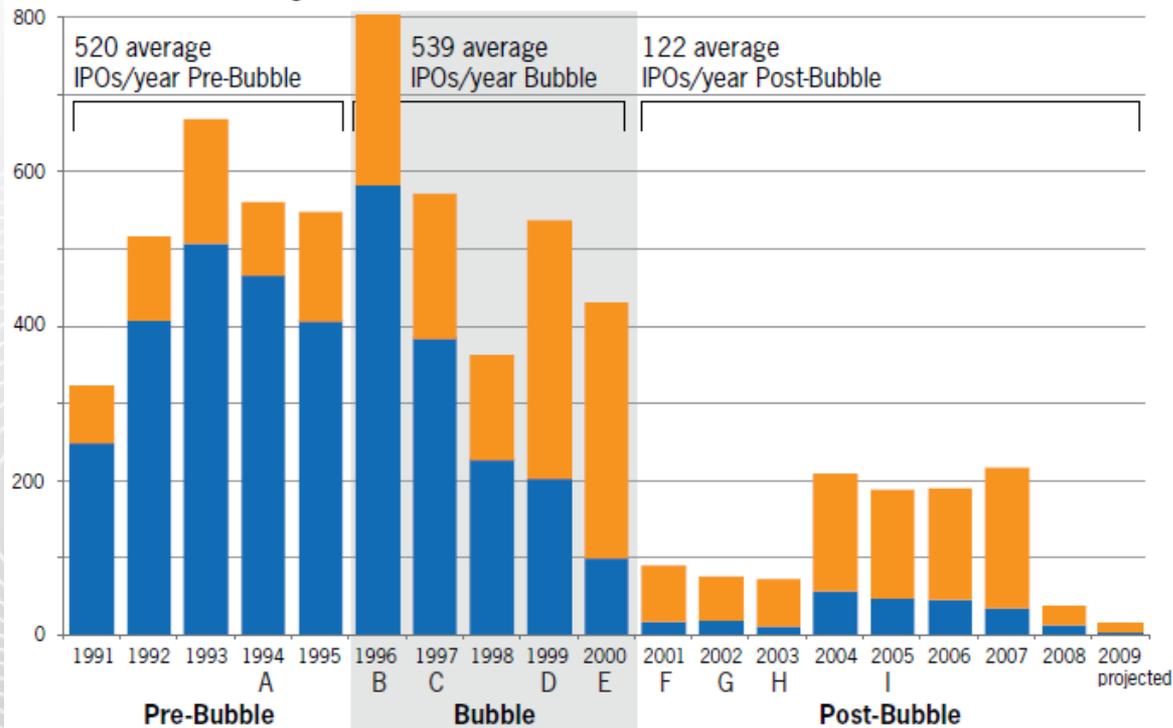
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# - IPOs ARE DOWN -

## The IPO market is broken

In the last decade the number of IPOs has fallen dramatically, specifically deals less than \$50 million in proceeds.

Number of Initial Public Offerings



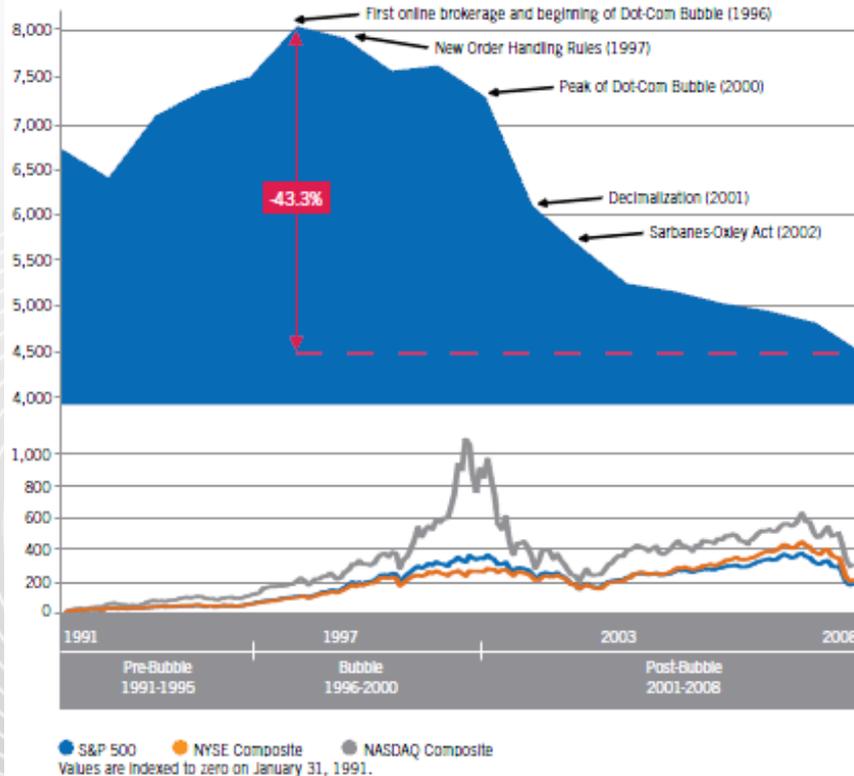
- Deal size  $\geq$  \$50 million
- Deal size  $<$  \$50 million

- A Christie-Schultz study\*
- B First online brokerage
- C New Order Handling Rules
- D Online brokerage surges and stock bubble inflates; Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act
- E Regulation FD
- F Decimalization
- G Sarbanes-Oxley Act
- H Global Research Analyst Settlement
- I Regulation NMS

\* Capital Markets Advisory Partners

# - OVERALL LISTINGS ARE ALSO DOWN -

The Great Depression in Listings began with the advent of online brokerage and the Order Handling Rules. The peak of the Dot-Com Bubble and the adoption of Sarbanes-Oxley came much later. Companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges



Source: Capital Markets Advisory Partners, World Federation of Exchanges, NYSE Euronext, NASDAQ Stock Market. Domestic companies listed, excluding funds.

- Undermining:
  - private companies
  - jobs
  - innovation
  - U.S. competitiveness
  - national security
- trouble began **before** the Dot-Com Bubble reached its peak

## - WHAT CAUSED THE PROBLEM? -

**Online brokerage** destroyed the retail broker model

**Decimalization** took profits away from funding sell-side research (small companies do not trade well w/o research)

Emergence of **high frequency trading** led to poor allocations for long-term value investors

**Sarbanes-Oxley** made it costly for private companies to be public and created liability issues for management

## - WHY IS IT A PROBLEM? -

**Lack of Exits** - prevents start-ups from raising capital and attracting employees

**Stifles Job Growth** – Grant Thornton study: as many as 20 million jobs were not created in this country because of the lack of IPOs

**Restricts Innovation and the “Creative Class”** – IPO is often the most logical exit option for the most innovative of companies (e.g., Google, Apple, Intel, etc.)

**Undermines American Competitiveness** – US public markets will continue to be outdone by other countries without regulatory changes that enable a strong private company market

## - SOLUTIONS -

**New Path to Liquidity** – the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA) has sounded the alarm and cited the need for an alternate path to liquidity

**Fine-Tuned Market** – given the unique needs of each company, a customized market is required to satisfy those needs

**The SecondMarket Approach** – our model puts control of the market (buyer access, information, timing, etc.) in the hands of the company, and provides access to accredited investors and QIBs

**Companies Exit on Their Own Terms** – can serve as “spring training” for an IPO

## - REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS -

**Amend general solicitation rules:** vetting should occur before purchase, rather than before marketing

**Amend 144A rules** to include both QIBs and accredited investors

**Review investment intent rules** to allow for more active “market making”

**Add exemption for accredited investors** to the 12g registration requirements (allow companies to have more than 500 holders of record)